

2nd UKRAINE REALITY CHECK

28th October, 2014, Kyiv
Embassy of Lithuania in Ukraine
21 Buslivska Street

PROGRAMME

The Eastern Partnership Reality Check is a policy review process aiming to gather insights from top domestic and international analysts, practitioners, diplomats and policy-makers covering Eastern Partnership countries in order to discuss these behind closed doors. It has the ambition to satisfy demand for a more in-depth policy in this area. Under the aegis of Lithuania's EU Presidency (July-December 2013) the first such a review was the Belarus Reality Check (BRC) enacted in Vilnius, Lithuania October 2012. The Reality Checks are now held under the aegis of the upcoming Latvia's EU Presidency (January-June 2015). The 2nd Ukraine Reality Check is comprised of top Ukrainian and international analysts, observers and practitioners to achieve evidence and ground based analysis as well as balanced policy advice. Published non-papers are product of the meetings, fact-checking and peer review process.

09.30 – 10.00 Registration & Welcome Coffee

10.00 – 10.15 **Opening and Welcome Remarks**

10.15 – 11.45 **SITUATION IN EASTERN UKRAINE: LOCAL OBJECTIVES AND RUSSIA'S TACTICS**

The long waited ceasefire was announced on September 6 but the main question is, still, whether it can hold long? Presidents Poroshenko and Putin seems wanting peace but would like to see their own terms meet. Both, but especially Ukraine's Poroshenko is under great domestic pressure. What the separatists end game, though, and what they have the capacity for is remaining a question. There are now not only indications but enough evidence that Russia not only continues to support separatists but also sending their regular troops into east Ukraine. On the Ukraine side the lack of integration, coordination between volunteer battalions and the army as well as the state of army seems the main issue. This panel will focus on the latest developments in Eastern Ukraine, will try to put the east Ukraine question into a national, regional and global context and will analyse Russia's strategic objectives for a post-crisis scenario.

11.45 – 12.00 Coffee Break

12.00 – 13.30 **UKRAINE'S INTERNAL POLITICS AND THE OUTCOMES OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS: CHANGE WE CAN BELIEVE IN?**

The Ukraine Reality Check will be hold right after the parliamentary elections (October 26), while the political parties running showed signs of "disintegration" of Maidan forces. This panel will focus on analysing how Ukraine may look like after elections, tracking the most important power groups and their potential and objectives, the chances and alternatives of constitutional reforms, the role of oligarchs and the likelihood of the already whispered 3rd Maidan.

13.30 – 14.30 Lunch

Supporters:



Implementers:



14.30 – 16.00 **COLD WINTER AHEAD: ECONOMIC TRENDS AND ENERGY FACTOR**

Ukraine faces tremendous economic challenge: the country is at the brink of bankruptcy. 70% of Donbas coal mines are now defunct while there is growing expectations that Russia may turn off gas supplies during the winter. With the daily – projected – interruption of electricity supplies it feels like the country is back to the 90ies. This panel will focus on the actual socio-economic situation throughout Ukraine, the potential of oligarchs footing the bill, the need of external support as well as the actual energy (gas, coal) situation for the upcoming winter.

11.45 – 12.00 Coffee Break

16.00 – 17.30 **UKRAINE AND THE REFORM CHALLENGE**

Although Ukraine has signed Association Agreement with the EU not its ratification or any longer its implementation the main challenge. Fresh calculations are much less optimistic about what economic gains can the agreement bring to Ukraine as the country is facing a financial and economic breakdown. Far reaching but painful reforms to re-build the broke down central and regional authorities, patience, time and much more Western assistance would be needed to cover the costs of transition as originally thought. What is feasible for Ukraine at this stage what it can expect from the EU in its reform process? What role the AA and the EU can play the changed circumstances? Is Western assistance covering Ukraine current needs? What is the role of civil society in reforms? How to score a balance between the costs and the benefits of Ukraine's reforms? What role Russia can play in these efforts?

17.30 – 17.45 Closing Remarks

18.00 – 20.00 Dinner

Supporters:



Implementers:

