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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

**TUESDAY,
APRIL 22, 2025
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CEES Distinguished Lecture Series
*“The Rise and Persistence of Authoritarianism:
Is Democracy in Peril?”*

EUROPE AT CROSSROADS TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS AND THE NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION

**BY
JAN HAVRÁNEK
DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION
EMBASSY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
WASHINGTON, DC**

Abstract

The transatlantic relationship has long been the cornerstone of global stability, security, and economic cooperation. However, the policies of the current U.S. administration presents a pivotal moment for Europe. This lecture will explore the potential challenges and opportunities in U.S.-Europe relations in 2025 and beyond. Key topics will include prospects of U.S. commitments to NATO, trade disputes, Europe's strategic autonomy, and the broader implications for global geopolitics. With tensions between multilateralism and nationalism growing, Europe must navigate an increasingly uncertain landscape, reassessing its role in the transatlantic alliance and beyond.



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Biography: JAN HAVRÁNEK is the former Deputy Minister of Defence of the Czech Republic (2020-2022). He was responsible for defence policy and strategy, international cooperation, defence planning and crisis management during multiple contingencies: COVID-19, the evacuation from Kabul, and outbreak of the War in Ukraine. He represented the Czech Republic as the head of delegation at more than a dozen of NATO, EU and regional defense ministerial meetings. Under his leadership, the government adopted a new strategy to counter the foreign hybrid interference.

From 2017-2020, Jan served as the Policy Adviser at the Policy Planning Unit of the Office of the NATO Secretary General in Brussels (2017-2020). In this capacity, he advised the Secretary General on the political and organizational transformation of

the NATO Headquarters and worked on policy issues leading up to NATO's 70th anniversary and the preparations of the New Strategic Concept.

Havránek led the Defense Section at the Czech Republic's Permanent Representation to NATO in Brussels (2014-2017), shaping NATO's most significant military adaptation post-Cold War. His other MOD assignments have included the Assistant First Deputy Minister of Defense (2013-2014) and foreign policy advisor to the Minister of Defence (2010-2012).

He is a frequent speaker and commentator on international security, transatlantic relations, hybrid warfare, NATO, EU and other related subjects. As the Deputy Defense Minister, Havránek gave over 50 interviews to domestic and global media. He also started Raven On Air, a podcast featuring policy experts and practitioners.

In 2013, he was named to the Diplomatic Courier's annual list of the "Top 99 Under 33 Foreign Policy Leaders." His other engagements have included cooperation with GLOBSEC projects (2011-2013), fellowship at Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA, 2013-2014); and work for the Prague Security Studies Institute (PSSI, 2003-2006, 2010) and the Association for International Affairs in Prague (AMO, 2002-2007).

Jan holds an undergraduate degree from Charles University in Prague, and a master's degree in international security studies and business relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University (2009).

He is currently the Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington, DC. He is the cofounder and cochair (together with Japan) of the "DCM Watchtower", an informal group of Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific countries.