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Topic:

The Czech and Polish foreign policy towards the Western Balkans: what are the challenges and opportunities for deeper Czech-Polish and V4 cooperation?

Abstract:

After their accession to the EU in 2004 the Czech Republic and Poland have cooperated intensely in their support of the European integration of the Western Balkan countries. This process has now entered into a difficult stage in which salient issues of legitimacy and statehood of the Western Balkans countries will need to be dealt with in order to move the enlargement further. At this moment it is a time to take stock of our knowledge and discuss how to enhance and solidify the enlargement process again. The study will make a step in this direction in that it will identify the similarities and differences in the Czech and Polish foreign policies and strategies towards the Western Balkans since 2004, and discuss the challenges and opportunities for deeper Czech-Polish and V4 cooperation in the future. The study will utilise the primary and secondary sources concerning the Czech and Polish foreign policy, as well as structured interviews with relevant diplomats and experts active in both countries.

Preliminary proposed structure:

Introduction

- The Western Balkans in the foreign policy, political and public debate
- The institutional structure and development assistance
- Economic relations
- Serbia and Kosovo
- Bosnia and Herzegovina

Conclusions