



Sverige

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



SAPERE AUDE: Freedom and Responsibility

Riga, May 23-26, 2026

In Memory of Jürgen Habermas (1929 - 2026)

in partnership with:

Stockholm School of Economics

This project is funded by the Swedish Institute (Detta projekt finansieras av Svenska institutet)

Venue: AC Hotel by Marriott Riga, Dzirnava street 33, Riga, LV 1010, Latvia

Saturday, May 23

Democracy, Economy, EU Politics, International Liberal Order

10.00 - 11.00

Opening session:

Lena Nemirovskaya, *Founder, School of Civic Education*

Michael Sohlman, *Co-Chair of the Board of Directors, School of Civic Education*

11.00 - 12.00

Ice Breaker

12.00 - 12.30

Coffee break

12.30 - 14.00

Session:

Why Democracy?

Valdis Birkavs, *Politician, former Prime Minister of Latvia*

14.00 - 15.00

Lunch

15.00 - 16.30

Session:

Economy and Politics in the Times of Crises

Torbjörn Becker

16.30 - 17.00

Coffee break

17.00 - 18.30

Round table with Alexander Morozov

After the Truce

Sunday, May 24

Human Rights, Rule of Law, Transitional Justice

9.00 - 10.00

Talk to: Alex Yusupov

10.00 - 10.15

Break

10.15 - 11.30

Panel:

Can Global Order Be Based on International Law?

Nils Mužnieks, Gleb Bogush

11.30 - 12.00

Coffee break

12.00 - 13.30

Session:

The Global Outlook

Michael Sohlman

13.30 - 14.30

Lunch

14.30 - 16.00

Lab

Civil Society in the Digital Age: AI safeguarding and Tools

Denis Yagodin, Nikolay Kvantaliani

16.00 - 16.30

Coffee break

16.30 - 17.30

Session:

Contemporary Art, Politics, Individual

Konstantin Doroshenko

17.30 - 18.00

Coffee break

18.00 - 19.30

Session:

Devalued Values. Realism and Idealism in International Relations

Vasily Zharkov

Monday, May 25

Democracies under Pressure, Freedom and Responsibility, Values

9.00 - 10.00

**Keynote: Anders Paalzow, Rector, Stockholm
*School of Economics in Riga***

10.00 - 10.30

Coffee break

10.30 - 12.00

Session:
Transit to Democracy
Kirill Rogov

12.00 - 12.30

Coffee break

12.30 - 14.00

Book presentation by Elena Lukyanova
“Constitution: Fundamental Law”

14.00 - 15.00

Lunch

15.00 - 16.30

Round table with Lisbeth Pilegaard

16.30 - 17.00

Coffee break

17.00 - 19.00

Movie Screening with Sasha Koulayeva
Politzek

Tuesday, May 26

History, Memory, Civics

10.00 - 11.30

Talk to: Kirill Martynov

11.30 - 12.00

Coffee break

12.00 - 13.30

Session:

“Never Again(s)” Reconciled

Diana Pinto

13.30 - 14.30

Lunch

14.30 - 15.30

Talk to Yuri Senokosov

15.30 - 16.30

Closing

Lena Nemirovskaya

Yuri Senokosov

EXPERTS AND GUESTS

Torbjörn Becker (Sweden) has been the Director of the Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics (SITE) at the Stockholm School of Economics in Sweden since 2006 and is a board member of several economics research institutes in Eastern Europe, including the Kyiv School of Economics. Prior to this, he worked for nine years at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), where his work focused on international macro, economic crises and issues related to the international financial system. He holds a Ph.D. from the Stockholm School of Economics and has been published in top academic journals and has contributed to several books and policy reports focusing on Russia and Eastern Europe.

