



20th International Conference of the Baltic Forum

THE US, THE EU AND RUSSIA – THE NEW REALITY

*September 12, 2015
Baltic Beach Hotel, Jurmala, Latvia*

Since the last international conference of “The Baltic Forum” in May 2014, the situation in the world has continued to change rapidly in an unfavourable direction. The contradictions accumulated between the West and Russia have resulted in a full-fledged crisis, which together with the continuing Ukrainian conflict badly complicates challenges to ensure security both on regional and global level.

The escalation of tension overlaps with:

- *Confident growth of China's economic and military potential and intensification of competition between the United States and the People's Republic of China;*
- *Progressing Middle East destabilization, growth of contradictions and radicalisation of the Islamic world;*
- *Economic and political stagnation of Europe;*

Gradual decrease of the role of the former global leaders and a range of key supranational institutions (G7, IMF, World Bank etc.).

In recent months, a quantitative accumulation of factors of instability has taken it to a qualitatively new level - with extremely unpleasant prospects even for such a recently relatively calm region as Europe. This is indicated both by the heating of the crisis over Ukraine, and further escalation of conflicts in the Middle East with its growing negative impact on European territory itself.

This time, the challenges encountered in the system of regional and global security can no longer be stopped by the structures designed to ensure it without exercising very serious and timely effort. Foreign policy moves undertaken by the leadership of the most prominent international organizations and leaders of the major world powers are often either belated or turn out not to be sufficiently decisive, or, more dangerously, are initially based on erroneous assumptions and conclusions. The costs of such incompetence may turn out to be enormous if not unmanageable for all parties, including those of the Ukrainian crisis.



SPEAKERS:

Igor Ivanov - President of the Russian International Affairs Council, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (from 1998 to 2004)

Topic: "The decline of Wider Europe"

Igor Yurgens - Chairman of the Board of the Institute of Contemporary Development, Chairman of Advisory Board of the Baltic Forum (Russia)

Topic: "Conflict of integrations in the East of Europe: ways of resolution"

Martin Vukovich – former Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Austria in the Russian Federation (from 2003 - 2007)

Topic: "EU - Russia relationship: how to overcome the present crisis"

Jeffrey Gedmin – senior research associate of the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, President of the Radio Free Europe/Radio Freedom (from 2007 to 2011)

Topic: "The US Presidential campaign and foreign policy: outlook for 2016"

Chunsi Wu - director of Shanghai Institute for International Strategic Studies (China)

Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz – senator, former Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Poland (1996-1997, Minister of Foreign Affairs (2001-2004)

Topic: "EU's relations with eastern neighbours in the context of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine."

Franco Frattini – former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy (2008-2011)

Topic: "What unites Russia and EU is (much) more than what divides them"

Aleksandr Veshnyakov - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Latvia

Sally Painter - Co-Founder and CEO at Blue Star Strategies, LLC (USA)

Viktors Makarovs - Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Latvia)

Vyacheslav Trubnikov – Member of the board of directors of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences, army general, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation

Topic: "Is "peaceful coexistence" the timely conception for former adversaries?"

Andris Sprūds - director of the Institute of International Affairs (Latvia)

Aleksandr Dynkin - Director of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO) of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Russia)

Topic: "Searching of New Normality in a time of Global Disorder"



Justas Vincas Paleckis – former Member of the European Parliament (Lithuania)

Topic: “Responsibility of international organizations and great powers to eliminate the biggest threats which can destroy mankind”

Tamas Pal - professor of the Institute of Sociology, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Hungary)

Topic: “Impacts of Russian Foreign Policy: Return of Neobismarkianism to the EU political philosophies”

Elena Telegina – Director of Institute of Geopolitics and Energy Security (Russia)

Joshua Walker - Transatlantic fellow, German Marshall fund (USA)

Topic: "Shifting geopolitical trends from West to East in the midst of deepening crisis in Ukraine and the Middle East"

Nikolay Mezhevich – professor of Saint-Petersburg State University, School of International

Relations Topic: “”Integration of integrations” – is it worth to look for a black cat in a dark room?

Jiang Ye – Professor, director of the Institute for Global Governance Studies, (China)

Sergey Tsyplaev – Dean of the Faculty of Law of the North-Western Institute of Management of the Russian Federation Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration

Per Carlsen – former Ambassador of Denmark to Latvia, senior adviser of Baltic Development forum

Xin Li – Professor, Shanghai Institute for International Studies, Director, Department for Russian and Central Asian Studies, (China)

Hans-Friedrich von Ploetz – former Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Germany to Russia

Jānis Urbanovičs – president of the Baltic Forum (Latvia)

09:00 - 10:00 Registration of participants

10:00 - 10:30 Opening speeches and introduction

10:30 - 16:00 Plenary session

16:00 – 18:30 General discussion

18:30 – 19:00 Closing of the conference

Coffee break: 11:40 – 12:00

Lunch: 14:00 – 15:00

Formal dinner: 20:00 - ...