



The Foreign Policy Centre and the European Commission
Representation in the UK with the University of Birmingham

Trouble in the Neighbourhood? The future of the EU's Eastern Partnership Birmingham Seminar

DATE: Tuesday 17th February 2015

TIME: 6pm-7.30pm

VENUE: Muirhead Tower Room 121, Edgbaston Campus, University of Birmingham, B15 2TT

Speakers:

- **Rt Hon John Spellar MP**, Shadow Foreign Affairs Minister (Labour)
- **James Carver MEP**, European Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee (UKIP)
- **Dr Kataryna Wolczuk**, Reader in Politics and International Studies, Centre for Russian, European and Eurasian Studies (CREES), University of Birmingham
- **Dr Rilka Dragneva-Lewers**, Senior Lecturer, University of Birmingham
- **Dr Kevork Oskanian**, Research Fellow, CREES, University of Birmingham

Chair: Adam Hug, Policy Director, Foreign Policy Centre

This Birmingham seminar for the *Trouble in the Neighbourhood? The future of the EU's Eastern Partnership* project, in partnership with the European Commission Representation in the UK and the University of Birmingham, will take stock of recent developments in the EU's relationship with the countries in its eastern neighbourhood: Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Belarus and Ukraine. The issue of the EU's role in the region and the influence of the Russian-led alternative the Eurasian Economic Union have been at the heart of a major geo-political upheaval. The decision by Ukraine's then President Yanukovich to reject Eastern Partnership under pressure from Russia in the summer of 2013 lit the spark for the dramatic subsequent events in that country, while Armenia made a similar switch under Russian pressure ahead of the key November 2013 Vilnius summit. This seminar will look at the key planks of the EU's approach to the region including the offers of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements, visa liberalisation, funding for reform projects and political engagement. The seminar will examine both the EU's objectives in the region and how Europe is perceived by the Eastern Partnership countries themselves, along with how the domestic political situation in EU member states (most notably the UK) and the Eastern Partners shapes the relationship.

The seminar will also act as a launch event for the new publication *Trouble in the Neighbourhood? The future of the EU's Eastern Partnership* and free copies will be available.

The event is free and open to all. Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to

events@fpc.org.uk