



New Direction

the foundation for european reform



NEW DIRECTION
The Foundation for European Reform

is a Brussels-based free market, euro-realist think-tank and publisher, established in 2010 under the patronage of Baroness Thatcher.

We have satellite offices in London and Warsaw.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Having served for 5 years as Vice-President, I was honoured to take over the helm as President of New Direction.

As the Foundation leading the debate on European reform, we aim to shift the European debate onto a different course. The election of the Conservatives in the UK, and the Law & Justice Party in Poland gave impetus to our work.

Today, Europe faces a number of challenges: the continued Eurozone crisis, war on our Eastern border, a refugee and migration crisis that is challenging the solidarity of Member States and the possibility of the United Kingdom leaving the Union.

New Direction has firmly anchored its efforts to be at the heart of these debates and through our high quality magazines, reports, conferences and events, we have proposed new ways to resolve these challenges.

We were honoured to have Ministers, politicians, policy advisers, academics, business leaders and the media participate and contribute to our work.

In 2015, we also launched a number of new initiatives: a New Direction Academy, a German language European Reform media aggregator, a bi-annual Polish language paper, and the New Direction Liberty Award.

Moreover, our user friendly website and publications have been completely redesigned following the introduction of our new corporate identity.

In the coming year, we will continue to work hard to reinforce our position. Through our activities, New Direction will strongly support the ambitious agenda of the ECR family and promote the value set out in the Prague Declaration.

On behalf of all the New Direction team, I would like to kindly thank you for your creative support and contributions. Our Foundation is building the intellectual case for a popular movement and we hope you will join us in our ambitious goals.

Yours truly,

Tomasz Poreba MEP
PRESIDENT



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Naweed Khan
DIRECTOR GENERAL

OUR MISSION

TO PROMOTE A EUROPE OF SOVEREIGN STATES

The European Union must accept that a federal Europe is not the shared destiny of all states in membership.

We will work to promote the sovereignty of the nation state and to ensure that all EU decision making adheres to the principle of subsidiarity.

Further, we believe that serious reform of the European Institutions is long overdue. As an organisation we will do all we can to deliver that reform.

TO PROMOTE CONSERVATIVE VALUES

We believe in small government, where the making of law is open, transparent and sensitive to the freedoms of the people.

We believe in the rule of law and recognise the role of alliances such as NATO in maintaining our security.

We are passionate about free trade, believing it is the best guarantor of peace.

Through our work we will do all we can to empower the individual and the family.

TO INFLUENCE THE DEBATE IN BRUSSELS

It is the aim of New Direction to chart a new direction for Europe; to change the top down mindset and encourage bottom up thinking; to achieve a leaner approach to European regulation.

To achieve this we will publish policy reports, opinion pieces & articles; convene conferences, seminars & public events; and engage with all who share our values and commitments to influence the key players in the Member States and the European Union.

TO BUILD A POPULAR MOVEMENT

New Direction draws its inspiration from the 2009 Prague Declaration upon which the Conservative & Reformist Group in the European Parliament was founded.

We are affiliated with the Alliance of European Conservatives and Reformists (AECR), the European Young Conservatives (EYC) and the International Democratic Union (IDU).

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EUROZONE, FINANCE AND ECONOMY





We are still grappling with the effects of the biggest economic crisis since the Great Depression, and there are significant challenges that all European economies must overcome before they can return to the path of sustainable and long-term economic growth. But that growth has to be built on the strong foundation of expanding trade, and not a mountain of debt.

Our argument is simple: open markets mean that people can sell their products to the highest bidder. By reducing tariffs, subsidies and quotas, and making sure that regulations are kept to a minimum, you can improve the lives of billions, including those in developing countries.

Over the next 20 years, 90% of global growth is expected to come from outside Europe. We believe it is therefore vital to leverage the power of the EU's single market with 500 million consumers to secure bold and ambitious trade deals with these rapidly growing economies.

In this strategically important report, leading expert Dr Matthias Bauer (a Senior Economist at European Centre for International Political Economy - ECIPE) casts a spotlight on the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) region.

ASEAN, established in 1967, is a large economic bloc in Asia. Comprising of 10 countries – Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam - the

region boasts a population of over 600 million, around 9% of the world's total.

ASEAN's economic weight is also substantial, with a GDP of \$2.3 trillion in 2012 – around 30% the size of China's, roughly the same size as that of the UK and 25% larger than India's.

ASEAN growth has been very robust over the past two decades, except around the time of the Asian financial crisis in 1997-98 and the global financial crisis in 2008-09. For the next few years ASEAN's annual real GDP growth is expected to reach around 6%.

In his report 'Boosting EU Trade with South East Asia', Dr Bauer investigates the renewed focus on economic integration amongst ASEAN countries.

He looks in-depth at the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

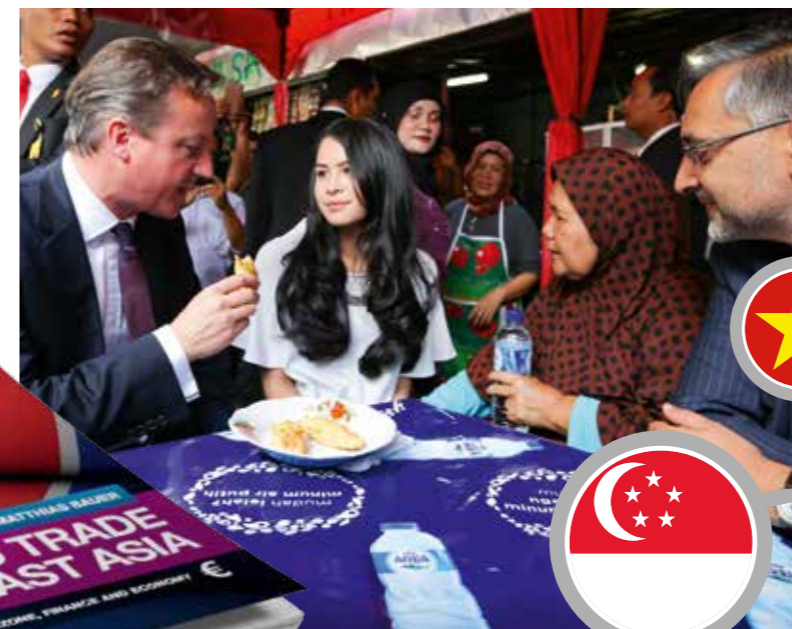
As the largest foreign investor in ASEAN, he argues that the EU should seize on this position to secure a new trade deal. Australia, Japan and China are already ahead of the game, having implemented free trade deals with the South East Asian bloc.

The EU has shown this can be done with trade agreements, but an EU-ASEAN trade deal would really turbocharge growth across the Single Market. Alongside an EU-US trade agreement, such deals would be like

a shot in the arm for Europe's economy. These deals really do remove barriers and costs for businesses.

He therefore proposes a substantial increase in the capacity of the Commission's Trade Directorate, a substantial reform of rules of origin and better access for businesses to understanding and using Free Trade Agreements (FTA).

The Report received high-level political and business support throughout the EU and in Southeast Asia in particular. In July, the British Prime Minister also put his weight behind an EU-ASEAN deal, when he visited ASEAN HQ in Jakarta.





PAPER TIGER?

PROF. DR SIMON J EVENETT

International trade is an essential component of the Single Market, offering significant rewards for European exporters. With the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty in 2009, trade became the exclusive responsibility of the EU. The European Commission is now responsible for negotiating all external trade deals on behalf of the 28 Member States.

The simple aim of any trade agreement is to make trade easier. The elimination of barriers, whether in the form of tariffs & taxes, custom rules or compliance and conformity issues is therefore at the heart of any trade deal. Whether negotiated multilaterally (through the World Trade Organisations), or bilaterally (under the direction of the EU), trade deals can open to European companies markets previously closed or challenging.

However, the benefits that can flow from such agreements are realised only if the rules agreed are fully implemented and enforced by all concerned. Despite concluding 30 free trade agreements, the European Commission's record on enforcement has been patchy

at best. The true value of a free trade agreement can only be realised if the rules are implemented correctly and enforced fairly.

In this report, New Direction investigates how EU trade enforcement has evolved with time, assesses the current state of play and makes clear policy recommendations for the future.

In his report for New Direction, Prof. Dr Simon J Evenett, (Professor of International Trade and Economic Development at the University of St Gallen) critically evaluated the effectiveness in which the European Commission enforced binding trade deals.

The report is the first of its kind to assemble the dataset of 260 success stories as well as assessing 381 entries in the Market Access Database in December 2015. In doing so, the report was able to analyse the trade distortions faced by European traders that Directorate General Trade (DG Trade) had not secured the removal of.

The key findings from the report were that:

- *At present within two years of being notified, DG Trade aims to tackle 20% of foreign trade distortions, an unambitious target.*
- *For the last three years for which the data was available, DG trade claims to have dealt with 20 foreign trade distortions per year on average, less than 10% of the annual total number of hits to EU commercial interests by third parties.*
- *Since 2011, there has been a substantial drop in the number of new foreign trade distortions recorded in the Market Access Database.*
- *US trade distortions imposed by the USA rose by 6% in 2009 to 15% in 2015.*

Crucially, the report provides recommendations on how the European Commission could be more effective in its role to protect European traders. Measures suggested by the report include:

- *Publication of a revised, more precise set of criteria for taking up complaints received from European business.*
- *In cases where a foreign trading partner is likely to retaliate against a complaint by a European firm or business association, consideration of steps to preserve the anonymity of the complaining parties.*
- *Creation of a public record of the treatment and current status of each complaint received concerning a foreign trade distortion.*





THE UK MARKET FROM EU EYES



DAVID CAMPBELL BANNERMAN MEP

A key pledge by the British Conservative Party during the 2015 General Election was to hold an In/Out referendum on the UK's EU Membership. In May 2015, David Cameron led the Conservative Party to victory, their first since 1992.

Within six months, the British Prime Minister set out in a letter to the EU Council President, Donald Tusk his four areas of policy negotiation. The four areas included protecting sovereignty, securing key areas of economic self-governance, controlling immigration and increasing competitiveness.

The protection of economic interests within the Single Market was a cornerstone of his reform agenda.

As a result, New Direction investigated how other European partners viewed the Prime Minister's reform agenda and what were their opinions on the implications of a 'Brexit'.

The team at New Direction commissioned senior economist Dr Ruth Lea CBE (formerly of the Institute of Directors and UK Treasury) to look into the effect the UK economy had on the EU.

Her research highlighted that the UK supported a minimum of 3 million jobs in the EU and is the second largest export market in the world for Germany, Ireland and Poland. It is also the third largest market for Denmark, fourth largest for the Netherlands, France and Belgium and the fifth largest for Italy, Spain and Sweden.

Dr Lea found that exports to the UK from Germany equate to 2.5% of its entire GDP (the world's fourth largest) and that the top 10 EU exporters have a trading surplus with the UK (i.e. the EU member states earned more from the UK than the UK did from EU member states), with the exception of Ireland.



New Direction's Vice President, Hans Olaf Henkel MEP, described the on-going debate within the UK as a potential 'turning point' for both the UK and EU. In his commentary Mr Henkel stresses, "Britain is the champion of competition, subsidiarity and self-responsibility within the Union. The EU needs Britain, this is beyond any doubt". However, "The EU needs a different vision of integration, based on the principle of subsidiarity and self-responsibility. If Britain stays in a reformed EU, but with a more integrated Eurozone, then the British economy will continue to suffer, and more political crises are inevitable. In the case of Britain leaving the EU, there will be no catastrophe, but Britain will have to comply with rules over which it will have little influence, and Britain's largest and closest trade partner will be under performing. The best option for Britain, and the EU itself, is a reformed EU without the single currency".

Dick Roche, former Cabinet Minister for European Affairs, provided his personal insight on the direction a UK referendum could take. Mr Roche leaned upon his first-hand experience of the Irish referendum on the Lisbon Treaty, commenting, "Referendum campaigns are notoriously difficult to call".

The former Vice President of the European Parliament, Alejo Vidal-Quadras MEP, summed up the UK's approach towards Europe by quoting Winston Churchill's famous speech in Zurich on September 19th, 1946:

"We are in Europe, but not of it. We are linked but not comprised. We are interested and associated, but not absorbed."

Mr Vidal-Quadras argued,

"That is the British way of being Europeans, always keeping distance, proud of its singularity and sovereignty. And it is because of this indomitable spirit and because of the role the UK has played to keep the Union from crossing the red line that separates a Union of States and citizens from a Super state, that we admire them, we need them and we want them with us, working hard hand in hand for a prosperous, free and democratic Europe. Please don't go."

Other contributors included: Morten Messerschmidt MEP, and Anna Fotyga MEP, Poland's former Foreign Minister.

MILAN BUSINESS CONFERENCE

In November, New Direction hosted a major business conference in Milan.

Syed Kamall MEP, provided an overview of the key challenges the UK Government faced and the difficult decisions they took when they inherited a nearly bankrupt economy in 2010.

The Italian Government he stressed “is doing too little. The growth rate has fallen in each quarter (+0.4%, +0.3%, +0.2%). 2016, Mr Fitto argued might be even less positive than expected. The Italian growth is limited, while the national debt is heavy.

The tax cuts proposed by the Renzi Government won't boost the economy. In addition, the Government see to have no strategy to cut down the national debt and curb excessive public spending.

Mr Capezzone MP, Deputy Leader of the Conservatives and Reformists in Italy, called on the Italian Government to introduce credible spending cuts and lower taxes. He argued to stimulate the economy they should; abolish taxes on the first home and reduce VAT by 2 points.





DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET SUMMIT

In October, New Direction held a one-day high-level Summit in Brussels, which brought together major thinkers from across the public and private sectors.

The event was designed to debate the public policy responses necessary for Europe to fully adapt to the digitization of its economy and the benefits that it brings.

One of the topics was why Europe has failed to create a single market for online shoppers. Despite being referred to as the 'single market', the e-economy in the EU is constrained by various regulations from different countries making it more difficult for customers. As a part the solution to this problem, the UK government believed that ending roaming charges is important to strengthening the Digital Single Market for online shoppers. They also assess that 47% of EU consumers had shopped online with a home provider but only 15% had done this in the UK.

Also discussed were the benefits of high speed, high quality networks and the implications for Europe having

to invest in these. The EU Commission's current strategy is to increase broadband speeds to 100 Mbps in 50% of EU countries.

A panel also examined the opportunities offered by machine-to-machine technology and what had to be done to ensure regulation did not encumber its adoption. Another panel looked into what could be learnt from across the globe in terms of digital markets. Currently only 17% of the world leaders in Information Communications and Technology (ICT) come from the EU whilst 52% come from the USA.

Speakers included:

Len Cali (Senior Vice President, Global Public Policy External and Legislative Affairs AT&T), **Dr Syed Kamall MEP** (Chairman of the European Conservatives and Reformists), **Dr Ian Duncan MEP** (A Member of the European Parliament's Committee on Industry and Research), **Hans Olaf Henkel MEP** (Vice President New Direction), **Vicky Ford MEP**



(Chairman of the European Parliament's Internal Market Committee), **Roslyn Layton PHD** (Fellow Center for Communication, Media and Information Technologies Aalborg University), **Stefan Krawczyk** (Associate Head General Counsel & Government Relations EMEA, eBay), **Maria Rehbinder** (Head of Unit E4/Business to Business Services, DG GROW, European Commission), **Lidia Kozłowska**

(BEREC Vice Chair), **Duncan Robinson** (Brussels Correspondent Financial Times), **Lord Callanan** (Member of the UK Information Committee), **Max Lemke** (Head of Unit Complex Systems & Advanced Computing European Commission), **Gerard Pogorel** (Professor of Economics and Management- Emeritus, Telecom Paris Tech) and **Brendan Carr** (Senior Advisor to FCC Commissioner Ajit Pai).



THE DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET

“ As the digital economy expands there are more and more opportunities for companies across Europe to grow, create jobs and help consumers to secure a better deal. All too often however these opportunities are being stifled by burdensome regulations and differing national regimes. It is time to put this right by completing the digital single market once and for all and unlocking the growth that this market could generate.

- UK Prime Minister, David Cameron

The digital economy is the single most important driver of innovation, competitiveness and growth today. This year it is expected that almost half the world's population, three billion people, will be connected to the Internet. In the last 5 years the development of mobile applications alone in the USA created 500,000 jobs. It is currently estimated that the digital economy is worth in excess of €400 billion.

Europe's electronic communications landscape has transformed into a digital world. A world dominated by internet platforms, constantly altered by new and at times disruptive technologies, and full of opportunities for start-ups that pay no heed to geographical boundaries when creating new products and services.

Europe starts from a great position – Estonia's public service reforms, Germany's start-up scene, or the UK's 'fintech' ecosystem are examples of

real progress. Many European countries, such as Ireland, Belgium, and Sweden have high broadband speeds - with the Netherlands' faster than the US average. But the continent's patchwork of national markets and outdated legislation looks increasingly anachronistic in this new world. Compared especially to the United States, it is still too hard to start, fund and scale-up a digital business so that it can compete globally.

Our vision for the digital single market is one which is digital by default, where it is even easier to operate online across Europe than it is to do things offline in a single state. Where online businesses go through administrative processes once, not 28 times, and where football fans can stream matches wherever they go.

As a result, New Direction hosted both a Summit and published a Single Market Report in 2015.



NEXT GENERATION TELECOM POLICY

DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET REPORT

Renowned Internet policy expert Roslyn Layton PhD looked into policy recommendations for the EU's 2020 EU Digital Economy Agenda.

The Digital Economy Agenda sets out series of goals related to the Digital Single Market (DSM) under the three pillars of better access to digital goods and services; creating the right economic environment for digital networks and innovation; and promoting economic growth from the digital economy.

Roslyn therefore looked into the strategy itself, the background behind the digital economy and her own recommendations, given her professional experience.

The report covered the key areas of: challenges to realizing the Digital Single Market, fragmentation and convergence, the state of Europe's DSM and how telecommunications can benefit European consumers

and businesses and the role of the public sector in stimulating demand for telecommunications. Other topics included: the freelance economy, crafting the right telecoms framework in an era of continuous change, investment and deployment of Next Generation Networks, and the need for consolidation to promote investment

The paper also provides some important background from a demand perspective, namely some information on how users and industry can benefit from greater connectivity. The report stated that there is no single economic formula for success in the digital economy, but it based upon a complex mix of factors including investment, networks, devices, business models, regulatory regimes, human capital, and technology. The report also looked at background from a demand perspective on how ordinary users and industry can benefit from greater connectivity.



Roslyn commented that:

“ It is perhaps Brussels's most ambitious economic goal since the launch of the euro in 2000. While it may be argued that the EU is still not a single market from the physical perspective, let alone the digital one, there are significant net gains to be realised by facilitating Digital Single Market.

From an EU institutional level the report analysed the EU's goals to improve the institutional and regulatory framework for telecommunications and create incentives for investment in high-speed broadband optimize spectrum coordination and assignment.

The report assessed that by improving the rate of cross-border commerce, the EU would be getting much closer to achieving its goal of having €400 billion Euros in economic growth annually.





FREE MARKET ROAD SHOW

At New Direction we firmly believe that free markets and free trade are the basis of global, national and personal wealth creation.

To this end, a strong and competitive European market is required, i.e. one that attracts significant overseas investment, secures outgoing investment in countries globally and is committed to free and fair trade. We must have a European Union that is committed to fighting protectionism and removing barriers to trade and investment in the interest of jobs and growth.

The 21st Century will be the global century, with 90% of world growth occurring outside the EU and the emergence a new and wealthier global middle class. It will be essential that an outward-looking, flexible EU businesses to capitalise on a truly global economy

where barriers to doing business are reduced and people can trade freely with one another.

In order to promote these ideas, New Direction hosted the Brussels leg of the 2015 Free Market Road Show titled 'Seize the Opportunity for reform on Jobs and Growth'.

The Conference brought together industry experts, key commentators and leading policy makers, including MEPs and members of the UK House of Lords.

The aim of the road show was to discuss the current Eurozone Crisis, explore what kind of Europe people want, examine the 'conundrum' in which the EU finds itself, and discuss ways to turn the current crisis into an opportunity.

At the event speakers included:

New Direction President **Tomasz Poręba MEP**, **Geoffrey Van Orden MEP**, AECR Secretary General **Daniel Hannan MEP**, **Sanders Loones MEP**, **Dan Mitchell** (Senior Fellow, Cato Institute), **Pieter Cleppe** (Head of Brussels Office, Open Europe), **Josh Gilder** (Senior Director, White House Writers Group), **Karim Lesina** (VP, AT&T and Vice Chairman American Chamber of Commerce to EU), **Kerry Halferty-Hardy** (Public Affairs/External relations/ Non profits, Principle at Alcuin Advisors LLC), **Oliver Kaye** (Director, Luther Pendragon Brussels), **Lawson Bader** (President, Competitive Enterprises Institute) and **Barbara Kolm** (Director, Austrian Economics Center).



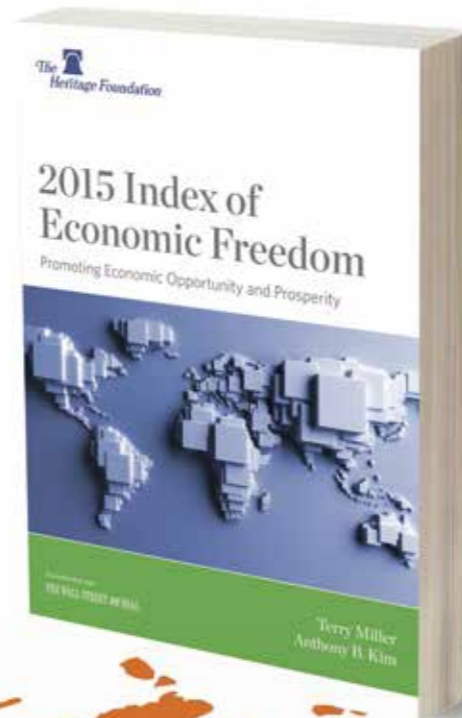
2015 INDEX OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM

In March, New Direction was honoured to host the launch of the Heritage Foundation's 2015 Index of Economic Freedom.

The Heritage Foundation is a prestigious American conservative think tank that shares New Direction's values such as open markets, private property and strong nation states.

Guest speaker for the event was Mr James M Roberts, Research Fellow for Freedom and Economic Growth at Heritage.

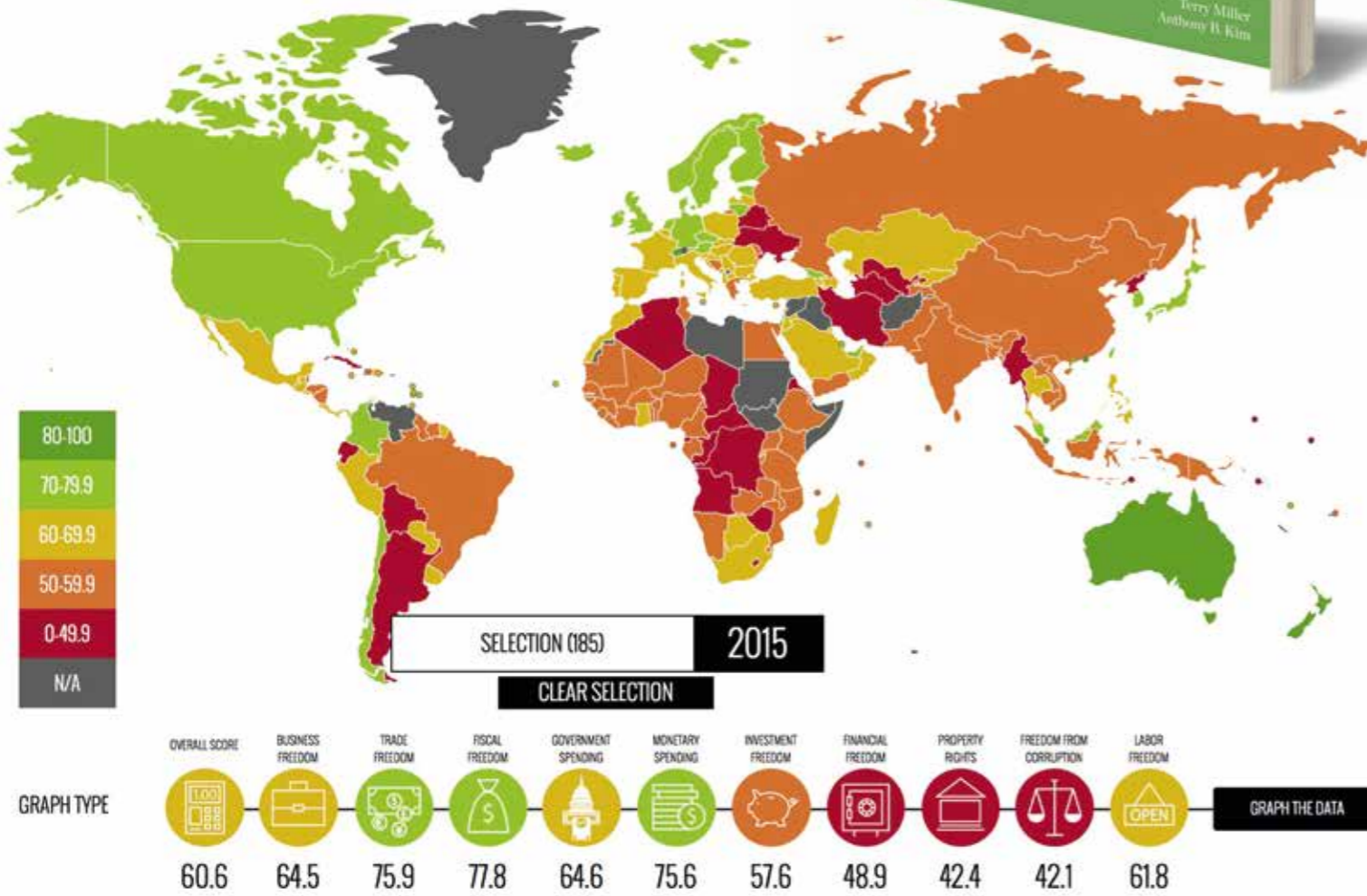
The findings of the report showed that whilst progress had been made in some European countries, there was still much work to be done as the region struggles with a variety of policy barriers to economic expansion.



Currently the highest ranking on the index for an EU member was Estonia at 76.8. The UK received 75.8 and Germany at 73.8. However, Italy was awarded 61.7, which ranks it as the world's 80th most economically free nation. European trading partners such as Singapore and Hong Kong out-competed these countries with scores of 89.4 and 89.6 respectively.

Mr Roberts said:

“ A sound foundation, including a strong rule of law and low levels of corruption, exists to build more prosperous societies based on economic freedom. But Europeans must make the extra effort to tackle unsustainable government spending and taxation if they wish to jumpstart stagnating levels of growth and economic freedom. ”





In 2015, New Direction held two major conferences on the Euro. The first in Poland where the benefits and risks attached to introducing the Euro were discussed, and a second in Germany, which considered the effect the crisis was having on German savers, the design flaws of the Euro and the European Central Bank (ECB) breach of policy.



