

Central European University, Budapest Campus, 11-12 October 2023

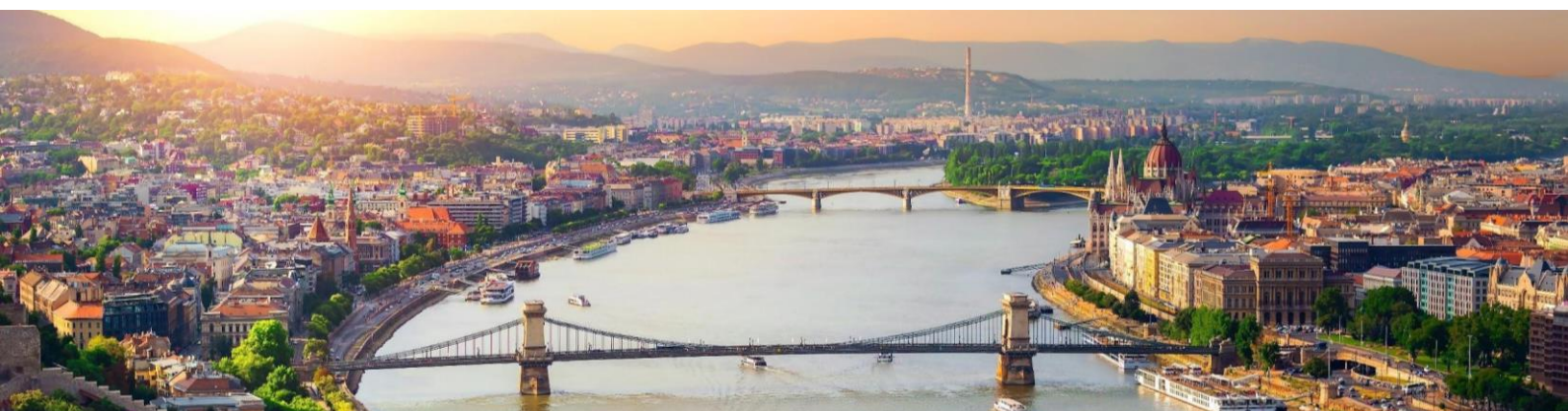
Based on the success of the last two years, Budapest Forum will return in 2023. The two-day conference will be organized again by the Municipality of Budapest, Political Capital, and CEU Democracy Institute to discuss the most pressing issues currently facing citizens of democratic and nominally democratic countries. The Forum will explore and examine policy proposals under the banner of ‘Building Sustainable Democracies’.

Budapest Forum has hit the international policy event scene in the last two years gathering mayors, ministers, commissioners, MEPs, policy experts, academics and activists for 37 panels and sessions, multiple side events and discussions. The public interest was equally large with more than 600 in-person participants at CEU Budapest Campus and 61.000 viewers online, as well as hundreds of Hungarian and international media appearances. The feedback from participants and partners was very positive, highlighting the organisational quality, impressive line-up, thematic diversity and hitting a niche with the role of cities in addressing the most pressing challenges of our time.

In 2023, we would focus on the topic of Sustainable Peace – how to achieve peace in the era of authoritarian aggression, and how to maintain peace, creating the conditions for a predictable, sustainable life amid concerns over energy shortages, high inflation, and declining living standards. Our democracies are being challenged by widening divisions caused by a variety of internal and external forces. Some tensions are purposefully fanned by populists, whilst others are related to more organic societal changes, all of which need a concerted effort and broad cooperation to tackle. At the upcoming Budapest Forum conference, we want to tackle these challenges together with decision-makers and experts from around the world, to drive the discussion as well as impactful policy solutions.

Budapest Forum is a markedly pro-democratic, anti-populist Central Eastern European platform. After the success of last year’s policy-heavy discussions focusing on the most pressing challenges democracy is facing today, we are convinced that it is not only the multitude of crises that define our time, but also the commitment and the intellectual prowess of broad segments of our societies to tackle these crises. The palpable interest that we have seen, attested that we are on the right path when we seek to galvanize policy debates across borders and levels of government, and provide a joint platform for all relevant stakeholders in search of a sustainable and democratic future.

We, as co-organising partners, the Municipality of Budapest, Political Capital Institute and CEU Democracy Institute, will draw upon this valuable experience this year when organising the third Budapest Forum, scheduled for October 11-12. We are looking forward to expanding our growing Budapest Forum network with the most impactful changemakers.



ALL CONFIRMED SPEAKERS ARE INDICATED IN ITALIC.

DAY 1 – 11 OCTOBER, WEDNESDAY

08:30-08:45 Opening speeches

Shalini Randeria, Rector, Central European University (online)

János Kenderney, Senior Adviser on City Diplomacy, Budapest City Hall

Péter Krekó, Director, Political Capital Institute; Senior Fellow, CEPA

08:45-09:10

Welcome speech by *Gergely Karácsony, Mayor of Budapest*

Opening Keynote Discussion with *Margaret Eleanor Atwood,*

Poet, Novelist, Literary critic (online)

09:10-10:15

Keeping Peace and the Future of the Transatlantic Alliance

Participants:

Gladden Pappin, President, Hungarian Institute of International Affairs;

Visiting Senior Fellow, Mathias Corvinus Collegium

Jeffrey Gedmin, Co-founder and Editor-in-Chief, American Purpose;

Acting President/CEO, Radio Free Europe/Radio

Liberty, Prague

Petr Lunak, Deputy Section Head, Engagements, NATO Public

Diplomacy Division

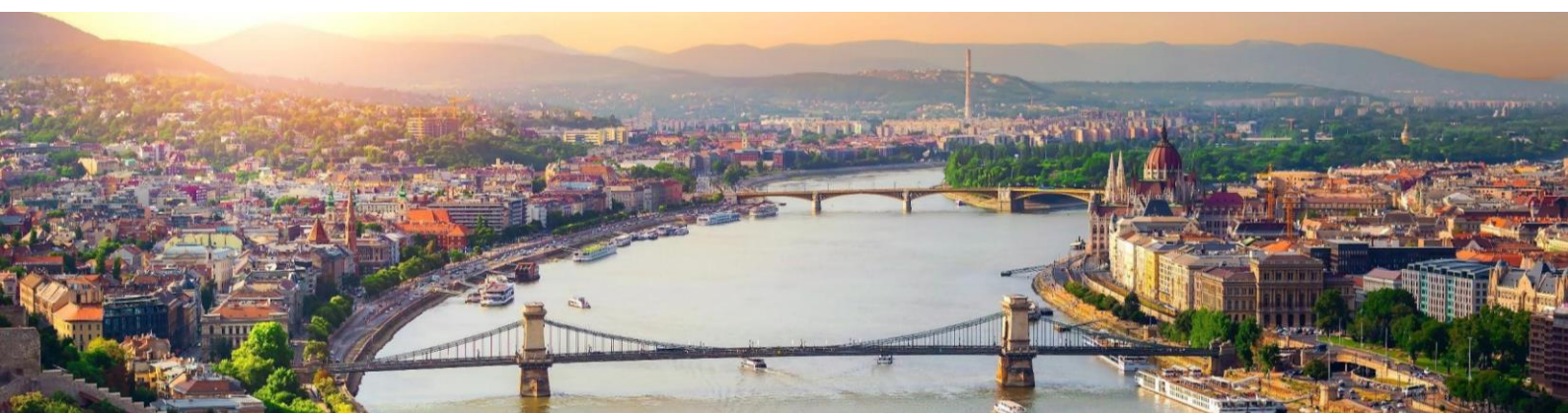
Réka Szemerkenyi, Senior Advisor, Transatlantic Strategy, International

Republican Institute (online)

Moderator: *Dániel Hegedűs, Senior Fellow, German Marshall Fund*

10:15-10:45

Coffee break



10:45-11:45

Towards Re-Democratization – Challenges and Opportunities within and beyond the EU

Keynote Speech: *Didier Reynders, European Commissioner for Justice (online)*

Participants:

*Anna Lührmann, Minister of State for Europe and Climate, Germany
(online)*

*Matthijs Bogaards, Associate Professor, CEU; Associate Research
Fellow, CEU Democracy Institute*

Nika Kovač, Founding Director, 8th of March Research Institute

Tomislav Tomašević, Mayor of Zagreb

Moderator: *Benjamin Novak, Doctoral Candidate, Johns Hopkins University
SAIS; Former Reporter, The New York Times*

