



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Europe – Critical Problems

17-18 October 2013, Villa Decius, Krakow

Europe – Critical Problems is a conference organised jointly by Villa Decius Association and *Res Publica Nowa* as a follow-up on a prestigious series of debates revolving around the concept of Freedom, organised by Villa Decius Association since 2005.

A special event of the conference is an Awards Gala held to honour the Laureates of the 10th edition of the Polish Sergio Vieira de Mello Prize, granted in memory of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (2002-2003).

The agenda of the conference includes lectures and debates open to the public, along with a seminar with experts and representatives of the academic circles from the Czech Republic, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden and the USA.

The opening speech will be delivered by Marcin Król, philosopher and historian of ideas, lecturer, columnist, founder and long-standing editor-in-chief of *Res Publica Nowa* as well as Chairman of the Board of Stephen Bathory Foundation. The special lecture will be presented by Prof. Adam D. Rotfeld, an outstanding intellectual, historian and a former Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Expert debates and discussions will be held as part of two sessions:

1. Political crisis. Why democratise liberalism?
2. Community crisis. Between nationalism and universalism.

The conference participants will attempt to diagnose the ideas behind the crisis affecting European countries. The point of departure for the debates will be the assumption that today's political crisis, economic problems and social tensions are symptoms of a lack of a fundamental agreement as to the core values which might serve as foundations for common, solidarity-driven and committed Europe.

The panellists – philosophers, sociologists, historians of ideas, political scientists and diplomats – will try to suggest some solutions which go beyond mere technocratic crisis management. In two themed sessions, they will address the basic concepts which have guided the European project. They will juxtapose democracy and liberalism, they will reflect on the modern face of nationalism and universalism and they will survey the tensions rippling through modern European societies. The experts' voices will enrich the debate held in the streets of Brussels, Madrid and Athens.

If it wants to survive, Europe must be prepared to propose new forms of social life and redefine the foundation of thought, institutional practice and citizens' activities.



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PROGRAMME

Thursday, 17 October

9.30 a.m. – 10.00 a.m. Registration

10.00 a.m. – 10.15 a.m. **Welcome addresses:**

Prof. Andrzej Zoll, Villa Decius Association (Poland)
Henryka Mościcka-Dendys, Undersecretary of State,
Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs*
Marek Sowa, Marshal of the Malopolska Region*

10.15 a.m. – 11.00 a.m. **Opening speech**

Europe – Critical Problems
Marcin Król (Poland)

11.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. **Debate 1:**

Political crisis. Why democratise liberalism?

Introductory themes: A democratic state vs. a democratic society. How civic society should be accomplished in a liberal democracy? What does democratisation of a public life mean?

Experts: Samuel Abraham (Slovakia), Dominika Kasprovicz (Poland), Szabolcs Pogonyi (Hungary), Nina Witoszek-Fitzpatrick (Norway)

Moderator: Wojciech Przybylski (Poland)

12.30 p.m. – 1.00 p.m. Coffee break

1.00 p.m. – 1.45 p.m. **Special lecture**

Adam Daniel Rotfeld (Poland)

1.45 p.m. – 3.15 p.m. **Debate 2:**

Community crisis. Between nationalism and universalism



Introductory themes: In search of the community: nation states or the European project? Does democracy have to be national? Resentments and hope – what makes the people take to the streets of Europe

Experts: Kristina Mikulova (Slovakia), Kai-Olaf Lang (Germany)
Milica Pesic (Serbia/UK), László Rájk (Hungary)

Moderator: C. Cain Elliott (USA/Poland)

3.15 p.m. – 4.15 p.m. Refreshments

SPECIAL EVENT

4.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m. Awards Gala of the 10th Edition of the Polish Sergio Vieira de Mello Award granted in memory of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (2002-2003)

The debates will be held in Polish and English.
Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Friday, 18 October

EXPERT SEMINAR

10.00 a.m. – 1.30 p.m. *Reinventing Europe*

Introductory themes: What values might serve as foundations for common, solidarity-driven and committed Europe. How should the future of the continent be shaped?

Introductions:

Northern Perspective: Michael Kowalewicz (Poland)

Southern Perspective: Paul T. Levin (Sweden)

Moderators: Krzysztof Bobiński (Poland), Martin Ehl (Czech Republic)

Expert Participants:



Samuel Abraham, Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts, Slovakia
Kareem Amer, Egypt/Norway
C. Cain Elliott, USA/Poland
Riccardo Campa, Jagiellonian University (Poland)
Danuta Glondys, Villa Decius Association, Poland
Górniak, UJ
Dominika Kasprowicz, Krakow Pedagogical University, Poland
Michele Kowalewicz, Jagiellonian University, Poland
Marcin Król, Stephen Bathory Foundation, Poland
Myroslaw Marynowicz, nazwa uniwersytetu, Ukraine
Kristina Mikulova, John Hopkins University, Slovakia/USA
Atle Mittun, university of Oslo, Norway
Kai-Olaf Lang, German Institute for international and security Affairs, Germany
Milica Pesic, Media Diversity Institute, Serbia/UK
Jan Piekło, PAUCI, Poland
Szabolcs Pogonyi, Central European University, Hungary
Popiel, UJ
Wojciech Przybylski, *Res Publica Nowa*, Poland
László Rájk, University of Theatre and Film Arts, Hungary
Ziyad Raouf, Plenipotentiary of the Kurdish Regional Government to Poland, Iraq
Adam Daniel Rotfeld, former Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Poland
Elżbieta Świącicka, Stockholm University, Institute for Turkish Studies, Sweden
Nina Witoszek-Fitzpatrick, University of Oslo, Norway
Mostafa Zamani Nia, writer, Iran
Andrzej Zoll, former Ombudsman, Poland

And Representatives of the Panel of Judges of Polish Prize of Sergio Vieira de Mello, UNHCHR:

Irena Wóycicka, Undersecretary of State, Chancellery of the President of Poland*
HE Jorge Geraldo Kadri, Ambassador of Brazil to Poland*
HE Staffan Herrström, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden to Poland*
Krystyna Żurek, Director, Department of United Nations and Human Rights, MFA*
Anna-Carin Öst, UNHCR Representative*
Ellen Germain, United States Consul General*
Łukasz Kamiński, President of the Institute of National Remembrance*
Irena Lipowicz, Human Rights Defender*
Tomasz Sendyka, Smart Practical Logic sp. z o. o.*



Jan Pamuła, President of the Kraków Airport*

Jacek Weremczuk, Regional Director of PZU insurance company*

Wiesław Nowak, President of the ZUE S.A.*

1.30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Lunch

*waiting for confirmation

English will be the working language of the seminar.