POLAND



In Poland, the **Speakers included: Prof Zdzisław Krasnodębski MEP, Frits Bolkestein** (former European Commissioner on Internal Market and Services), **Antoni Soy** (Professor of Applied Economy at University of Barcelona and former Deputy Minister of Industry and Enterprise in the Catalan government) and **Peter Oppenheimer** (Emeritus Fellow at Christ Church at Oxford University).

Frits Bolkestein looked at why the monetary union had failed due to its 'one size fits all' premise. Mr Bolkestein argued that this situation arose because the Euro had been formed by politicians and not economists. Given the disparity between the economies of the Euro nations, the Euro was never going to achieve what its creators had intended. Instead, Mr Bolkestein said the Euro created problems

such as economic stagnation, political friction and high youth unemployment.

Antoni Soy discussed whether a Spanish economic recovery was possible within the European Monetary Union. Mr Soy argued that unless structural changes were made to the Spanish economy and workforce, such as better education and more emphasis on more productive/advanced industry sectors, the Spanish economy would continue to lag in comparison to other EU states.

Peter Oppenheimer looked into the history of currency unions and why the European Monetary Union had been set up. Mr Oppenheimer showed the historical risks that joining a currency union involved, emphasising that all countries, whether part of a currency union or not, are impacted by weakened currencies.





GERMANY

In December we held the German leg of the Euro conference in Mannheim.

Speakers included: Roland Vaubel, The Economist, Hans Olaf Henkel MEP, Professor Joachim Starbatty MEP, Richard Sulik MEP, Bernd Lucke MEP and Bernd Kölmel MEP.

Discussion included: The aberration of the Banking Union and the damage for German savers, the design flaw of the Euro, the breach of contract ECB policy, and what harm this has brought to Europe.

Slovakian MEP Richard Sulik reviewed the role of the European Commission and Chairman of ALFA Bernd Lucke MEP presented a strategy on how Germany and Europe could be protected from the economic crash.





EURO MAGAZINE

The Eurozone Crisis is among the greatest challenges facing the European Union. Many Eurozone countries, especially those in Southern Europe, are saddled with unemployment comparable in scale to that during worst days of the Great Depression of the 1930s. The very nature of the EU is being transformed: calls for a more centralized Eurozone backed by a fiscal union feature at the heart of European political and economic debate. The present Euro-rescue policy continues to prove it is an unmitigated failure.

New Direction invited leading economists and public intellectuals from a wide range of economic and political schools of thought to contribute essays assessing the Eurozone Crisis. We believe it is time for an honest debate about the costs of the euro to take place in Europe, as its consequences also impact non-Euro countries. New Direction is pleased to publish these essays, each of which combines clear, scholarly analysis with creative, courageous thinking—precisely the qualities which the European political discussion needs most.



Contributors included: New Direction President **Tomasz Poręba** MEP, **Hans-Olaf Henkel** MEP, **Stefan Kawalec** (CEO Capital Strategy), **Brigitte Granville** (Professor of International Economics and Economic Policy, Queen Mary, University of London), **Jean-Jacques Rosa** (former member of French PM's council of economic analysis and emeritus professor at Sciences Po Paris), **Zdzisław Krasnodębski** MEP, **Alberto Bagnai** (lecturer in economic policy at Gabriele d'Annunzio University), International Eurozone expert **Jacques Sapir** (Professor of Economics at

EHESS-Paris), **Professor Joachim Starbatty** MEP, **Jean-Pierre Vesperini** (Professor Paris Catholic Institute and former member of French PM's Council of Economic Analysis), **Antoni Soy** (Professor of the University of Barcelona, Former Deputy Minister of Industry and Business in the Catalan Government), **Peter Oppenheimer** (Emeritus Fellow at Christ Church at Oxford University), **Roland Vaubel** (Professor of Economics at the University of Mannheim) and **David Liebers** (Board of Warsaw based Democratic Initiative Foundation).





Europe's blue economy currently represents 5.4 million jobs and generates €500 million. The EU Commission, as part of its Europe 2020 plan, set up Blue Growth as the long-term strategy to support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors. The strategy states that 'Seas and oceans are drivers for the European economy and have great potential for innovation and growth. It is the maritime contribution to achieving the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth'.

In light of this, New Direction commissioned Donald MacInnes (Former Chief Executive of Scotland Europa) and Jill Farrell (Director of Internationalisation University of Strathclyde), to look into the EU's Blue Growth strategy for sustainable growth in marine and maritime sectors.

The report made a number of policy recommendations that New Direction believes would result in the Islands and peripheral maritime regions having a long-term sustainable future.

The report said that despite being remote and suffering population decline, many Islands had huge untapped potential. They were a rich source of renewable energy, creativity, and entrepreneurship.

The report called for Islands to be built into EU policies such as the Single Market, Digital Agenda and Europe 2020. This, the authors argued, would ensure Blue Growth could be as effective as possible.

PROSPERITY FOR EUROPE'S ISLANDS AND PERIPHERAL REGIONS





After EU enlargement in 2007, the Carpathian Region became home to the eastern border of the European Union.

The Region consists of 20 million inhabitants and covers eight countries amongst which there are five EU Member States, one ENP country and one EU candidate country.

Although the region is rich in terms of culture and nature and home to some of the most important Europe's environmental resources, it continues to suffer structural weaknesses in terms of poverty and economic prosperity.

Building on a successful conference on the Carpathian Region led by New Direction President Tomasz Poręba MEP in 2014, New Direction commissioned a report in 2015 looking at strategies for the Carpathian region.

The report highlights that the Carpathian Region covers some of the poorest areas of the EU, struggling with problems such as land abandonment, migration of a large group of people caused by lack of career prospects, deforestation, pollution of the environment, overexploitation of natural resources and insufficient infrastructure.

The report considered the experiences of existing strategies for the Baltic Sea Region and for the Danube Region. It argues, that the Carpathian Region, would benefit from being treated as a single entity by the European Commission.

PROSPERITY FOR THE CARPATHIAN REGION





ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT





THE STATE OF THE FISHING INDUSTRIES AND RELATIONS WITH LEGISLATORS

A COMPARISON BETWEEN SCOTLAND AND CROATIA



In shaping the new Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) in the 2009 – 2014 mandate, the ECR group was able to safeguard the industry. The group championed fishing communities by calling for a competitive, innovative and prosperous industry and a healthy marine environment.

Under the principle of subsidiarity, New Direction consistently recommended powers are devolved back to Member States, and that regional and local circumstances are taken into account with regards to implementation of the CFP. The aim has always been to give local stakeholders a bigger say in the future of the fishing industry in order to sustain jobs and support local economies.

Using the Scottish White Fish Producers Association (SWFPA) as a case study, New Direction compared their work with that of the Croatian Fishing Industry. The SWFPA is a pioneer in providing technical support to fishermen within the white fish sector and is a leading influencer in both civic and political sectors in the fishing industry.

The report found that the Croatian fishing industry was hardly engaged with politics at a national or European level. The result of this was that the Croatian industry was not fully supported and was weaker as a result.

The report recommended a programme of deeper engagement could be established between the two fisheries bodies and cross border cooperation implemented to help the Croatian fishing industry become more active and effective in the promoting of its interests.



SECRETARY GENERAL DR IAN DUNCAN AT COP21

In December, as the EU's lead negotiator on reform of the EU's Emission Trading Scheme, New Direction Secretary General, Dr Ian Duncan MEP attended the historic Paris Climate Change talks.

Dr Ian Duncan met with the former Governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger, where he remarked,

“ Upon such coincidences does the world turn, and so I found myself with the former Governor talking about carbon emission trading. As the European Parliament's lead negotiator on reform of the EU's Emission Trading Scheme, we had surprisingly much to talk about.

The Climate Change talks ended constructively with an agreement, despite the odds, to halt global warming at 'well below' 2oC. However, Dr Duncan has stressed the high targets set out by the conference would mean that difficult choices would have to be made and differences in how we live would have to begin from day one.



DEFENCE, FOREIGN
POLICY AND SECURITY





The threats to our security – and to the security of every European nation – have grown enormously in the last few years from the Russian invasion of Eastern Ukraine, to the emergence of ISIL, and the refugee crisis triggered by the war in Syria.

Defence policy must always remain a matter of national sovereignty. As such, we will continue to support NATO as the cornerstone of our defence and security policy and maintain our strategic transatlantic alliance. We will continue to resist moves towards the creation of a EU army and expensive new EU military structures, which will undermine NATO and weaken our links with our international defence partners.



RUSSIA

A GEO-STRATEGIC THREAT

2015 marked the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Europe from Nazism and a quarter of a century since the Iron Curtain fell.

However, today Europe faces extraordinary challenges. Russian-backed aggression in Ukraine by attempting to redraw Europe's borders and sow fear among those people and nations that dwell on Russia's periphery is unacceptable. We are clear: Crimea and the Donbas are part of the territory of Ukraine.

"Let's be clear about what is happening" stressed the Rt Hon. Dr Liam Fox, the former British Defence

Secretary. "Russia has a clear strategic plan, which is to create and hold zones of potential destabilisation where it matters most for European security. As well as having Kaliningrad in the Baltic, there has been a steady campaign to intimidate its smaller neighbours and to finance political candidates sympathetic to Moscow. In the South Caucasus, not only does Russia have an occupying force on sovereign Georgian territory, but it has now created a virtual client state in Armenia. In the Balkans, the encouragement of Republica Srpska to see the illegal secession referendum in Crimea as a precedent, risks further destabilisation in this most volatile region... None of this is an accident, but part

of a well thought out and so far successfully executed strategy."

What are the options available for NATO and the West? New Direction investigated and discussed these ideas by hosting two major conferences, one in Poland and a second in Ukraine. In addition, we commissioned Dr Dimitar Bezhev to investigate Russia's Influence in Bulgaria, a country known for its close relations with Russia.





A NEW COLD WAR IN EUROPE?

Many analysts disagree over when the new cold war began between the West and Russia. They argue that it could be either the 2008 Russian intervention in Georgia, Russian support of the Assad regime since 2011, or the 2014 Russian invasion of Crimea and the subsequent war in Eastern Ukraine.

As a result, in June New Direction held a conference in Warsaw discussing what practical tools could be used to strengthen European states and expand transatlantic defence cooperation to answer the rising problem of Russia's increased aggression.

Part of Russia's strategic aggression takes advantage of division within the European Union. Another factor is the US strategic repositioning towards Asia-Pacific. Moscow's exploitation of historical connections and legacy of the USSR in regions such as in Ukraine, Baltic

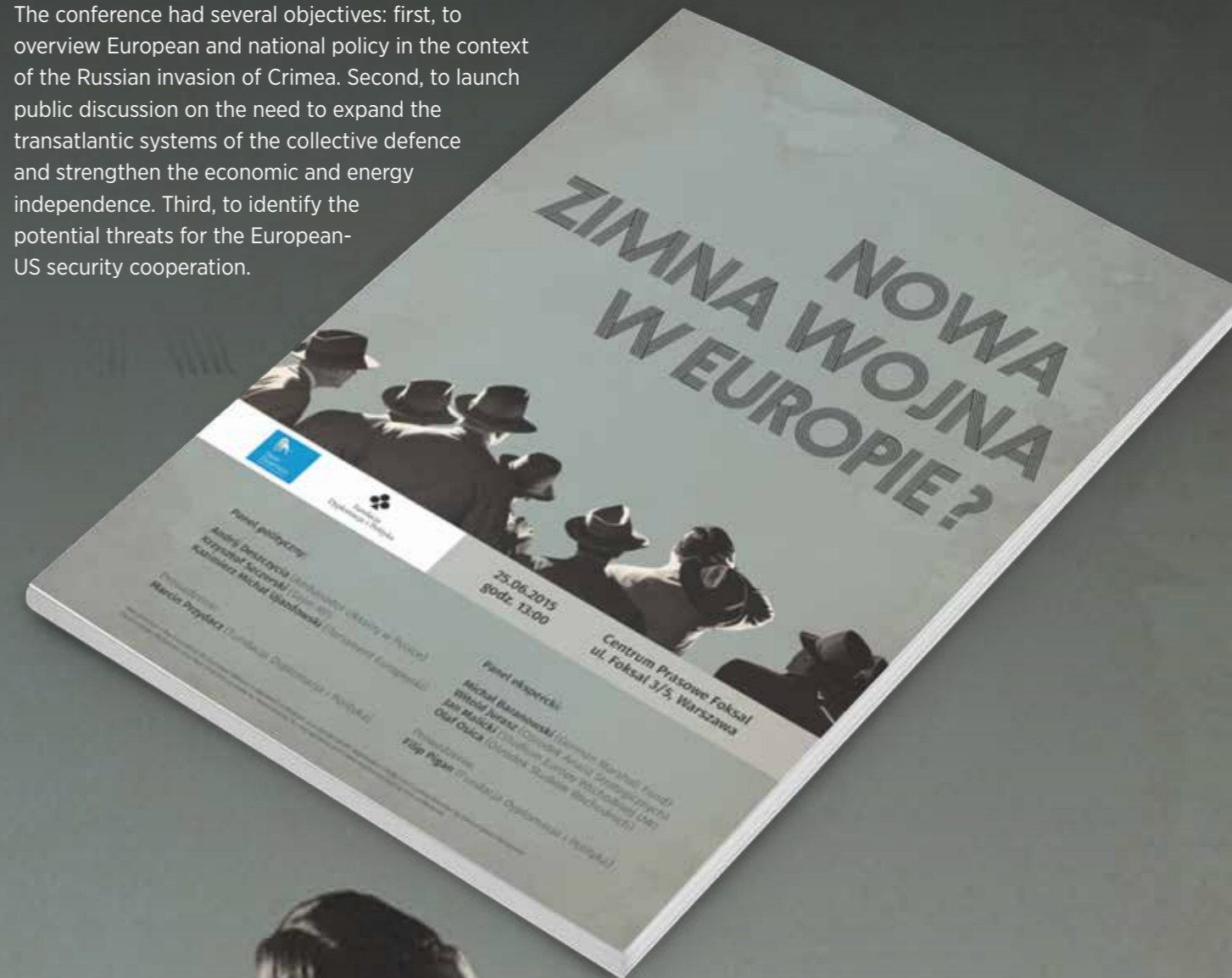
region and Balkans is also vital for its influence.

