



HOME AFFAIRS

Internal Security Forum Prague 2015



Islamic State and Counter-Radicalization

2nd – 5th of September 2015

*Held under the auspices of the President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, Mr. **Jan Hamacek**, Minister of the Interior of the Czech Republic, Mr. **Milan Chovanec**, and the Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Defence, Mr. **Ivan Gabal**.*

Organized in cooperation with the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, the International Visegrad Fund, the US Embassy in Prague, the French Embassy in the Czech Republic, and the British Embassy in Prague.

HOMEAFFAIRS - The Internal Security Forum in Prague is the first platform for a strategic debate about internal security in Europe. It is organised by the European Values think tank, which advises politicians in the fields of immigration policy and the fight against Islamism. While there are a number of well-established conferences on issues of European external security and defence, a strategic dialogue on protecting our societies from growing domestic threats does not receive enough attention. Our objective is to bridge this gap and provide a specialised forum for public policy makers, non-governmental experts and business people to discuss the interconnected issues of radicalisation, terrorism, organised crime, cybercrime, illegal immigration, border protection and external challenges for internal security. The Internal Security Forum in Prague

will gather high profile participants from the European Union, the United States of America and other partner countries.

In 2015, the Internal Security Forum Prague will focus on the so-called Islamic State as one of the primary security issues for the region, the European Union and global security in general. While the topic may seem too distant for policy makers in Central Europe, the Islamic State is not only detrimental to the Middle East but also threatens the security of the EU as a whole. Due to an unprecedented number of European citizens leaving to fight in wars in the Middle East and then returning to their home countries, the risk of terrorist attacks on European soil has significantly increased. European citizens fighting in the Islamic State's militias are becoming a major internal security challenge for European states. Consequently, the fight against radicalisation into militant Islamism within European Muslim population has become even more urgent than before.

The 2015 Internal Security Forum in Prague consists of two events:

I. The HOMEAFFAIRS Conference

During the one-day conference, high-level security experts from Western Europe, the USA and Israel will meet with their Czech counterparts to discuss pressing questions in the current European internal security environment. Each panel of speakers will be followed by a discussion with the attending Members of the Czech Parliament and the representatives of ministries. By introducing the topic of radicalisation into militant Islamism and counter-strategies to the political representatives and the public servants, the conference aims to raise the level of understanding of this complex issue among the policy makers of the Visegrad countries.

II. The HOMEAFFAIRS Academy

Following the ISF Conference, a two-day Academy will be held as a follow up on the main discussion points of the ISF Conference. The ISF Academy 2015 aims to improve the level of policy insight among security experts from the Visegrad Group countries. Government experts will meet to enhance security cooperation between their different departments and countries of origin and to participate in a workshop designed to investigate the issue of the Islamic State and radicalisation in Europe. A key part of the programme will be based on independent work by the participants. Drafts of possible response strategies will be discussed during a roundtable with high-level European counter-radicalisation experts, who will then provide them with the necessary feedback and practical insight. The participants will therefore gain both the theoretical knowledge and the practical experience with the topic.

Approximately six professionals from each Visegrad country (24 participants in total) will be carefully selected from the national ministries (Foreign Affairs, Home Affairs, and Defence) and other relevant governmental bodies, such as the police forces, the armed forces and the national intelligence services. The participants will be chosen from the ranks of mid-career professionals working in the relevant departments after careful consideration and consultation with the national embassies, state institutions and relevant non-governmental institutions working in the area of internal security. We are specifically targeting those experts who work with the internal security agenda on a daily basis and are actively involved in the national counter-radicalisation programmes in their home countries.

PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 2 September

Afternoon *Arrival of participants*

19:00 – 20:30 **Networking Reception at the British Embassy in Prague**
 Venue: Thunovský palác, Thunovska 14, Praha 1

Thursday, 3 September **HOMEAFFAIRS Conference**

Venue: Parliament of the Czech Republic, Chamber of Deputies, Meeting Room nr. 205, Sněmovní 1, Praha 1 - Malá Strana

9:00 – 9:30 Registration and coffee

9:30 – 11:00 **Panel I: The Islamic State as an International Security Threat**

Key-note Speech: **Amb. David Aaron**, senior fellow and former director of the RAND Center for Middle East Public Policy, Rand Corporation, former National Security Advisor

Chair: **Ivan Gabal**, Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Defence and Security Policy and Strategic Conceptions of the Czech Republic, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Defence, Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic
Ivan Jestráb, Junior-Deputy Minister and Political Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
Amb. Tomáš Pojar, Vice President of the CEVRO Institute, former Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister, and Czech Ambassador to Israel

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 - 13:00 **Panel II: European Foreign Fighters and Their Return**

Key-Note Speech: **Rob Wainwright**, Director of Europol

Chair: **Radko Hokovský**, Executive Director of the European Values Think-tank

Amb. Jean-Pierre Asvazadourian, *French Ambassador to the Czech Republic*

David Chovanec, *Director of Crime Prevention Department, Ministry of the Interior*

Harald Weilnböck, *Deradicalisation Practitioner at Cultures Interactive, Berlin, and Co-Chair of the Radicalisation Awareness Network's group on deradicalisation methods*

Oldřich Bureš, *Head of the Department of International Relations and European Studies and the Head of the Center for Security Studies at Metropolitan University Prague*

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch

14:30 - 16:00 Panel III: Radicalisation and De-radicalisation

Key-Note Speech: **Gilles de Kerchove**, *Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, Council of the EU*

Chair: **Helena Langšádlová**, *Chairwoman of the Sub-Committee on Migration and Asylum Policy, Vice-Chairwoman of the Committee on European Affairs, Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic*

Haras Rafiq, *Managing Director, Quilliam Foundation, London*

Roland Freudenstein, *Deputy Director and Head of Research, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies*

Radko Hokovský, *Executive Director of the European Values Think-tank*

16:30 - 18:00 Reception at the French Embassy in Prague

Venue: Buquoy Palace, Velkopřevorské náměstí 2, Praha 1

Friday, 4 September

HOMEAFFAIRS Academy

Venue: Kaiserštejnský palác, Malostranské náměstí 23/37, Praha 1

9:00 – 10:30 Block A: Islamic State – Its Evolution, Ideology and Modus Operandi

Amb. Tomáš Pojar, *Vice President of the CEVRO Institute, former Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister, and Czech Ambassador to Israel*

10:30 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12:30 Block B: Geopolitical Context and Regional Challenges
Amb. David Aaron, *senior fellow and former director of the RAND Center for Middle East Public Policy, Rand Corporation, , former National Security Advisor*

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 Block C: The Islamic State & Foreign Fighters

Haras Rafiq, *Managing Director, Quilliam Foundation, London*

15:30 – 16:00 Break

16:00 – 17:30 **Block D: Radicalisation of Muslims in Europe**
Harald Weirnböck, *Deradicalisation Practitioner at Cultures Interactive, Berlin, and Co-Chair of the Radicalisation Awareness Network's group on deradicalisation methods*

17:30 – 19:30 Break

19:30 - 21:00 **Reception at the American Centre in Prague**

Venue: Tržiště 13, Praha 1

Saturday, 5 September **HOMEAFFAIRS Academy**

Venue: Kaiserštejnský palác, Malostranské náměstí 23/37, Praha 1

9:00 – 10:30 **Block E: Counter-radicalisation Strategies**
Gilles de Kerchove, *Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, Council of the EU*

10:30 - 11:00 Break

11:00 - 12:30 **Working groups - drafting strategies**

12:30 - 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 15:00 **Roundtable: Good practices of cooperation between the State and Muslim communities in counter-radicalisation and working group presentations**
Haras Rafiq, *Managing Director, Quilliam Foundation, London*
Gilles de Kerchove, *Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, Council of the EU*

Afternoon *Departures*