

## Mikuláš Dzurinda: Transatlantic Relations in the Era of Global Turbulence

Thu, 10/10/2019 - 17:00

**Mikuláš Dzurinda**  
President and Member of the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies  
Former Prime Minister of Slovakia (1998-2006)

**TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS IN  
THE ERA OF GLOBAL TURBULENCE**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10  
5:00PM**

ATRIUM - CAMPUS OF WEBSTER  
VIENNA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY  
PRATERSTRASSE 23, 1020 VIENNA

RSVP to [office.director@webster.ac.at](mailto:office.director@webster.ac.at)  
by Tuesday, October 8

  


Webster Vienna Private University and the Foreign Policy and United Nations Association of Austria cordially invite you to the guest lecture of Mikuláš Dzurinda on *Transatlantic Relations in the Era of Global Turbulence* on October 10<sup>th</sup> 2019.

Mikuláš Dzurinda was elected president of the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies (WMCES) in December 2013. He is the former prime minister of Slovakia (1998-2006) and has held various positions in government since first entering politics in 1990. Once he became prime minister and formed a coalition government in 1998, Dzurinda introduced far-reaching reforms which have enabled Slovakia to begin the process of joining the EU and NATO. After being re-elected in 2002, Dzurinda led Slovakia to become a member of the EU and NATO in 2004. Since Slovakia gained independence in 1993, Dzurinda has also held the position of Minister of Transportation and more recently that of Minister for Foreign Affairs (from July 2010 to April 2012). Dzurinda is a founding member of the Slovak Democratic and Christian Union – Democratic Party (SDKÚ-DS) and was chairman of the party from 2000 to 2012. From 2012 to 2016 he was a member of the Slovak Parliament. In 2007 he was awarded the F.A. Hayek International Prize for reforms and fight against bureaucracy. He is also a marathon runner.

In his lecture Mr. Dzurinda will address a number of serious challenges the EU is facing: highly unstable neighbourhood, aggressiveness of Russia, unprecedented immigration, rise of populism, extremism and nationalism. Growing uncertainties characterize especially the last decade. But it is not only external circumstances that are disturbing. Also the current US president keeps sending ambiguous signals. And not only towards Russia, but also - not seldom - towards the Western allies. NATO suffers also from its internal weaknesses. The vast majority of its members are unwilling or unable to increase their defence spending to the required 2 % of GDP. Turkey operates in the Middle East not always in compliance with the Western Alliance. Moreover the country is buying Russian anti-missile systems and considers to attract also Russian fighters. What is the future of the Transatlantic Alliance under such circumstances? What steps should the EU undertake so as to protect its citizens in the years and decades to come?

**October 10th 2019, 5:00pm, Atrium WVPU**

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