

EU NEIGHBOURHOOD EAST FORUM
**“OUR STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE OF EASTERN
PARTNERSHIP”**

AGENDA

11:00 – 13:00, Salle 6Q1
European Parliament, Brussels

Introductory statements

- 11:00 – 11:10 **Mr Andrius KUBILIUS**, Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the Euronest PA – [Trio Strategy 2030](#) and the Future of Eastern Partnership
- 11:10 – 11:20 **Mr Christian DANIELSSON**, Director General, DG NEAR, European Commission
- 11:20 – 11:30 **Mr Luc DEVIGNE**, Director for Russia, Eastern Partnership, Central Asia and OSCE, European External Action Service
- 11:30 – 11:40 **Mr Tomi HUHTANEN**, Executive Director, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies
- 11:40 – 11:50 **Mr Michael EMERSON**, Associate Senior Research Fellow, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)
- 11:50 – 12:00 **Mr Jamie Shea**, Senior Adviser / **Ms Amanda Paul**, Senior Policy Analyst, European Policy Centre (EPC)
- 12:00 – 12:10 **Mr Harry NEDELCO**, Policy Associate, Rasmussen Global
- 12:10 – 12:50 DISCUSSION WITH MEPS FROM DIFFERENT POLITICAL GROUPS**
- 12:50 – 13:00 CONCLUDING REMARKS**

THE EU NEIGHBOURHOOD EAST FORUM

Mission Statement

The perspective of Eastern Partnership countries and their people, who neighbour the European Union and Russia, is important not only to the future of the region itself, but also to the future of the whole European continent. We have to consider this region as an opportunity for the European Union to advance stability and security in the neighbourhood and in such a way to assist Russia to transform itself into an open European democracy.

Today, the Eastern Partnership region and its countries have many challenges and many differences. Some of the partners (Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova) have chosen a successful path of European integration reforms and signed with the EU ambitious Association Agreements, which include the creation of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area.

The European choice of other partners is more ambivalent. Armenia, which has signed the CEPA with the EU, is living through big political changes. Azerbaijan, which has in force the PCA, is a country with very favorable natural conditions and rich natural resources. Belarus is still not able to have a positive record of respecting the international law and improving human rights, as well as to have democratic elections, which would be recognised as legitimate by the Western community.

Nonetheless, there is a chance that European integration success of Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia, supported by the EU Association Trio strategy, can be also an example to the remaining countries in the region. It can even inspire Russia and its people to seek a transformation into an open European democracy. For example, the Presidential election in Ukraine is a case, which offered an example of democratic change to the rest of the former Soviet Union. By looking at Ukraine we see that everything is possible.

Since the World War II and especially since the fall of the Berlin Wall, a transformation in the European continent of post-totalitarian or post-soviet countries into successful and democratic countries was happening only through the process of integration with the EU. There is not a single European country, which by staying alone was able to keep a motivation and political will for painful reforms. We have to acknowledge that the success of transformation process in those countries was mainly due to the EU soft power of integration and a promise of enlargement to move forward with the implementation of necessary reforms.

Ten years ago the EU showed it had a responsibility for the future of the region and it has initiated the implementation of Eastern Partnership strategy. Since then a lot has been achieved, but there is still much more to be done. It will depend not only on the will of the Eastern Partnership countries to make reforms, but also on the EU being smart and dynamic in using a soft power of the EU integration.

