

Making Enlargement Work, Again

IVA Konferenscenter, Grev Turegatan 16, Stockholm

27 September, 2024, 08.00–16.15

Language: English – Free of charge

08.30 – 09.00

Registration and coffee

09.00 – 09.25

Welcome from SIEPS

Introductory keynote address

Christian Danielsson, State Secretary for EU affairs, Swedish Prime Minister's Office

09.30 – 10.30

1. Enlargement Today – Is it different this time?

Today's enlargement process is embedded in a narrative of EU interests, values, and ambitions. Russia's full-scale invasion has sharpened all three factors and intensified the contradictions today facing the enlargement process. The purpose of this panel is to explore the challenges facing EU enlargement today, along with their potential impact on institutional and geopolitical considerations, and EU integration.

Speakers

Lars Danielsson (former Permanent Representative of Sweden to the EU), **Kristi Raik** (ICDS), **Funda Tekin** (IEP)

10.30 – 11.00

Coffee break

11.00 – 12.00

2. Process – The EU's transformational impact on candidate states – is it enough?

One central pillar of EU enlargement is the capacity of the union to influence democratic reform and transform societies in candidate countries and new member states. Recent examples of democratic backsliding and the weakening of the rule of law across the union call into question the EU's transformational capacity. Against this background, this panel will discuss how to make enlargement fit for purpose by focusing on key takeaways from previous enlargement rounds as well as different ways of solving the contradiction between geostrategic urgency and adhering to a strict rules-based accession.

Speakers

Steven Blockmans (ICDS), **Christophe Hillion** (NUPI), **Visnja Vukov** (University of Vienna)

12.00 – 13.20

Lunch

13.20 – 14.20

3. Security – How does enlargement affect the security of the EU and its ability to be a real security provider?

One purpose of integrating the Eastern and Southeastern neighbourhood into the EU is to enhance regional stability, impede authoritarian interferences, and thereby increase EU security. However, this proposition also raises serious questions about the EU's security and defence capabilities. This panel focuses on the institutional and political requirements for the EU to advance as a security union, the implications *of* and *for* the transatlantic partnership, and foreign and security policy alignment as an accession gateway.

Speakers

Veronica Anghel (EUI), **Barbara Lippert** (SWP), **Michael Leigh** (SAIS Johns Hopkins)

14.20 – 15.30

4. Legitimacy – Public legitimacy and geopolitics ahead of the next enlargement: what is the cost of non-debate?

This session explores the contradictions between geopolitical imperatives and the need for public involvement in shaping the future of the union. At present, the process of enlargement is largely driven by a geopolitical and security logic. But enlargement is also a political project which will ultimately frame the future of the EU. As the process proceeds, the need for a public conversation about the potential institutional and policy consequences and trade-offs involved becomes stronger. Without one, can the EU withstand a potential public backlash?

Speakers

Antoaneta Dimitrova (Leiden University), **Cecilia Malmström** (former Swedish Commissioner and Minister for EU affairs), **Piotr Buras** (ECFR Poland)

15.30 – 16.15

Closing remarks – Looking ahead: can the EU master the art of the (im)possible?

Erik Jones (EUI)