

## What do Hungarian foreign policy stakeholders think?

### List of Speakers



**Péter BALÁZS** is Director of the Center for EU Enlargement Studies. His research activities are centered on the foreign policy of the EU and problems of the late modernization and European integration of the Eastern part of the continent. He also analyzes the questions of European governance including the future of European institutions. Prof. Balázs graduated in Budapest at the Faculty of Economics of the “Karl Marx” University (later: Budapest School of Economics, today Corvinus University), where he also got his PhD degree and habilitated. He is a ScD of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He was nominated Professor of the Corvinus University in 2000 and joined the Central European University as a full time Professor in 2005. He is regularly teaching at various Hungarian and foreign universities, lecturing in English, French, German and Hungarian.

After the regime change in 1990, Prof. Balázs joined the Government of Hungary several times. He was State Secretary for Industry and Trade (1992-1993) and State Secretary for European Integration (2002-2003). He was Ambassador of Hungary in Denmark (1994-1996), Germany (1997-2000) and to the EU in Brussels (2003-2004). He was also the Government Representative of Hungary in the European Convention drafting the Constitutional Treaty. In 2004, he was nominated the first Hungarian member of the European Commission responsible for regional policy. In 2009-2010, he was Foreign Minister of Hungary.

**Szabolcs TAKÁCS** is State Secretary for European Affairs in the Prime Minister’s Office of Hungary since December 2014. Prior to his current position, he had held several high-level positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, which he joined in 2002. Between 2013 and 2014, he served as Political Director and Deputy State Secretary for security policy of the MFA, in 2012-2013 as Deputy State Secretary for global affairs, in 2011-2012 as Head of the Asia and Pacific Department where he held various positions before. Between 2005 and 2009 he served in Hungary’s diplomatic mission to Doha, Qatar.

He holds a Master degree in political science (1999) and in European studies (2002), as well as a Bachelor degree in English (1999) from the University of Pécs.





**Zsuzsanna VÉGH** is Research Fellow at the Center for EU Enlargement Studies of the Central European University since 2012. Her areas of research include the Visegrad Cooperation, the Visegrad countries' (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) foreign, security and international development policies and the EU's Eastern Partnership policy. She joined CENS after obtaining her MA degree at the International Relations and European Studies program of the Central European University (2012). She also holds a Master from the Eötvös Loránd University in international studies with a concentration on EU affairs and external relations (2011). Previously she worked as Associate Fellow at the former Hungarian Institute of International Affairs (2011-2013).

**Edit ZGUT** is an analyst of at Political Capital. After acquiring her degree in political sciences at Eötvös Loránd University, she worked as a journalist at several news outlets. She was a columnist at Kitekinto.hu, a prestigious newspaper on foreign affairs, where her area of expertise was Western Europe. She also contributed for hirado.hu a Hungarian news outlet on foreign affairs, then she became an editor and journalist for a popular Hungarian weekly magazine, Heti Válasz. Currently she is an analyst at Political Capital, a Budapest based think tank.

