



CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT  
FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE



EUCAM  
EU-CENTRAL ASIA MONITORING



## PROMOTING REGIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL ASIA

**2-3 March 2009**

*Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)  
Place du Congrès 1  
Brussels, Belgium*

*A Conference organised by the Centre for European Policy Studies, (CEPS), Wolfensohn Centre for Development (Brookings Institution), the Carnegie Endowment, and the Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior (FRIDE) with the support of the CAREC Programme of the Asian Development Bank.*

---

### Prospectus

Promoting economic development in Central Asia is one of the key challenges for the governments and societies of the region and for the international community. Raising equitable forms of prosperity across the region is likely to generate a broad range of positive impacts on Central Asia, including genuine and long term stability. Strengthening the basis for regional cooperation is one of the most powerful ways to foster development. In this way, enhancing regional cooperation will enable the states of Central Asia to meet better the individual and collective challenges currently facing them.

In recent years, important progress has been achieved in setting in place key infrastructure and agreements to facilitate the economic and business relationships necessary to promote regional economic cooperation and development in Central Asia. These developments take place at a time when some parts of the region are enjoying economic growth, primarily as a result of their significant activity in resource based sectors. The emergence of local centres of economic dynamism offers the prospect that important indigenous resources will play a leading role, alongside outside investments, in creating the future prosperity of the region.

At the same time, many parts of Central Asia are marked by extreme poverty and underdevelopment and a lack of the necessary infrastructure to achieve sustainable economic advancement. Finding ways to broaden the basis for wealth creation in the region is thus of growing salience. In this context, progress will require a considerable commitment from local and international actors to overcome the range of factors that stand in the way of further economic cooperation and which act as a brake on development. Any increased commitment will be made more effective through enhanced coordination between the varieties of actors working in the region.

In July 2007, the European Union launched a new initiative 'The EU and Central Asia: Strategy for a New Partnership' designed to strengthen the Union's engagement in the region and provide greater focus for its activities. The Strategy outlines a comprehensive approach for the EU's policy towards Central Asia. The EU initiative draws together political, economic and social initiatives to address these common concerns. Development, regional cooperation and stability are at the heart of the Strategy and these interests overlap with several other international actors in the region.

This conference will aim to enhance understanding of the key development challenges in Central Asia in a European context and will explore how international cooperation can move forward the agenda of regional cooperation in the areas of trade, transport and energy. The conference will also address the obstacles – local, regional and international – that stand in the way of advancing development in Central Asia and consider ways of overcoming these barriers to accelerating development.

## MONDAY 2 MARCH

12.30 – 13.30 Registration and Coffee and sandwiches

---

13.30 – 13.45 **WORDS OF WELCOME**

- **Michael Emerson**, Associate Senior Research Fellow, CEPS, Brussels

---

### **REGIONAL COOPERATION IN CENTRAL ASIA: STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVES**

Chair:

- **Neil Melvin**, Senior Advisor, Energy Charter, Brussels

Panellists:

13.45 – 15.30

- **Pierre Morel**, EU Special Representative for Central Asia, European Council, Brussels
- **Jan Marinus Wiersma**, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Socialist Group, European Parliament, Brussels
- **Saymumin Yatimov**, Ambassador of Tajikistan to Belgium, Brussels
- **Jyrgalbek Azylov**, Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to Belgium, Brussels

---

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee break

---

### **REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN CENTRAL ASIA: THE CAREC EXPERIENCE**

Chair:

- **Johannes Linn**, Director, Wolfensohn Centre for Development at Brookings, Washington DC

Introduction:

- **David Kruger**, Head, CAREC Secretariat, Asian Development Bank, Manila

16.00 – 17.30

Panellists:

- **Saadat Assanseitova**, Director, Department for Trade Relations and Entrance to WTO, Astana
  - **Ahmad Wali Shairzay**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy and Water, Kabul
  - **Kori Udovicki**, Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator of the UNDP and Director of the Regional Bureau for Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), New York
- 

17.30 Drinks at CEPS

---

19.30 Dinner at La Rose Blanche (for speakers and organisers)

---

## TUESDAY 3 MARCH

### WATER AND ENERGY: CHALLENGES FOR COOPERATION AND SECURITY

Chair:

- **Martha Brill Olcott**, Senior Associate, Russian and Eurasian Programme, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington DC

09.30 – 11.00

Panellists:

- **Alfiya Akhrorova**, Head for Renewable Energy Sources, Tajik Technical University, Dushanbe
- **Stephen Hodgson**, Consultant in Environmental Law & Policy, Brussels
- **Ben Slay**, Senior Economist, UNDP Bureau for Europe and CIS, Bratislava
- **Aly Nazerali**, European and Multilateral Representative and CEO, Aga Khan Development Network, London

