



GLOBSEC 2017 Bratislava Forum Summary

Adapting (to) the Future



GLOBSEC 2017 BRATISLAVA FORUM SUMMARY

Seemingly everything about the world as we know it is changing and it is changing fast. The previously inconceivable pace of this transformation proves to be simply too quick for the traditional state structures and global institutions to adapt to. Technology and globalisation are driving this rapid political and social alteration, which has provoked a backlash of people feeling scared of robots replacing them at work or terrorists abusing technologies to attack them. Instant availability of information enabled by the Internet has allowed for disinformation and fake news being shared across the globe with immense speed, adding fuel to these fears.

In the midst of such muddle, individuals are losing ability to think critically and comprehend the complex world around them, leading to discontent and the citizens giving up on any kind of civic engagement. State and international institutions seem unable to catch up with appropriate policies and regulations making sure they themselves and their citizens are equipped to face the unavoidable future. Traditional political systems are failing, populists are on the rise and so is fear.

Hence the motto of the 12th edition of GLOBSEC 2017 Bratislava Forum, Adapting (to) the Future. This multifaceted character of current transformation requires a multi-lensed perspective in order to understand this development, reap its rewards and avoid possible traps. Therefore, GLOBSEC has gathered a crowd of visionaries, innovators, thinkers and politicians of various paths of life to come up with innovation in all aspects of our societies.

Aiming to challenge the bleak narrative for the future, guests of GLOBSEC were seeking to make sense of the world, harness the innovation, adapt our rules, policies and institutions to the future and thus shape the future we want to see. Key areas of adaptation discussed at GLOBSEC 2017 were NATO, intelligence cooperation, counter-terrorism activities, reconstruction of the Middle East, supporting Eastern Partnership countries, the future of the European Union, democracy and global economy.





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NATO ADAPTING (TO) THE FUTURE

Despite widening scope of focus to other fields, GLOBSEC 2017 Bratislava Forum has for the 12th year dedicated a significant part of its programme to the issues of international security. GLOBSEC Policy Institute is closely coordinating with global leaders on developing the initiatives seeking impact that will make our institutions agile and adaptable to future challenges.

GLOBSEC NATO Adaptation Initiative was presented by the Chair of the Steering Committee, General John Allen on the panel with NATO Deputy Secretary General, Rose Gottemoeller and Foreign Minister of Lithuania, Linas Linkevicius.

This project is GLOBSEC's foremost contribution to debates about the future of our Alliance. Given the substantial changes within the global security environment, GLOBSEC has undertaken a year-long project, following its annual flagship conference in April 2016 and subsequent NATO Summit in Warsaw, to explore challenges faced by the Alliance in adapting to a very different strategic environment than that of any time since the end of the Cold War.

The Initiative envisages a series of policy papers which address the nature of NATO adaptation and the challenges it must overcome if it is to remain a viable and credible alliance for the peace and stability in



From Left:
Julian Lindley French
Gen. John Allen
Amb. Alexander Vershbow



From Left:
Hon. Rose Gottemoeller
H. E. Linas Linkevičius
Gen. John Allen

the transatlantic area. The policy papers published within the framework of the Initiative on the NATO Adaptation process are authored by the Initiative's Steering Committee members: General John Allen, General Wolf Langheld, Professor Dr Julian Lindley-French, Admiral Giampaolo di Paola, Ambassador Tomáš Valášek and other acclaimed authorities from the field of global security and strategy. The aim of the involvement of such a wide array of experts is to reinforce the unique partnership among policy-makers, military leaders and leading academics and commentators. These policy papers will prelude and result in the publication of the Initiative's Steering Committee Recommendation Two-Pager, ad interim report presented at GLOBSEC 2017 Bratislava Forum and the Main Paper – Report, prepared by Professor Dr Lindley-French, to be launched in December 2017.

GLOBSEC 2017 Bratislava Forum hosted a series of debates on the future of the Alliance addressing the defence spending of Allies in an off-the-record Dinner Session while the Night Owl Session featuring Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, Tacan Ildem of NATO Public Diplomacy Division and Alexander Vershbow, former Deputy Secretary General of NATO and Tomáš Valášek, former Slovak Permanent Representative to NATO opened the question of public perception on NATO. How can the Alliance regain the trust of its people?