11:45-12:45

Lunch

12:45-14:00

Direct European Funding for Cities

(In partnership with the Greens/EFA in the European Parliament)

Keynote Speech: *Elisa Ferreira, European Commissioner for Cohesion and
Reforms (online)*

Participants:

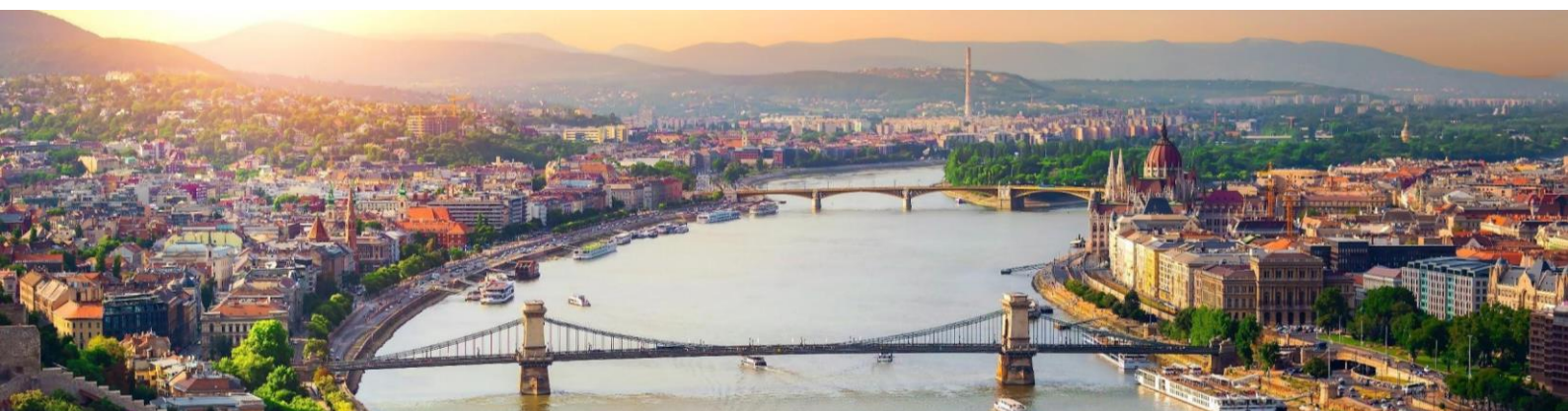
*Benedek Jávor, Head of Representation, Representation of Budapest in
Brussels*

Katalin Cseh, Member of the European Parliament, Renew Europe

*Niklas Nienäß, Member of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA
(online)*

Pietro Reviglio, Policy Advisor, Eurocities

Moderator: *Edit Inotai, Senior Fellow, Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration
and Democracy; Journalist, ARD, Balkan Insight*



14:00-15:15

Illiberalism and Gender – An Uneasy Relationship

(In partnership with the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung)

Keynote Speech: *Helena Dalli, EU Commissioner for Equality (online)*

Participants:

Dénes Krusovszky, József Attila Prize-winning Poet, Critic, Translator

Lucia Plaváková, Deputy Party Leader, Progressive Slovakia

*Magdalena Grabowska, Associated Professor at Institute of Philosophy
and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences*

Réka Sáfrány, Chairwoman, Hungarian Women's Lobby

Moderator: *Eva van de Rakt, Head of EU and North America Division,
Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Berlin*

15:15-15:45

Coffee Break

15:45-17:00

Ukraine After the War – the Reconstruction of Ukraine

(In partnership with the German Marshall Fund)

Keynote Speech: *William Browder, CEO, Hermitage Capital; Head, Global
Magnitsky Justice Campaign (online)*

Participants:

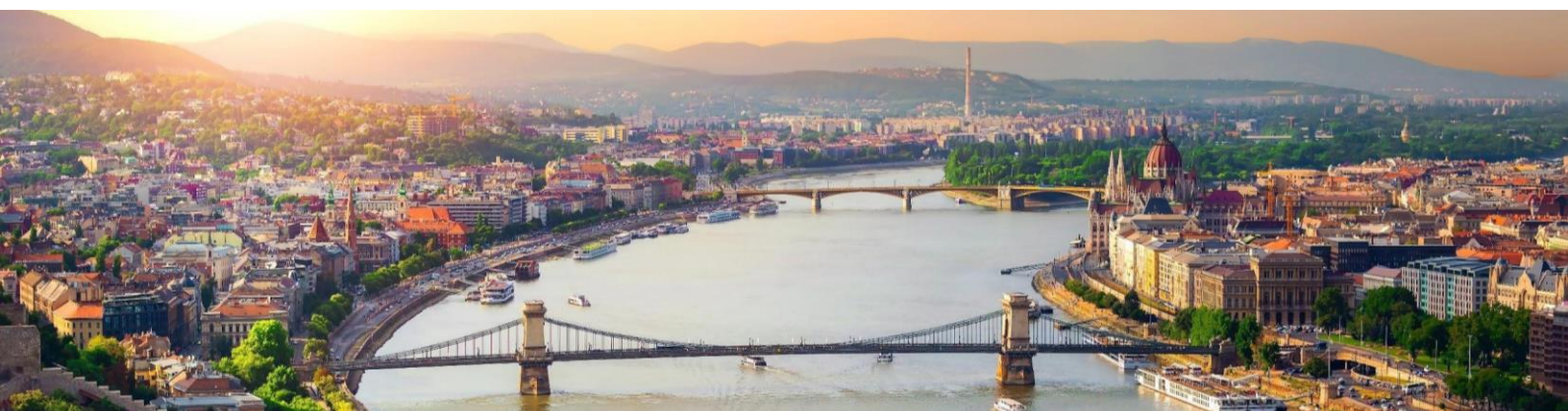
András Földes, journalist, video journalist, HVG

Irina Kravchenko, Deputy Head of Ukraine, EBRD (online)

*Ostap Sereda, Visiting Professor, Central European University; Director,
Invisible University for Ukraine*

*Tomáš Kopečný, Governmental Envoy for the Reconstruction of
Ukraine, Czech Republic (online)*

Moderator: *Dorka Takácsy, Research Fellow, Centre for Euro-Atlantic
Integration and Democracy*



17:00-18:15

Going beyond EU conditionality?

Keynote Speech: *Věra Jourová, Vice President of the EU Commission (online)*

Participants:

Boris Kálnoky, Head of Media School, Mathias Corvinus Collegium

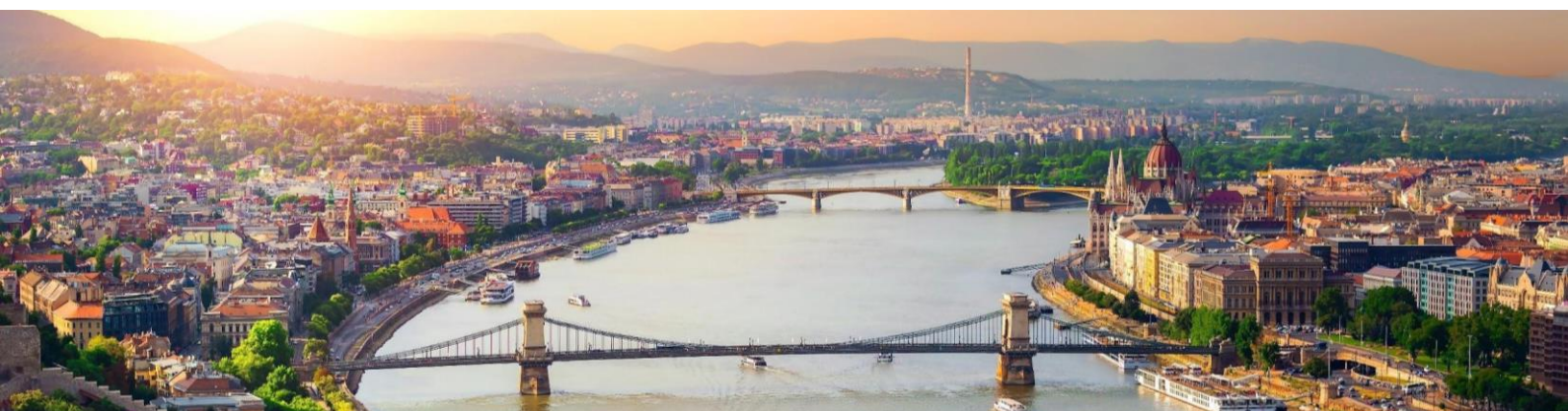
*Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, Member of the European Parliament,
Greens/EFA*

