

20

years in the European Union Conference

Hungary became a member of the European Union on 1 May 2004. This membership is a significant milestone in the history of the Hungarian state and has shaped the political, economic and social landscape of the last 20 years. During the accession negotiations, Hungarian society had almost unredeemable hopes for accession, and with membership the country gained significant political and economic achievements, while the lofty image of European integration began to erode.

The Institute of Global Studies at Corvinus University of Budapest is honouring 20 years of Hungarian membership with a two-day conference. The conference will bring together diplomats, who have been involved in the negotiation process, staff and students of the Institute.

9-10 May 2024

Corvinus University of Budapest

Main Building, Faculty Club

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

9 May 2024, Thursday

9:00 – 10:40

Plenary Session

Aspirations and achievements: assessing Hungarian EU membership

9:00 – 9:10

Opening remarks: Ágnes Szunomár

Corvinus University of Budapest, Head of Institute of Global Studies

9:10 – 9:40

Keynote speech: His Excellency Jeroen Vergeylen

Ambassador of Belgium to Hungary

9:40 – 10:40

Looking back at the Hungarian accession process: A round table discussion with diplomats who contributed to the accession process and had an insight into the negotiations.

Panelists:

Péter Balázs, *Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary (2009-2010), EU Commissioner (2004)*

László Andor, *EU Commissioner (2010-2014), Prime Minister's Office (2003-2005)*

Zsolt Becsey, *former MEP, who was the diplomat in charge of general and political affairs at the Hungarian EU mission at the time of the entry into force of the Europe Agreement*

Moderator: Erzsébet Kaponyi, *Professor Emerita, Corvinus University of Budapest, Institute of Global Studies*

10:40 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30

Panel 1 – Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union

European Strategic Autonomy and Defence Initiatives

Anna Molnár, Professor at the University of Public Service and Head of Department of International Security Studies

CFSP and the EU enlargement agenda in 2024. Act pragmatically and reward the pro-Western performers

Christopher Walsch, Associate Professor, Corvinus University of Budapest, Institute of Global Studies

Latin America: is really a "natural" ally for the European Union in international arena?

Sándor Gyula Nagy, Professor, Corvinus University of Budapest, Institute of Global Studies

Traditional and new challenges for European Union External Policy

Zoltán Gálik, Associate Professor, Corvinus University of Budapest, Institute of Global Studies

Moderator: Zoltán Gálik, *Associate Professor, Corvinus University of Budapest, Institute of Global Studies*

12:30 Lunch break

13:30 – 15:00

Panel 2 – Populism and Euroscepticism in Europe

Amidst the global surge of populism, it has become imperative to analyse and evaluate its impact on states and inter-state relations. The rise of populism within various European Union (EU) member states has become a focal point in EU integration discourse. This roundtable will discuss the conceptual dilemmas of populism and explore its correlation with Euroscepticism across different academic disciplines including international political economy, political science, and international relations. Participants will reflect on the political and economic consequences of populism in Europe, with a special emphasis on Hungary and the broader Central and Eastern Europe region.

Panelists:

István Benczes, *Professor, Corvinus University of Budapest, Institute of Global Studies*

Denis Ivanov, *Assistant Professor, Corvinus University of Budapest, Institute of Global Studies*

Vassilis Petsinis, *Associate Professor, Corvinus University of Budapest, Institute of Global Studies*

Samuel Rogers, *Postdoctoral Research Associate, School of Social Sciences & Global Studies, The Open University*

Anita Szűcs, *Associate Professor, Corvinus University of Budapest, Institute of Global Studies*

Moderator: Bernadett Lehoczki, *Associate Professor, Corvinus University of Budapest, Institute of Global Studies*

15:00 Coffee break

15:30 – 16:30

Panel 3 – Significance and Limits of the Rule of Law

Challenges to the supremacy of EU law over national law

Erzsébet Kaponyi, *Professor Emerita, Corvinus University of Budapest, Institute of Global Studies*

No smoke without fire! CJEU's assessment of Hungary's compliance with the rule of law

Adrienne Komanovics, *Associate Professor, Corvinus University of Budapest, Institute of Global Studies*

Mixed Constitution: academic narratives about the EU's democratic deficit and their critique

Zoltán Kelemen, *Associate Professor, Corvinus University of Budapest, Institute of Global Studies*

Moderator: Eszter Kirs, *Associate Professor, Corvinus University of Budapest, Institute of Global Studies, Head of Department of International Relations*

10 May 2024, Friday

9:00 – 10:00

Panel 4 – Round table discussion on the 25th anniversary of the Economic and Monetary Union

The introduction of the euro in 1999 was “the greatest monetary experiment of the modern era” and a substantial step towards a deeper economic integration among independent states in Europe. The euro has faced tremendous challenges and crises but shown resilience in offering stability and a more united Europe for member states and bringing benefits for citizens and businesses since its inception. The economic governance framework of the Eurozone has undergone remarkable institutional developments and reforms, however, remained attractive for Central and Eastern European member states except Czechia, Hungary, and Poland.

Panelists:

Sarimehmet Duman Özgün, *Associate Professor, Corvinus University of Budapest, Institute of Global Studies*

Gábor Miklós, *Assistant Lecturer, Corvinus University of Budapest, Institute of Global Studies*

Norbert Szijártó, *Assistant Professor, Corvinus University of Budapest, Institute of Global Studies*

Moderator: Gábor Vigvári, *Associate Professor, Corvinus University of Budapest, Institute of Global Studies*

10:00 Coffee break

10:20 – 12:00

Panel 5 – Student panel

Organised by the student organisation 'College for Advanced Studies of Diplomacy in Practice'.

EU integration

The panel will delve into the intricacies of Central and Eastern European countries within the European Union, examining the region's unique challenges and opportunities. Experts will discuss the socio-economic, political, and cultural factors shaping integration efforts in Central and Eastern European countries. Key topics will include the impact of historical legacies, current geopolitical dynamics, and the role of regional cooperation mechanisms in fostering EU integration. Attendees can expect insightful discussions aimed at understanding the evolving role of Central European states in shaping the future of the European project.

Moderator: Vilmos Horváth-Pajor, *College for Advanced Studies of Diplomacy in Practice*

Discussion on the role of the EU in the life of young Hungarians

In the final panel, five final-year international relations students will engage in a candid discussion about the significance of the European Union in their lives and studies. They will share personal insights, reflections, and academic perspectives on the EU's role in shaping contemporary global affairs. Through diverse viewpoints, the panel aims to explore the multifaceted impact of EU policies, institutions, and values on the next generation of global citizens. Attendees can anticipate an illuminating dialogue that encapsulates the evolving perceptions and aspirations towards European integration among young students in the field of international relations.

Moderator: András Végh, *Vice President of the College for Advanced Studies of Diplomacy in Practice*

12:00

Closing remarks

Eszter Kirs, *Associate Professor, Head of Department of International Relations, Corvinus University of Budapest, Institute of Global Studies*

Gábor Vigvári, *Associate Professor, Head of Department of World Economy, Corvinus University of Budapest, Institute of Global Studies*