Warsaw was therefore an ideal location to hold the conference given that it represents a key NATO member and is also part of the strategic Eastern flank of NATO and the European Union.

Speakers for the event included:

Andrij Deszczycia (Ambassador of Ukraine in Poland), **Krzysztof Szczerski** (Member of Polish Parliament), **Kazimierz Michał Ujazdowski** (MEP, PiS ECR group), **Michał Baranowski** (Director of Warsaw Office, German Marshall Fund) and **Witold Jurasz** (Chairman of the Board and Ośrodek Analiz Strategicznych). Other speakers at the event were **Jan Malicki** (Director, Studium Europy Wschodniej UW), **Olaf Osica** (Director, Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich) and **Marcin Przydacz** (Director of the Diplomacy and Politics Foundation).

The conference had several objectives: first, to overview European and national policy in the context of the Russian invasion of Crimea. Second, to launch public discussion on the need to expand the transatlantic systems of the collective defence and strengthen the economic and energy independence. Third, to identify the potential threats for the European-US security cooperation.





WHERE IS THE BORDER OF THE WEST?

New Direction brought together intellectuals, scientists, politicians and artists from different corners of Europe to discuss where the cultural border lies between East and West.

In Lviv, Ukraine, the conference discussed how the two different cultural and ideological labels were viewed by each other. This came at a time when there is increasing divergence between the perceived ideologies of the 'West' and 'East'. This has sparked heated debate in Eastern Europe as to which narrative nation states should turn to. As a transatlantic-minded, NATO-supporting think tank New Direction wished to formally debate this and the implications it has for Europe.

Some of the topics included:

- *'The West – an ideological construct or reality?'*
- *'The New borderlands, discourse and its contradictions'*
- *'The idea of Eastern Europe after the Cold War'*
- *'The Essence of the Modern West'*
- *'No Border, no West: European Union External Action and the mirrors of identity'*
- *'East Central Europe as a construct within Europe, Europe as a construct within Eurasia'*
- *'Where is the border of the 'West' in Ukraine? An awkward case of the East-West divide'*

The aim of the conference was to provide a platform between intellectuals from Western, Central and Eastern Europe to discuss why the dominant narratives of the 'East' and 'West' had been used to impose dependence by the Western European countries on Central and Eastern European states even in modern Europe of today.

Konferencja międzynarodowa Gdzie się kończy Zachód?

2 - 4 października 2015, Przemyśl/Lwów

Spotkanie autorskie z red. Bronisławem Wildsteinem

1 października 2015, Przemyśl

Wieczór autorski - przedpremiery książki red. Bronisława Wildsteina
1.10.2015 (czwartek), godz. 18.00; Przemyska Biblioteka Publiczna im. Ignacego Krasickiego, ul. Grodzka 8, Przemyśl

Debata: Idea Zachodu: przez kreślenie granic do samodefiniowania; Europa Środkowo-Wschodnia: sprzeczne pola interpretacji; Żyjąc na granicy, żyjąc z granicą: dyskursy tożsamościowe w nowych państwach UE.
2.10.2015, godz. 14.00-17.15; Przemyska Biblioteka Publiczna im. Ignacego Krasickiego, ul. Grodzka 8, Przemyśl

W wydarzeniu udział wezmą m.in.

prof. Larry Wolff, Uniwersytet Nowojorski, USA
prof. Chris Hann, Instytut Antropologii Społecznej im. Maxa Plancka, Niemcy
prof. Merje Kuus, Uniwersytet Kolumbii Brytyjskiej, Kanada
prof. Balázs Trencsényi, Uniwersytet Środkowoeuropejski, Węgry
prof. Yaroslav Hrytsak, Uniwersytet Narodowy im. Iwana Franki, Ukraina
prof. Jan Kieniewicz, Uniwersytet Warszawski, Polska

Konferencja będzie tłumaczona na język polski i angielski.

Więcej informacji: http://zdzislawkrasnodebski.eu/moja_dzialalnosc/gdzie-sie-kończy-zachód/ oraz <https://www.facebook.com/StowarzyszenieTworcowdlaRP>



Wydarzenia odbywają się w ramach II Festiwalu Kultury Rzeczypospolitej, który swoim honorowym patronatem objął Prezydent Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej Andrzej Duda.

Organizatorzy



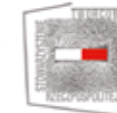
New Direction
the foundation for european reform



wicemarszałek
Sejmu RP
Marek
Kuchciński



Prof. Zdzisław
Krasnodębski,
poseł do
Parlamentu
Europejskiego



Kongres
Polska
Wielki
Projekt

New Direction is registered in Belgium as a not-for-profit organisation (ASBL) and is partly funded by the European Parliament. The European Parliament and New Direction assume no responsibility for facts or opinions expressed during this conference.

Speakers included:

Prof. Zdzisław Krasnodębski MEP, **Prof. Andrzej Przyłębski** (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland), **Dr Natalya Shalenna** (Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Ukraine), **Prof. Merje Kuus** (University of British Columbia, Canada), **Prof. Jan Kieniewicz**, (University of Warsaw, Poland) and **Prof. Chris Hann** (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Germany). Other panellists included: **Prof. Balázs Trencsényi** (Central European University, Hungary), **Prof. Tomasz Zarycki** (University of Warsaw, Poland), Dr Marko Lehti (University of Tampere, Finland), **Prof. Dessislava Lilova** (Sofia University, Bulgaria), **Prof. Larry Wolff** (New York University, USA), **Prof. Yaroslav Hrytsak** (Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Ukraine), **Dr Petro Kuzyk** (Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Ukraine), **Taras Voznyak** (Журнал Ї/І Journal, Ukraine), **Prof. Oleg Łatyszonek** (University of Białystok, Poland) and **Dan Nicu** ("Adevărul", Moldova).

RUSSIA'S INFLUENCE IN BULGARIA

New Direction commissioned a report on the effect Russian influence has on Bulgaria and the implications this has for the future of Bulgaria and EU policy. The report was written by Russian expert Dr Dimitar Bechev (Director of the European Policy Institute), with contributions from New Direction President Tomasz Poręba MEP of the Law and Justice Party, and the Founding President of New Direction Geoffrey Van Orden MEP (UK Conservatives). The two Bulgarian MEP's within the ECR, Angel Dzhambazki MEP (IMRO) and Nikolay Barekov MEP (Bulgaria Without Censorship) also gave an insight into how their country is affected by Russian influence and what this means for the country's national interest.

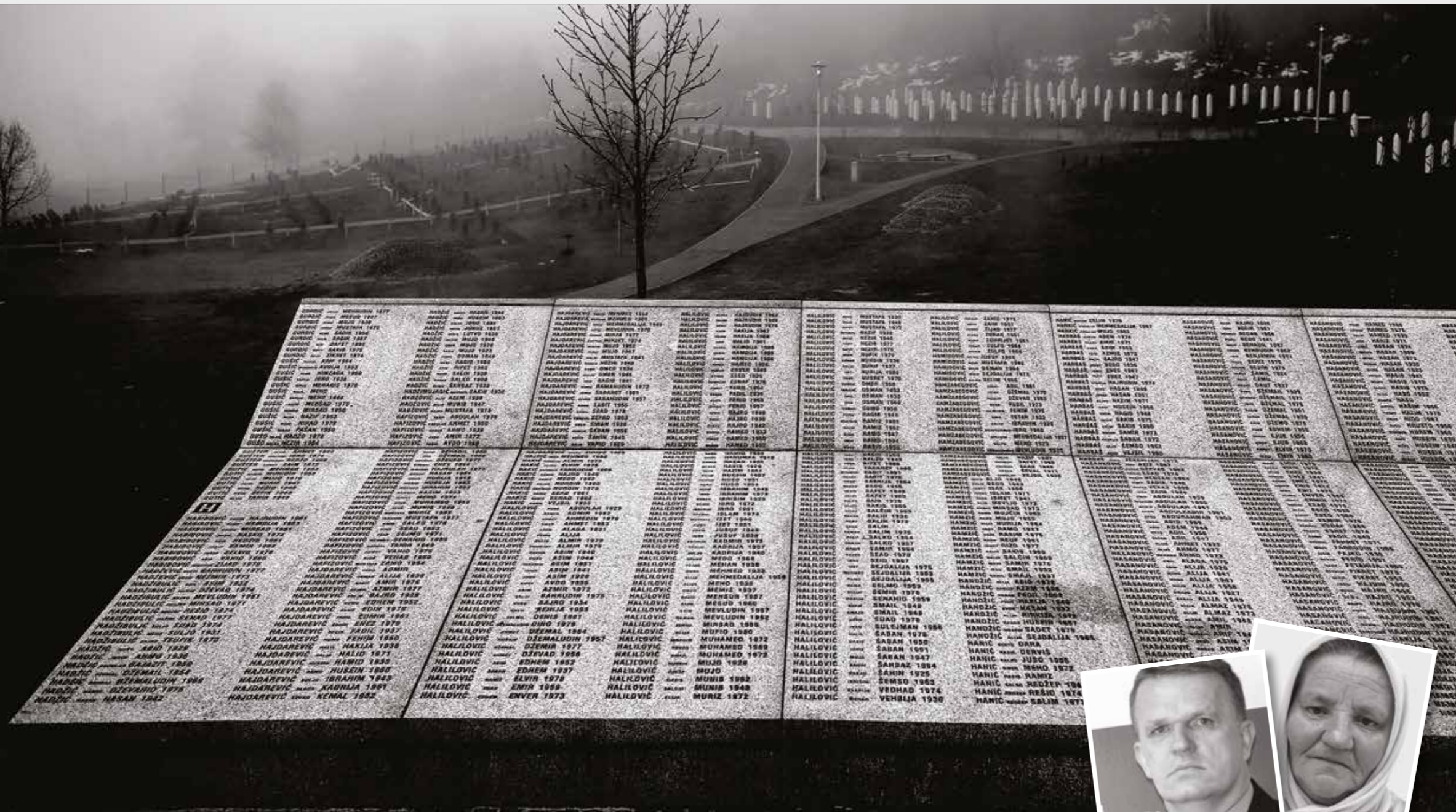
The report highlighted the level of influence Russia has within the EU member state. In particular Bulgaria's historic relationship with Russia was looked at and how this has evolved to influence Bulgarian politics national identity, energy security, defence policy procurement and the media.

Today, many of Bulgaria's top politicians, senior military personnel and technocrats were educated and have strong personalities to Russia. During the turbulent period of the 1990s the political situation was clearly divided between pro and anti-Russian parties. The countries political relationship with Russia is more blurred today with the current coalition government containing both pro and anti-Putin factions.

Russia today is the number one exporter to Bulgaria, but only 3% of Bulgarian exports go to Russia. Although Bulgarian consumption of Russian gas has reduced since 1989, the 2013-2014 South Stream controversy and subsequent abortion of the South Stream project in Bulgaria highlighted the Russian financial control over economic assets. Russia has shown it has the ability to influence private interests of powerful individuals within the Bulgarian elite.

However, the report summarises that the Russian influence in Bulgaria should not be overestimated. The EU in response, should follow policies which give Bulgaria the opportunity to have less reliance on Russia if it so wants.





SREBRENICA REMEMBERED

From the 11th of July to the 13th July 1995 Europe witnessed its worst atrocity since the Second World War. During the course of those three days, the Bosnian Serb forces and paramilitaries under General Ratko Mladić killed 8,373 Bosniak men and boys. The massacre at Srebrenica was one of many such events that were carried out during the course of the Yugoslav wars.

In remembrance of the victims and the survivors of the massacre, New Direction was proud to host and inaugurate Srebrenica Memorial Day in the European Parliament at the time of the 20th anniversary of the atrocity.

It was attended by survivors of the Srebrenica Genocide, Parliamentarians from across the political divide, Ministers, diplomats, academics and students in order to remember and learn from one of the most terrible events in recent European history.

Tributes were led by the Chairman of the European Conservatives and Reformists, Dr Syed Kamal MEP, Turkey's EU Minister Volkan Bozkir and Founding President of New Direction Geoffrey Van Orden MEP. Other leading reflections on the genocide at the memorial service came from Jan Zahradil MEP President of AECR, Baroness Warsi PC, Jana Žitanská MEP and Daniel Hannan MEP.

Srebrenica Survivors, Ms Saliha Osmanovic and Mr Muhamed Durakovic provided the invited audience a moving account of the horrors of those days in 1995.

To mark the 20th Anniversary, New Direction also published a dedicated Memorial Booklet, with messages from the President of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr Bakir Izetbegovic, the UK Prime Minister David Cameron, the Prime Minister of Turkey, Ahmet Davutoğlu, the President of the European Parliament Martin Schultz, Leader of the Scottish Conservative Party Ruth Davidson, and Secretary General of New Direction Ian Duncan MEP.



