DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE PURSUANT TO AN INVITATION AT EVENTS ORGANISED BY THIRD PARTIES

PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5(3) OF ANNEX I TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S RULES OF PROCEDURE CONCERNING THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RELATING TO FINANCIAL INTERESTS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Surname: Hünder
Forename: Danuha

I, the undersigned, on my honour and in full cognisance of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, in particular Annex I thereof containing the Code of Conduct for Members, hereby declare, pursuant to Article 5(3) of the Code of Conduct, and the decision taken by the Bureau on 15 April 2013, that I have, pursuant to an invitation and in the performance of my duties as a Member of the European Parliament, attended at the following event organised by a third party where my travel, accommodation or subsistence expenses were paid or reimbursed by a third party:

Date: 7/11/2016


This declaration will be published on Parliament's website.

TO BE E-MAILED TO: Administration-Deputes@europarl.europa.eu
THE SIGNED ORIGINAL SHOULD THEN BE SENT TO:
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
Members' Administration Unit1
rue Wiertz, 60
PHS 07B019
B - 1047 BRUSSELS

### MANDATORY INFORMATION

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<th>INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED</th>
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<td><strong>THIRD PARTY</strong></td>
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| Name, function and address of the third party who reimbursed or paid the expenses of the Member\(^2\) | Bulgsiec, Klama 14  
BG-2504 Aria  
Bulgarian Republic |
| **TYPE OF EXPENSES COVERED** |                             |
| Travel:                  | Yes / No  
Type (e.g. flight, train): 
Category (e.g. economy, business): |
| Accommodation:           | Yes / No  
Name of hotel: 
Number of nights\(^3\): |
| Subsistence expenses:    | Yes / No / In part (insert details in the comments' section below) |
| Dates (and duration) of the Member's attendance at the event: | 25-30 October 2016 |
| **DETAILS OF THE EVENT ATTENDED** |                             |
| Type of event (if the event programme is not available for attachment hereto, give explanation in comments' section below): | Brussel 2016 - European Council John Summit 28-30/10/2016: Shaping the future of Europe |
| Venue (country, city):   | Bruslvia, Slovak Republic |

### OPTIONAL INFORMATION

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\(^2\) If the third party is registered in the Transparency Register, reference can be made hereto.

\(^3\) Separate declaration for breakfasts is not required.
DRAFT PROGRAM AS OF 5 OCTOBER

DATE: 28 – 30 OCTOBER 2016

DAY 0 – THURSDAY, 27 OCTOBER

19:00 WELCOME RECEPTION: OPEN SOCIETY IN EUROPE: FEAR AND THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY
(upon separate invitation, organised in cooperation with ERSTE Foundation and Nadácia Slovenskej
Sporiteľne)

DAY 1 – FRIDAY, 28 OCTOBER

8:45 – 9:00 OPEN SOCIETY IN EUROPE POLICY CONFERENCE WELCOME ADDRESS
(organized in cooperation with Open Society Foundations)
Venue: Habsburg, Grand Hotel River Park

ANDREJ NOSKO, Governance and Policy Debates Unit Manager, Open Society Initiative for Europe, Budapest

9:00 – 10:00 STATE OF OPEN SOCIETY IN EUROPE TODAY
(organized in cooperation with Open Society Foundations)
Venue: Habsburg, Grand Hotel River Park

RICHARD WIKE, Director of Global Attitudes Research, Pew Research Center, Washington, D.C.
ALINA MUNGUÍA-PIPPIDI, Professor, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin
Introduced by: GORAN BULDOSKI, Co-director, Open Society Initiative for Europe, Budapest

10:00 – 10:15 Coffee Break

10:15 – 11:45 OPEN SOCIETIES TAKING ACTION TO RESPOND TO THE CURRENT CHALLENGES
(organized in cooperation with Open Society Foundations)
Venue: Habsburg, Grand Hotel River Park

ROKHAYA DIALLO, Activist Journalist and Film Director, Paris
BALÁZS DENES, Director of the Civil Liberties Union Europe, Budapest
ULRIKE LUNACEK, Vice-President, European Parliament, Brussels
Led by: HEATHER GRABBE, Director, Open Society European Policy Institute, Brussels