Valdis Birkavs (Latvia), politician, pursuing a diverse educational background at the University of Latvia, focusing on philosophy, sociology, law, psychology and mathematical logic. His political journey began in 1990, when he was first elected to the Latvian Parliament and played a key role in founding the Latvian Way party. Following Latvian Way's victory in the 1993 parliamentary elections, Birkavs assumed the role of Prime Minister, leading a coalition government with the Latvian Farmers' Union. He later served as deputy prime minister and foreign minister for five years under four different prime ministers in subsequent governments, resigning from the latter position in 1999. He came second in the 1999 presidential elections as a parliamentary candidate and subsequently served as Minister of Justice until 2000. Beyond his national roles, Birkavs is a member of the Club of Madrid, a prestigious organization of 81 democratic former presidents and prime ministers from 57 countries.

Gleb Bogush (Russia) Legal academic, international criminal law, member of the International Law Association Committee on the Use of Force and included in the list of assistants to counsel before the International Criminal Court. Research Fellow at the Institute for International Peace and Security Law, University of Cologne.

Kostiantyn Doroshenko (Ukraine) is a member of the International Association of Art Critics AICA, curator of contemporary art, publicist, media manager. In 2017 Doroshenko was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Uzupis among art critics of the world. He has curated exhibitions and art

projects in Kiev (Ukraine), New York (USA), Beijing (China), Miami (USA), Baku (Azerbaijan), Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), Cetinje (Montenegro). Doroshenko is the author of numerous publications on social issues, culture and art in professional and socio-political media in Ukraine, USA, Australia, Italy, Russia, and Azerbaijan. He is the editor of the book “Russian War Crimes” (Kyiv, 2022), and the author of the following books: “On Kyiv Time”, “The End of the Late Iron Age”, “Maria's Aria”, and “Cognitive Demining”.

Sasha Koulayeva (France) is an international expert on human rights and civil society, and a lecturer at Sciences Po Paris (PSIA) and American University of Paris (AUP). She has been a member of the Russian movement Memorial since the 1990s – movement founded by Andrei Sakharov after the fall of the USSR and awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2022. Having arrived in France in 2002, she joined the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), where for sixteen years she directed the Eastern Europe and Central Asia desk and carried out numerous field missions, documenting fundamental rights violations and developing protection strategies, including in conflict and crisis zones. Since 2019, she has worked independently as an analyst, lecturer, and trainer in French, English, and Russian for various universities, NGOs, international institutions, and media outlets. Sacha Koulaeva has contributed her expertise to numerous journalistic investigations.

Nikolai Kvantaliani (Belarus), entrepreneur and co-founder of the Digital Skills Coalition Belarus, a non-profit organisation that aims to improve digital literacy and education in Belarus. He is also the founder and CEO of SolbegSoft, a software development company based in Minsk, Belarus. The coalition works to promote the development of digital skills among young people, as well as the growth of the country's IT industry.

Elena Lukyanova (Russia) lawyer, academic, Doctor of Laws, public and political figure. She was Director of the Institute for Monitoring the Efficiency of Law Enforcement of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, Director of the ANO Law Enforcement Monitoring Agency. From 2006 to 2014, Mikhail Khodorkovsky's lawyer. Professor of Constitutional and Administrative Law, Faculty of Law, Higher School of Economics. She was sacked for publicly criticizing the amendments to the Russian Constitution adopted in 2020.

Kirill Martynov (Russia) is editor-in-chief of Novaya Gazeta Europe and co-founder of Free University Moscow. In 2007 Martynov received his PhD in Philosophy from Moscow State University. From 2007 to 2020 he held a position of Assistant Professor in the Higher School of Economics (Moscow). In 2020 his contract with the University was canceled due to political censorship in Russia. Together with other fired professors Martynov created an independent non-profit educational platform, Free University. Since 2014 he has been deputy editor in Novaya Gazeta. In 2021 his editor in chief Dmitry Muratov got the Nobel Peace Prize for defending freedom of speech. In 2022 Martynov and other former journalists of Novaya Gazeta created an independent media in exile, Novaya Gazeta Europe. The same year Martynov was declared a ‘foreign agent’ by Russian authorities. Both Novaya Gazeta Europe and Free University are declared as ‘undesired organizations’ in Russia.