H.E. DR KHALID BIN MOHAMMED AL ATTIYAH

In July, New Direction was honoured to host the Qatari Foreign Minister in Strasbourg.

During his visit, Dr. Khalid bin Mohammed al Attiyah met with New Direction President, Tomasz Poręba MEP, Secretary General of New Direction, Dr Ian Duncan MEP, Founding President of New Direction Geoffrey Van Orden MEP, the ECR Chairman Dr Syed Kamal MEP, and Leader of the British Conservative Delegation, Ashley Fox MEP, Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, and the Turkish EU Minister Volkan Bozkir,

During his visit Dr. Khalid bin Mohammed al Attiyah also delivered a keynote address to an invited audience:

“A special note of gratitude also goes to Mr. Syed Kamall, Chairman of the ECR Group, Mr. Jan Zahradil, President of the Alliance of European Conservatives and Reformists, and Mr. Geoffrey Van Orden, Founding President of New Direction. Your hard work and dedication, gentlemen, has gone a very long way in facilitating the great and growing friendship between like-minded leaders in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

Thank you, finally, to all participants present here tonight – whether Members of the European Parliament or leaders from Tunisia, Morocco and other countries.

I am grateful to those who have travelled long distances to come here...

Tonight’s gathering certainly stands out by the richness of its diversity... Different faiths, languages, generations, and indeed nationalities...

... Yet united by a common aspiration to promote stability, liberty and prosperity – especially in Muslim countries. In that most noble pursuit, the “conservative” philosophy provides us with a critical inspiration and a valuable framework. In fact, core conservative values – such as individual freedom and human dignity – could not be more relevant today in the Middle East and North Africa.

The great Arab scholar, Ibn Khaldun, understood that long ago when he wrote about the “state of tyranny”. The Arab Spring, after all, was first and foremost a cry for dignity.

And it is no coincidence that this historical movement actually began in countries where rulers operated above the law... where property was insecure... and where citizens found themselves vulnerable to humiliation and oppression.

Sadly, I am afraid that these challenges still apply to the post-Arab Spring era too – as people’s aspirations for dignity and prosperity clearly have not materialized, if not actually worsened...

Beyond the legacy of decades of repression, it is also – frankly – our collective failure to fully support the peoples of the Arab Spring in their democratic quests, whose cruel price the region is paying today. Whether it be Libya, engulfed in a tragic civil war... Syria, stuck between the tyranny of a regime and the brutality of terrorism... Iraq or even Egypt, struggling to devise truly inclusive systems of governance... Palestine, fighting against oppression and occupation... or at last Tunisia, whose great successes are now being confronted with abject violence.

Within this context I would like to share my concern about the alarming weakening of the necessary ethics, values and principles that are needed to conduct the international relations. These negative trends are breeding most of the conflicts that we are confronting all over the world and constitutes the cause of the many crisis that we can see opened all over the globe.

Peace and stability will not come easily. But it will come. And when it does, it will be in part due to leaders like yourselves who have committed their lives to building tolerant and inclusive societies – where the rights of others are protected and human dignity is ensured. Progress will come, at last, when the power of shared economic development is unleashed across the region, sending forth ripples of hope and emancipation.

The French economist Frédéric BASTIAT is often credited with the wise observation: “when goods don’t cross borders, armies will”. Indeed peace in Europe rests – in no small measure – on the free movement of goods, services and capital across ancient frontiers.

Former enemies are now trading partners... working together to build flourishing economies, for the benefit of all. This is the kind of progress we hope for in the Muslim world – which was, after all, once the centre point for commercial activity on this planet.

Aid from Europe is generously intended and gratefully received in countries that need it. But trade with Europe is what matters most. Free trade – yet another core conservative principle – spurs development within countries. Development doesn’t simply make people better off; it also supports the growth of civil society, guiding entire nations towards stability and shared prosperity.

Let us not forget this most important lesson, for today and for the future. In Qatar, we have worked hard to build strong relationships with partners abroad and we remain committed to the promotion of international trade and economic development. Our hope is that, with your help, we can continue to expand opportunities to those who need it most in the Middle East and North Africa.”



DOHA FORUM

ENRICHING THE MIDDLE EAST'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

In May, New Direction Director General Naweed Khan participated at the 2015 Doha Forum in Qatar.

His Highness Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Thani, Deputy Emir presided over the Opening Ceremony and the welcome address was delivered by His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Prime Minister of Qatar and Minister of Interior.

International guests of honour included current Heads of State and Government. The Forum featured distinguished opinion leaders, eminent political thinkers, decision-makers and Members of Parliament, renowned businessmen, academics, media figures and international organizations.

Discussions during the three-day event focused on variety of issues including the Arab Spring, prospects for democratic change, regional and international

stability, the fight against terrorism in Iraq, energy security, media and human rights as well as regional challenges and crises.

In his remarks at the closing session, Assistant Foreign Minister for Foreign Affairs Mohammed Abdullah Al Rumaihi said over three days the Doha Forum provided a comprehensive assessment of hot issues related to democracy, development and trade in the Middle East, the Arab countries and the world.

He also spoke of the Syrian issue saying it represented a major failure of the international community which failed to find a solution to the suffering of the Syrian people. Al Rumaihi added that Qatar urged the Security Council to shoulder its responsibility and to take all measures guaranteed by international law and international humanitarian law to maintain the security and protection of the Syrian



people as well as achieve their legitimate aspirations in accordance with the decisions of Geneva.

Steven L. Spiegel, Director of University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Center for Middle East Development, who chaired the closing session, said that participants agreed that disputes in Iraq, Yemen and Syria are not sectarian but rather a conflict over geopolitical ambitions.

UCLA Chancellor Gene Block said that the Doha Forum focused on significant issues that aimed to dig into the economic future of the region, adding that the event provided a platform for those keen on the future of the region to meet and has gained international reputation.

The Forum was attended by more than 500 participants representing over 80 countries and organisations.



ARAB SPRING

TUNISIA

Daniel Hannan MEP

Tunisia is a success story in a region that currently needs success stories. Here, at least, few people regret the Arab Spring. Some neighboring countries have replaced one autocratic regime with another; others have collapsed into lawlessness. But Tunisia is arguably happier, wealthier and freer than at any time in its history.

To explain Tunisia's relative success, it is worth recalling what sparked the revolution in 2010 – which spread from Tunisia across North Africa and the Middle East. The risings began when Mohamed Bouazizi, a market trader, was driven to the horrific extreme of self-immolation because he had been denied ownership of his own goods and the right to engage in commerce. His was a protest against the violation of property rights, and he was not alone.

In an authoritative study of the Arab Spring, the Peruvian economist, Hernando de Soto, chronicled many other cases of entrepreneurs in Arab countries being driven to suicide by police corruption and harassment.

The Arab Spring, in other words, began as a movement against arbitrary government. Citizens were fed up with living under regimes that could make up the rules as they went along, seizing property without due process,

rigging the law in favour of their clients. Gathering in Tunis as Conservatives, we should recognise Mohamed Bouazizi and those who followed as heroes of our cause. Theirs was a battle for freedom: freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of worship, freedom of association and, not least, freedom to enjoy your own property.

Sadly, not every country has followed Tunisia's trajectory. Authoritarian regimes have a way of calling into existence authoritarian opponents. Many strongmen in North Africa and the Middle East justified their despotism by presenting themselves as the only alternative to Islamic fundamentalism. Such arguments have a way of becoming self-fulfilling. If people are told often enough that the only alternative to brutal, self-serving, oligarchic regimes is religious extremism, some of them will come to believe it.

As Rached Ghannouchi put it in New York:

“Throughout the Middle East, for decades, dictators suppressed Islam. In Tunisia, any kind of Islamic education was forbidden. It was forbidden for women to wear the veil. People were persecuted if they demonstrated any interest in Islam. It is these policies that produced a reaction, the

generation of Islamic terrorists that we are living with now.

Across the region, people faced an unappealing choice between two sets of autocrats: secular Leftists, and religious fundamentalists.

Moderate and democratic parties were squeezed out, forced to pick the side they regarded as less threatening. There is a challenge here for the Left. Liberals in many Arab states have been shockingly quick to cheer on military putsches, even the abuse of civil freedoms, when they happen not to like the people being abused.

Centre-Right face a different challenge. We need to address the tendency of some of those who suffered repression under the dictators to over-compensate, to retreat into an authoritarianism of their own. We need to build a space where devout voters can comfortably support parties that don't question the pluralist nature of the state.

Virtue cannot be compelled, nor piety coerced. The authority of God over man can never be a justification for the authority of man over man – or over woman. Conservatives understand that we must work with the grain of people's values and instincts. We have a natural reverence for tradition. We recognise that faith cannot be eliminated from the public space. But we

understand, too, that the task of politics is to allow citizens the freedom to live by their beliefs, not to turn those beliefs into public legislation. We know in our bones that liberty is a universal aspiration. Nothing could be more false than the idea that free markets are somehow a Western imposition on Muslim countries.

As Guy Sorman has argued, Islam is the only major religion founded by a businessman – a businessman who refused to regulate prices when asked to, and who used his last sermon to declare that property was inviolate.

The early Islamic world was the center of global commerce. As Benedikt Koehler has argued, the earliest origins of capitalism can be traced, not to the first commercial firms in Holland and England, nor to the trading ventures of the northern Italian city-states, but to two Islamic institutions: the joint-stock venture that invested in caravans; and the waqf, a form of charitable trust which created a civil space between government and citizen.

“If anything is a Western imposition in this region, it's not the ideology of free markets. Rather, it is the debased creed which led to Nasserism, Ba'athism and Arab Socialism. North Africa, like the EU, needs a dose of moderate free-market conservatism.



In November, New Direction participated at the inaugural Conservatives and Reformist Summit held under the chairmanship of Dr Syed Kamall MEP.

The Summit brought together 200 delegates from 18 different countries. The parties gathered in Tunisia, shared a belief in personal autonomy, national sovereignty, open markets, free competition, inherited tradition, free competition, sound money, low taxes and parliamentary supremacy. Those principles, New Direction believes, work wherever they are applied. Crucial issues discussed included security, counter-terrorism, Islam, democracy, human rights and trade.

Key participants at the Summit included: **Sheikh Ghannouchi**, the Leader of the Ennahda Movement, **Ysain Ibrahim**, the Leader of Arek Toune, **Jan Zahradil MEP**, the President of AECR,

Rt Hon Baroness Warsi PC, Canadian Senator **Salma Atallahjan**, and **Prof. Benedikt Koehler**.

The Summit also announced a dedicated programme to deepen engagement between centre-right parties, with a particular focus on advancing the values and capacities of political parties in the Muslim world.

Secretary General Dr Ian Duncan MEP met with the Prime Minister of Tunisia. Ian Duncan praised the Tunisian peoples' ability to have gone in a short period of time from a totalitarian state to democracy, a feat which other Arab Spring countries have found difficult to replicate. Ian Duncan also met Yamina Thabet (President of Tunisian Association for minorities support).

The Summit was the focus of much press attention, including Al Jazeera.



OUTCOMES?...normally
we just measure the height
of the files!



ACCOUNTABILITY,
TRANSPARENCY AND
EFFICIENCY





ENDING EXCESS

CUTTING THE COST OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Founding President of New Direction, Geoffrey Van Orden MEP looked into cost cutting for the European Parliament in the New Direction report “Ending Excess 2” which looked at in particular at the Parliament’s Sereteriat and the cost to the UK government.

In the report, Mr Van Orden MEP highlighted that “vast areas of increased expenditure, the unnecessary tasks that are being performed and the costs of the political role of the Parliament itself, quite separate from that of the MEPs”.

The report found that €430 million could be saved from the Parliament’s budget which would not have a direct effect on the institutions primary purpose to represent the citizens of the EU and not instead to create further bureaucratic empires.

The main demand of the report was that the Parliament accepts a 10% cut on its budget to be imposed – a modest proposal given the number of other budget saving possibilities featured within the report.





'SPITZENKANDIDATEN' DEBATE

In 2014, the European Conservatives and Reformists did not field a candidate for the Commission Presidency as part of the European elections. The Conservatives considered the process being followed by other pan-European parties as lacking in public support and legal authority. To participate would have meant we legitimised the idea that a European executive should be chosen by a federal legislature. Yet federalism has no treaty basis, nor any backing from the electorate.

In May 2015, alongside the President of The Alliance of European Conservatives and Reformists (AECR), Jan Zahradil MEP, and New Direction Director General Naweed Khan participated in a debate organised by the EurActiv Institute on "Which European primary election system for citizens to connect better with the EU". The debate focused on the so-called 'Spitzenkandidaten' and European elections 2019.

AECR President Jan Zahradil said:

“ To participate would have meant we legitimised the idea that a European executive should be chosen by a federal legislature. Yet federalism has no treaty basis, nor any backing from the electorate. We aspire to speak for that large majority of Europeans who have never consented to be citizens of a federal union. We believe that the voice of this growing group of people should be heard in the debates, but we cannot subscribe to a scheme that will give the President of the Commission an artificial mandate from the people, even though most people have never even heard of him, let alone voted for him.

Mr Zahradil also warned that the so-called 'Spitzenkandidaten' system could also politicise the European Commission. At New Direction we believe this is a major problem as it potentially gives more power to an already opaque and inefficient Commission that should stick to its role as the EU civil service.



"Which European primary election system for citizens to connect better with the EU?"

