

Think  
Visegrad  
V4 Think-Tank Platform

# NEWSLETTER

## 2018 November-December

### Think Visegrad in Brussels

## Editorial



Dear colleagues,

You are reading already the last newsletter of 2018. We have successfully completed all our events planned for this year with expert debates on a path to euro in non-Eurozone countries and financing emerging technologies in the new MFF. You can see the reports from November and December below.

This newsletter also brings you tips for many interesting holiday readings from our researchers. Sejla Almadi (IFAT) and Vladislava Gubalova (GLOBSEC), in their respective papers, are asking if- and how- the V4 can help to shape EU's future, in setting the agenda or within the new MFF negotiations. Botond Feledy is "Discovering the presence of V4 in the European Cyber Security Organization and related cyber research" and Melchior Szczepanik analyses the Spitzenkandidaten process ahead of the European Parliament elections. You can find many more recommendations in the section "From our members".

Next year will be a very challenging one for the EU community, with the upcoming European Parliament elections, new European Commission, final negotiations of the new MFF and Brexit. We will continue following the latest developments both in Central Europe and in Brussels and we are currently working on our programs for next year. We are looking forward to introducing little changes and new projects at the beginning of 2019 - and seeing you at our events next year!

We wish you a very happy holidays, well deserved time off and all the best for the new year 2019!

Kind Regards  
Zuzana Stuchlíková  
Head of Brussels Office. EUROPEUM



#### In this Issue:

- Upcoming events
- Past events
- Publications
- From our members
- Public consultations by the European Commission
- Think Visegrad platform
- What is the 'Think Visegrad in Brussels' project?

#### Upcoming public events:

We are currently preparing the program for 2019, you can look forward for many public and expert debates and events! More information coming in January 2019.

#### Past events:

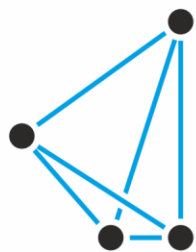
**"A New Deal for Emerging Technologies: Where will the money come from in the new MFF?"**

When: **11. 12. 2018 (08:00 – 10:00)**

Where: **Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic to the EU,  
Avenue de Cortenbergh 79, Brussels, Belgium**

About: Think Visegrad platform and the Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic to the European Union and Association for International Affairs (AMO) organized a working breakfast titled „A New Deal for Emerging Technologies: Where will the money come from in the new MFF?“ on December 11, 2018. The event aimed at highlighting the Visegrad perspective on the very topical issue of emerging technologies in the context of the new budget period 2021 - 2027. Discussion covered perspectives of the European Commission, private sector and V4 member states, as well as presentation of a recent study on the state of play of new technologies in the V4 countries [“Digital New Deal for V4: How do we stand with new technologies?”](#).

You can find the report from the event [here](#).



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V4 Think-Tank Platform

# NEWSLETTER

## 2018 November-December

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#### „Path to Euro - Future of the Non-Eurozone Countries“

When: **5. 12. 2018 (12:00 – 14:00)**

Where: **Press Club Brussels Europe, Rue Froissart 95, 1000 Brussels, Belgium**

About: The Think Visegrad platform, held a seminar on the future position of the EU Member States that chose to stay outside the Eurozone and are currently not taking active steps to adopt the euro, the possible political consequences of such choice, and the impact of incentive mechanisms within the new MFF on Wednesday, 5 December 2018.

The discussion, which gathered together leading analysts working on the topic, representatives of European institutions and representatives of Member States outside the Eurozone, was moderated by Vladimír Bartovic, Director of EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy and was held under the Chatham House rule. You can find the report [here](#).

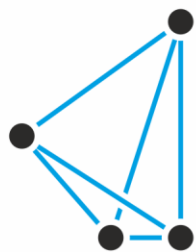
## Publications

- [Can the V4's Priorities shape "Europe's Priorities"?](#)

Sejla Almadi (IFAT) published a policy brief on the role of V4 within EU's Multiannual Financial Framework 2021 - 2027 priorities.