*John Morijn, Professor, University of Groningen; Fellow in Law and
Public Policy, Princeton School of Public & International
Affairs*

László Bruszt, Director, CEU Democracy Institute

Márta Pardavi, Co-Chair, Hungarian Helsinki Committee

Moderator: *Nick Thorpe, Central Europe Correspondent, BBC*



DAY 2 – 12 OCTOBER, THURSDAY

09:00-09:15 *Keynote Speech by Jan Philipp Albrecht, Co-President, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung*

09:15-10:30 **The Disinformation and Military Threat of Chinese Aggression –
After the Invasion of Ukraine**

(In partnership with the Taipei Representative Office in Hungary)

Keynote Speech: *Lo Ping-cheng, Minister without Portfolio & Spokesperson,
Executive Yuan, Taiwan (online)*

Participants:

András Bartók, Assistant Lecturer, University of Public Service

Liu Shih-chung, Taiwan Representative to Hungary

*Roland Freudenstein, Vice President, GLOBSEC; Head, GLOBSEC
Brussels*

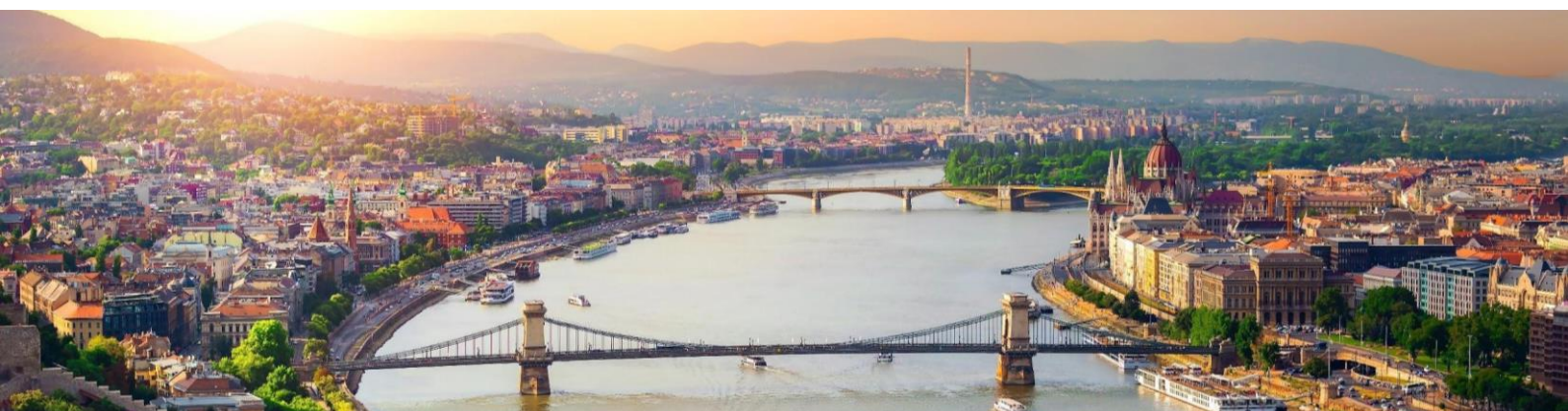
*Zsuzsa Anna Ferenczy, Associate Researcher, Vrije Universiteit Brussel;
Assistant Professor, National Dong Hwa
University*

Min Hsuan Wu, Co-founder & CEO, DoubleThinkLab

Moderator: *Una Aleksandra Bērziņa-Čerenkova, Head, Riga Stradins
University Political Science PhD Program;
Director, RSU China Studies Centre*

10:30-11:00

Coffee break



11:00-12:15

It's the economy, stupid! The undervalued role of inequality and inflation in undermining democracy

(In partnership with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung)

Participants:

Daphne Halikiopoulou, Chair, Comparative Politics, University of York

*Michael Jennewein, Researcher for Democracy and Economics,
Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung*

Piergiuseppe Fortunato, Economist, UNCTAD

Tamás Boros, Executive Director, Co-Founder, Equilibrium Institute

Moderator: *Zsuzsanna Szélényi, Program Director, CEU Democracy
Institute, author, former politician*

12:15-13:00

Lunch

13:00-13:45

Tomorrow's Europe – Replacing Energy at the Centre of the European Political and Democratic Project

(In cooperation with the Green European Foundation)

Participants:

*Eero Yrjö-Koskinen, Executive Director, Institute for European
Environmental Policy*

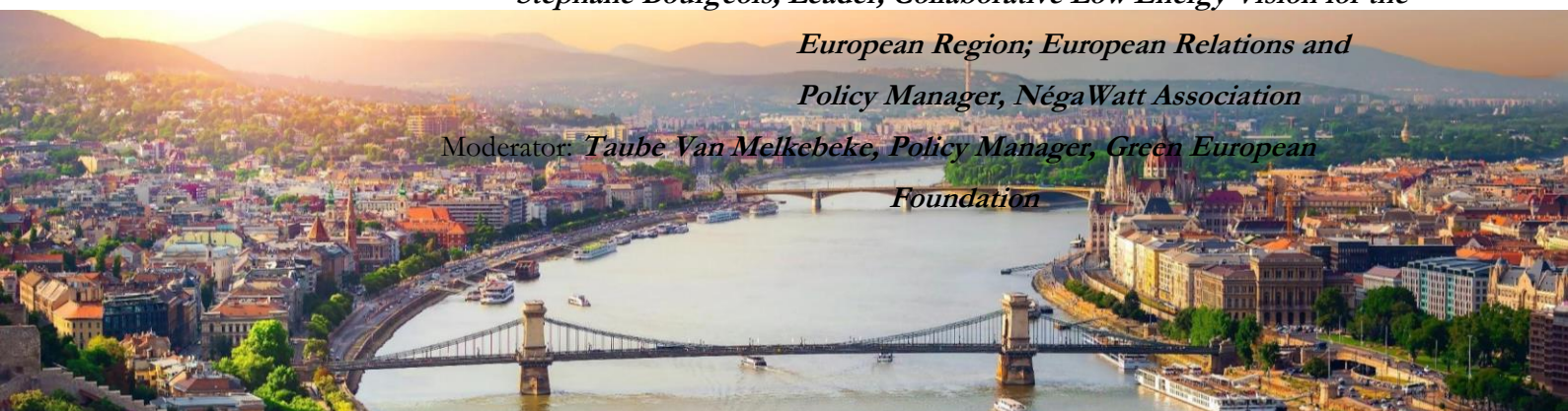
*Jesse Scott, Research Fellow, German Institute for Economic Research
(online)*

Benjamin Denis, Senior Policy Advisor, IndustriAll

*Rosa Martinez, Manager on Transport, European Climate Foundation,
Former Member of the Spanish Parliament*

*Stéphane Bourgeois, Leader, Collaborative Low Energy Vision for the
European Region; European Relations and
Policy Manager, NégaWatt Association*

Moderator: *Taube Van Melkebeke, Policy Manager, Green European
Foundation*



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13:45-15:00

Revisiting Energy Independence in the CEE region: a Stocktaking

(In partnership with the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung)

Participants:

*Ada Ámon, Head of Department, Climate and Environmental Affairs,
Budapest City Hall*

*Balázs Felsmann, Associate Professor, Corvinus University; Senior
Researcher, Regional Energy Policy Research Centre*

Bas Eickhout, Member of the European Parliament, Greens/EFA

Mihnea Cătuți, Head of Research, Energy Policy Group

Moderator: *Edit Zgut-Przybylska, Researcher, Re:Constitution Fellow, CEU
Democracy Institute*

15:00-15:30

Coffee Break

15:30-15:45

*Keynote discussion with Michael Shermer, Publisher, Skeptic Magazine;
Presidential Fellow, Chapman
University (online)*

Moderator: *Péter Krekó, Political Capital Institute; Senior Fellow, CEPA*

15:45-16:45

**Arbiters of Truth – Defending the Public from Disinformation through
Investigative Journalism, Media Literacy and Fact-Checking**

Participants:

Balázs Vedres, Research Fellow, CEU Democracy Institute

Beth Goldberg, Head of Research, Jigsaw at Google

*Jordan Warlick, Policy Advisor, U.S. Commission on Security and
Cooperation in Europe*

Joseph E. Uscinski, Professor, University of Miami

Péter Krekó, Political Capital Institute; Senior Fellow, CEPA

Moderator: *Blanka Zöldi, Editor-in-Chief, Lakmusz*



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16:45-17:45

Russian Influence and the EU Integration Process of the Western Balkans

Participants:

Anton Shekhovtsov, Director, Centre for Democratic Integrity

*Goran Buldioski, Acting Executive Director, Open Society – Europe and
Central Asia*

*Tanja Dramac Jiries, Deputy Director, Europe, National Endowment
for Democracy*

*Žiga Faktor, Deputy Director and Head of Brussels Office,
EUROPEUM*

Moderator: *Una Hajdari, Journalist*

17:45-18:45

New Autocratization Trends vs. Democratic Renewal

Participants:

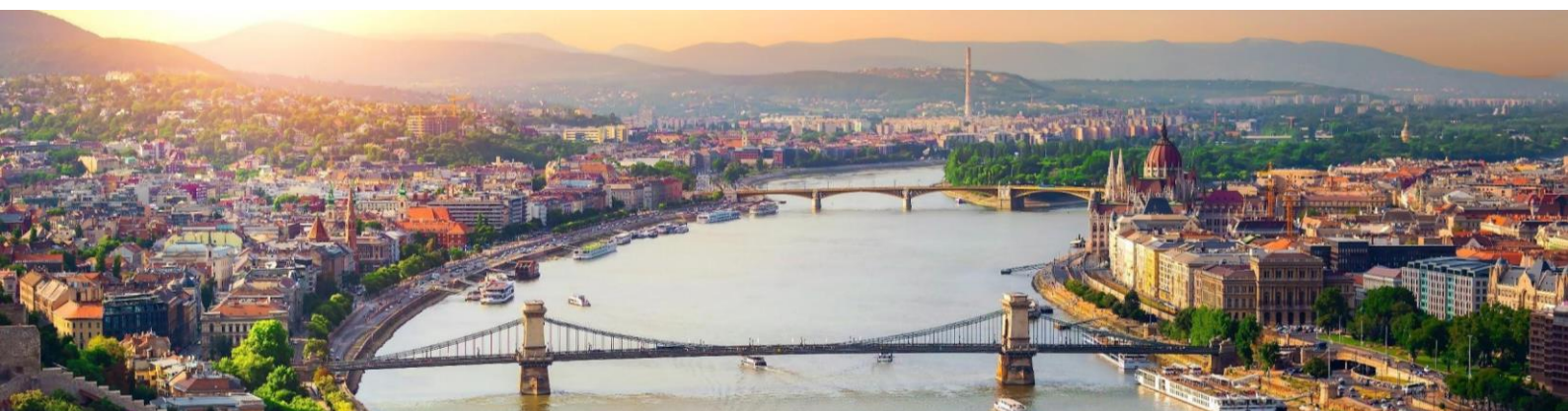
Anja Wehler-Schöck, Editor, Tagesspiegel

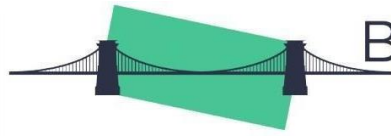
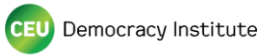
Gábor Kerpel-Fronius, Deputy Mayor of Budapest

Petra Guasti, Associate Professor, Charles University in Prague

*Zsolt Enyedi, Professor, CEU, Senior Research Fellow, CEU
Democracy Institute*

Moderator: *Karolina Zbytniewska, Editor in Chief, Euractiv.pl*





BUDAPEST FORUM

BUILDING **SUSTAINABLE** DEMOCRACIES

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The Marshall Plan
1947–1951

GMF

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GMF

Ideas.
Leadership.
Hope.



FES Regional Office
for International
Cooperation
Democracy of
the Future



**HEINRICH
BÖLL
STIFTUNG**



**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR
DEMOCRACY**

SUPPORTING FREEDOM AROUND THE WORLD



**TAIPEI
REPRESENTATIVE
OFFICE
IN HUNGARY**



THE GREENS/EFA
in the **European Parliament**



GREEN EUROPEAN FOUNDATION

