

Press release – STRATCOM SUMMIT 2017

The European Values Think Tank organizes from Monday to Friday international conference STRATCOM SUMMIT 2017. The topic of the *conference is How to Defend Allied Democracies against Hostile Influence & Disinformation Operations*, the conference serves as a platform for experts from many European states and the US who discuss and devise strategies and activities to face the threats of disinformation, hybrid threats and hostile influence operations. THE STRATCOM SUMMIT 2017 will welcome altogether 330 participants representing 29 countries over five days. Specifically, 140 government specialists representing 27 countries are coming to the restricted part of the SUMMIT.

„We are trying to build the best training modules and the best conference of this kind in the Western world. We are bringing in people who are professionals in these topics, who work on them daily and not just talk about them. This year we are heavily focusing on electoral interference from hostile influencers,” says Jakub Janda, Head of the Kremlin Watch Program and Deputy Director of the European Values Think Tank.

During these five days many European and US experts in areas such as Russian disinformation campaign and influence operations, hybrid warfare and psychological operations, Islamic extremism and radicalization, terrorism, activities of Russian intelligence services, security situation in the Baltics and the Russian threat in the region, cyber-warfare and cyber-defense, the response of Germany, Finland, Sweden, Baltic countries, the Czech Republic and other states towards the Russian aggression, cyber-threats and disinformation operations and fake-news and media literacy will come to Prague. The conference is held in invitation only regime.

STRATCOM SUMMIT 2017 is organized by the European Values Think Tank under auspices of Prime Minister of the Czech Republic Bohuslav Sobotka (key-note speech) and Minister of Interior of the Czech Republic Milan Chovanec. Guests include delegations from the Global Engagement Center, the US Department of Defense and the US Department of State, Giles Montagnon, Head of Strategic Communications for East Europe & Central Asia from U. K. Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Janis Sarts, Director of NATO Centre of Excellence on Strategic Communications, Mark Laity, Head of STRACOM at SHAPE, NATO, Markku Mantila, Director of Government Communications, PM’s Office, Finland and many others, list of some of the other guests is to be found [here](#).

„STRATCOM SUMMIT is our response to modern threats the West is facing now and will face in the future. The actions of those who want to break western liberal democracies, be it Islamists or hostile efforts of Kremlin, cannot be faced by any single state alone. That is why we decided to bring to Prague leading European and US experts to work together on strengthening of our defense and resilience. We have to face disinformation, Islamic extremism and cyber-attacks together,” says Radko Hokovský, the Director of the European Values Think Tank.

During the first two days, restricted sessions with state participants take place on issues such as election interference, counter-terrorism and hostile operations of Kremlin. NGO representatives are meeting on Wednesday to share research findings, identify promising research objectives and draft projects and initiatives. The political part of the conference (with key-note speech from Czech Prime

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Minister Sobotka) takes place on Thursday followed by panels on Islamic extremism, which continue until Friday.

You can find [this press release on the website of the European Values Think Tank](#) as well, where you can find more about organizers, STRATCOM SUMMIT 2016 and publications published this year for the conference.

Please kindly bear in mind that the STRATCOM SUMMIT 2017 is organized by the European Values Think Tank and all outputs and media products mentioning the conference must include this information, especially the interviews done with the guests of the conference in Prague.

We would like to invite you to 2-day part of the conference which is accessible for journalists. It takes place on Wednesday and Thursday and access is possible on the condition that the organizer confirms the attendance. The program is available [here](#) and for registration please contact the Head of Communication of the European Values Think Tank Mr. Jakub Vlasák at vlasak@evropskehodnoty.cz or at 00 420 775 327 292.

We would also like to offer you for interviews some of the world's leading experts and speakers on the above-mentioned topics. The list of experts with more detailed information can be found [here](#). Please do contact Mr. Vlasák (vlasak@evropskehodnoty.cz) with requests, we will then check the availability of the speaker and then we will confirm the interview to the journalist. All interviews will be scheduled **between 16th and 18th of May in Prague.**