11:45 – 12:00 Coffee Break

12:00 – 12:15 GLOBSEC TATRA SUMMIT WELCOME ADDRESS
Venue: Maria Theresia, Grand Hotel River Park

RÓBERT VASS, President, GLOBSEC, Bratislava
H. E. PETER KAŽIMÍR, Minister of Finance of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava
IVAN KORČOK, Ministre Délégué for the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU, Bratislava

12:15 – 12:30 GLOBSEC TATRA SUMMIT OPENING SPEECH
Venue: Maria Theresia, Grand Hotel River Park

H. E. ANDREJ KISKA, President of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava
12:30 – 12:50 Coffee Break

12:50 – 13:15 GLOBSEC TATRA SUMMIT KEYNOTE: ANNUAL SPEECH ON EUROPE
Venue: Maria Theresia, Grand Hotel River Park

H. E. WOLFGANG SCHÄUBLE, Minister of Finance of the Federal Republic of Germany, Berlin
Introduced by: H. E. PETER KAŽIMÍR, Minister of Finance of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava

13:15 – 14:45 SESSION 1: BUILDING EMU IN TIME OF TURMOIL AND CRISES
Venue: Maria Theresia, Grand Hotel River Park

Coordination of national economic and fiscal policies has proven ineffective in protecting the Eurozone from the crisis of recent years. According to some, this proves the architectural gaps of the Economic and Monetary Union are too significant to ignore any longer. Others believe that a stricter enforcement of current rules and a better implementation of structural reforms are the right answer. While political momentum to improve the functioning of the EMU was revived by the Five Presidents report, Member States remain entrenched in divergent national positions: Does the EMU need a fully-fledged economic and fiscal union? Which instruments could fulfill the stabilization function without exposing public resources to the risk of moral hazard? How should different political preferences of the Member States be accommodated in the context of economic challenges? Is a differentiated integration a way forward?

H. E. PETER KAŽIMÍR, Minister of Finance of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava
H. E. WOLFGANG SCHÄUBLE, Minister of Finance of the Federal Republic of Germany, Berlin
H.E. MICHEL SAPIN, Minister for Economy and Finance of the French Republic, Paris
H. E. PIER CARLO PADOAN, Minister of Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic
HON. PIERRE MOSCOVICI, EU Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs, Brussels
Led by: TBC

14:45 – 15:15 Coffee Break

15:15 – 16:00 GLOBSEC TATRA SUMMIT CHAT: #DIGITALSINGLEMARKET
Venue: Maria Theresia, Grand Hotel River Park

H.E. PETER PELLEGRINI, Deputy Prime Minister for Investments and Informatization of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava
GÜNTER OETTINGER, European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, European Commission, Brussels
MATT BRITTIN, President for the EMEA, Google, London
Led by: SILVIA SCIORILLI BORRELLI, Reporter, Politico, London

16:00 – 18:00 GLOBSEC TATRA SUMMIT WORKSHOP 1: MFF POST 2020 – FINDING THE RIGHT BALANCE IN FINANCING GROWTH & JOBS AND SECURITY & EXTERNAL RELATIONS
(upon separate invitations only)
Venue: Habsburg 1, Grand Hotel River Park

16:00 – 18:00 GLOBSEC TATRA SUMMIT WORKSHOP 2: MFF POST 2020 – WHAT IS THE ROLE AND BEST USE OF GRANTS AND FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS?
(upon separate invitations only)
Venue: Habsburg 2, Grand Hotel River Park

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break
16:30 – 17:45  **SESSION 2: GEOPOLITICS AND ENERGY – GETTING IT RIGHT FOR EUROPE**  
Venue: Maria Theresia, Grand Hotel River Park

Achieving energy security in the EU has proven to be extremely challenging, with varying dependency of the member states and a narrow selection of energy suppliers. Finding reliable energy sources is only a part of the solution, securing stable transit routes is just as challenging. Projects like Nordstream 2 and Southern Gas Corridor are aiming to broaden transit and source alternatives, yet they are not universally supported. On a larger scale, diversification and stability of energy supplies means also embracing the issues of Eastern neighbourhood, relationship with Russia and normalisation of partnership with Turkey. According to the European Commission, first order of business is decoupling the geopolitical tensions in Eastern Neighbourhood from European energy security. How can this be achieved without compromising foreign policy goals? What will be the European policy towards troubled energetically strategic regions? Which energy suppliers should we focus on and how can we secure stable transit routes beneficial for the whole Union?

