

# Eastern Europe – The Challenge of Modernization

International Conference  
7-8 October 2010  
Villa Decius, Krakow

Eastern Europe is at a crossroads. The prospect of membership in western organization such as the European Union and NATO for the states in the region is fading while Russia is showing renewed interest in forging closer links with former Soviet states.

The shadow of past conflicts continues to hang over the region, posing the risk that internecine strife will reemerge in the future. Reconciliation between states, ethnic groups and actors in once totalitarian regimes in the region remains a very live issue.

The future economic and democratic model for the region is still unclear as undemocratic practices and corruption seem to be gaining the upper hand. Is the region moving towards a western style model as reformers would like or rather towards a set of hybrid regimes where authoritarian rulers and corrupt business people set national agendas?

The conference “Eastern Europe – The Challenge of Modernization” organized by the Villa Decius Association in cooperation with the Polish-Ukrainian Cooperation Foundation and Res Publica Nowa will provide an opportunity for European intellectuals and leaders from the region to discuss the various models of reconciliation and reform, and examine prospects for the future of the Eastern Partnership, a major EU initiative designed to spur reform in the region.

The conference will also become a platform for presenting these actors in public sphere for whom dialogue between cultures, religions and communities is not merely a political declaration but a real challenge, undertaken frequently within the existing political system. Organized since 2004, the Sergio Vieira de Mello Prize will have its special, 7<sup>th</sup> edition during the conference and will bring together those organizations and individuals who work for the realization of the ideals which Vieira de Mello has come to symbolize.



# PROGRAMME

**7 October 2010**

9.00	Registration of participants
9.15	<b>WELCOME ADDRESS: Danuta Glondys, Aleksander Koj</b>
9.30	<b>OPENING LECTURE: Adam Rotfeld</b>
	<b>DEBATE 1</b>
	<b>MODELS FOR RECONCILIATION</b>
11.00 – 13.00	Panel discussion with leaders of transformation on the various past models of reconciliation and reform. The aim will be to point out critical factors which have facilitated or slowed the processes of transition to a democratic state and the rebuilding civil society. Speakers: Janusz Onyszkiewicz Stanislau Shushkevich Borys Tarasyuk*
13.00	Lunch
	<b>DEBATE 2</b>
	<b>CAN THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP UNDERPIN THE DEMOCRATIC TRANSFORMATION OF THE REGION?</b>
14.00 – 16.00	The debate will aim at examining the potential of the Eastern Partnership and prospects of democratic transformation of Eastern Europe. Speakers: George Tarkhan-Mouravi Grzegorz Gromadzki Jan Koehler
16.00	<b>“THE SHADOW OF AN EMPIRE” – Introduction to the exhibition by Tadeusz Boruta</b>

## SPECIAL EVENT

### CEREMONY OF AWARDING THE SERGIO VIEIRA DE MELLO PRIZE

17.00

In 2003, the Villa Decius Association established the Sergio Vieira de Mello Prize, in honour of the past United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Since then The Prize has been awarded to a person and an organization for their active involvement in the peaceful coexistence and cooperation of communities, religions and denominations, and cultures.

*(Detailed programme of the event is presented separately)*

**8 October 2010**

## DEBATE 3

### EXPERT ROUNDTABLE (by invitations only)

The debate will focus on three critical problems and issues which Eastern European countries face:

1. Eastern Europe's Prospects: Integration with the EU or a New Division of the Continent?
2. Security Challenges Facing the Region.
3. Rapprochement with Russia and the Eastern Partnership – How to Deal with this Dilemma?

Speakers:

9.30

Adam Brzezicki

–

13.00

Cornelius Ochmann

Elena-Raluca Raducanu

George Tarkhan-Mouravi

Grzegorz Gromadzki

Iryna Solonenko

Jan Koehler

Janusz Onyszkiewicz

Łukasz Adamski

Stanislau Shushkevich

Borys Tarasyuk\*

\*waiting for confirmation

# SERGIO VIEIRA DE MELLO PRIZE

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (2002-2003)

## Honorary patronage:

Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil to Poland  
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden to Poland  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Following the initiative of the Villa Decius Association, Sergio Vieira de Mello Prize was established in the year 2003 with an aim to promote democracy and tolerance, and to pay tribute to Sergio Vieira de Mello, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Prize is awarded to a person and an organisation for their special merits in peaceful coexistence and cooperation of communities, religions and cultures.