In the Commission's view, the emerging challenges require the rethinking of traditional policies in order to adapt to the new context. That refers to the restructuring and division of classical policies (e.g. Cohesion) among different headings, which is made necessary by the priorities being complex and multi-faceted. The "key crosscutting priorities" are named by the EC as digital economy, sustainability, security, migration, human capital and skills, support for small businesses, and innovation.

The new priorities impact the revenue side as they require the increase of the budget, where the proportionate savings and redeployments need to be combined with additional sources. Hence, the new priorities should be financed predominantly by new own resources. In the Commission's view, the diversification of the sources of the budgetary income would lead to increase the resilience of the EU budget. Thus, gradually rebalancing the budget from nation-ally allocated programmes towards new priorities would ensure that both sides of the budget contribute to the Union's political priorities.



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Visegrad  
V4 Think-Tank Platform

# NEWSLETTER

## 2018 November-December

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In contrast to the EC's vision, where the MFF appears as "A Modern Budget for a Union that Protects, Empowers and Defends", the Hungarian representative would rather see a "Budget for a Safe and Competitive Europe"; the Polish would rather define the MFF as "the overall framework for the EU to operate well and to fulfill its priorities"; and the Czech would rather determine "A Budget for Competitiveness, Convergence and Security". That is not unexpected since the EC's vision only focuses on the protection- and defence-related priorities of the budget, while the V4 representatives would extend that focus to all priorities, or at least to the economic and societal dimensions as well. That result is in line with the assumption that the EC's proposal serves the Union's political priorities, and not Europe's priorities.

- [Czechia between V4 and the EU: the impact of migration on Visegrad cohesion](#)

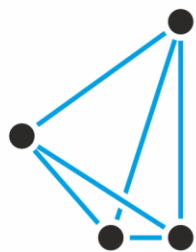
Vladislav Strnad, as part of the project Think Visegrad, published a policy brief on the impact of migration crisis on Visegrad group.

The paper analyses the impact of migration on the regional Visegrad cooperation, which is one of the instruments of Czech foreign policy. Visegrad's joint position towards migration has a dual impact on the cohesion of the Visegrad Group, moreover, it directly influences the European policy of Czechia and its position in the EU. In the context of searching for a link between regional and European policy dimension, it is in the Czech interest to push this regional cooperation towards stronger ideological unity, and active policy that would be beneficial to the EU.

- [What is next for Central and Eastern Europe?](#)

Vladislava Gubalova, as part of the project Think Visegrad, published a policy brief on future of the CEE countries.

While all minds are on what Europe will look like after 2019, the potential role of Central and Eastern Europe in the future of the EU should also be carefully considered. There are signs of discontent among the citizens and worrisome trends across governmental decisions, feeding a perception of new "old" divisions along East- West and North-South divides. However, the CEE region can contribute to a vision for Europe that is mutually beneficial for all by proposing ambitious European initiatives, taking political courage to embrace responsibilities and prioritizing convergence—in economic, value-based and political terms.



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V4 Think-Tank Platform

# NEWSLETTER

## 2018 November-December

### Think Visegrad in Brussels

#### Cyber security and Sovereignty Two levels of digital autonomy

Botond Feledy, as part of the project Think Visegrad, published a policy brief on cybersecurity.

As described in the third part of the paper, two parallel processes are running. The state is being challenged on multiple fronts – online monopolies, populists and crypto-anarchists – while its citizens expect protection not only offline, but online as well. In other words, the pressure on the state apparatus to deliver is twofold. Citizens deserve the protection, as this is the most important promise of the state in the social contract. Once the sovereign cannot protect its sovereign territory – even in cyber space – the contract might become fragile or even broken. This is the state level of digital autonomy. On the other hand, citizens must enjoy their own individual level digital autonomy vis-à-vis their own state. This is the only guarantee that can hinder the birth of surveillance states inside the Euro-Atlantic space.

## From our members:

### Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW), Warsaw, Poland

#### Analyses of current affairs

##### The end of the INF: the beginning of tough negotiations

Justyna Gotkowska, Project coordinator of the Security and defence in Northern Europe Programme, comments on the potential consequences of the termination of the INF treaty and the dynamics of the future negotiations within NATO community.