**“If our only solution to terrorism is to fight it, we will fight forever.
No child is born a terrorist.”**

- General John Allen



Hon. Rose Gottemoeller

“Door of NATO will remain open. Every country has the right to decide with whom to cooperate.”

- Hon. Rose Gottemoeller

The problem of terrorism in connection to NATO's involvement was one of the many issues covered. Participants of the Dinner Session warned about overly enthusiastic expectations from the NATO involvement in fight against ISIS. While they concurred that Europe needs to fix its deficit in defence capabilities to have a long-term understanding for NATO in Washington, the problem is not only quantity but also the quality of the defence modernisation. NATO leaders urgently need a profound mindset change because as long as we do not change our leaders' thinking, NATO simply will not be able to adapt.



'It's time to make the @NATO alliance great again, says @LinkeviciusL to loud laughter at #GLOBSEC2017



It's not #technology or people.
Tech is enabled by people and we
have no truly autonomous weapon.
#GLOBSEC2017 @PMBreedlove

As part of the GLOBSEC's aim to adapt the Alliance's capabilities, the newly established GLOBSEC Future hosted a debate dedicated to the future of conflict focusing on currently developed disruptive technologies.



If we can manage the integration of all
the innovative technologies, then we
can achieve major disruptive peace.
#GLOBSEC2017 #HBromberg

The disruptive weapon transforming the conflict for the next 20 years, according to experts, will be precision non-kinetic weapon system, militarised civilian drones and the use of cyber-tools to attack nuclear sites and interconnection of the new weapon systems.

Debate with US Senator Ron Johnson, Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, also touched upon the question of NATO, following up on the Brussels meeting of leaders. The Senator remarked that he, to use his own words, would 'cut some slack' to the President. In light of international criticism, he is convinced that President Trump did reiterate the US commitment to Article V in his speech even if he did not use "the right magic words".

**“In the long term
we will cross
boundaries we have
not crossed yet.
Such as developing
soldiers & extending
battlefield to
space.”**

- Philip Breedlove



From Left:
Amb. Alexander Vershbow
H.E. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović
Amb. Tacan Ildem
Amb. Tomáš Valášek

COUNTER-TERRORISM ADAPTING (TO) THE FUTURE

“After attacks in Brussels, intelligence services in Europe already use a common platform to share intelligence flow more.”

- Dick Schoof

Intelligence for the 21st Century

GLOBSEC Intelligence Reform Initiative, led by former US Secretary for Homeland Security Michael Chertoff, played a significant role at the GLOBSEC Forum again this year. In line with its four main recommendations, the panel debate revolved around strengthening of the intelligence-sharing by linking national counter-terrorism centres via Core Transatlantic Counter-Terrorism Hub. However, two key predicaments were identified for achieving this goal – mutual trust between nation-states must grow and shared intelligence has to be better operationalised for the purpose of practical preventive actions in order to thwart terrorist attacks.

As of now, intelligence cooperation within the EU remains vastly based on the national ownership of the information gathered by the agencies of respective Member States. Despite increasing quality and quantity of coordination, it is not likely that a type of institutionalised mechanism will be established any time soon on the EU level.

Microsoft's Vice-President for EU Government Affairs, John Frank reiterated the need for an independent authority gathering the intelligence data in order to be analysed and operationalised. He is not in favour of giving up information about their customers directly to the governments or putting “backdoors” into their products to be exploited by the governments for intelligence gathering.

At the same time, John Frank highlighted the example of cooperation between IT industry competitors in terms of sharing the knowledge about threats to various kinds of software.

Therefore, he considers the intelligence-sharing system proposed by GLOBSEC Intelligence Reform Initiative in **Counter-terrorism Intelligence Exchange Reform Strategy** to be “not a sci-fi” and expressed his hope for its early realisation.