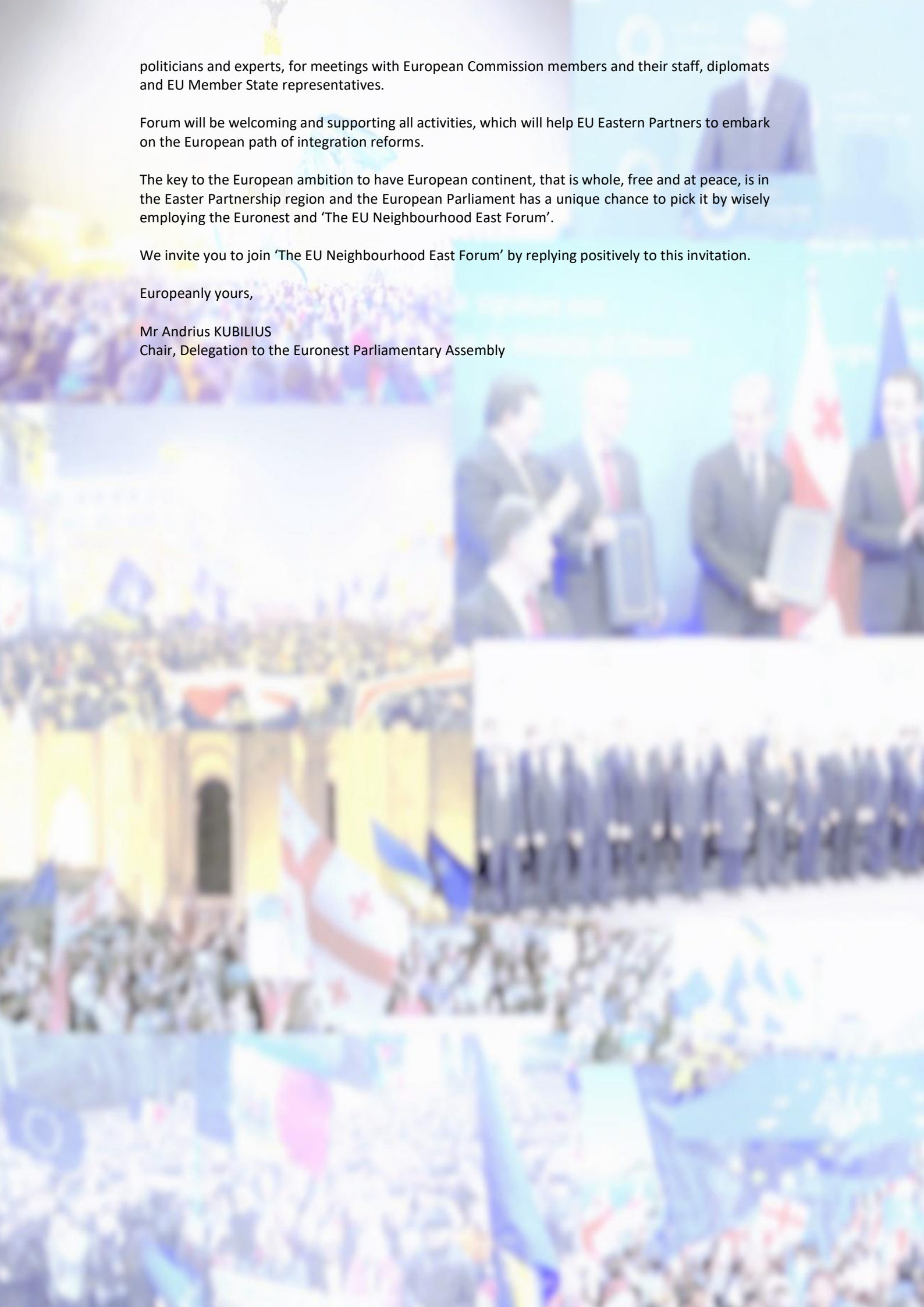
The objective of the EU Neighbourhood East Forum

The European Parliament is an important forum of political discussion in the European continent. The Eastern Partnership policy up until now took an important part in this discussion, as the European Parliament has established the European Parliamentary Assembly (Euronest), which plays a leading role in shaping the debate on the future of our relations with EU Eastern Partners.

However, taking into account the fact that the Eastern Partnership as a region is very dynamic and has many political developments, and that the information the European Parliament is receiving from this region, does not always reflect a complete picture of the events in those countries, it would be beneficial to have a constant political attention by MEPs on the EU strategy and instruments to support the Eastern Partners.

In order to facilitate this and to assist the Euronest, we propose to establish in the European Parliament an informal permanent forum of discussions open to all interested MEPs, which we could call as 'The EU Neighbourhood East Forum'.

This forum could be a place of seminars, meetings, talks or conferences, exchange of views on reports or studies, or even a place of political debates. It could be a place for meetings with public activists,



politicians and experts, for meetings with European Commission members and their staff, diplomats and EU Member State representatives.

Forum will be welcoming and supporting all activities, which will help EU Eastern Partners to embark on the European path of integration reforms.

The key to the European ambition to have European continent, that is whole, free and at peace, is in the Eastern Partnership region and the European Parliament has a unique chance to pick it by wisely employing the Euronest and 'The EU Neighbourhood East Forum'.

We invite you to join 'The EU Neighbourhood East Forum' by replying positively to this invitation.

Europeally yours,

Mr Andrius KUBILIUS
Chair, Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly