THE BIG BANG. 25 YEARS SINCE ANNUS MIRABILIS

ASPEN ANNUAL CONFERENCE
The Senate of the Czech Republic
June 9–10, 2014
13:15  Registration

14:00  Opening of the Conference
Radek Špicar, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Prague
Michael Žantovský, President, Aspen Institute Prague

14:10  Opening Debate
Madeleine K. Albright, former U.S. Secretary of State,
in conversation with Michael Žantovský, President,
Aspen Institute Prague

14:30–16:00  PANEL I: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF 1989
ANNUS MIRABILIS

Questions/ Topics
» Global politics after 1989: old structures and new players,
  new challenges and new ideas.
» How has the communist past determined the Central
  European position in the world?
» Is the Central European experience of democratization
  transferable to other “color” revolutions?

Panelists
Toomas Hendrik Ilves, President of Estonia
Danuta Hübner, former EU Commissioner, Poland
Péter Balázs, former EU Commissioner for Regional Policy,
former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hungary
Ivan Mikloš, former Minister of Finance, Slovakia
Mykola Riabchuk, journalist, political and cultural analyst,
Ukraine

Chair  Michael Žantovský, President, Aspen Institute Prague

16:00  Coffee break

16:30–18:00  PANEL II: WHAT DID WE FIGHT FOR?

Questions
» What were the main drivers for change in 1989?
» Have the goals of revolution been fulfilled?
» Have the walls been truly broken? What comes next?

Panelists
Martin Bútora, diplomat, politician, Slovakia
Zbyněk Frolík, CEO, LINET Group SE
Agnieszka Holland, film director, Poland (TBC)
Martin Jahn, Managing Director, Group Fleet International
at Volkswagen Group
Šimon Pánek, Director, People in Need

Chair  Jan Macháček, journalist

19:30–22:00  GALA DINNER AND PRESENTATION
OF THE ASPEN PRAGUE AWARD
By special invitation only.

Welcome  Bohuslav Sobotka, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic

Keynote  Toomas Hendrik Ilves, President of Estonia

Presentation of the Aspen Prague Award
by Michael Žantovský, President, Aspen Institute Prague
9:00  Registration and Breakfast

9:30  Opening of the second conference day

Welcome  Norman L. Eisen, Ambassador of the United States to the Czech Republic

Keynote  A Wake-up Call: Facing the New Challenges for Europeans and Americans
  Joe Lieberman, former U.S. Senator and vice-presidential candidate

9:45—11:15  PANEL III: BREAKING THE TIES OF TOTALITY

Questions/Topics
» State of society in Central Europe – is it finally coming of age?
» Populism, nepotism and dependency on state as the heritage of the past – how to face it?
» One hundred years since the shots in Sarajevo – is the bug of radical nationalism extinct?
» Fully integrated in the western political structures – what social challenges are still ahead of us?
» Are we consciously shaping the local and regional environment?

Panelists
  Jan Farský, Member of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, Mayor of Semily
  Markus Meckel, politician, Germany
  Cameron Munter, U.S. diplomat
  Iveta Radičová, sociologist, former Prime Minister, Slovakia
  František Šebej, Member of the Parliament of the Slovak Republic

Chair  Ivan Hodač, Founder and Member of the Board, Aspen Institute Prague

11:45—13:15  PANEL IV: CENTRAL EUROPE – NEW REALITY, NEW ENERGY?

Keynote  Tomáš Hudeček, Mayor of Prague

Questions/Topics
» May you live in interesting times: 25 amazing years – is there anything special about the Central European experience? How to make the best of it?
» What opportunities have the past 25 years brought for the young and older generations?
» How is Central Europe keeping up with the world of new ideas and creativity?
» How to support and educate young leaders?

Panelists
  Taťána le Moigne, General Director, Google Czech Republic
  Jan Hamáček, Chairman of the Chamber of Deputies, Parliament of the Czech Republic
  Michal Hvorecký, writer, Slovakia
  Adam Somlai-Fischer, Co-Founder, Prezi
  Branislav Šebo, Country General Manager, IBM Czech Republic

Chair  Emma Smetana, news presenter, TV NOVA

13:30  Closing Buffet Lunch