Chertoff: ‘Intel failures not due to failure of analysis, but failure on the operational level’ #GLOBSEC2017



Dick Schoof (left)
John Frank (right)

With regards to operational gap, Secretary Chertoff reflected on the necessity to educate the decision-makers to improve their capacity to process the intelligence they receive. On the other hand, Dutch Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, Dick Schoof pointed out that despite ongoing intelligence gathering, in many cases there is no real legal basis to start prosecution of a suspect prior to the actual attack.



Dutch CT coordinator: There are up to 1,500 people in the Netherlands that “we worry about”. #GLOBSEC2017

“I don’t see a trend of going towards some kind of the EU’s CIA as one of the European institutions.”

- Ilkka Salmi

Critical Infrastructure and Cyber Warfare

Involvement of intelligence services was also discussed during the panel focused on use of cyber warfare tools by state and non-state actors, especially against the national critical infrastructure (CI).

With increasing digitalisation and proliferation of the Internet of things culminating in concepts such as smart cities, we are witnessing the broadening of the critical infrastructure. Still, the panellists concluded that “if everything is critical, nothing is and thus we cannot defend anything”.



#Globsec2017: As we enter the process of digitalising critical infrastructure, we need to secure digitalisation

“Sharing of intelligence about vulnerabilities should go both ways between governments and companies.”

- Tony Anscombe





Radoslav Danilák

“So far we have only reactive security measures. The systems are still not being designed with a built-in security.”

- Radoslav Danilák

Contemplating the responsibility for protection of the CI, Director of the US National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center, John Felker, stressed the importance of sharing this task between private sector and governments together with intelligence services and law enforcement. Radoslav Danilák, CEO of Tachyum, specified governments' role as setting mandatory standards and policies for the vendors to adhere to when securing respective components of the CI.

By contrast, Tony Anscombe, ESET's Global Security Evangelist argued that governments often cannot keep the pace and are late with their regulation. Therefore, the industry should be left with enough freedom to come up with innovative security solutions on-the-go.



@EYnews Tal Mozes: “#Internet was not designed with #security in mind. Anything you do on net is not #secure.” #GLOBSEC2017 #Cyber

Stockpiling of vulnerabilities by intelligence services instead of disclosing them to be fixed remained among the open questions. There is still not a consensus on whether a country should be allowed to exploit them as a competitive advantage in cyber warfare. John Felker admitted that the US evaluates vulnerabilities from intelligence and national security value. At the same time, government discloses more than 90% of acquired vulnerabilities to be fixed.

Countering the Financing of Terrorism

Finally, surveillance of potential terrorist activities came up also within another debate dedicated to the financing of terrorism through illicit trade. The panel also aspired to set the mood for the upcoming reports of the GLOBSEC Policy Institute dedicated to exploring the crime-terror nexus in order to equip the law enforcements with further knowledge to prevent terror attacks.



“Let’s fight petty crime knowing that lots of jihadists have criminal background” @PeterRNeumann on #terrorism and funding at #GLOBSEC2017

From the outset Hans-Jakob Schindler, Coordinator of the UN Security Council’s Terrorist Monitoring Team, acknowledged the crime-terror nexus apparent in small scale mainly in local terrorism financing. However, this level should not be neglected as not large sums of money are needed to execute an effective attack.

Illicit trade is among the most common ways of terrorists gaining money. Vice-President of Philip Morris International, Alvis Guistiniani, reiterated the necessity of public-private partnership to effectively curb this illegal activity. States have to concentrate on countering organisations running illicit business also for the sake of their national security, not only tax evasion.



Peter Neumann



From Left:
 Alvis Giustiniani
 Hans-Jakob Schindler
 Peter Neumann
 Keith Groves

**“Small amounts
 is what counts.
 You don’t need a
 million dollars for
 Manchester attack”**

- Hans-Jakob Schindler

On the other hand, Mr Schindler pointed out that many terror groups try to avoid being caught “red-handed” by attaching themselves to already existing industries. That was the case of the Taliban being initially funded by poppy production.

Finally, an important highlighted aspect was that financing of terror is not only an issue of Gulf countries, but just as much so of bank accounts of European supporters sending small untraceable amounts of money.

ALLIES IN THE EAST ADAPTING (TO) THE FUTURE

GLOBSEC 2017 Bratislava Forum hosted two extraordinary panel debates dedicated to crucial partners of the West – countries of the Middle East and Eastern Europe. Both regions are going through challenging times – facing multitudes of problems seriously affecting their security and stability, while at the same time, implementing difficult reforms enhancing their economic performance. The Middle East is facing the threat of radical movements destabilising the whole region and forcing millions of people from their homes. On the other hand, countries on the eastern flank of the European Union face serious challenge of Russian influence interfering in their sovereign decisions to further integrate with their western neighbours.

Homegrown Solutions for the Middle East

The set of security, social and political circumstances in the Middle East stir frequent discussions often leading to a lack of constructive solutions. The terrorist threat posed by Daesh and other groups, seemingly endless violence in Syria, waves of refugees fleeing the conflict and unsustainable social conditions make up for a complex challenge. What would expulsion of Daesh from Iraq mean for the stability of the whole region? What kind of future development would this bring for Syria, facing her own demons? Is federalisation of Syria a desirable solution to its current situation? What steps will need to be taken to ensure a proper reconstruction of the region? How should partners from the West be involved in this process? Would a concept inspired by the Marshall Plan be applicable to this type of political situation?

“Unless we defeat the ideology of Daesh they will keep radicalising the people all over the globe, attracting foreign fighters.”

- Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu



@GLOBSEC Tarek Osman:
demography is everything, above any
imposed political solution. #syria #irak
#middleEast #Globsec2017



From left:
Sir John Jenkins
H. E. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu
Hon. Nasser Judeh
Tarek Osman

Lyse Doucet of BBC has led a unique panel discussion dedicated to core questions of reconstruction of the Middle East region. Minister Çavuşoğlu of Turkey, former Foreign Minister of Jordan Nasser Judeh, Sir John Jenkins, the Executive Director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in Manama and Tarek Osman, a renowned Egyptian author and political economist, all expressed optimism that ISIL will be defeated. Although all agree that the greater challenge will follow.

Ministers also debated role of other regional players when Minister Çavuşoğlu described the role of Iran by saying that while it does not play a constructive role it cannot be ignored. Tarek Osman talked about the antagonizing effect of the Iranian expansionism – a sectarian dimension and a national dimension. Iran thus has to be approached with the identity politics in mind – approaching them as an opponent only adds to the fire.

The moderator of the debate, Lyse Doucet also invited GLOBSEC Young Leaders to contribute to discussion. The debate turned to question of possibility of implementing the new “Marshall plan for Middle East”. Although the panel did not share the enthusiasm for the proposed plan to reconstruct the region by establishing an international fund, everyone encouraged the young leaders in the room to keep being engaged. The young generation is the crucial element of the region to be invested in heavily by the private sector, as the young population has an immense potential to transform the region for the better.

“Iran is not playing constructive role in the region. But we cannot ignore Iran.”

- Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu

Eastern Neighbourhood 2017: Times of Turmoil Ahead?

One of the most fascinating debates took place on Sunday morning when Georgian Prime Minister took to the stage, joined by Foreign Ministers of Latvia and Ukraine, National Security Advisor to US Vice President Pence, Andrea Thompson and a member of the Russian parliament, Vyacheslav Nikonov. The exchange of views on this panel reflected the completely contrasting worldviews from EU capitals, Kyiv and that of Moscow. The concept of sovereignty, understood in the West as untouchable was questioned by the Russian representative when the issue of integration of Ukraine, Georgia or Moldova to the EU and NATO was brought up.

“The artificial borders do not reflect certain ethnic and historical realities.”

- Vyacheslav Nikonov



From left:
Vyacheslav Nikonov
H. E. Edgars Rinkievičs
H. E. Giorgi Kvirikashvili
H. E. Pavlo Klimkin
Andrea Thompson

Prime Minister Kvirikashvili opened the panel with his remarks stressing that his country is getting ready for the Eastern Partnership Summit and expressed hopes for strong political statements from his European counterparts. Later in the debate, when asked about the spreading euroskepticism within the EU borders, the Prime Minister remarked that Georgians, unlike some EU citizens realise the successes of the project.