The Prize might be awarded to individuals and institutions from Poland and abroad.

The Prize is awarded by the Award Committee composed of the High Representatives of: the President of the Republic of Poland; Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, HE Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil, HE Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; Polish Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection, Chairman of the Polish Institute of National Remembrance; consulates and foundations cooperating with Villa Decius Association in matters related to human rights and Founders of the Prize, the Chairman and the Director of the Villa Decius Association.

The Laureates are given a statuette by Andrzej Renes and a personal Diploma; the award might also have a financial dimension.



## Laureates:

2004	Tadeusz Mazowiecki One World Association
2005	Rev. Marian Żelazek SVD (1918-2006) Krzyżowa Foundation for European Understanding
2006	Alaxandr Milinkevich Jewish Culture Festival
2007	Maryna Hulia Magurycz Association
2008	Krystyna Pryjomko-Serafin Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights Szewach Weiss, Michał Żejmis
2009	Fatos Lubonja United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq Leopold Unger

## **SERGIO VIEIRA DE MELLO (1948-2003)**



Born in Rio de Janeiro in 1948, he studied philosophy and humanistic studies at the Pantheon Sorbonne University of Paris. Being still a student, he started to cooperate with the United Nations, to become fully involved in the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva. He participated in numerous humanitarian and peacekeeping actions including Bangladesh, the Sudan, Cyprus, Mozambique and Peru.

In 1981 he became Senior Political Advisor of UN peace-keeping forces in Lebanon. In the period 1983-91, he was the Chief of the Cabinet of the High Commissioner, the Head of Regional Bureau of Asia and Oceania and the Head of Section of International Relations. In the years 1991-96 he acted as a Special Envoy of the High Commissioner for Refugees in Cambodia.

In 1996 he became the Assistant of the High Commissioner for Refugees of UN and in 1998 took his post in New York as the General Undersecretary for Humanitarian Actions. Then he acted as the special Envoy of UN to Kosovo and in the years: 1999-2002 as the Chief Representative of UNTAC in East Timor.

**On September 12, 2002 he was nominated to the post of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.** In May 2003, acting as the Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the United Nations, he went for a mission to Iraq.

**He was killed in a bomb attack on the UN headquarters in Baghdad on 19 August 2003.**

### **Paying a tribute to Sergio Vieira de Mello:**

UN Secretary General, **Kofi Annan**, said: *there was no-one we could less afford to spare, or who would be more acutely missed throughout the UN system.*

US Secretary of State **Colin Powell** called Mr Vieira de Mello: *a hero who dedicated his life to helping people in danger. (...) Sergio never shirked the most difficult assignments... Where others saw obstacles or despair, he created options and solutions.*

**Hedayat Abdel-Nabi**, president of the Geneva UN correspondents association, called Sergio: *the best of the best - a charismatic, brilliant character.*

World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General **Lee Jong-Wook**, said: *Throughout a long and impressive UN career, Sergio has served the people who needed him most with skill, compassion and good humour. This single act of terrorism deprives the Iraqi people, and people everywhere, of a great advocate and a fine man. He will be sorely missed.*

Cambodia's King **Norodom Sihanouk** said: *Mr Vieira de Mello helped and served the peoples of every country in the world, including Cambodia, with self-sacrifice, efficiency and limitless devotion and without seeking any personal gain or glory.*

East Timor President **Xanana Gusmao**, whose country Mr Vieira de Mello helped steer to independence, said: *Our nation mourns the death of a unique and unforgettable friend. He fought tirelessly for democracy, human rights and sustainable justice for the people of East Timor.*