

**NETWORK OF THINK TANKS ON THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP WORKSHOP
TAKING STOCK AND THINKING AHEAD: THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP BEYOND 2021**

Thursday, June 24, 2021, 9:30 AM–1:00 PM (CEST)
via Zoom

Workshop Agenda

9:30–9:45 AM **Opening Remarks**

Dr. Roderick Parkes, Co-Director of the Research Institute, German Council on Foreign Relations

Mathieu Bousquet, Deputy Director, Neighbourhood East and Institution Building, DG NEAR

9:45–11:15 AM **Bridging the Gap Between Expectations and Reality: Moving Forward on the Rule of Law**

Despite having been a focus of the EU's Eastern Partnership policy since its initiation in 2009, progress on the rule of law has been weak. In this session, we will discuss an input paper on the main roadblocks and potential solutions in this area. Evidence for this paper was collected during national consultations with experts on the rule of law in Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.

Input paper presented by

Pavel Havlíček, Research Fellow, Association for International Affairs (AMO)

First round of comments:

Mathieu Bousquet, Deputy Director, Neighbourhood East and Institution Building, DG NEAR

Nadejda Hriptievschi, Justice and Human Rights Program Director, Legal Resources Centre, Moldova

Reactions and feedback from think tanks in the network

Chair: **Dr. Laura Gelhaus**, Research Fellow, German Council on Foreign Relations

11:15–11:30
AM **Break**

11:30 AM–
1:00 PM **Delivering for the Future Eastern Partnership in a Contested Geopolitical Context**

Considering the lasting impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, an increasingly assertive Russia, and the reemergence of Turkey as a regional power in the South Caucasus during the second Nagorno-Karabakh war, finding ways to implement the targets of the post-2021 Eastern Partnership policy will be more difficult than ever. In this session, we will map this increasingly challenging geopolitical context and discuss how the overarching policy framework can nevertheless deliver beyond 2021.

Vassilis Maragos, Head of Unit, C.2 – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, and Eastern Partnership, DG NEAR

Dr. Kornely Kakachia, Director, Georgian Institute of Politics

Dr. Panagiota Manoli, Research Fellow, Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP)

Reactions and feedback from think tanks in the network

Chair: **Dr. Stefan Meister**, Head of Office South Caucasus Region, Heinrich Böll Foundation

The event will be closed-door and held in English.