Europeans often do not realise the successes of the #EU, expresses #Georgia's PM @KvirikashviliGi at #GLOBSEC2017



“We have fundamental difference with Russia in understanding everything.” says @PavloKlimkin at #GLOBSEC2017

Moderator Brian Whitmore of Radio Free Europe in Prague best **summarised** the exchange between Nikonov and Ukrainian Foreign Minister, Pavlo Klimkin, about what “Europe” even means:

Nikonov set his argument up by asking the questions: What is the largest European city? What is the largest European country? His answer, of course, was Moscow and Russia. And the implication was that Russia was being excluded from its rightful place.



H. E. Pavlo Klimkin

“If you play with geography,” Klimkin responded, “Moscow can be considered a European city. But for me, the real division is about people and their values. And if you consider Kyiv and Moscow now, they are two completely different worlds. The reality we have in Russia is not a European reality.”

The debate also touched upon the integration of Ukraine, Moldova or Georgia to NATO and the scenario of Western troops entering Crimea. Here, Nikonov had several noteworthy remarks that were covered by Patrick Tucker of **Defense One**: “Russia would be forced to use nuclear weapons in any conflict in which US or NATO forces entered eastern Ukraine”.

Mr Nikonov noted that while the goal of Russia in the region is to keep neighbouring countries as close as possible, the strategy of the West is to get them as far from Russia as they can. However, when asked about the state of relations with the West, Nikonov stressed the importance of dialogue.

Both Andrea Thompson and Minister Klimkin challenged the title of the debate - Eastern Neighbourhood 2017: Times of Turmoil Ahead? Minister Klimkin expressed his hope that the term neighbourhood is outdated. His point was reinforced by Prime Minister Kvirikashvili who pointed out that Eastern European countries are no longer post-Soviet or post-communist. They are sovereign nations with ambitions and agendas.

Andrea Thompson on the other hand challenged the title, saying she sees no turmoil ahead in the future of the region, rather the opposite.

**“The future
is very bright
for Ukraine and
Georgia.
It is an incredible
time in history.”**

- Andrea Thompson

EUROPE ADAPTING (TO) THE FUTURE



H. E. Andrej Kiska

**“The time
is right for Europe
to strengthen its
confidence.”**

- Miroslav Lajčák

The future of the united Europe was among the top issues discussed during multiple sessions. The Slovak President Andrej Kiska started the debate when he stressed in his keynote address that the West is not only a geographic concept. The modern West is a decades-old and value-based partnership - with NATO and the EU being the two institutions vital for our survival. That said, the European Union is not just another trade area, but the single most important project of peace and prosperity in the history of our continent.

Foreign Minister of Slovakia Miroslav Lajčák also reaffirmed in his opening remarks that the confidence of Europeans is key to our common success.

Foreign Ministers of Visegrad countries shared the stage to talk about perspectives of their respective countries and of the region as such on the future of the European project, common values and common policies. While expressing some differences, the ministers share the vision of a strong Europe as an anchor of the V4's stability, security and prosperity.



@MiroslavLajčák: We see #V4 as constructive players in Europe; we are part of the solution, not part of the problem. At #GLOBSEC2017 panel on V4 perspective

Minister Waszczykowski reflecting on the current state of the Union reminded everyone to think about the reasons behind Brexit as well as consequences.

“We were concentrated on the enlargement once. Now we should think about why we are losing such an important country.”

- Witold Waszczykowski

A Night Owl off-the-record session titled Multi-Speed Europe: The Path After Brexit featuring, among others, President of Estonia Kersti Kaljulaid debated the economic future of the European Union. In the wake of multiple crises Europe is facing, the European project stands at a crossroad waiting for its future path to be determined. Unprecedented migratory flows, rise of populism or the historical call of a Member State for unwinding its ties with the Union sparked a debate on creating a better functioning EU capable of regaining credibility and peoples' trust. What structure will however ensure that the Union reclaims its former indisputable position? Can the concept of a multi-speed Europe, which already defines the economic integration process within the EU, shape the discourse of Europe's overall future direction? Could it prove feasible also in areas where the unity of EU Member States is indispensable?



H. E. Kersti Kaljulaid



H.E. Robert Fico (left)
H.E. Bohuslav Sobotka (right)



#Globsec2017 @Eucopresident Tusk
on #EU future: real threat not
multispeed but multidirection &
“postWestern” world

The Bratislava Roadmap enacted during the informal Summit of EU leaders in 2016 set out clear objectives and concrete measures in three crucial areas – migration and external borders, internal and external security, economic and social development of the youth. At the same time, French and German defence ministers plan to boost the common European defence. Joint proposal of Paris and Berlin is calling for more active EU defence, featuring more effective sharing of intelligence, and proposes establishment of the EU defence headquarters in Brussels. European Force Awakens, another off-the-record panel discussion, focused on the question of the European defence in the context of Common Security and Defence Policy.

**“We cannot allow
this issue of multi-
speed Europe to
become divisive.”**

- Robert Fico

The final panel of the 12th edition of GLOBSEC Bratislava Forum featured President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, joined by Slovak and Czech Prime Ministers, Robert Fico and Bohuslav Sobotka.



@SlavekSobotka expects bigger pressure from DE & FR for further integration of Eurozone. Debate on Euro in CZ will intensify. #GLOBSEC2017

All three leaders concurred that the multi-speed scenario of European integration is unavoidable; however, it does not mean Europe will be divided and weaker.



#GLOBSEC2017: Multi-speed Europe? 'There is nothing new, enhanced MS cooperation is foreseen in the Treaty, @eucopresident

Prime Minister Sobotka identified risks mainly in terms of creating potential obstacles for some countries to move to a higher level of integration when they are ready and willing to do so.

The three panellists considered a multi-speed form of integration a natural feature of a complex system such as the EU.

Furthermore, we should not see permanent political disputes and the quest for compromise as a disadvantage. It is our political heritage. At the same time, the EU should steer clear of making decisions on behalf of only few of its members, for example the eurozone countries.

Prime Minister Sobotka concluded that withdrawing solely to the bureaucratic processes will jeopardise the successful future of the EU. He emphasised practical work on the commitments from the summits in Bratislava and Malta. Finally, Prime Minister Fico stressed the importance of pragmatism and rationality when deciding to work on the issues that European countries agree on rather than ones that divide them.

“Permanent process of disputes and compromise is our political heritage”

- Donald Tusk



H. E. Donald Tusk

DEMOCRACY ADAPTING (TO) THE FUTURE



Hon. Stéphane Dion (left)
Jakub Wisniewski (right)

Strengths as well as inadequacies of Western democracy were addressed in several connotations throughout the whole Forum. The opening panel debate aimed to identify key trends shaping the future of the world order. Jakub Wisniewski, Director of GLOBSEC Policy Institute, kicked off these discussions on the democracy of the future by outlining three trends we need to beware of.

Firstly, the world of rules is tottering just when we need them the most. Second, the model of open society is vulnerable and disputed. Finally, in a post-truth society of today, we have to remind ourselves of the appealing narratives we should continue to tell.

As the debate turned to the role of China as a prospective leading power, the question of democracy arose. How does the democratic West fare against the rising economic and political power of the Chinese political system? On this point, former Canadian Foreign Minister Stéphane Dion stressed that democracy is our comparative strength.

However, apparent inability of today's democracy to cope with the challenges posed by the digital age was obviously one of the main points of discussions at GLOBSEC 2017. This problem was repeatedly factored in many different debates, however it culminated in the panel joined by Central and Eastern European Heads of Public Policy from

Facebook and Google, Gabriella Cseh and Marta Poslad respectively.

Panellists pondered upon the blurred lines of defining the fake news which complicate effective countering of this phenomenon.



Facebook removed 30.000 accounts during French election to counter #fakenews and be responsible platform. Good/bad? #GLOBSEC2017

Also joining the panel, Secretary Michael Chertoff clearly identified social media as a multiplier of the entry points through which fake news is disseminated.

GLOBSEC Policy Institute again proved to be a place to look for practical solutions. Secretary Chertoff presented newly established research initiative, Defending Democracy in the Digital Domain (D4). On one hand, the ambition is to understand the phenomenon of the fake news. Among practical solutions to be looked at will be attacking financial incentives for generating fake news, identifying automated processes spreading fake news and defining the limits of anonymity on the Internet.

