

Save the date:

Monday, May 27, 9:00 a.m.



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Slovak Politics in the Wake of the May 15 Shooting

Local, macro-regional, and European perspectives

Since his 2023 re-election, and especially after the recent assassination attempt against him, Robert Fico and his role in Slovak politics have been more intensively reported on the front pages of the international press. The May 15 shooting has also confirmed the devastating trend of hate speech and violence and its incalculable consequences for an East-Central European country once perceived as a discrete model of successful Euro-Atlantic integration. What are the reasons behind this spiral of violence, from the 2018 assassination of Ján Kuciak to the May 15 attempt and the deterioration of Slovak public life? What does the situation look like from the point of view of neighbouring countries? Is there an impact on European politics less than a month before the EP elections?

We are pleased to welcome Professor Péter Balázs, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs and EU Commissioner, professor emeritus at CEU Budapest, and his City Diplomacy Academy on a study trip to Bratislava. Professor James Thomson, who lectures in history and information studies at BISLA and has worked as an editor and journalist in Slovakia for more than 10 years, will provide an introductory lecture on the Slovak situation, followed by insights and reflections by Professor Balázs and his students on Slovakia, Slovak-Hungarian relations, the Visegrád Group, and European politics.

After the panel, we will continue the discussion more informally, hopefully in the garden, with coffee and refreshments. This is an excellent opportunity for our students to meet with an internationally well-known EU specialist and diplomat and exchange with his City Diplomacy team of students.

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Programme

9:00-10:30 Panel discussion – Johnson Room

Participants: Professor Péter Balázs and Professor James Thomson

Moderators: Adela Sadloňová and Ádám Dávid Sóki

10:45-12:00 Garden reception

Coffee, refreshments, snacks in the garden, discussion with the City
Diplomacy Academy team