Alexander Morozov (Russia), Faculty of Philosophy at Charles University, iSANS expert (Russia - Czech Republic). Alexander Morozov is a Soviet and Russian journalist, political scientist, researcher at the Charles University of the Boris Nemtsov Center for Russian Studies (Prague). He taught at the University of Bochum (Germany). There was the editor-in-chief of the Russian Journal, director of the UNIK Center for Media Research. The organizer of the Moscow club of bloggers Immanuel Kant.

Oliver Morwinsky (Germany) Head of office for the Baltic States based in Riga since July 2022. Previously, Mr. Morwinsky was an advisor for European Competitiveness in the Analysis Division (AuB) (January 2020 to July 2022), coordinator of the cross-divisional project “Europanarrative” in the Foreign, Security and European Policy Division in the European and International Cooperation Department (2019 to 2020) and Advisor in the European Office in Brussels with responsibility for the Eastern Partnership, Economics and Finance and the European institutions, among other things, from 2015 to the end of 2018. Mr. Morwinsky completed his studies in Cologne (Business Law (LL.B.)) and Erfurt (Political Science (M.A.)). He is also a trained notary's assistant with several years of professional experience at the Droste & Haibt notary's office in Düsseldorf.

Nils Muižnieks (Latvia) Special UN Rapporteur on Belarus. He is a political scientist and human rights expert. He has served as Europe Regional Director at Amnesty International, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Chair of the

European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, Director of a social science research institute at the University of Latvia, Latvian Minister of Social Integration, and director of the Latvian Centre for Human Rights and Ethnic Studies.

Lena Nemirovskaya (Russia) is co-founder of The Moscow School of Political Studies (in 1992) and The School of Civic Education together with Yury Senokosov. Dr. Nemirovskaya received her PhD in Art Theory in 1974 and PhD in Philosophy from the Institute of Philosophy of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Between 1966 and 1978, she published over 100 articles on the philosophy of art in leading specialist journals while working at the Moscow Research Institute of Theory and History of Art. She was awarded the OBE in 2003. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Dr. Walter Schwimmer, awarded the School the Council's special Pro Merito medal in 2002. In 2006, Elena Nemirovskaya was awarded with the Hiroshima Foundation Award for Peace and Culture. In 2008, she became an Officer of the French National Order of Merit. In 2010, was awarded a Polish Bene Merito medal. In 2013, she received the Yegor Gaidar Award. In 2014, was made a Chevalier of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland. In 2023 she was awarded the Moscow Helsinki Group annual award for contributions to human rights and the Russian human rights movement.

Anders Paalzow (Sweden) has been the Rector of Stockholm School of Economics in Riga since 1999 and is Chair of the Board for the Baltic International Centre of Economic Policy Studies (BICEPS) and Connect Latvia. Holding a PhD in Economics from the Stockholm School of Economics, he is also a member of the Latvian Academy of Science with elected members, such as prominent scientists and other scholars to report promptly to the Government about scientific research findings. His main research interests are macroeconomics, economic growth, public debt, regional development and the economics of racetrack betting.

Lisbeth Pilegaard (Denmark), chair of the Executive Committee of the European Endowment for Democracy. Earlier Lisbeth Pilegaard founded and ran a Foreign Policy Consultancy, serving the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Civil Society, think tanks and the UN. Pilegaard has also served in various NGO/UN/EU committees and working groups on development and humanitarian aid coordination, coherence, and transparency. She has been a civil society member of the Danish Delegation to the UN Commission of the Status of Women (CSW) and sat in the Council of the NGO

ActionAid – Denmark. She has also been a board member of Transparency International – DK Chapter and was appointed Adviser to the UN Compact Cities Programme in Australia. Pilegaard is a Steering Member of the Nordic Women Mediators Network working for the inclusion of women into peace processes globally and is a Leadership Fellow at the St. George’s House, Windsor Castle, UK. She has held board positions in the LIVIA Foundation, the Anna Lindh Foundation and has been the chairperson of the Danish Council for International Conflict Resolution (RIKO). Pilegaard has been a guest lecturer at different institutions such as the University of Aalborg and the NATO School in Oberammergau. Pilegaard has a MA in Rhetoric with a focus on peace negotiations from the University of Copenhagen.