Both representatives of Google and Facebook maintained that they are merely technological platforms enabling and empowering their users to have civic engagement. They consider fake news

“Curating of the news feeds and search results enhances the potency of fake news and propaganda.”

- Michael Chertoff

Gabriella Cseh





Christopher Walker

a societal rather than platform-specific issue. At the same time, these companies declared they do not shy away from responsibility. Number of measures to alert users about “disputed stories” are already being tested.

This argument opened the question when should a social platform be considered a media outlet. As of now, the companies refuse to be labelled this way, thus do not have to abide by the same standards as traditional media.

BBC’s News Editor, James Stephenson elaborated further on the disadvantage that traditional journalism has to put up with. While still being widely considered a backbone of a healthy democracy, publishing houses have difficulties reaching their audience and providing them with high-quality fact-checked content.

Vice-President of National Endowment for Democracy, Chris Walker, insisted that governments should consider this issue as a matter of national security. Additionally, civil society organisations play an instrumental role in explaining the importance of battling fake news dissemination.

“A lie is not an alternative point of view.”

- Christopher Walker

“Do we want to defend the news industry as we know it or we want to get quality news in a different way?”

- Marta Poslad



@Walker_CT the issue is if political leaders are committed to face new challenges posed by new media
#GLOBSEC2017

As a follow up on these main panel sessions, one of the off-the-record Night Owl Session titled *Disrupted Democracy* was dedicated to the question of the future of the institutions and of international order built on values of liberal democracy. The debate hosted Daniel Milo of GLOBSEC Policy Institute, Miriam Lexmann of the International Republican Institute, Ivan Krastev of Centre of Liberal Studies in Sofia and Michael Ignatieff, the President of the Central European University in Budapest.



From Left:
Natalie Nougayrède
Miriam Lexmann
Michael Ignatieff
Ivan Krastev
Daniel Milo

GLOBAL ECONOMY ADAPTING (TO) THE FUTURE

Already the initial brainstorming session with Nik Gowing at the beginning of the Forum foreshadowed issues pertinent to the future of global economy itself such as free trade, automation, Chinese economic incursions into Europe as well as artificial intelligence. Parag Khanna picked up on the issue of rising economic dynamism in Asia, particularly with regards to the strategy of China. This dynamism is likely to spill out further outside the region, thus making trade relations the undercurrent of future international politics as a whole.

Quoting Tom Nuttall, the moderator of the session focused on the dialectics of protectionism and globalism, “trade has become sexy again”. This is hardly a surprise given US President Trump’s tendencies to flip any known concepts of the free trade agreements and with anti-trade forces rising throughout European countries.

“There are winners and losers in any kind of free trade. Trade should be free but fair.”

- Sen. Ron Johnson



@DrPippaM : understanding Pres Trump negotiating strategy is key - he puts everything on the table, no respect for precedent #GLOBSEC2017



Parag Khanna



Sen. Ron Johnson

Philippa Malmgren, former Special Assistant to the President of the United States, reinforced Khanna's earlier argument about the interlink between foreign policy and trade goals calling trade policy "a step child of the political arena".

Similar sentiment was echoed by Senator Ron Johnson when asked about the Trump administration's approach to NAFTA, TPP and TTIP. In line with the White House's stance, he believes the USA was treated unfairly.

Barry Lynn, Director of Open Markets Program in New America, somewhat broadened this argument by insisting that free trade should be reconceptualised again as an anti-monopoly measure in order to free up the people. Malmgren joined him on this argument – stressing that free trade should protect competition, not the competitors. Both agreed that the system of global free trade is already set up. Our only responsibility is to take good care of its principles and not to take it for granted.

“Until our leaders stand behind the principles, it’s hard to see the details of trade agreements negotiated.”

- Philippa Malmgren



Hon. Rosen Plevneliev (left)
Hon. Vazil Hudák (right)

“Politics today is only following up, but it is not leading at all.”

