

Europe from Outside: on Association Agreements

Date: Thursday, March 31st, at 8 pm

Venue: Spui 25, Amsterdam

The EU typically concludes Association Agreements in exchange for commitments to political, economic, trade, or human rights reform in a country. In other words, the AA bring “the outside countries” closer to EU standards and norms.

However, it remains unclear what exactly are these Association Agreements that are causing such debates and uncertainties, especially within the Eastern Partnerships. What issues and controversies come up as Eastern European countries such as Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova negotiate their Association Agreements? What is the relation between signing an Association Agreement and the prospect of EU membership? – Or is it not at all a step towards membership? These questions are of particular importance for the agreement between the EU and Ukraine. Many academic and popular voices think this agreement will play a major role in the future of the EU’s relations with its eastern neighbourhood.

This programme focuses on the external effects of the AA, and, particularly, on Ukraine, and the importance that country attaches to an EU membership perspective. The challenges for the EU from “outside Europe” will also be discussed, including the threat of growing Russian aggression.

Programme:

Moderator: Marieke de Goede (UvA)

- "The EU’s Association Agreements: A New Form of Imperialism?" *Annette Freyberg-Inan* (UvA).

- Association Agreements and Eastern Partnership: is the EU membership perspective real? *Peter Van Elsuwege* (Universiteit Gent).

- Would a successful EU-Ukraine co-operation be a powerful answer to Russian aggression? *Raimundas Karoblis* (Vice-minister of Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

- EU from outside: Ukraine’s’ perspective. *Nataliya Popovyck* (*Representative* of the Ukrainian Media Crisis Centre)

Conclusions and discussion.

Organizers:

The corresponding organizer: Teodora Gaidyte, VU University Amsterdam

Co-organizers: Zahra Runderkamp (UvA), Steven Blockmans (CEPS), Ben Crum (VU University Amsterdam), Gijs van der Starre (UvA), Jonathan Zeitlin (UvA).