##### Consequences of the incident in the Sea of Azov

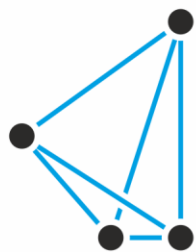
The CES' team assessment of the military context and political aspects of the Azov Sea and the subsequent introduction of the martial state in Ukraine

##### Kramp-Karrenbauer to lead the CDU

Anna Kwiatkowska-Drożdż, Head of the Department for Germany and Northern Europe, remarks about the new CDU leader, elected in December

##### Hungary: asylum for ex-prime minister of Macedonia

Marta Szpala (Senior Fellow, Central European Department) comments on the potential reasons for granting the political asylum to Nikola Gruevski, the former prime minister of Macedonia.



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V4 Think-Tank Platform

# NEWSLETTER

## 2018 November-December

### Think Visegrad in Brussels

#### Reports:

##### Migration from Ukraine to Poland: The trend stabilises

Marta Jaroszewicz, CES Senior Fellow, on the dynamics of migration from Ukraine to Poland since 2014, the future and expectable trends and the peculiarities of the present "circular migration model" (the Polish version of this report was published in mid-October, so formally it doesn't fit into Nov-Dec set of novelties; however, the English version has been published only recently and I believe it is worth popularizing)

#### GLOBSEC Policy Institute

#### Publications:

##### The Euro: It Must Change To Carry On

Policy paper by Dr. Sebastian Plóciennik was produced within GLOBSEC DIFF GOV – „European Governance: Potential of Differentiated Cooperation”, an international project that explores the potential for flexible modes of cooperation between European Union member states and is supported by Jean Monnet Activities of the EU Programme Erasmus+.

##### The Euro at 20: Looking to the Past to Carry on in the Future

Blog by Dr. Kinga Brudzinska was produced within GLOBSEC DIFF GOV – „European Governance: Potential of Differentiated Cooperation”, an international project that explores the potential for flexible modes of cooperation between European Union member states and is supported by Jean Monnet Activities of the EU Programme Erasmus+.

With the support of Hanns Seidel Foundation we launched last week German and Slovak version of our Europe's Integration Myths: A guide for successfully debunking myths surrounding the European Union. Read the Slovak and German versions. You can also watch the discussion **"ARE WE EUROPE"** on Tyzden website.

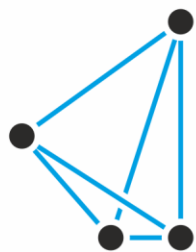
Policy Paper CONNECTED (WITH) YOUTH by Dominika Hajdu and Iveta Kupková in English and Slovak. Read more at <https://www.globsec.org/publications/connected-with-youth/>

#### Event:

##### **„Towards a New Model for European Governance: from Macro-regionalisation vs. Minilateralism to an Institutional Reform of the EU"**

Also in November we organized a debate "Towards a New Model for European Governance: from Macro-regionalisation vs. Minilateralism to an Institutional Reform of the EU" and published a policy paper by Mag. Sebastian Schäffer, a Think Visegrad





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Visegrad  
V4 Think-Tank Platform

# NEWSLETTER

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Non-V4 Fellow at GLOBSEC in 2018. Read a policy paper and short description of the event [here](#).

#### EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

##### Publications:

##### Clingendael Spectator: EU-China Investments: Solving the 16+1 Equation

While Chinese investments in Europe are rising, the topic is increasingly becoming more politically sensitive. In October 2018, Egmont Institute and Think Visegrad invited several experts to look in detail at the scope, trends and political aspects of Chinese investments in the EU as well as different perceptions of the direct investments across European regions. Is there a unified European strategy towards Chinese investments? And is there a unified Chinese strategy towards the EU? In this series, several of the invited speakers shed their light on EU-China investments. In part III: Alexandr Lagazzi, analyst at the EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, discusses the shift of perception within the 16+1 grouping, linking China with 16 central and eastern European countries, 11 of them members of the EU.

##### Commentary: EUCO Meeting in December 2018

Vladimír Bartovic, Vít Havelka, Christian Kvorning Lassen, Jana Juzová, Kateřina Davidová, Martin Michelot and Zuzana Stuchlíková react to the European Council Meeting held on December 13 and 14 2018. Cover topics are Brexit, MFF, migration, climate action, citizen consultations, Russian sanctions and external relations.