H. E. **TORD ANDRÉ LIEN**, Minister of Petroleum and Energy of the Kingdom of Norway, Oslo  
**HON. MAROŠ ŠEFČOVIČ**, Vice President for Energy Union, European Commission, Brussels  
**JOHN M. ROBERTS**, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Dinu Patriciu Eurasia Center and Global Energy Center, Atlantic Council, Washington D.C.  
**ZSOLT HERNÁDI**, Chairman & CEO, MOL Group, Budapest  
Led by: **ALAN RILEY**, Senior Fellow, Institute for Statecraft, London

17:45 – 18:15  **Coffee Break**

18:15 – 19:15  **SESSION 3: MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK POST 2020 – BALANCE BETWEEN POLITICAL AMBITION AND REALISM**  
Venue: Maria Theresia, Grand Hotel River Park

Europe is rapidly changing. The MFF reform is needed to respond to new challenges in today’s globalised world and the EU spending needs to better reflect these new realities and priorities, while at the same time remaining the main investment tool of the EU. However, to find the right balance between political ambition and realism will not be an easy task. Two and half years of negotiations on the MFF represents a major investment that should bring delivery. The time is right for big questions to be put on the table: To what extent we should increase the EU budget total exposure in future? What will be the main role of the EU budget post 2020: to cover guarantees in order to stimulate economy or to focus the expenditure on new challenges and redesigned common policies? To serve as an important anti-crisis mechanism or as an effective tool for delivering policies improving life of the EU citizens? Where is the right balance between political ambition and real possibilities of the budget accounting for around 1% of the EU's GDP?

**H.E. LOUIS GRECH**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of European Affairs of the Republic of Malta, Valleta  
**NADIA CALVINO**, Director General, DG for Budget, European Commission, Brussels  
**JEAN ARTHUIS**, Chairman, Committee on Budgets, European Parliament, Brussels  
**PETER JAVORČÍK**, Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the European Union, Brussels  
Led by: **JORGE NÚÑEZ-FERRER**, Associate Research Fellow, CEPS, Brussels

19:45  **Buses leave for the GLOBSEC Tatra Summit Cocktail**

20:00  **GLOBSEC TATRA SUMMIT COCKTAIL**  
(upon separate invitations only)  
Venue: Palugyay Palace, Bratislava
DAY 2 – SATURDAY, 29 OCTOBER

9:00 – 10:30  SESSION 4: (MISSING) PIECE OF THE PUZZLE: THE WESTERN BALKANS
Venue: Maria Theresia, Grand Hotel River Park

Countries of Western Balkans have come a long way since the violent era of the 1990s. They align with Euro-Atlantic values and strive to be a part of European integration. Important achievements have been reached in the field of regional cooperation, the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue (although currently stagnating) has generated significant results. Also, the content of the latest reports from the 2015 Enlargement package is mostly positive, which was not the case in the past. Nevertheless, much remains to be done in the region and situation remains sensitive both on intrastate and bilateral levels. Western Balkans has always played an important role in European security. To address current challenges, the Balkans countries and the EU need to reflect upon how the existing mode of cooperation could be developed further. What should we all do differently in order to improve the partnership between the EU and the Western Balkans? Are our common responses to the threats to safe and stable European future effective? Are we ambitious enough to develop a common vision of making the region a generator of stability? Is the ultimate integration goal for the region reflected adequately in this context? Which obstacles should be addressed as a priority in order to enhance our capabilities to counter instability?

