Nordic Countries and European Integration: Past, Present, and Future

Date: Wednesday, 11th April 2012, 13:00 - 17:45
Venue: CEVRO Institute, Jungmannova 17, Prague 1

Working language: English

The seminar is organized and supported by CEVRO Institute and Young Conservatives in the Czech Republic in cooperation with the five Nordic Embassies in Prague.

Participants are requested to register for the seminar at: konference@vsci.cz
Program:

Introductory words (13:00 - 13:15)
- Josef Šíma, President of CEVRO Institute
- Jens Eikaas, Ambassador of Norway (representing Nordic presidency 2012)

BLOCK 1:
Hesitant Europeans? Ambiguities of Nordic countries attitudes and actions in regard to European integration (13:15 - 15:15)
- Key Note: Nordic countries and the European integration from a historical perspective (Miloš Brunclík, CEVRO Institute)
- Key Note: Nordic countries and the EU: From hesitancy and opt-outs into influence and making a difference? (Rikard Bengtsson, University of Lund)
- Denmark – for the 7th time as EC/EU Presidency: Danish perspectives on the EU (Lars Kjellberg, Deputy Head of the Embassy of Denmark)
- Finland – the only Nordic in the euro: Finnish perspectives on the EU (Päivi Hiltunen-Toivio, Ambassador of Finland)
- Sweden – from “Reluctant European” into a team player: Swedish perspectives on the EU (Annika Jagander, Ambassador of Sweden)
- Norway – both inside and outside: Norwegian perspectives on the EU (Jens Eikaas, Ambassador of Norway)
- Iceland’s EU accession process: state of play; Icelandic perspectives on the EU (Stefán Skjaldarson, Ambassador of Iceland)
- Discussion

Coffee break: (15:15 - 15:30)

BLOCK 2:
A new renaissance (and rejecting earlier “taboos”) of Nordic cooperation – in a regionalizing Europe? (15:30 - 16:45)
- Nordic institutional cooperation today – its structures, focuses, outreach and added value (Kenneth Broman, Nordic Council of Ministers)
- Nordic informal foreign, security and defence policy cooperation (Rikard Bengtsson, University of Lund)
- The role of regional cooperation in the EU? – Nordic cooperation as a model for Visegrad? (Mats Braun, Institute of International Relations, Prague)
- Regional security cooperation as the spirit of the times? Comparing the Nordic and Visegrad cooperation efforts (Jan Jireš, Prague Centre of Transatlantic Relations – CEVRO Institute)
- Discussion

Reception (16:45 - 17:45)