



Event description

ECR Eastern Neighbourhood Summit (1-2 March 2022)

Eastern Partnership - Europe as a civilisational choice

Hybrid TV-style event recorded in the audio-visual studio (Brussels, European Parliament, JAN -2 floor)¹

Languages²: English, Polish, Russian

The European Conservatives and Reformists Group in the European Parliament has been an active player in the reflexion process on the future of Europe launched by the European institutions last year under the Conference on the Future of Europe. In particular, our Group has been carrying out a pan-European campaign [*Europe's Future - A New Hope*](#). We have so far organised eight hybrid events in European capitals, including in Warsaw, Stockholm, Sofia and Madrid. Through a number of public discussion with the participation of some most renowned European conservative intellectuals and our MEPs, the ECR Group has broadly presented its vision for the European reform, with 'Secure borders, safe citizens', 'Sovereign Member States', 'Realistic climate protection' and 'Doing less, doing better' being some of the watchwords.

From now on, we would like to move on to the second stage of our campaign. Europe is not only limited to the European Union, nor should these two terms be treated as synonymous. That is why, in order to make this reflexion genuinely European, the ECR Group decided to include in the debate on the future of Europe also the perspective of the countries aspiring to the membership or closer integration with the European Union, i.e. those from the Eastern Partnership region and the Western Balkans³. We should use the opportunity offered by the Conference on the Future of Europe to make the voice of all Europeans heard.

On 1-2 March, the ECR Group is organising *the ECR Eastern Neighbourhood Summit* titled *Eastern Partnership - Europe as a civilisational choice*. This event will bring together recognised experts in such fields as security, economy, democratisation and European integration, as well as current and former decision-makers from the Eastern Partnership region and several MEPs from our Group. The discussions will be structured on two axes: the current state of play and the perspectives for the future. We will thus try to answer two main questions,

¹ In principle, the presenter and the ECR MEPs taking part in the event will be physically present in the studio, whereas the VIPs and experts will connect remotely.

² The participants will be asked to speak mainly English, whereas the interpretation in the two other languages will be fore and foremost provided to make the event accessible to external audience in the Eastern Partnership countries.

³ ECR Western Balkans summit will be held on 29-30 March 2022.

i.e. what the European Union has to offer to the Eastern Partnership countries and what closer integration with this region can bring to the EU.

To answer these questions, there will be two panels (one on Tuesday afternoon, one on Wednesday morning), each one divided into two sections: an introduction to the subject with the special participation of a VIP guest in conversation with an ECR MEP, followed by an expert discussion. The first panel will try to carry out a general assessment of the EU policies in the region in the recent years and their influence on solving the existing problems, mainly in the areas of economy, security, energy and democracy. The second one will address a broad question of a long-term impact of the ongoing integration process with the Eastern Neighbourhood countries on the EU, in particular the implications that this gradual opening towards the East might have for European economy, security and defence policy, as well as European demography, societies and values. Overall, the speakers will try to define the role that the Eastern Partnership countries have to play for and in the future of Europe.