



16th EUREN Meeting

The next chapter of EUREN: Deepening cooperation in challenging times

**14:00-17:00 (Moscow time) /
13:00-16:00 (Brussels time) via Zoom**

This meeting kicks off a new series of events of the EU-Russia Expert Network on Foreign Policy (EUREN). Building on the foundation and trust that have grown over the last four years, EUREN will strive to further deepen the connections between its members, facilitate cooperation within the network and generate relevant interventions and ideas for the future of the EU-Russia relationship. Against the backdrop of tense relations between the EU and Russia, the relevance of EUREN has only grown.

In the first half of 2021, several crises emanated from three familiar trouble spots. First, there was new controversy linked to Russia's domestic policy: The imprisonment of Alexei Navalny and the increasing pressure on Russia's civil society led to new EU sanctions, which were answered by Russia with counter-sanctions and the expulsion of EU diplomats during a Moscow visit by High Representative Josep Borrell in February. Secondly, the confrontation between Prague and Moscow in April served as a reminder of the political disruption that new allegations about Russian secret service operations within the EU can trigger. Thirdly, the fate of EU-Russia relations remains intrinsically linked to the unresolved crises in the common neighbourhood. This again became clear during ten-

sions linked to Russia's military build-up at Ukraine's borders as well as the forced landing of a Ryanair flight in Minsk.

Meanwhile, the Biden administration has begun to reshape U.S. foreign policy, marking a clear contrast to the era of Donald Trump. The change in Washington is impacting EU-Russia relations as well. Although Russian and EU perspectives on the new U.S. policies differ, greater predictability should be in the interest of both sides, and the new administration could also make some forms of EU-Russia selective engagement easier, such as on JCPOA or climate change.

This EUREN meeting takes place online, as the Covid-19 pandemic remains an obstacle. Despite the routine use of video conferences, personal interaction is difficult to replace. While there is some reason for optimism as the availability of vaccines improves, the pandemic still affects both the work within EUREN, as well as the exchange between EU and Russia in general.

The meeting will start with a reflection on recent developments in the EU-Russia relationship. The second part will focus on the steps necessary to further the network itself: What role could EUREN play in the current political circumstances? Which formats are best-suited to facilitate collaboration within EUREN? Which topics should future EUREN conferences focus on?

Monday, 21 June 2021

14:00-17:00 (Moscow time) / 13:00-16:00 (Brussels time) via Zoom

14:00 Welcoming remarks

Markus Ederer, Ambassador of the European Union to Russia

Andrey Kortunov, RIAC, Moscow

**14:20 EU-Russia relations in 2021:
Are there ways out of perpetual crisis?**

Andrey Kortunov, RIAC, Moscow

Dmitri Trenin, Carnegie Moscow

Markus Ederer, Ambassador of the European Union to Russia

Chair: Kadri Liik, ECFR, Berlin

15:30 Coffee break

**15:45 Introduction of the new project team
(core group only)**

Pauric Brophy, GDSI, Galway, Ireland

Andrei Stoiciu, Public Diplomacy, Moscow

**16:00 Future EUREN activities, topics and cooperation
(core group only)**

Janis Kluge, SWP, Berlin

Ivan Timofeev, RIAC, Moscow

17:00 End of meeting

Please note that this meeting will be held under the Chatham House Rule.

