

The Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark have the pleasure of inviting you to a conference on:

The EU's Eastern Neighbours  
The Road to Viable Reforms and Efficient Assistance  
Tuesday, 22 March 2011, 09.00-16.30  
Eigtveds Pakhus, Sal III  
Asiatisk Plads 2 G  
1448 Copenhagen K

## Background

This high-level conference, co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (MFA DK) and DIIS, will elaborate on how the EU and its member states can improve cooperation with the EU's Eastern neighbours. How can instruments at EU and member states level be optimized to serve as strong incentives and drivers for reform and approximation to the EU? Decision makers from politics and business, civil servants, researchers and representatives of the civil society will gather to focus on the possibilities, challenges and needs that will shape future policy frameworks.

Developments in the EU's Eastern neighbourhood are of great significance for the EU. The countries in the region are, to varying degrees, carrying out political, social and economic reforms, and have stated their wish to come closer to the EU.

At the Prague Summit in 2009, the EU decided to establish the Eastern Partnership in order to further develop multilateral and bilateral ties with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The next summit between the EU and the Eastern Partners is planned to take place in October 2011. As preparation for the summit, the EU's policy towards the Eastern Partners is undergoing a review process aimed at improving the effectiveness and visibility of the cooperation.

At the same time Denmark is supporting reforms in the Eastern neighbourhood through the bilateral assistance programme, the Danish Neighbourhood Programme. The aim of the programme is to promote open democratic societies based on the rule of law, the respect for human rights and a political and economic stable development. The planning of a new phase of the Danish Neighbourhood Programme 2013-2017 is about to start up, and this conference will serve as a good source of inspiration. One of the issues to consider will be the interaction between assistance from the EU and its member states.

## Speakers

[Lene Espersen](#), Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark

[Stefan Füle](#), European Commissioner for Enlargement and ENP

[Iurie Leanca](#), Minister for Foreign Affairs of Moldova

Kim Jørgensen, Under-Secretary for European Affairs, MFA DK

[Fabrizio Tassinari](#), Senior Researcher, DIIS

[Hannes Swoboda](#), Member of the European Parliament, Foreign Affairs Committee

[Kristi Raik](#), Researcher, Finnish Institute of International Affairs, Finland

[Balázs Jarábik](#), Head of Pact, Ukraine

Andriy Shevchenko, Journalist, Ukraine [TBC]

[Charlotte Flindt Pedersen](#), Deputy Director, Danish Institute for Human Rights

[Pawel Swieboda](#), President, DemosEuropa, Poland

[Olga Shumylo-Tapiola](#), Visiting Scholar, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Belgium

[Ricardo Pinto](#), International Development Director, Pinto Consulting GmbH, Germany  
[Peter Munk Jensen](#), Senior Analyst, DIIS  
[Nicu Popescu](#), Senior Policy Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations, UK  
Nico Lange, Director, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Ukraine  
Laura Garagnani, Head of Operations, EU Delegation, Ukraine  
Fin Poulsen, Chief Consultant, MFA DK  
Ruben Madsen, Head of Department for European Neighbourhood and Russia, MFA DK

## Programme

More details about the seminar are available on our [website](#).

## Practical Information

The seminar will be held in English.

Participation is free of charge and includes lunch, but registration is required. Please use our [online registration form](#) no later than Friday, 18 March 2011 at 12.00 noon.

Please await confirmation by e-mail from DIIS for participation.

Sincerely,

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