



CENTRUM STOSUNKÓW MIĘDZYNARODOWYCH  
CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



**The Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA)  
&  
The Center for International Relations (CSM)**

invite you to a two-day conference on

**Revitalizing the U.S.-Central European Relationship**

(With the support of the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw)

Warsaw Royal Castle  
Plac Zamkowy 4  
Warsaw, Poland

**October 2-3, 2008**

With instability on Europe's doorstep and political change underway both in Washington and in Central European capitals, now is the time for an open, pointed discussion about America's commitment to the region and Central European perspectives of the United States and its policies.

This conference shall offer a forum for asking the tough questions on issues like missile defense, energy security, NATO and the U.S. business community's interest in Central Europe. Participants and speakers will include American and Central European experts, academics, government officials, business representatives, journalists and others.

Conference discussions will be conducted in English, with simultaneous translation into Polish.

Please confirm your participation by e-mail: [info@csm.org.pl](mailto:info@csm.org.pl) or by phone: +48 22 646 52 67.

## Conference Agenda (please note updated speakers list)

### **October 2 (Thursday)**

8:30-9:00AM, Registration

9:00-9:15, Welcoming remarks by Eugeniusz Smolar, President of the Center for International Relations, and Michael Wyganowski, Executive Director of the Center for European Policy Analysis.

9:15-10:00, Keynote Address by Ambassador Victor Ashe, U.S. Ambassador to Poland.

10:00-11:30, Panel I: “Central Europe in American Foreign Policy: Still Part of the Picture?”

*Is the U.S.-Central European relationship headed for a divorce? Increasingly, the United States appears to lack a compelling strategic vision for the region and its role in U.S. foreign policy. In the 1990s, America valued Central Europe as a venue for the expansion of Western institutions. In the early 2000s, it hoped to use the region as a springboard for disseminating Western ideals further east. But what is its vision today? If relations are in fact in crisis, what would it take to get the relationship back on track?*

Chair: Michael Wyganowski, Executive Director, CEPA.

Panelists:

- A. Wess Mitchell, Director of Research, CEPA.
- Charles Gati, Senior Adjunct Professor of Russian and Eurasian Studies, Johns Hopkins-SAIS.
- John K. Schlosser, former U.S. State Department official and Vice President, Stonebridge International.

11:45-1:30, Lunch break (all participants); Keynote presentation by Charles Gati, Senior Adjunct Professor of Russian and Eurasian Studies, Johns Hopkins-SAIS.

1:45-2:15, “Central European Economies: Achievements and Prospects,” Presentation by Leszek Balcerowicz, former Deputy Prime Minister and Central Bank Governor of Poland.

2:15-3:30, Panel II: “Business in the Lead?: U.S.-Central European Commercial Relations.”

*Governments are not the only players in the U.S.-Central European relationship – the business class on both sides of the Atlantic is also in the drivers’ seat. Bilateral trade between the U.S. and Central Europe now stands at over \$20 billion. In order for commercial ties to expand further, Central European economies must continue to grow and U.S. firms must capitalize on this growth. Yet investment into Central Europe is*

*slowing down and American firms report challenges to doing business in Central European countries, such as corruption, bureaucratic red tape, poor infrastructure and a shortage of local talent. What policies are needed to ensure that the U.S.-Central European commercial relationship remains strong? In addition, Central European firms, on balance, have not been very successful in selling to the American market. Is this a one-sided business relationship? How might this imbalance be corrected?*

Chair: Wiesław Szczuka, Chief Economist, BRE Bank S.A.

Panelists:

- Krzysztof Błędowski, Economist and Council Director, Manufactures Alliance, and President, National Economists Club.
- Paul B. Dyck, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Europe, U.S. Department of Commerce.
- Adam Szejnfeld, Deputy Minister, Polish Ministry of Economy.
- Roman Rewald, Chairman, American Chamber of Commerce in Poland.

3:30-3:45, Coffee Break

3:45-5:15, Panel III: “Energy Security in Central Europe: Can or Should the U.S. Do More?”

*Russia’s monopoly on Central Europe’s oil and gas supplies is a source of concern for many countries in the region. Yet there is no consensus about the best way to respond. The EU does not have a common energy policy, NATO’s role is in question and schisms have emerged within Central Europe itself. Meanwhile, Washington’s support on energy security issues is sometimes seen as only verbal. Can the United States and/or NATO play a greater role? Should the United States consider dropping its opposition to European gas deals with Iran? Can Washington urge Germany to show a greater commitment to solidarity with its Central European neighbors by playing a more constructive role in developing a common EU energy policy? Or are the dangers associated with Russian companies like Gazprom exaggerated to begin with?*

Chair: Michael Wyganowski, Executive Director, CEPA.

Panelists:

- Alexandros Petersen, Southeast Europe Policy Scholar, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.
- F. Wallace Hays, Senior Adjunct Fellow, CEPA.
- Piotr Naimski, former Polish Deputy Minister of Economy.

### **October 3 (Friday)**

9:00-10:45AM, Panel IV: “Missile Defense in Central Europe: Security Blanket or Tripwire?”

*U.S. missile defense plans are seen by some as a means to keep America engaged in Central Europe. Is the missile shield a worthwhile way to cement Washington's commitment to the region, or will it do more harm than good considering Moscow's objections? Has the Georgia crisis resolved the underlying tensions that were revealed during negotiations, or merely papered over them? Moving forward, what steps can be taken to ensure that missile defense is a win-win for both sides?*

Chair: Eugeniusz Smolar, CSM.

Panelists:

- Wade Boese, Research Director, Arms Control Association.
- Peter Podbielski, Senior Associate Scholar, CEPA.
- Zbigniew Lewicki, Professor, Institute of International Relations, Cardinal S. Wyszyński University.
- Olaf Osica, Research Fellow, Natolin European Centre, Warsaw.

10:45-11:00, Coffee Break

11:00-12:30, Panel V: "Life after Bush: Implications for Central Europe?"

*The United States' presidential election cycle is being watched carefully both at home and abroad. Will 2009 bring continuity or change in Washington's approach to Central Europe and transatlantic relations more broadly? Is the visibility that Poland and its neighbors have enjoyed in U.S. foreign policy under the Bush Administration sustainable? If Poland's current relationship with America involves mostly cooperation on "hard" power issues, where will it fit under the "soft" power approach favored by some in the Democratic team? Conversely, how willing are Central Europeans likely to be to backstop a more assertive approach to Russia that some analysts believe will characterize U.S. policy under the Republican nominee? How can both American and Central European leaders take advantage of the changeover to renew and revitalize the U.S.-Central European relationship?*

Chair: A. Wess Mitchell, Director of Research, CEPA.

Panelists:

- Charles A. Kupchan, Senior Fellow for Europe Studies, Council on Foreign Relations.
- Marcin Bosacki, Chief U.S. Correspondent, Gazeta Wyborcza.
- John C. Hulsman, Resident Scholar, German Council on Foreign Relations.