Dr Diana Pinto (France) is an intellectual historian and writer living in Paris. She is a Senior Fellow at Institute for Jewish Policy Research and the Director of IJPR’s Voices for the Res Publica: Re-discovering the Common Good project. The author of *Entre deux mondes*, she has lectured widely on Jewish life in contemporary Europe. Her articles on post-1989 European Jewry have been published across the continent.

Kirill Rogov (Russia) Independent researcher, Founder, Re:Russia

Yury Senokosov (Russia) is a specialist in the history of philosophy and philosophy of history. Graduated from Moscow State University in 1962, faculty of history. Worked for the Main Library of Social Sciences, Institute of Philosophy of the Russian Academy of Sciences, “Questions of Philosophy” magazine. In the years 1980-90 published a series of books under the title “From the history of Russian philosophical thought”. Yury Senokosov started a foundation for philosophical and interdisciplinary research named after Merab Mamardashvili. Together with Lena Nemirovskaya founded Moscow School of Political Studies (1992) and School of Civic Education. He also edits and publishes the School’s quarterly journal “Obschaya Tetrad”. Yury Senokosov wrote forewords to “How I understand Philosophy” and “Cartesian Meditations” by Mamardashvili. He also edited and wrote afterwards to “Meditation about Russia and Russians. Features of the Russian national character.”

Michael Sohlman (Sweden) Co-chair person, School of Civic Education. Director of the Budget Department, Ministry of Finance 1985-1987; Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture (1987–1989); Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1989–1991), Executive Director of the Nobel Foundation (1992–2011). He is a member of the Royal

Swedish Academy of Sciences, former Chair of the Swedish Institute of International Affairs, a former chair of the Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics, and a former member of the International Crisis Group.

Vasily Zharkov (Russia), historian, political researcher, associate professor at European Humanities University (Vilnius, Lithuania), known for his expertise in the fields of Russian and Soviet history, as well as international relations. He was born on September 13, 1974, in Moscow, Russia, and received his education at Moscow Pedagogical State University, where he earned a PhD in history. Dr. Zharkov has authored a huge number of articles on Russian and international history and politics, including “The Russian Revolution and World Politics of the 20-th Century” (2017); “Clash of Narratives and Blind Spots in Russia-Europe Relations”(2021), and “The Westphalian System at the Beginning of the 21- st Century: Old Challenges and New Responses” (2022). He has also conducted extensive research on international relations, focusing on the evolution of international order since the Westphalian Treaty and its impact on the people’s struggle for democracy in the World. In addition to his academic work Dr. Zharkov has served as an external consultant for various non-governmental organizations, providing expertise on issues related to history, international relations, and political science.

Denis Yagodin (Russia), Civic technology practitioner and researcher specialising in Russian internet censorship, digital security and digital tools for civil society. He serves as a Chief Technology Officer at Araminta, focusing on building resilient digital products and processes to help teams to support human rights defenders working in challenging environments. His analytical work covers internet censorship measurement methodologies, circumvention tools, and the use of AI tools in civil society contexts. Before joining Araminta, Denis directed innovation efforts at Teplitsa, where he spent several years at the intersection of technology and civil resistance. Yagodin is also the co-founder of several other organisations, including the Social Innovation Fund, which provides funding and support to social entrepreneurs in Russia, and the Social Innovation Academy, which provides training and mentoring to aspiring social innovators.

Alex Yusupov (Germany), Head, Russia Programme of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES). Alex Yusupov is a political scientist, he specializes in security policy and social crisis resilience. Previous positions: head of office in Kazakhstan, Afghanistan and Myanmar.