



EU-Russia Forum

**Wednesday, 3 May 2017, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Scotland House, Rond-Point Schuman 6, 1040 Brussels**

Overview

Relations between the EU and Russia hit a historic low with the crisis in Ukraine in 2014 and the imposition of economic sanctions and countersanctions between Brussels and Moscow. Since then, President Putin has continued to consolidate power in Russia. The country has weathered the downturn of oil prices and Western sanctions. However, as the effects of Moscow's annexation of Crimea and intervention in Syria fade, Putin faces many challenges from within the elite ahead of Russia's 2018 presidential election.

In Europe, relations with Russia remain tense. Many believe that Moscow is trying to undermine the political establishment during important elections in France and Germany by supporting far-right parties and alternative news websites. Yet the confrontation remains indirect. Europe is still the main purchaser of Russian gas, and Russia and the EU continue to collaborate on Iran, Syria, and North Korea. The election of Donald Trump to the U.S. presidency also raises questions about whether sanctions will be sustained in the long term.

Since 2010, Carnegie Europe's annual EU-Russia Forum has been addressing the most important issues facing Russia's relations with Europe. In 2017, for the third year running, the EU-Russia Forum is co-hosted by the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) and supported by the European External Action Service (EEAS). The forum convenes senior officials and experts from across Europe, Russia, and the United States to evaluate the current state of EU-Russia relations and propose ways forward.

Agenda

8:30 – 9:00 am Registration, Welcome Coffee and Tea

9:00 – 9:10 am **Welcome**

- Antonio Missiroli, Director, EUISS
- Tomáš Valášek, Director, Carnegie Europe

9:10 – 9:30 am **Opening Remarks**

- Thomas Mayr-Harting, Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia, EEAS

9:30 – 11:00 am **Session 1 | Setting the Scene: Russia's domestic and economic landscapes**

Speakers • Andrei Kolesnikov, Senior Associate and Chair of the Russian Domestic Politics and Political Institutions Program, Carnegie Moscow Center

- Nicu Popescu, Senior Analyst, EUISS

Moderator • Tomáš Valášek, Director, Carnegie Europe

11:00 – 11:15 am Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:45 pm **Session 2 | Managing an adversarial relationship: the US and Russia**

Speakers • Kadri Liik, Senior Policy Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations
• Andrew S. Weiss, Vice President for Studies, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Moderator • David Herszenhorn, Chief Brussels Correspondent, POLITICO

12:45 – 1:30 pm Lunch

1:30 – 3:00 pm **Session 3 | Push and pull in the shared neighbourhood**

Speakers • Thomas de Waal, Senior Fellow, Carnegie Europe
• Stanislav Secieru, Independent Policy Analyst

Moderator • Judy Dempsey, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Carnegie Europe

3:00 – 3:15 pm Coffee Break

3:15 – 4:45 pm **Session 4 | Rebuilding the EU-Russia relationship**

Speakers • Fernando Andresen Guimarães, Head of the Russia Division, EEAS
• Dimitri Trenin, Director, Carnegie Moscow Center

Moderator • Pierre Vimont, Senior Fellow, Carnegie Europe

4:45 – 5:00 pm **Concluding Remarks**

- Karolina Nowak, Senior Adviser, Strategic Planning, EEAS
- Antonio Missiroli, Director, EUISS
- Tomáš Valášek, Director, Carnegie Europe