Keynote address by:
H. E. MIROSLAV LAJČÁK, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava
H. E. IVICA DADIĆ, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Belgrade
H. E. NIKOLA POPOSKI, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, Skopje**
H. E. DITMIR BUSHATI, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania, Tirana
H. E. IGOR CRNADAK, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo
H. E. ENVER HOXHAJ, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kosovo, Pristina*
ALEKSANDAR ANDRIJA PEJOVIĆ, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro, Podgorica
Led by: VESSELLA TCHERNEVA, Programme Director, European Council on Foreign Relations, Sofia

10:30 – 11:00  Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:30  EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY REVIEW ONE YEAR AFTER - CHALLENGES TO THE EAST
(upon separate invitations only)
Venue: Habsburg, Grand Hotel River Park

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* This designation is without prejudice to positions and status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.
** The Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, following the EU and UN practice, always uses the provisional reference: The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
11:00 – 12:30 SESSION 5: HOW TO IMPROVE FISCAL POLICY TO OPTIMISE TAX REVENUE?
Venue: Maria Theresia, Grand Hotel River Park

Among the most essential tasks of every government is to ensure right balance between fiscal strategies & security of its citizens. Recent developments in Europe have demonstrated the need for more balanced approach in government decisions regarding the fiscal policies to achieve inevitable tax collection and secure efficient law enforcement. Credit card fraud, wire fraud, tax fraud, charitable donation fraud and money laundering are just some of the revenue sources of terrorist organisations. The link between tax fraud and money laundering on the one hand and the financing of terrorism on the other has been recognized by the EU finance ministers. The Commission is also active and recently proposed the revision of the anti-money laundering directive. The Slovak Presidency included the work on this file among its priorities. Are the measures proposed in anti-money laundering directive a sufficient base? Could an enhanced cooperation among the tax and customs administration and financial intelligence units also make a difference in this important area?

Keynote address by:
ARTHUR LAFFER, Economist, Chairman, Laffer Associates, Nashville

DANA MEAGER, State Secretary, Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava
GRACE PÉREZ-NAVARRO, Deputy Director, Centre for Tax Policy and Administration, OECD, Paris
ROB WAINWRIGHT, Director, Europol, The Hague
Led by: HENRY FOY, Central Europe Correspondent, The Financial Times, Warsaw

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 GLOBSEC TATRA SUMMIT BRAINSTORMING: FROM BRATISLAVA TO ROME AND BEYOND: UNCERTAIN FUTURE?
Venue: Maria Theresia, Grand Hotel River Park

In 2017 the European community will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome. During these 60 years, the European Union has gone through a substantial expansion and changechange. However, the European Union has been recently facing multiple crises – the euro crisis, migration crisis, and crisis of trust of the EU citizens towards the common European integration project. These issues have been overshadowed by the British referendum and pending Brexit. The EU found itself in an unprecedented position and the very next steps will be crucial for its future. The question is: Have the EU Member States and institutions themselves caused or added fuel to the emerging crises by their complacency, non-compliance to the agreed set of rules, lack of political will or on the other hand by the flood reality of political atmosphere and needs and desires of their citizens? Can this explosive mix lead to a failure of the whole project? How can the European Union make states follow common rules and laws? What lessons can be learned from the British referendum and how do we move forward? What will be the future of EU-UK relations?

IVAN KORČOK, Ministre Délégué for the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU, Bratislava,
SANDEGO GEZI, Secretary of State for European Affairs, Office of the Prime Minister of the Italian Republic, Rome
DANIELA SCHWARZER, Director, Europe Program, German Marshall Fund of the United States, Berlin
ZDENĚK TUREK, CEO, Citibank Europe plc, Dublin
Led by: NIK GOWING, International Presenter, London
14:30 – 15:30  GLOBSEC TATRA SUMMIT ROUNDTABLE: NOTHING TO FEAR BUT FEAR ITSELF?
(organized in cooperation with Open Society Foundations)
Venue: Habsburg, Grand Hotel River Park

Opening remarks: SOPHIE GASTON, Head of External Affairs, Demos, London
RALPH SCOTT, Head of Citizenship, Demos, London
JAN EICHHORN, Partner, D-Part Think Tank, Berlin
YVES BERTONCINI, Director, Notre Europe, Paris
STEFANIE BOLZEN, UK Correspondent, Die Welt, London

15:30 – 16:00  Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:00  SESSION 6: REVIVING THE EU FISCAL RULES FRAMEWORK
Venue: Maria Theresa, Grand Hotel River Park

