



REKA Event EU and Ukraine

Ukraine in the EU: geopolitical and economic opportunities

Monday, March 4, 12:30 - 16:45, Int'l Press Center Nieuwspoord in The Hague

Background

While Ukraine is still suffering from Russia's war of aggression every day, the country is working hard on a better future. Whether it is about political and economic reforms, the reconstruction of infrastructure or attracting foreign investments: Ukraine is building a better future – a future without war and in the European Union.

Ten years after the conclusion of the Revolution of Dignity and the start of Russia's war against Ukraine, the latter has a concrete prospect of joining the European Union. Ukraine has completed over 90% of the necessary steps for the opening of accession negotiations laid out by the European Commission in 2022, and in December 2023 the European Council decided to open negotiations with Ukraine.

Accession to the EU will have a profound impact on Ukraine as well as on the Union's 27 existing member states, including the Netherlands. REKA's EU and Ukraine Symposium focuses on the wider consequences of Ukraine's accession: how would both Ukraine and the EU benefit from the former's membership of the EU? What opportunities and challenges does an enlarged Union bring? In two sessions with keynote speakers and subsequent panel discussions with experts, we discuss the potential geopolitical and economic impact of a Ukrainian EU membership.

The first session focuses on the geopolitical dimension and starts with a keynote address by François Heisbourg, Senior Adviser for Europe for the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), followed by a panel discussion with experts on the EU's geopolitical function and the role of Ukraine. After a networking break, H.E. Oleksandr Kubrakov, Deputy Prime Minister for Restoration of Ukraine, will open the afternoon programme and share his thoughts about rebuilding Ukraine for a better future. Subsequently, Olena Zerkal (advisor Ukrenergo and UNDP) kicks off a discussion about the economic potential of Ukrainian EU membership. After the keynote speech, a panel of experts joins the stage to talk about economic integration and discuss concrete examples on the ground.

Practical information

Venue: International Press Center Nieuwspoord, Bezuidenhoutseweg 67, 2594 AC, The Hague

Date and time: Monday, March 4, 2024, doors open 12:30

Working language: English

IMPORTANT: *Nieuwspoord is located in the building of the House of Representatives. Therefore, security measures apply. Please note that it is required to [register your visit to Nieuwspoord](#) separately from your registration for our event. You will need to show your ID. You can find directions to Nieuwspoord [here](#).*

Speakers

Session 1: Opening remarks

Erik Weststrate (Director Europe at Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Kees Klompenhouwer (Host o/b/o Open Door Ukraine, fmr. Dutch Ambassador to Ukraine)

Geopolitical panel

Keynote speaker: **François Heisbourg** (Senior Advisor for Europe at IISS)

Panelists: **Joanneke Balfort** (Director Security and Defence policy at EEAS), **Dick Berlijn** (fmr. Commander of the Armed Forces of the Kingdom of the Netherlands), **Justyna Gotkowska** (deputy director OSW)

Moderator: **Rem Korteweg** (Clingendael Institute)

Session 2: Opening speech

H.E. Oleksandr Kubrakov (Deputy Prime Minister for Restoration of Ukraine) [digital]

Economic panel

Keynote speaker: **Olena Zerkal** (advisor Ukrenergo and UNDP)

Panelists: **Willem Coppoolse** (ERU), **Kees Huizinga** (Dutch farmer in Ukraine), **Jeroen Ketting** (LifeLine Ukraine), **Iryna Tytarchuk** (Executive director Ukraine Investment & Trade Facilitation Center)

Moderator: **Wessel de Jong** (NOS)

Schedule

12:30 - Doors open

13:00 - Opening words by Erik Weststrate

13:10 - Introduction by Kees Klompenhouwer

Geopolitical dimension of Ukraine's EU accession

13:15 - Keynote address

13:30 - Panel discussion

14:30 - Coffee break

15:00 - Opening speech by Deputy Prime Minister Kubrakov [digital]

Economic dimension of Ukraine's EU accession

15:15 - Keynote address

15:30 - Panel discussion

16:30 - Concluding remarks

16:45 - End of symposium

16:45 - Networking drinks

17:45 - Doors closed

Reading materials

Would you like to read up on our topics for March 4? Here are some suggestions:

- [Rearming Europe To Win Ukraine's Long War](#) (François Heisbourg, Groupe d'études géopolitiques)
- [Trump-Proofing Europe](#) (Foreign Affairs)
- [The old is dying and the new cannot be born](#) (Kadri Liik, ECFR)
- [Europe needs a new Ukraine strategy](#) (Mark Leonard, ECFR)
- [Outlier or not? The Ukrainian economy's preparedness for EU accession](#) (wiiw)
- [Ukraine's EU Integration: A Long Way Home](#) (Ilona Sologoub, Intereconomics)
- [Why Ukraine Matters to Europe](#) (Tomas Valasek, Centre for European Reform)
- [Setting Transatlantic Defence up for Success](#) (Estonian Ministry of Defence)
- [The Impact of Ukrainian Membership on the EU's Institutions and Internal Balance of Power](#) (Steven Blockmans, ICDS)

We are looking forward to welcoming you on March 4.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of the organizers,

Kees Klompenhouwer
Former Dutch Ambassador to Ukraine

Jelle Baartmans
Coordinator



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