

# DCFTAs and Beyond—How can the EU contribute to development and welfare in the Eastern Partnership countries

## Conference in Kyiv, June 4-5, 2014

### *#FreeTradeEurope*

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*Arranged by the Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics (SITE) at the Stockholm School of Economics and the Kyiv School of Economics (KSE), with support from the Governments of Sweden and Ukraine  
Location: Premier Palace Hotel in central Kyiv  
Join the discussion: #FreeTradeEurope*

## Preliminary program

### June 4

**9.00-9.30 Registration and coffee**

#### **09.30-10.00 Welcome and introduction**

- **George Logush**, President of the Kyiv School of Economics (KSE)
- **Torbjörn Becker**, Director of the Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics (SITE) at the Stockholm School of Economics
- **Martin Hagström**, Ambassador of Sweden for the Eastern Partnership

#### **10.00-10.30 Opening Remarks**

- **Madeleine Majorenko**, Head of Division for European Neighbourhood Policy, European External Action Service (confirmed)
- **Geoffrey Pyatt**, US Ambassador to Ukraine (confirmed)
- **Andreas von Beckerath**, Sweden's Ambassador to Ukraine (confirmed)

#### **10.30-12.00 Effects of free trade agreements in Europe**

- **Veronika Movchan**, Academic Director, The Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting, Ukraine (confirmed)
- **Tamara Kovziridze**, Professor, Free University of Tbilisi (confirmed)
- **Nikoloz Khundzakishvili**, JSC Lomisi - Efes Brewery in Georgia, (conf.)
- **Fredrik Svinhufvud**, Chairman Vindkraft Ukraina (confirmed)
- **Kateryna Bornukova**, Senior researcher, Belarusian Economic Research and Outreach Center (BEROC) (confirmed)

**12.00-13.00 Lunch**

**13.00-14.00 Transition paths and economic integration in Europe**

- **Alf Vanags**, Director of the Baltic International Centre for Economic Policy Studies (BICEPS) (confirmed)
- **Vasile Nedelciuc**, Chairman, Endava Moldova
- **Michal Myck**, Director of the Center for Economic Analysis (CenEA), Poland (confirmed)
- **James Roaf**, Senior Resident Representative, Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe, IMF (confirmed)
- **Moderator: TBC**

**14.00-15.30 Transforming societies through economic and political reforms**

**Opening remarks: George Soros**

- **Jeffrey D. Sachs**, Director of The Earth Institute, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, and Professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University (tbc)
- **Erik Berglöv**, Chief Economist and Special Adviser to the President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (confirmed)
- **Madeleine Majorenko**, Head of Division for European Neighbourhood Policy, European External Action Service (confirmed)
- **Yevhen Bystrytskyi**, Executive Director, International Renaissance Foundation (TBC)
- **Irina Paliashvili**, President, Ukrainian Legal Group (TBC)
- **Moderator: Igor Livshits**, Academic Director of Belarusian Economic Research and Outreach Center (BEROC) and Associate Professor at the University of Western Ontario (confirmed)

**15.30-16.00 coffee break**

**16.00-17.30 Ukraine's economic reform program**

- **Pavlo Sheremeta**, Minister for Economic Development and Trade, Ukraine (confirmed)
- **Jerome Vacher**, IMF Resident Representative in Kyiv (confirmed)
- **Stefan Gullgren**, Head of Department for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs (confirmed)
- **Geoffrey Pyatt**, US Ambassador to Ukraine (confirmed)
- **Hanna Derevyanko**, Executive Director, European Economic Association (confirmed)
- **Alex Pivovarsky**, Acting Secretary-General, Strategic Advisory Group, Ukraine (confirmed)
- **Moderator: Torbjörn Becker**, SITE

### 17.30-18.30 Eastern Partnership, free trade and the Central European experience

- **Carl Bildt**, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sweden (confirmed)
- **Peter Balas**, Deputy Director General DG Trade (confirmed)
- **Additional speaker/moderator (TBC)**

### 18.30 Press conference for participating journalists

### 19.00 Conference dinner

## June 5

### 09.00-10.00 DCFTAs—Development strategies going forward

- **Alex Petriashvili**, State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic integration (confirmed)
- **Iulian Groza**, Deputy Minister of External Affairs and European Integration of Republic of Moldova (confirmed)
- **Valeriy Piatnytsky**, Government Commissioner for European Integration at the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine (invited)
- **Moderator: George Logush, KSE**

### 10.00-10.30 coffee break

### 10.30-12.00 Instead of DCFTAs—Alternative development strategies

- High-level representative(s) from **Armenia** (invited)
- High-level representative(s) from **Azerbaijan** (invited)
- High-level representative(s) from **Belarus** (invited)

### 12.00-13.30 lunch

### 13.30-15.00 The role of higher education and research in transition

**Opening Remarks: Serhiy Kvit**, Minister for Education and Science

- **Anders Paalzow**, Rector of the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga Economics (confirmed)
- **Eric Livny**, Director of the International School of Economics at Tbilisi State University (ISET) (confirmed)
- **Igor Livshits**, Academic Director of Belarusian Economic Research and Outreach Center (BEROC) and Associate Professor at the University of Western Ontario (confirmed)
- **Mykhaylo Zhurovskiy**, Rector, National Technical University of Ukraine (TBC)
- **Liliya Hrynevych**, Chairperson, Verkhovna Rada Committee on Education and Science (TBC)
- **Moderator: George Logush**, KSE

### 15.00-15.30 coffee break

### 15.30-17.00 Ukraine's priorities going forward

- **Moderator and Speaker: Pavlo Sheremeta**, Minister for Economic Development and Trade, Ukraine (confirmed)
- **Viktor Halasyuk**, CEO, BIONIC Hill Innovation Park (confirmed)
- **Viktor Kryvenko**, Head of National Projects, State Agency for Investment (confirmed)
- **Oleksandr Todiychuk**, President Q Club Energy Forum (invited)
- **Leonid Kozachenko**, Advisor on Agriculture to the Prime Minister of Ukraine (confirmed)
- **Thomas Winkelmann**, Roland Berger Strategy Consultants (invited)

### 17.00-17.15 Closing of the conference

## Background

In June 2014 Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine are expected to sign Association Agreements, including Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas, with the EU, concluding years of negotiations and preparations. These agreements open new opportunities for business in the partner countries and the EU. They will stimulate competition and require redoubled reform efforts. As a consequence of this momentous step, a more diversified trade regime between the EU and the Eastern European countries will emerge, since Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus pursue alternative strategies, for now.

The purpose of this conference in Kyiv is to discuss the mutual benefits offered by the AA/DCFTAs. Many estimates have been put forward of the economic effects the DCFTAs on countries' trade, income, employment etc. Forecasts for particular sectors as well as specific industries or companies have been presented.

While there may be short-term costs involved in the transition process that need to be addressed, all estimates point toward significant gains in trade and income in the medium and long run. The longer perspective includes many dimensions that go far beyond the direct effects on trade and income. It includes institutional change that contributes to building modern societies where citizens can prosper and enjoy a free choice in a democratic and transparent environment. Other countries have gone through similar transition processes, not least in the context of EU integration. There are lessons to be learned that are relevant for thinking about the Eastern Partnership beyond the DCFTAs.

## Speakers and participants

Speakers will come from both academia and the policy sphere and include representatives from EU and Eastern Partnership countries, independent research organizations, IFIs and private companies in an event that will be open to civil society, media, and other interested parties.