Significant measures for better functioning of the EU fiscal framework have been put in place since the crisis. The Member States have agreed to an unprecedented degree of coordination of budgetary policy making. Still, not everyone is content. Some criticize the Commission for being too political when assessing countries’ fiscal policies. These voices often argue that countries with higher levels of deficit and debt are actually asked to do less consolidation than countries with lower levels. At the same time, others believe that the rules are still too strict and disincentivise investments in times of need. Additionally, it is important to elaborate on further potentially useful reforms of the fiscal framework, such as greater predictability of Eurostat decisions, especially on public–private partnerships. Last but not the least, it should be noted that for some stakeholders, full implementation of the fiscal rules is a precondition for further deepening of the Economic and Monetary Union and for the construction of the fiscal union. Is the ongoing work to simplify the set-up of the fiscal rules enough to ensure a growth-friendly and sustainable fiscal policy, or do we need to re-design the EU fiscal framework from the scratch?

H.E. JOHAN VAN OVERTVELDT, Minister of Finance of the Kingdom of Belgium, Brussels
H.E. MICHAEL NOONAN, Minister for Finance of Ireland, Dublin
THOMAS WIßER, President, Economic and Financial Committee, Council of the European Union, Brussels
GUNTRAM WOLFF, Director, Bruegel, Brussels
Led by: TOM NUTTALL, Charlemagne Columnist, The Economist, Brussels

17:30  Buses leave for the GLOBSEC TATRA SUMMIT Gala Dinner

18:00 – 20:30  GLOBSEC TATRA SUMMIT GALA DINNER
(upon separate invitations only)
Venue: Reduta building, Slovak Philharmonic, Bratislava

Speech by: DANUTA HÜBNER, Chair, Committee on Constitutional Affairs, European Parliament, Brussels
21:00

**Night Owl Session A: Beyond Obama: Europe and the U.S.**

The U.S. presidential elections will take place just in a few days and their results might have a significant impact on U.S. relations with the rest of the world. During years of and after the Cold War era, the United States have played a crucial role in European issues, however, in recent years the United States and Europe have not worked so closely in the security area nor economy. Challenges which the United States and Europe are facing might seem diverse but their cooperation is inevitable since none of these world powers are able to solve their problems alone. What will be the future of transatlantic relations after the Obama administration? Can the United States assist Europe in dealing with the migration crisis? As for the economy – negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), are reportedly stagnating and possibly failing. What would be the best conclusion for the US-EU partnership and European internal market?

**US Representative (TBC)**

_Jeremy Shapiro_, Research Director, European Council on Foreign Relations, London

_Milan Nič_, Head of Future of Europe Programme, GLOBSEC Policy Institute, Bratislava

Led by: TBC

21:30

**Night Owl Session B: Understanding Authoritarianism**

(organized in cooperation with Open Society Foundations)

Authoritarianism is a disposition that is antithetical to thriving diversity and liberal democracy. It is the taproot of intolerance. Individuals that tend toward authoritarianism perceive the world in us-versus-them, black-and-white mental and moral frames. They seek order and uniformity. They follow and obey authoritarian leaders. This session will offer a discussion over a newly published comparative study on authoritarianism in America and European countries.

**Matthew MacWilliams**, President, MacWilliams Sanders Communication, Washington, D.C.; Teaching Associate, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

_Andrew Rzepa_, Managing Consultant, Gallup, Washington, D.C.

_Heather Grabelle_, Director, Open Society European Policy Institute, Brussels

Led by: _Christal Morehouse_, Senior Program Officer, Open Society Initiative for Europe, Barcelona
DAY 3 – SUNDAY, 30 OCTOBER

9:00 – 10:15  SESSION 7: EU TOWARDS SECURITY UNION: NEED FOR EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE REFORM IN CHALLENGING TIMES
Venue: Maria Theresia, Grand Hotel River Park

Terrorist attacks in France and Belgium painfully reminded the whole EU of its weaknesses in internal security. The nature of terrorism has become very dynamic and complex, their networks operate in transborder and virtual space and common action becomes essential. Effective counter-terrorist action on the European level would require intelligence sharing on a compulsory basis, creation of new common institutions and enhancement of competences of existing ones. While internal action remains crucial, the external dimension of security must be embraced as well. For this purpose, the EU needs to cooperate more closely with its neighbours and ENP countries in order to prevent radicalisation. Since national security is an exclusive competence of Member States, can effective measures be taken at the European level? Is there political will for cooperation of intelligence services? What can be done in the area of police and judicial cooperation? What policies must be adopted in relation to the troubled countries in European neighbourhood?