Debates

Thursday, 28th May 2015, from 12:30 to 14:00
Brussels Press Club

With lessons from the 2014 campaigns still fresh in people's mind, this is the perfect time to start the discussions within and among European political parties on how we could improve the system for the European elections in 2019.

Welcome:

Christophe LECLERCQ, Founder, EurActiv

Moderator:

Dan LUCA, Director, EurActiv Institute

Statements:

MEP Siegfried MUREȘAN, Spokesman - EPP

Yonnec POLET, Deputy Secretary General - PES

MEP Jan ZAHRADIL, President of the Board - AECR

MEP Angelika MLINAR, Vice-president - ALDE

MEP Marisa MATIAS, Vice-president - Party of the European Left

Mar GARCIA SANZ, Secretary General - European Green Party

Günther DAUWEN, Director - European Free Alliance

Tomi HUHTANEN, Director - Martens Center for European Studies

Ernst STETTER, Secretary General - Foundation for European Progressive Studies

Naweed KHAN, Director, New Direction - The Foundation for European Reform

Susanne HARTIG, Executive Director - European Liberal Forum

Aurélië MARECHAL, Secretary General - Green European Foundation

Ignasi CENTELLES SANTANA, Coordinator - Centre Maurits Coppieters

Information about the event: pr@euractiv.com



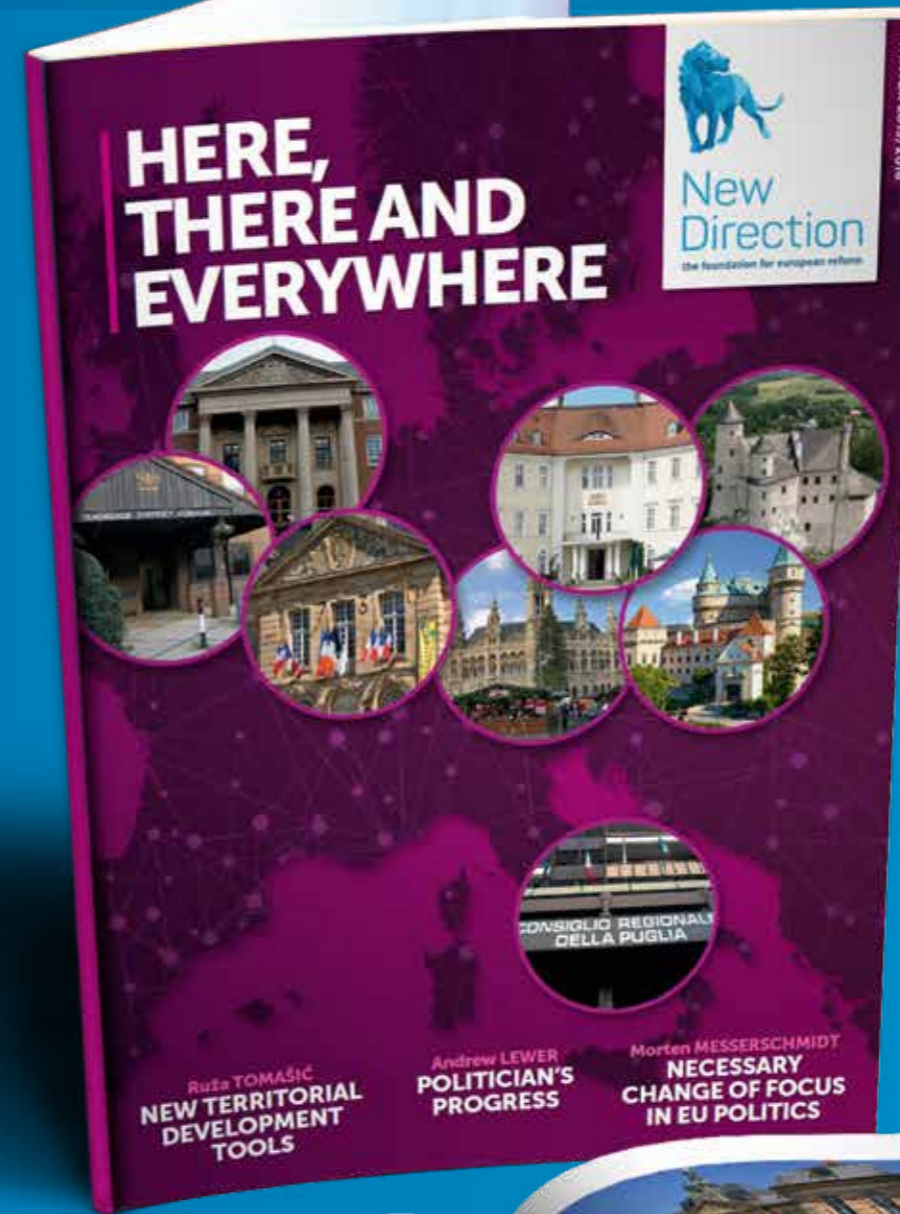


SUBSIDIARITY MAGAZINE

“Decisions taken as closely as possible to the people” is the meaning of the subsidiarity principle once created by Saint Thomas Aquinas and consolidated in modern times by the social doctrine of the Catholic Church. Today, the biased definitions of subsidiarity in the EU Treaty and the introduction of the creative principle of binding targets incarnate permanent challenges to national, regional and local authorities. Those provisions are merely a flexible basis for legitimising the exercise of a new EU power detrimental to decentralisation or devolution. Strengthening the capacity of political delivery of local and regional councillors by advancing a true understanding of subsidiarity and localism are firm parts of the New Direction reform agenda.

Within the pages of this magazine you can find a wide range of views and an equally wide range of treatments of the subject from philosophical discourses to very practical examples of subsidiarity in action.

As Chairman of the ECR, Dr Syed Kamall has been known to say on many occasions that we seek “a Europe to meet the challenges of the 2050s, not the problems of the 1950s”. For New Direction and friends to achieve that effectively, we need to be thought leaders in Europe. A key part of the theoretical underpinnings of European Conservatives is the Reykjavik Declaration. We “favour the exercise of power at the lowest practicable level – by the individual where possible, by local or national authorities in preference



As Tobias Teuscher points out in this edition of the New Direction's flagship magazine, localism is far from being an EU invention. It has at least one root in the 1815 Vienna Congress and started once with a very local challenge: the management of the Rhine River traffic.

Having served in local government for many years, including as English County Council Leader and as a Vice-President of the Local Government Association for England, our New Direction Vice-president and Guest Editor, Andrew Lewer MBE MEP argues the case for subsidiarity.

to supranational bodies.” Therefore, at its heart is this elegant blending of the meanings of subsidiarity and of localism also defines Conservatism.

Our mission and the mission of the contributors to this magazine, with our thorough appreciation of the value of local politics is: to be alert to the dangers of over-regulation. To be alive to opportunities to achieve reform that takes power down to the local level. To be aware that, as the Irish orator John Philpot Curran put it in 1790, “It is the common fate of the indolent to see their rights become a prey to the active. The condition upon which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance.”





IMMIGRATION, JUSTICE
AND SOCIETY





HOW CAN CONSERVATIVES SHAPE EU POLICIES?

One of the main complaints about the EU is the lack of accountability, connectivity and transparency between the EU institutions in Brussels and ordinary Europeans.

As a result, New Direction brought together a group of panellists in Krakow to examine questions such as how conservatives could shape the EU and what methods they should use. The conference took place on the 17th April and the 18th April.

Topics included:

- *'The conservative response to the evolution of the European Union and the challenges of the contemporary politics.'*
- *'Europe at a crossroads: political and ideological challenges for the Central European Countries.'*
- *'The political power in the European Union.'*
- *'What model of European integration and the EU evolution is acceptable for conservative politicians and experts?'*
- *'What level of EU institutional power is acceptable to conservatives?'*

- *'What do we learn about the EU's formal and informal decision-making mechanisms when we analyse its role in the current crisis in Eastern Europe?'*

Speakers included:

Ferenc Hörcher (Director Institute of Philosophy of the Research Centre for the Humanities Hungarian Academy of Sciences), **Miłowit Kuniński** (Professor of the History of Philosophy at the Institute of Philosophy at the Jagiellonian University), **Marek Magierowski** (Head of Press Office, Chancellery of the President of Poland), and **Ryszard Legutko MEP**.

Other speakers included: **Artur Wołek**, **Martin Weiss**, **Bronisław Wildstein**, the Journalist **Adam Burakowski**, **Jaroslav Daniška** (editor postoy.sk, impulzrevue.sk), **Adrian Papahagi** (M10 party and professor Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj), **Martin Slaný** (Václav Klaus Institute), **Virginijus Valentinavičius** (journalist, Lenka Zlámalová (journalists), **Zdzisław Krasnodębski MEP**, **Csaba Törő** (the Central and Eastern European International Studies Association (CEEISA), **Kazimierz Michał Ujazdowski MP** and **Przemysław Żurawski vel Grajewski** (assistant professor at the Faculty of International and Political Studies).





WHAT SCOTLAND THINKS?



New Direction is committed to ensure we understand the views of all of the EU citizens, so in 2015 New Direction carried out a landmark poll across Scotland to assess public opinion on some of key political issues.

The Poll investigated:

- *what people thought about the upcoming Referendum in the UK on EU membership,*
- *their views and perceptions of the EU, immigration, crime and unemployment,*
- *their understanding of the current TTIP negotiations*

New Direction found that Scotland was overwhelming pro-Reform but also pro-EU. She was sympathetic and

supportive of the areas the British Prime Minister was re-negotiating in.

This comes at a time when Scotland has been pivotal in UK politics. The country's referendum campaign and vote galvanised debate on the future of the country.

Understanding of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Programme (TTIP) and the value of this important and historic trade deal was limited in Scotland. In Scotland recently there have been fears that TTIP could lead to the potential privatisation of the NHS in Scotland.

New Direction's polls finding were supported by an ORB December 2015 Poll which showed only 33% of Scottish voters would back the Leave Campaign in the UK Referendum. This was compared to 55% of voters in the West Midlands who wanted to leave the EU.





WHAT POLAND THINKS?

In 2015 New Direction carried out a second in depth poll across Poland to assess public opinion of some key political issues.

Issues that were explored were:

- *The direction the EU is taking.*
- *How the Polish were represented and viewed within Europe.*
- *Attitudes towards regional issues such as Brexit, the refugee crisis and the EU effect on Polish sovereignty.*
- *What steps could be made to strengthen Poland's position within the EU.*
- *The level of economic and political integration that Poland should have with the EU*

A key finding from the report showed that for many Poles it was important for the EU to respect Polish national sovereignty and that it was important for the EU not to become authoritarian toward member states, like the USSR had acted towards Poland in the Warsaw Pact.

These attitudes mirror New Directions belief that subsidiarity must be at the core of the EU's interaction with national and local policy makers. Other key findings from the report showed that many Poles questioned whether the EU was really a functioning community or was instead a dependence of countries that were not influential.

The study showed that the public saw the main benefits of being within the EU as having open borders with Schengen and better infrastructure. According to the study people believed there needed to be clearer communication between MEP's and the public.





EU REFORM FROM A SCOTTISH PERSPECTIVE



RUTH DAVIDSON

In September 2014, Scotland held a historic referendum on whether it wanted to remain part of the United Kingdom. The people of Scotland voted to remain part of the 300-year-old Union. However, the case for Independence has not disappeared from either the political debate or from the public conscience.

In May 2015, supporters of independence, the Scottish National Party won an unprecedented 56 of the 59 Parliamentary Seats. Senior Labour figures including Douglas Alexander, Jim Murphy and Margaret Curran lost their seats.

The Referendum in the UK on EU Membership is, once again, dominating the political agenda. In his General Election Manifesto of 2015, the British Prime Minister David Cameron committed to holding an In/Out Referendum on the UK's membership of the EU and, having won this election, a referendum will be held before the end of 2017. The debate within the UK is now fully underway with various key political figures taking their stance on the future of the UK within Europe.

In September, New Direction was honoured to host Ruth Davidson, leader of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, in Brussels. To an event attended by politicians from across the political divide, Ruth set out her belief that the UK should remain within a reformed EU.

Ruth argued:

“ What I want is a better European Union which puts trade and the Single Market top of its agenda, with a stronger United

Kingdom at its heart, showing it is open for business and open to the world. To me, the cost-benefit analysis is clear. The advantages we gain from EU membership clearly and categorically outweigh any disadvantages that come with it. So, for my part, I will be backing our national interest and urging Britain to stay within that reformed EU.

The event was extensively covered in the UK media, including in the BBC and Daily Telegraph.



EU REFORM FROM A GERMAN PERSPECTIVE

HANS-OLAF HENKEL MEP

In March as part of New Direction's "Reforming the EU" lecture series, we were pleased to host two of Germany's most prominent opinion leaders committed to fundamental EU reform.

Hans-Olaf Henkel MEP, former Chief Executive Officer of IBM Europe, Middle East and Africa and President of the Federation of German Industries (BDI), and Dr Markus Kerber, Doctor of Law and Professor of

public finance & political economy, debated EU Reform - From A German Perspective.

Key questions covered:

- *What needs to be done?*
- *How far might the German government be prepared to go?*



UK PRIME MINISTER WINS SUPPORT ACROSS EUROPE

The extensive survey of people in countries including Germany and France found that voters are increasingly concerned about the EU and are demanding change.

The findings came as a major boost to Mr Cameron, who has pledged to significantly change Britain's relationship with Brussels before holding an In-Out Referendum on Britain's EU membership by the end of 2017.

