



SÜDOSTEUROPA-  
GESELLSCHAFT

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Stabilitätspakt für Südosteuropa  
Gefördert durch Deutschland  
Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe  
Sponsored by Germany

## International Conference

*Program- (as of 14 December 2018)*

### REALITY CHECK SERIES

## SOURCES, TOOLS AND IMPACT OF EXTERNAL NON-EU-ENGAGEMENT IN SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE

### PART I – RUSSIA

**Berlin, 22 / 23 January 2019 at the German Federal Foreign Office**

**Conference Venue:** Weltsaal, Federal Foreign Office

Entrance via Unterwasserstraße 10, 10117 Berlin

**Conference committee:**

Johanna **Deimel**, Deputy Director, Southeast Europe Association, Munich (concept and organization)

Gernot **Erlner**, former Minister of State, President Southeast Europe Association

Hansjörg **Brey**, Executive Director, Southeast Europe Association, Munich

Ivana **Jerković**, Project Assistant, Southeast Europe Association, Munich

**Conference Language:** English and German with simultaneous translation

Following years of absence, Russia is again a key diplomatic and security player in Southeast Europe. Its vocal opposition to the expansion of NATO and even the EU in the Western Balkans has turned it into an ally for some and existential threat for others in the region. Moscow's presence and influence in Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Macedonia have generated a flurry of journalist articles and think tank reports. Russia's footprint in the energy sector in a number of countries is a subject of heated discussions. Political and economic relations between Russia and Turkey, going through several dramatic turnarounds over the past three-four years, have large impact on the wider region of Southeast Europe too. Remarkably, Russian activities and interest are falling on fertile ground among certain Balkan politicians as well. They use Russia for their own interests and as a bargaining chip vis-a-vis the West. The conference convened by Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft takes stock of Russia's strategy and influence in the region as well as the response by

local actors and by the EU and the US. It gathers a group of distinguished experts from the EU, Russia as well as from the countries of the Western Balkans.

*ATTENTION: The conference will take place under **Chatham House Rule** in order to facilitate an unrestricted and open exchange of views and ideas. At a meeting held under the Chatham House Rule, anyone who comes to the meeting is free to use information from the discussion but is not allowed to reveal who made any comment. It is designed to increase openness of discussion.*

**TUESDAY, 22 JANUARY 2019**

## **14:00 WELCOME / INTRODUCTION**

Gernot **Erl**er, former Minister of State, President Southeast Europe Association, Berlin

Ambassador Christian **Hellbach**, Director for South-Eastern Europe, Turkey and EFTA States, German Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

## **14:30 KEY NOTE: THE EUROPEAN UNION, RUSSIA AND SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE**

Florian **Bieber**, University Graz, Member of the Board Southeast Europe Association

## **15:00 PANEL I: HISTORIC LEGACIES OF RUSSIAN ENGAGEMENT IN SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE. FACTS, MYTHS, PERCEPTIONS, NARRATIVES, IDENTITY LINKS**

Chair: Gernot **Erl**er, former Minister of State, President Southeast Europe Association

Kyрил **Drezov**, Lecturer in Politics / Director, Southeast Europe Unit, Keele University

Andrey **Edemskiy**, Senior Scientific Associate, The Institute for Slavic Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences / InSlav RAS, Moscow

16:30 Break

## **17:00 PANEL II: CHESSBOARD SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE?**

Chair: Josef **Janning**, Director Berlin Office, European Council on Foreign Relations, Berlin

### **SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE / BALKANS IN CURRENT RUSSIAN FOREIGN POLICY**

Ekaterina **Entina**, Associate Professor, Higher School of Economics / Senior Researcher, Institute of Europe, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow

### **RUSSIAN INTERFERENCE IN SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE / BALKANS – AN OVERVIEW**

Maja **Bjeloš**, Research Associate The Prague Security Studies Institute (PSSI), Belgrade

**18:30**      **PANEL III: TOOLS AND ACTORS – DIPLOMACY AND SECURITY POLICY**

Chair:            Manuel **Sarrazin**, MP, Vice-President Southeast Europe Association, Berlin

**DIPLOMACY AND GOVERNANCE**

**Kosovo:** Veton **Surroi**, Publicist, Pristina

**Macedonia:** Zoran **Nechev**, Head of Center for EU integration, Institute for Democracy 'Societas Civilis', Skopje

**SECURITY POLICY**

**Montenegro:** Ambassador Vesko **Garčević**, Professor of the Practice of Diplomacy and International Relations, Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University

**Serbia:** Jelena **Milić**, Director, Chairwoman of the Governing Board, Center for Euro-Atlantic Studies, Belgrade

20:00            RECEPTION

**WEDNESDAY, 23 JANUARY 2019**

**09:30**      **PANEL IV: TOOLS AND ACTORS – BANKS, ECONOMY AND ENERGY**

**FINANCES AND ECONOMY**

Chair:            Jens **Bastian**, Independent Analyst, Member of the Board Southeast Europe Association, Athens

Constantinos **Filis**, Director of Research, Institute of International Relations/ Head Russia-Eurasia and SE European Centre, Athens

Ruslan **Stefanov**, Director of the Economic Program, Center for the Study of Democracy, Sofia

11:00    – 11:30 Break

**ENERGY POLICY**

Chair:            Janez **Kopač**, Director, Energy Community Secretariat, Vienna

Igor **Tomberg**, Head of Center for Energy Studies, Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Russian Academy of Sciences / Professor, Moscow State Institute for International Relations

Aleksandar **Kovačević**, Senior Visiting Research Fellow, Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, University of Oxford

13:00            Lunch

**14:00** **PANEL V: SOFT POWER-INSTRUMENTS**

Chair: Tobias **Flessenkemper**, Head Council of Europe Office in Belgrade, Member of the Board Southeast Europe Association

**NGOS / RUSSIAN THINK TANKS / GONGOS**

Jasmin **Mujanović**, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Political Science, Elon University

**YOUTH / CULTURE / RELIGION**

Oana **Popescu**, Director, Global Focus, Bucharest

**MEDIA**

Thomas **Brey**, Journalist, Ostrhauderfehn

15:30 – 16:00 Break

Chair: Sabine **Stöhr**, Head of Western Balkan Division, German Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

**RUSSIAN INFLUENCE ON REPUBLIKA SRPSKA POLITICAL AND SECURITY APPARATUS**

Srečko **Latal**, Regional editor, Balkan Investigative Reporting Network – BIRN, Sarajevo

**NIGHT WOLVES**

Peter **Kreko**, Executive Director, Political Capital, Budapest

**17:30** **PANEL DISCUSSION: COMPETING / COMMON INTERESTS OF RUSSIA, SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE AND THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Moderator: Tim **Judah**, The Economist, London

Maksim **Samorukov**, Deputy Editor, Carnegie Moscow Center, Moscow

Dejan **Jović**, Professor, Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb

Kadrii **Liik**, Senior Policy Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations, London

19:00 Concluding Remarks

19:15 END