Keynote address by:
HON. MICHAEL ChERTOFF, Former U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security, Washington, D.C.

SIR DAVID OMAND, Visiting Professor, King’s College London
AUGUST HANNING, former President of German Federal Intelligence Agency, Berlin
ANNE-MIE TURTELBOOM, former Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Belgium, Brussels
Led by: STEPHEN FIDLER, Brussels Editor, The Wall Street Journal, Brussels

10:15 – 10:45  Coffee Break

10:45 – 11:15  GLOBSEC TATRA SUMMIT KEYNOTE
Venue: Maria Theresia, Grand Hotel River Park

H.E. MEVLÜT ÇAVUŞOĞLU, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, Ankara
11:15 – 12:30 **Session 8: Migration Crisis in Europe: Challenges Ahead**
Venue: Maria Theresia, Grand Hotel River Park

In 2015 Europe has faced the largest migrant and refugee inflows since World War II. This year has also seen challenges to existing protection systems and EU Member States grappling with the issues of reception and integration of new arrivals. European Common Asylum System and European cooperation on migration have been challenged to the point where they pose a threat to the entire European project. The true long-lasting solution has yet to be found. The relocation project proposed by the European Commission has met with strong resistance and has yet to show meaningful results. The EU-Turkey agreement raised many hopes for a long-term solution, but remains fraught with legal and logistical challenges. The need to have a truly common European approach towards migration issues is crucial more than ever. Can Schengen be preserved without jeopardizing internal security? How can the EU secure its borders without compromising its fundamental values? What will bring a revision of the EU Asylum System that would create a true area of Justice, Freedom and Security? How can we bring about successful inclusion of migrants into European society and reap long-term benefits from migration?

Szabolcs Takács, State Secretary for European Union Affairs, Office of the Prime Minister of Hungary, Budapest
Stefan Lehne, Visiting Scholar, Carnegie Europe, Brussels
Nina Gregori, Director General & Senior Secretary, Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana
Jakub Wiśniewski, Vice President of GLOBSEC, Director of GLOBSEC Policy Institute, Bratislava

Led by: Elizabeth Collett, Director, Migration Policy Institute Europe, Brussels

12:30 – 13:00 Coffee Break

13:00 – 14:15 **Session 9: How to Rebuild Trust of EU Citizens?**
Venue: Maria Theresia, Grand Hotel River Park

Extremism presents one of the most challenging threats to liberal democracy in Europe. Rise of extremism and popularity of far-right/left extremist parties is a phenomenon that we can see almost in all European countries. Extremist parties usually benefit from crises since politicians are usually not able to find their solutions and thus the disappointment of European citizens towards mainstream political parties. Moreover, through rich activities on social media, using charisma and rhetorical skills extremist parties gain trust and interest of young people, who in most of the countries present a huge portion of extremist parties' electorate. However, solutions proposed by extremist parties usually cause growth of nationalism, xenophobia or racism. And thus, growing distrust of EU citizens built on disappointment and fear about the future is a matter that needs to be not only taken into consideration, but actively dealt by politicians. Does the European Union have capacity to combat extremism? Shall this be its tasks or responsibility of the member states? How can national and European leaders regain trust of European citizens and thus to prevent rise of extremism and populism? Is this the fault of the EU, or of national politics? What reforms does the EU or the Member States have to take?

Vivien Ann Schmidt, Professor, Boston University, Boston
Goran Buldioski, Co-Director, Open Society Initiative for Europe, Budapest
John Erik Fossum, Professor, University of Oslo, Oslo

Led by: Barbara Wesel, Brussels Correspondent, Deutsche Welle, Brussels

14:15 – 14:30 **Closing Remarks**
Róbert Vass, President, GLOBSEC, Bratislava

14:30 Farewell Lunch