The poll found that a majority of people in France (58 per cent) believe the EU should be reformed, as do around half in the UK (49 per cent), the Netherlands (49 per cent), and Germany (46 per cent). It also found that a significant number of voters back Mr Cameron's call for changes to freedom of movement rules, which currently allow an unlimited number of EU citizens to live and work anywhere in the bloc. 65 per cent of people in France believe that there should either be greater controls on freedom of movement, or that it should be scrapped entirely. Whilst, 48 per cent of Germans agreed that there should be greater reforms to freedom of movement rules or a complete scrapping of the system. In the UK, 78 per cent of those polled called for greater controls to freedom of movement or for Britain's borders to be closed to EU migrants.

Other key findings in the poll include that almost half of voters in France (49 per cent), Germany (46 per cent) and the Netherlands (49 per cent), believe that the EU should have "less involvement in the affairs of my country". Of those surveyed in the UK, 64 per cent said the EU should have less involvement in British affairs.

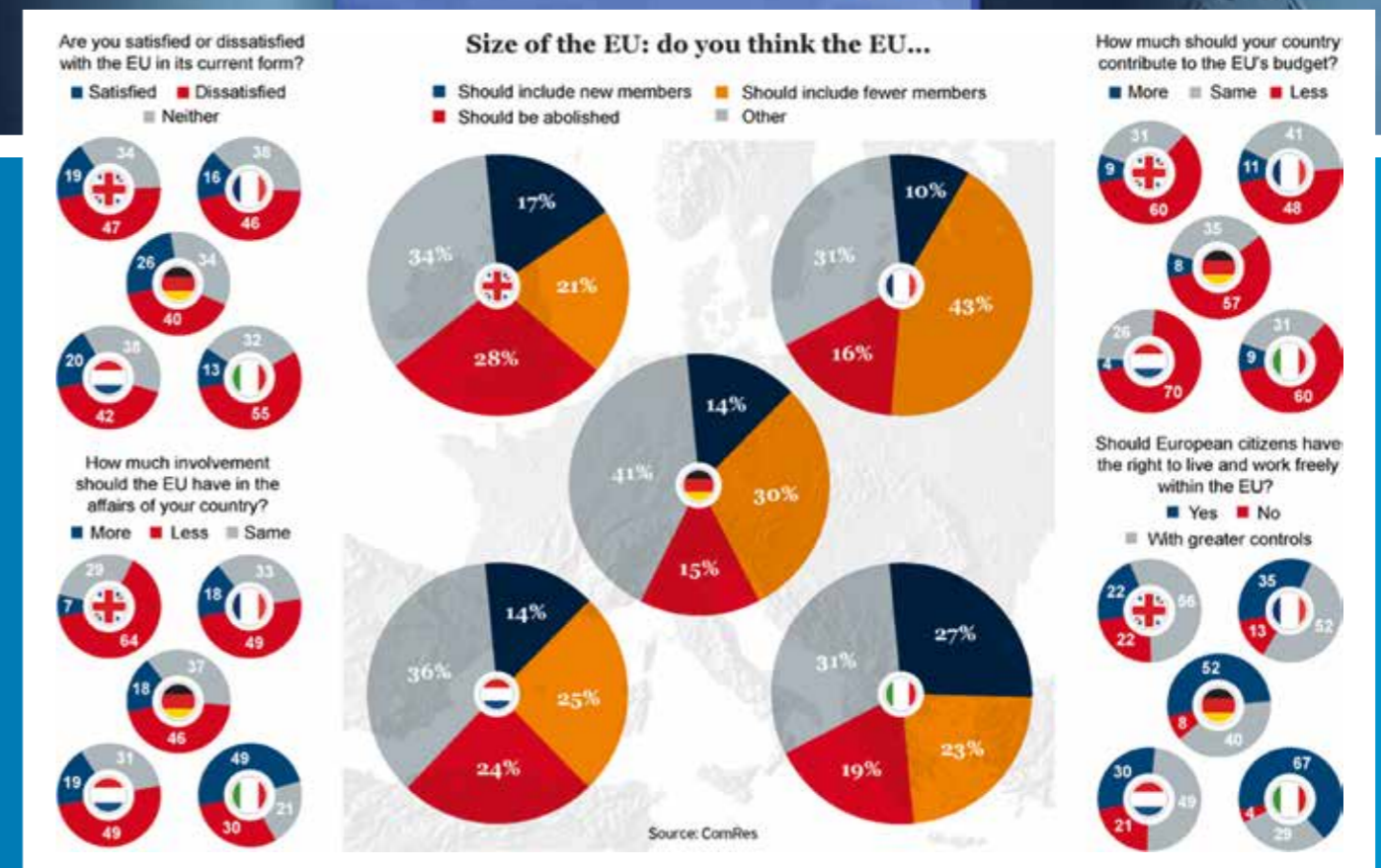
Furthermore, across Europe large support was also found for countries to reducing their respective contributions to the EU budget. In the UK, 60 per cent of voters said they wanted less money to go from the Exchequer to Brussels. In France, 48 per cent called for the country's EU budget contributions to be reduced. That comes despite France getting a rebate from the EU in the last budget round. Voters in Germany (57 per cent) backed a decrease in the country's EU budget contributions.

In February, New Direction published its exclusive ComRes poll



Geoffrey Van Orden MEP, Founding President of New Direction, said:

“The poll bears out the urgent need for robust reform of the EU. Only 19 per cent of voters are satisfied with the EU in its current form and the majority want to see a cut in the EU budget. This poll shows there is strong support across the EU for the approach being taken by Prime Minister David Cameron on EU reform and on changing the free movement rules. What stands out is the need for the British people to have say on their EU membership and only a Conservative Government will give them that.



Andrew Hawkins, from ComRes said:

“This poll shows that those calling for EU reform now represent the mainstream view – contrary to what many believe. The challenge for the EU is how, given the reluctance of many European leaders, it can meet the demands

for change - including in areas such as freedom of movement where resistance to reform is traditionally strong. It is also surprising to find how much David Cameron's call for reform resonates in member states such as France, Netherlands and even Germany.



WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE



In far too many EU states, women are still not equal. For many, full participation in the social, economic and political life is too far from reality. New Direction is committed to individual liberty for all and is a strong defender of family values.

This comes at a time when women's rights were one of the most important political issues. In 2016, for the first time we potentially have a female President being elected to the White House. Women's rights policy has also been top of the reform agenda in many countries, for example in the UK Prime Minister David Cameron's push in his government to eradicate Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in the UK and to support efforts abroad to stop it. In a speech to the 2014 Girl Summit he said:

“ But for me the context is very simple. The context is about equality. I'm a dad with three children, two girls and a boy, and I want my girls to grow up with every opportunity that my son has, with no disadvantage, with the chance to make everything that my girls can of their lives. And that is really what this is, it's about equality.

New Direction was proud to host a series of events looking into the participation of women in Slovakia in both public and political life. The events looked into ways in which women's roles in these areas could be

enhanced. They were where held in Ružomberok, in Bardejov and in Pezinok.

Women face a number of significant barriers when considering their participation in political life. Many women find they cannot have a balance between public and private life and do not get enough support from their spouses and families.

The conferences also looked into the lack of flexible working patterns and the lack of part time roles that act as practical barriers to women's participation in public and political life.

Other objectives such as building partnerships with government, private sector and civil society in order to advance women's participation in society were explored.

Education in society was also looked into and in particular the conference set out to facilitate women's education regarding new forms of communication technology such as the Internet to enable women in regions to increase the usage of new technologies, for their empowerment.

Jana Žitanská MEP was the lead for the events, which were held in November and December. Key speakers included Viera Leščáková, Anna Šmehilová and Radovan Ondrejka.



EUROPE'S HEALTHCARE

A PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

In January, New Direction hosted the launch of the 2014 Health Consumer Powerhouse Index (EHCI) in Brussels.

The Index compares the effectiveness of different healthcare systems across Europe, in an effort to increase transparency, empower patients and drive effective outcomes. The ECHI is regarded as the 'industry standard' in the healthcare field.

New Direction were honoured to have had two prominent keynote speakers: Dr Vytenis Andriukaitis (EU Health Commissioner) spoke about 'Health System Performance Assessment: reconciling the measurable with the meaningful'.

Nikoloa Todorov (Minister of Health, Republic of Macedonia) who discussed 'What is the secret behind the rapid growth of Macedonian healthcare performance'.

Other topics discussed included:

- *The ECHI 2014 outcomes with Dr Arne Bjornberg (Health Consumer Powerhouse).*
- *The ECHI diploma ceremony.*
- *The ECHI champion acceptance speech.*

There was also a question and answer session afterwards discussing health standards.

The ECHI also revealed data during the event showing that the Scottish National Health Service (NHS) had fallen behind its English counterpart with England coming 14th on the ECHI scoreboard whilst Scotland came 16th. This came despite £200 per head being spent more in Scotland.





HEALTH REFORM

Today, the Slovakian healthcare system is generally considered to be behind most developed nations in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OCED).

In November, New Direction organised five major conference events in Žilina, Košice, Prešov, Bratislava and Nitra looking into the Slovakian healthcare system bringing together local health care providers, opinion leaders, experts and activists at regional level.

Speakers included:

Daniel Lipšic, **Jana Žitanská MEP**, **Professor Tibor Hlavaty**, **Peter Visolajsky MD** (Head of Hospitals Doctors Union), **Patrik Mihal** (Prešov regional parliament), **Marián Sičák MD** (Otorhinolaryngology department Ružomberok) and **Obi Mir**.

The panellists looked at the scope of the problems facing the Slovakian healthcare system, which is behind the

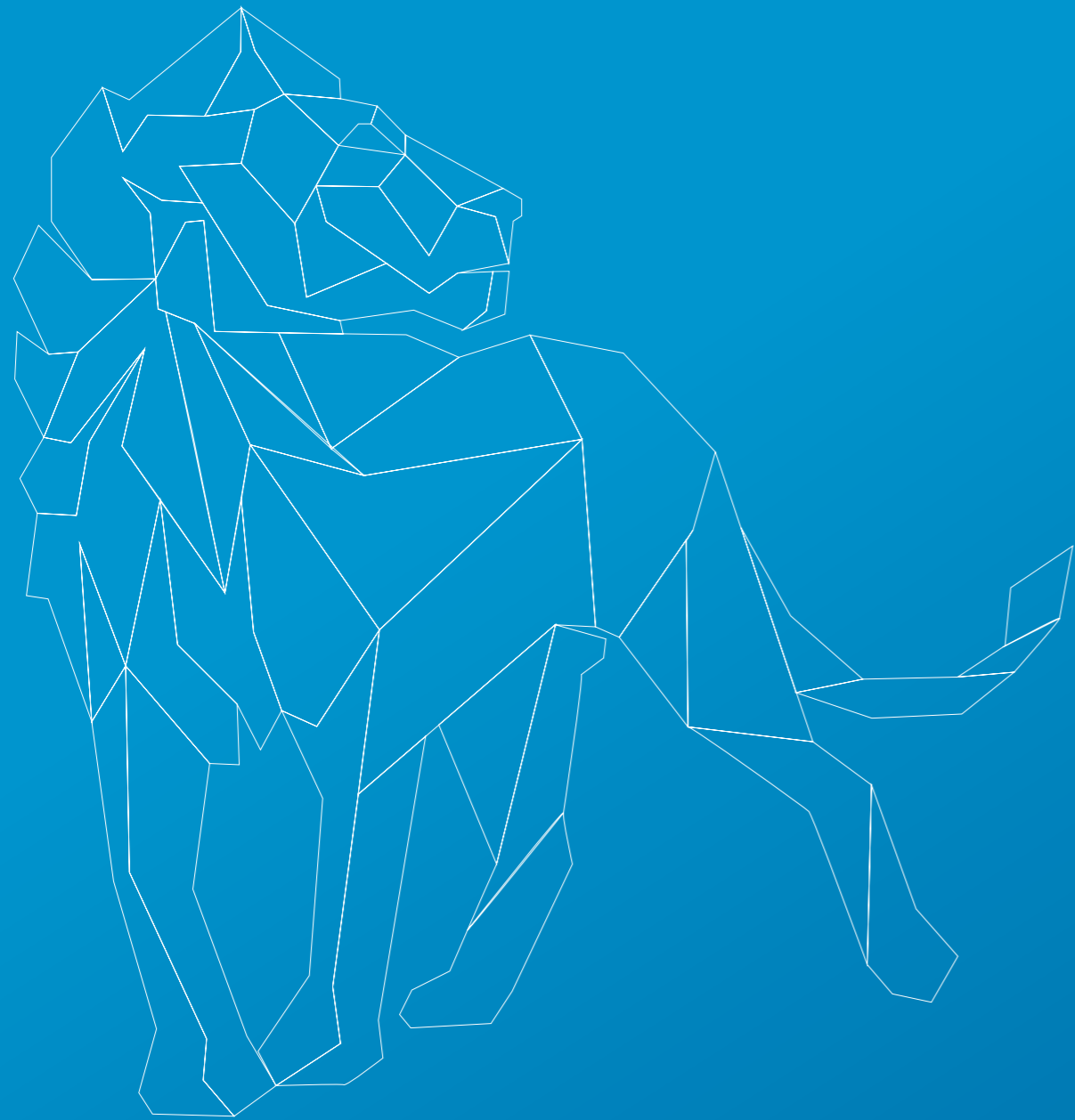
most developed nations of the OCED, indicating serious structural and operational problems. Problems include underfunding, corruption and lack of long-term care providers. The panel discussed how these problems could be rectified with experiences from across the EU.

The aim of the conference was to disseminate the need for a reform of an overly regulated ineffective healthcare system based around the principles of the Prague Declaration.