The latest edition of our EU Monitor series and its author Vít Havelka proposes the possible form of Andrej Babiš' Czech EU Policy.

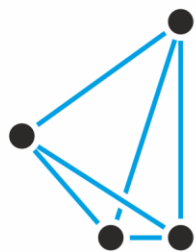
On the 27th of August 2018, Czech PM Andrej Babiš held a speech on the occasion of the traditional annual coordination meeting of the Czech Ambassadors at the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The purpose of the consultation was to discuss Czech foreign and European policy at the highest level, and to coordinate further steps.

The paper aims to summarize and comment on the content of the PM's speech, as well as explain Babiš's intentions in the broader context of the foreign and European policy of the incumbent government as defined in its manifesto.

#### **Public consultations by the European Commission:**

##### Consultation on the Future of Europe

EU leaders are committed to a Europe that brings real results in issues that matter most to people. See how you can get involved in helping to shape the future of the European Union.



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Visegrad  
V4 Think-Tank Platform

# NEWSLETTER

## 2018 November-December

### Think Visegrad in Brussels

Ahead of a dedicated EU Summit in Sibiu, Romania, and the European elections in 2019, national leaders agreed on a Leaders' Agenda on pressing issues and challenges where solutions are needed.

You can contribute to the online consultation drafted by citizens themselves, read and react to the White Paper on the Future of Europe, attend Citizens' Dialogues organised by the European Commission or participate in other debates organised in your country.

#### Revising the rules for free allocation in the EU Emissions Trading System

It is necessary to elaborate implementing legislation in time for the start of phase 4 of the EU ETS (2021-2030).

The Benchmarking Decision will have to be revised in order to:

- set the rules for determining free allocation to industrial installations covered by the EU ETS;
- update the benchmark values which represent an essential parameter in determining free allocations;
- determine rules for future adjustments to free allocation.

## Think Visegrad platform

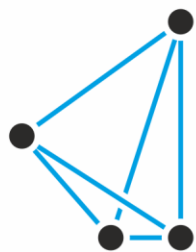
Think Visegrad – V4 Think Tank Platform is a **network for structured dialog** on issues of strategic regional importance. The network analyses key issues for the Visegrad Group (V4), and provides recommendations to the governments of V4 countries, the annual presidencies of the group, and the International Visegrad Fund. Think Visegrad covers thematic priorities of V4 including V4's internal cohesion, EU institutions and politics, the Western Balkans, relations with Eastern Partnership countries, development assistance, migration, security, energy security, environmental protection, energy security etc.

The formation of the network of V4 think-tanks was one of the priorities of the Czech Presidency in the Visegrad Group of 2011–2012. This idea reflected the long-term interest and willingness of Central European think tanks to enhance their cooperation within the Visegrad Group and to deepen its cohesion. Think Visegrad was established in 2012 by eight V4 research centers and institutes, and is funded by the International Visegrad Fund.

The project brings together all the members of the Think Visegrad network, namely:

- Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (RC SFPa), Bratislava (main coordinator)
- Central European Policy Institute (CEPI), Bratislava
- Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW), Warsaw





Think  
Visegrad  
V4 Think-Tank Platform

# NEWSLETTER

## 2018 November-December

### Think Visegrad in Brussels

- Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM), Warsaw
- Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade (IFAT), Budapest
- Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy (CEID), Budapest
- EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Prague
- Institute of International Relations (IIR), Prague

### What is the 'Think Visegrad in Brussels' project?

In the first half of 2016, the Think Visegrad platform members agreed on the idea proposed by the EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, to create a common representation office in Brussels. The main motivation for it is the need to encourage debate on issues of common interest to the EU and the V4 and explain the positions of the V4 to a wide audience. We would like to project an image of constructive partners, to explain the dynamics of the debates within our regions and to highlight our active contributions to EU policy-making. With this view and with the aim to boost discussions specifically on the Czech Republic and the EU, EUROPEUM has opened its Brussels office in January 2016.

The pilot project run in the second half of 2016 and consisted of many interesting and successful events. The second part of the project was approved in June 2017 and continued until the end of the year. Third phase of the project will be realized throughout 2018.



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