



The Foreign Policy Centre and the European Commission
Representation in the UK

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

DATE: Tuesday 3rd March 2015

TIME: 6.00pm-7.30pm

VENUE: Committee Room 16, House of Commons, Westminster, London, SW1A 0AA

Speakers:

- **Mike Gapes MP**, Member of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee (Labour)
- **Laura Sandys MP**, Chair, European Movement (Conservative)
- **Baroness Falkner**, Liberal Democrat Foreign Affairs Spokesperson
- **Dr Andrew Wilson**, Reader in Ukrainian Studies, UCL School of Slavonic & East European Studies and Senior Policy Fellow, ECFR
- **Dr Kevork Oskanian**, Research Fellow, University of Birmingham and FPC Research Associate

Chair: **Mary Dejevsky**, Chief Editorial Writer and Columnist, The Independent

This second London seminar as part of the *Trouble in the Neighbourhood? The future of the EU's Eastern Partnership* project, in partnership with the European Commission Representation in the UK, 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.

This is the second of the two London events. Free copies of the *Trouble in the Neighbourhood? The future of the EU's Eastern Partnership* publication will be available.

The event is free and open to all. Please RSVP to events@fpc.org.uk