Individual topics included:

- *'the need for a health and social care reform, the European perspective'* (Jana Žitanská MEP),
- *'Slovak health care at the crossroad, choosing the New Direction'* (Professor Tibor Hlavaty) and
- *'the role of health care professionals in the reform of the health care system'*.





NEW INITIATIVES





NEW DIRECTION

LIBERTY AWARD

New Direction and our supporters are proud to honour people who have rendered outstanding services to the political culture, freedom and civil society within Europe.

We believe that liberal democracy, capitalism and free markets are the best engines for human progress. These can be seen through innovation, competition, profit, effective institutions, political freedom, the building of mature and therefore effective civil societies and the driver of personal, community and national wealth.

For this reason, New Direction inaugurated the Liberty Award in 2014. In 2015, with the help of our partners, we established a high level panel to form the jury.

Members of the jury were:

- **Hans-Olaf Henkel, MEP, Vice President of New Direction.**
- **Prof. Dr. Joachim Starbatty, ECR MEP**
- **Prof. Dr. Ronald G. Asch (Historian)**
- **Johannes Hühdepohl (NGO Bündnis Bürgerwille)**
- **Jürgen Joost (NGO Weckruf 2015)**
- **The jury unanimously voted to honour two outstanding individuals.**



Geoffrey Van Orden MEP

Our Founding President **Geoffrey Van Orden MEP** was honoured for services to politics.

Geoffrey was recognised for working without hesitation or personal advantage, with courage and determination for our freedom, our political culture and the preservation of our citizens' fundamental values.

Geoffrey Van Orden was instrumental in the creation of the European Conservatives & Reformists Group in the European Parliament in 2009 and immediately founded New Direction as its affiliated think-tank.

Following his career as a senior British Army officer he was elected as Conservative Member of the European Parliament for the East of England in 1999 and re-elected in 2004, 2009 and 2014. From the beginning he was one of that small group of MEPs determined to change Britain's relationship with the EU and to reform the EU itself.

As a long-standing Member of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committees of the Parliament, he has been a foremost supporter of the transatlantic relationship and of the NATO alliance and leads the opposition to EU involvement in defence matters. He attaches particular importance to the relationship with India and now chairs the Parliament's India Delegation.

He read politics at the University of Sussex; attended the Indian Defence Services Staff College; was an instructor at the German General Staff College (Führungsakademie der Bundeswehr); Research Associate at the International Institute for Strategic Studies and Service Fellow at King's College, University of London. He writes and speaks on EU reform, on India and on a range of defence and security topics.



Prof. Dr. Gunnar Heinsohn

The second recipient was **Prof. Dr. Gunnar Heinsohn** recognized for being an outstanding and creative academic.

Heinsohn was born in 1943 in Poland and studied at the Free University of Berlin sociology, history, psychology, economics and religious studies. He graduated summa cum laude in both sociology and economics. In 1984 he was appointed to a lifetime professorship at the University of Bremen, where he heads since 1993 the first European Institute for Genocide Research. Nowadays he acts as "professor emeritus".

Gunnar Heinsohn is one of the world's most creative researchers and also well known for his fact based criticism of the current state of the institutions of the European Union. His list of publications includes almost 700 scholarly articles, conference presentations, and books. His research has been focused on developing new theories regarding the history and theory of civilization.

Not only has he the credibility of a most outstanding researcher, he also has been an outspoken critic on the Euro and current state of the institutions of the European Union. He went to great lengths to point out the structural deficiencies of the Euro.

He is a role model of the fact-driven critic, who carries strong arguments on the basis of knowledge and persistence.

Exemplary Quotes:

“ **Der Euro wird Einheitswährung genannt, ohne eine zu sein / The Euro is called a single currency, without being one. (Featured Quote on the website)**

“ **Die EU kann in ihrer bisherigen Form nur so lange existieren, wie Deutschland fähig und willens ist, dafür zu bezahlen / The EU can only exist in its current form, as long as Germany is willing to pay for it.**



NEW DIRECTION ACADEMY

After a successful launch in 2014, the New Direction Academy continues to aim to inspire citizens to engage with the key issues facing Europe today.

The Academy trains young academics in strategic leadership, research techniques and effective communications, media competency, rhetoric and campaigning ability.

In 2015, New Direction held 20 training sessions through Germany over a period of 8 weeks: 12 of these sessions were in Baden-Württemberg, 6 in Rheinland-Pfalz and two were in Sachsen-Anhalt.

By connecting young academics and researchers with mentors' best practices, strategies and tools, our experienced team is investing in Europe's next generation.

Trainers for the Academy included: **Tilo Utecht, René Theis, Andrej Grabowski, Oliver Sieh, Christopher David Krüger, Philipp Ritz and Jörg Tewes.**

New Direction is building on its commitment to further the values embedded in the Prague Declaration. New Direction's Academy Alumni are already making their mark, writing regularly for us, helping shape policy, and advocating our values.





NEW DIRECTION GERMAN LANGUAGE NEWS AGGREGATOR

New Direction's dedicated German language news aggregator brings you the best writing on politics, economics, and free markets, underpinned by a commitment to making the case for the Prague Declaration.

The Aggregator is free. It is designed to save our readers time and give them a real alternative to German mainstream media.

The media-aggregation infrastructure allows participation by its users. The idea of a semi-open, partly self-organizing newsroom or editorial process that can be managed through a decentralized system lies at the core of the project, and has not been achieved before in the sphere of European politics.

In the future it will be connected to network of complementary websites in order to realize the full potential of smart sharing and cross-media strategies.

The Aggregator can be found at: www.diefreimeinung.net

New Direction is grateful for the generous support of all our sponsors who have made this initiative a reality.



EUROPAS ZUKUNFT WEBSITE

In September, New Direction also established an online presence in Germany, with a dedicated German language site. www.europas-zukunft.de hosts all our news, publications and events that we hold in Germany.

The site is also available for our friends who share our values, to promote their activities and research.



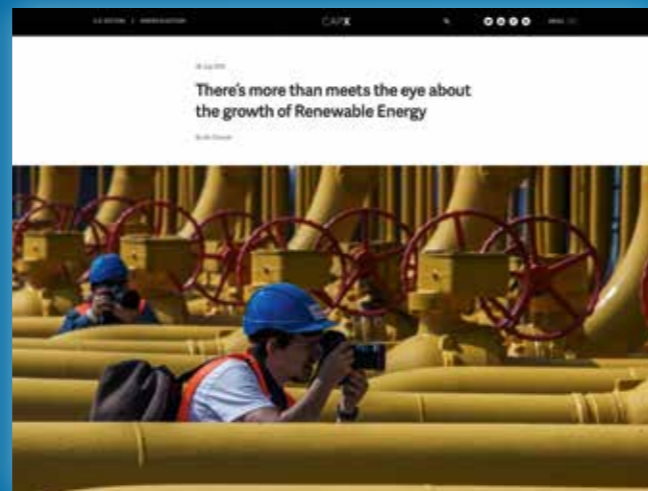
INTERNATIONAL PARTNER OF CAP X

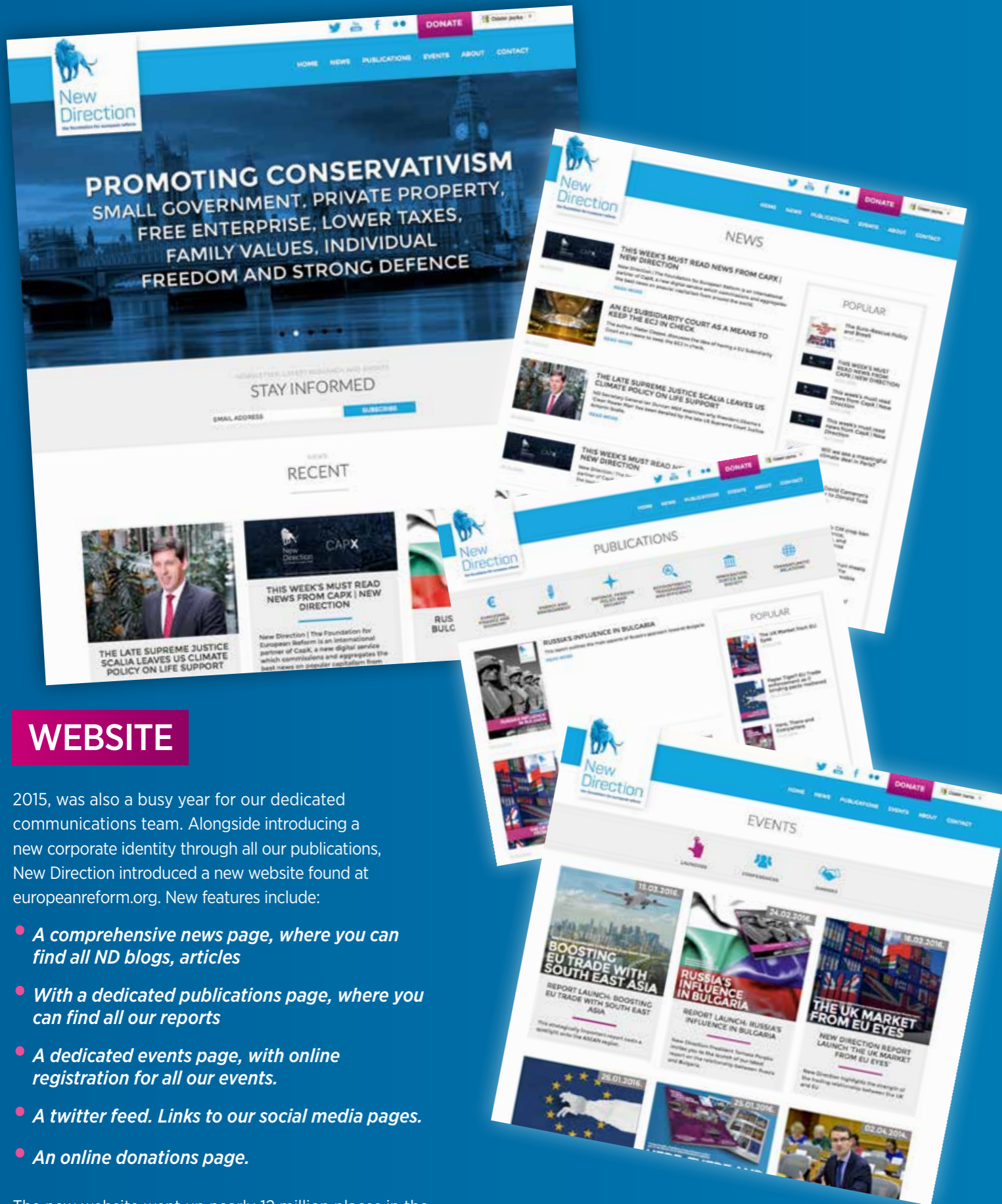
New Direction was proud to become an international partner of **Cap X**, a new digital service which commissions and aggregates the best news on popular capitalism from around the world.

Every week, viewers to our website can access with ease the very best of free-market news and get the critical analysis of the opinion formers in the libertarian world.

Popular capitalism is not just about spreading opportunities for wealth creation. It includes nurturing a set of effective institutions that best allows political freedom, civil society and wider prosperity to flourish.

Recent examples of articles syndicated with CapX include: **There's more than meets the eye about the growth of Renewable Energy** by Dr Ian Duncan and **Why the sharing economy is the modern embodiment of classical liberalism** by Dan Dalton MEP.





WEBSITE

2015, was also a busy year for our dedicated communications team. Alongside introducing a new corporate identity through all our publications, New Direction introduced a new website found at europeanreform.org. New features include:

- A comprehensive news page, where you can find all ND blogs, articles
- With a dedicated publications page, where you can find all our reports
- A dedicated events page, with online registration for all our events.
- A twitter feed. Links to our social media pages.
- An online donations page.

The new website went up nearly 12 million places in the global ranking since its launch in September.

SOCIAL MEDIA

In 2015, New Direction continued to build a strong online social media presence with a dedicated Twitter, LinkedIn, Flickr and Facebook account. Subscribers can keep up to date with the latest political news and debates by following anyone of our accounts.



THE AGENDA & THE HERALD

In 2015, New Direction also introduced two new morning publications for all its subscribers. Every morning, before 9am recipients receive 'The Agenda', an overview of what's going on in Brussels and beyond. Recipients also receive a copy of 'The Herald' a summary of the top news stories of the day in Europe and beyond.



GAZETA

In 2015, New Direction also introduced a Polish language newspaper. The Gazeta keeps Polish supporters up to date with what events, publications and other activities that New Direction has been carrying out every 6 months. Our latest Gazeta was guest edited by our President Tomasz Poręba MEP and included other writers such as Vice President Karol Karski MEP, Frits Bolkestein and Peter Oppenheimer.



SUPPORT OUR WORK

New Direction is registered in Belgium as a not-for-profit organisation (ASBL) and is partly funded by the European Parliament.

As a leading authority on European Reform, our supporters know that their contribution is helping to shape the global conversation on the issues that matter.

If you would like to donate or support our fundraising efforts please get in touch by emailing contact@europeanreform.org or fill in the form opposite.

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Please Note: New Direction - The Foundation for European Reform is required to:

- I. Publish its revenue and expenditure and a statement of its assets and liabilities annually;
- II. Declare its sources of funding by providing a list specifying the donors and the donations received from each donor, exceeding EUR 500;
- III. Not accept anonymous donations, donations exceeding EUR 12,000 per year and per donor, donations from the budgets of political groups in the European Parliament, donations from any company over which the public authorities may exercise a dominant influence by virtue of their ownership of it, or their financial participation therein, and donations from any public authority from a non-EU country.



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