CONSTITUTION OF
3 MAY 1791
MUTUAL PLEDGE
20 OCTOBER 1791
230TH
ANNIVERSARY

THE THIRD OF MAY CONSTITUTION AND ITS LESSONS FOR THE CURRENT DEBATE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

21 September 2021, 10:00 am

House of the European Union,
Jungmannova 745/24, 110 00 Nové Město, Praha 1

Panelists: *Professor **Robert I. Frost**, University of Aberdeen, Scotland (UK)

*Professor **Zdzisław Krasnodębski**, University of Bremen & Member of European Parliament (Poland)

*Ambassador **Rytis Martikonis**, National Representative at the Convention on the Future of Europe 2002-2003 (Lithuania)

Moderator: *Jakub Janda*, European Values Centre (Czechia)

This year, Europe's first written constitution celebrates its 230th Anniversary. Adopted on 3 May 1791 by the Parliament of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, it abolished veto right, restructured the representation in the Diet by including formerly unrepresented classes, and established the principle of the division of powers. It also set the stage for the abolition of serfdom, although was short of renouncing this archaic practice. The Constitution represented a major shift in European legal and political thinking of the day. Even if short-lived, it deserves a closer look from the scholars and practitioners of European affairs.

230 years later, another union – the European Union – is at the crossroads. The 4th Industrial Revolution is gaining momentum, while the structure of EU governance remains very complex and complicated. Third powers seek to take advantage of our decision-making by exploiting the requirement to act with unanimity. And large segments of the EU population feel underrepresented, despite our formally open and democratic structures of government. The ongoing debate on the future of Europe could thus learn from the lessons – and failures – of the process that took place 230 years ago.

The panel discussion will address the issues of past and present in an open, engaging and interactive manner. After the key presentations, the floor will be open for Q&A from the audience. Snacks & drinks will be served after the event.

The working language: English

Simultaneous translation into Czech will be provided

VELVYSLANECTVÍ
LITEVSKÉ REPUBLIKY
V PRAZE

Velvyslanectví
Polské republiky
v Praze

SLOVENIA
CZECH
REPUBLIC

Evropská
komise

POLSKY
INSTITUT
PRAHA