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee break

### BORDER REGIMES AND TRADE

Chair:

- **Jos Boonstra**, EUCAM Co-chair, senior researcher FRIDE, Madrid

Panellists:

11.30 – 13.00

- **Saumya Mitra**, Lead Economist, World Bank, Washington DC
- **Sebastian Peyrouse**, EUCAM expert, Senior Research Fellow, Central Asia and Caucasus Institute and an Associate Scholar, Institute for International and Strategic Relations (IRIS), Paris
- **George Gavrilis**, Assistant Professor of International Relations, University of Texas, Austin
- **Patrick Doelle**, Governance, Security, Human Rights and Gender, EuropeAid Cooperation Office, European Commission, Brussels
- **Claudio Lilienfeld**, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for South and Central Asia, Washington DC

13.00 – 14.00

Lunch at CEPS

### REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS FOR COOPERATION IN CENTRAL ASIA

Chair:

- **David Kruger**, Head, CAREC Secretariat, Asian Development Bank, Manila

14.00 – 15.15

Panellists

- **Johannes Linn**, Director, Wolfensohn Center, Brookings, Washington DC
- **Roman Mogilevski**, Central Asia Expert, Bishkek
- **Martha Brill Olcott**, Senior Associate, Russian and Eurasian Programme, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington DC

15.15 – 15.45

Coffee break

---

## THE ROLE OF THE EU IN PROMOTING REGIONAL COOPERATION IN CENTRAL ASIA

Chair:

- **Michael Emerson**, Associate Senior Research Fellow, CEPS, Brussels

15.45 – 17.00

Panellists:

- **Victor Andres-Maldonado**, Head of Central Asia Unit, European Commission, DG External Relations, Brussels
- **Parviz Mullojonov**, Executive Director, Public Committee for Democratic Processes, Dushanbe
- **Natalia Mirimanova**, EUCAM Senior Researcher/Coordinator, CEPS / FRIDE, Brussels

---

## CONCLUSION: THE WAY FORWARD

17.00 –

- **Johannes Linn**, Director, Wolfenson Centre, Brookings, Washington DC
- **Martha Brill Olcott**, Senior Associate, Russian and Eurasian Programme, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington DC
- **Jos Boonstra**, EUCAM Co-chair, Senior Researcher FRIDE, Madrid

---

*In case of any queries you can contact:*

- *Nafisa Hasanova, EUCAM Coordinator, CEPS/FRIDE, [nafisa.hasanova@ceps.eu](mailto:nafisa.hasanova@ceps.eu)*

*Tel: +32 22.29.39.17, Mob: +32 488.258.553*

- *David Kruger, Head, CAREC Secretariat, ADB, Tel: +(632) 632-5204, [dkruger@adb.org](mailto:dkruger@adb.org)*
- *Kristine Klein, Programme and Events Senior Manager, Carnegie Europe, +32.273.579.38, [kklein@ceip.org](mailto:kklein@ceip.org)*

\* - not yet confirmed



The EUCAM initiative is an 18-month research and awareness raising exercise by CEPS, Belgium and FRIDE, Spain, which aims:

- *To raise the profile* of the EU-Central Asia Strategy;
- *To strengthen debate* about the EU-Central Asia relationship and the role of the Strategy in that relationship;
- *To enhance accountability* through the provision of high quality information and analysis
- *To promote mutual understanding* by deepening the knowledge within European and Central Asian societies about EU policy in the region;
- *To develop 'critical' capacity* within the EU and Central Asia through the establishment of a network that links communities concerned with the role of the EU in Central Asia.

EUCAM is supported by the Open Society Institute (OSI) and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs with additional support of the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

\*\*\*



The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program is a robust development partnership promoting and facilitating practical regional cooperation in the transport, trade, and energy sectors. The CAREC Program is a partnership of eight countries—Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, People's Republic of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan—and six multilateral institutions—Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Monetary Fund, Islamic Development Bank, United Nations Development Programme, and World Bank.

\*\*\*

## CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT

FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE

The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing cooperation between nations and promoting active international engagement by the United States. Founded in 1910, its work is nonpartisan and dedicated to achieving practical results. The Endowment—currently pioneering the first global think tank—has operations in China, the Middle East, Russia, Europe, and the United States. These five locations include the two centers of world governance and the three places whose political evolution and international policies will most determine the near-term possibilities for international peace and economic advance.