- Rosen Plevneliev

Minister Stéphane Dion also weighed in on the challenging negotiations of multilateral trade agreements.



“Be patient” – advice of @HonStephaneDion to Australia for their trade negotiations with EU #GLOBSEC2017 on future of global free trade

While Canada would love to have a free trade arrangement under the TTP in the Pacific as well, he was clear to say it cannot be just any agreement. By the same token, there are serious concerns in Canada about looming renegotiations of NAFTA.

Furthermore, taking a more holistic look at the global economy, it is undeniably undergoing a major transformation framed as the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Vice-President of European Investment Bank, Vazil Hudák, reaffirmed that capturing and nurturing innovation will be crucial for adapting our economies to the future.

“I see a dramatic change in the way we do economics. Blockchain and cloud will make the shadow economy disappear.”

- Philippa Malmgren

Philippa Malmgren pondered upon global financial systems which are lagging behind the modernisation. Arguing for moving away from paper currency and traditional accounting systems, she clearly identified blockchain and cloud operations as the future.

At the same time, Malmgren cautioned against vulnerabilities which we, often unintentionally, create along the way of the ongoing transformation. Specifically, our dependence on electricity seems worrisome considering the digitalisation of pretty much every aspect of our daily lives.

The efforts to reconcile inevitable automation with bleak outlooks for the future of employment were also touched upon several times. Former president of Bulgaria, Rosen Plevneliev warned about inability of leaders to build up new skills of their citizens to help them accommodate such profound transformation. On the other hand, Malmgren as a robotics manufacturer herself is optimistic about future jobs. She believes that while automation will eradicate numerous jobs, it will also free up human capital to do new kinds of jobs that do not even exist at the moment.



From Left:
Patrcik Tucker
Khalil Rouhana
Marek Rosa
Andreas Ebert

“Fear of robots” was also the underlying theme of the debate dedicated to the challenges of the artificial intelligence. AI is often credited with future loss of jobs on one hand and doubling of the economic growth on the other. Deputy Director-General of the European Commission’s DG CONNECT, Khalil Rouhana pointed out the Eubarometer results showing that those countries which invest the most into innovation and automation, have the lowest unemployment rate.

“Economy will force us to allow robots and AI to produce goods.”

- Marek Rosa



Khalil Rouhana

“Fears are justified if you are not able to master the technology.”

- Khalil Rouhana

Mr Rouhana, however, cautioned against early regulation as it may hamper the full development of this innovation.



#Policymaking priorities in #EU for #AI: facilitating #research and #innovation, #privacy protection, and #cybersecurity. #GLOBSEC2017

Microsoft's EU Technology Officer, Andreas Ebert echoed similar optimism. Their development of the AI is guided by the principle of democratisation of the AI. The goal is to spread the advantages of the AI broadly throughout the countries and sectors of economy and ensure wide access to it for the benefit of all humanity.



Microsoft: Companies are developing #AI based on principles. Must support people, not decide their fate, and need politics too #GLOBSEC2017

The issue of updating the skills of the workforce brought up the discussion on digital literacy. Here is the space for the governments to step in. CEO of GoodAI, Marek Rosa, called for focusing on mastering meta digital skills rather than particular ones.

“We are at this incremental breaking point when the advancement starts to go very fast in many directions.”

- Maroš Šefčovič



Philippa Malmgren (left)
Hon. Maroš Šefčovič (right)



“Every narrow skill you master will become obsolete, lets us focus on general skills” #GLOBSEC2017 remark by @marek_rosa

In general, the consensus over a number of panels was, as Martina Larkin of World Economic Forum put it, that the “next area to be disrupted will be education”.

Such dramatic changes in the economic landscape are already shaking up governance. Its ability to adapt will determine the success or failure of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Long-term principled leadership will be necessary to prevent backlash from the citizens and a kind of “neo-Amish” resistance towards innovation.

“Because of the inspiration from the private sector, we start to notice much more dynamism in governmental sector as well.”

- Martina Larkin



From Left:
Simon Nixon
Philippa Malmgren
Hon. Maroš Šefčovič
Hon. Rosen Plevneliev
Hon. Vazil Hudák
Martina Larkin

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