

Completing Europe and the Three Seas Initiative

Twenty-five years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, much progress has been made toward fulfilling the vision of a Europe whole and free. However, work remains to complete a critical element of this vision, the creation of a single European market. That will require the development of infrastructure networks that bind together the economies of Central Europe with the rest of European Union.

The Atlantic Council and Central Europe Energy Partners (CEEP) rolled out their report, *Completing Europe – From the North-South Corridor to Energy, Transportation, and Telecommunications Union* at the margins of the Council's Energy and Economic Summit in Istanbul in November 2014. The study, co-chaired by former US National Security Advisor Gen. James L. Jones, Jr., USMC (Ret.) and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of CEEP Pawel Olechnowicz, called for the accelerated construction of a North-South Corridor of energy, transportation, and communications links stretching from the Baltic Sea to the Adriatic and Black Seas. The report's recommendations are addressed to policymakers at national and regional levels in the European Union, policymakers in the United States, and decision-makers in the business sector. This report provides a road map for how transatlantic cooperation on the North-South Corridor can play a vital role in fostering economic growth and energy security in a Europe that is whole, free, and at peace.

The report inspired and advised a meeting at the heads of state level of the concerned countries at the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2015, and a follow-up meeting in Dubrovnik in August 2016, both convened by Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović. The presidents christened the initiative the *Three Seas*, connecting the Baltic with the Adriatic and Black Seas. The next heads of state and ministerial meeting will take place in July 2017 parallel to the Council's Wroclaw Global Forum, to be convened by Polish President Andrzej Duda.

The Three Seas Initiative aims to strengthen infrastructure networks between the countries of Central Europe in order to enhance the region's prosperity and security. Existing networks too often reinforce separateness of the region, with few links among the countries and with the rest of the European Union. Existing networks also tend to keep national markets small and limit opportunities for economic investment. Yet, if the GDP of all these countries is combined, the economy is bigger than that of Russia or Canada. To overcome the legacy of a divided Europe, the Initiative focuses on boosting infrastructure integration in key economic sectors:

- **Energy**, including gas and oil supplies, as well as power generation and distribution;
- **Transportation**, moving people and goods across a continent through a connected, efficient, and intermodal system; and
- **Telecommunications**, including the vital **digital** networks that link businesses and consumers across Europe and into the economy of the future.

The Atlantic Council - building on the findings of the 2014 report - also plans to draft a follow-up report in H1 2017 to explore the prospects for the European Energy Union's strategic expansion to the East and the South in order to help modernize and integrate the Western Balkans, Eastern Partnership countries and Turkey into Europe. The report would be launched at the Wroclaw Global Forum.



Mr. David Koranyi

Director, Energy Diplomacy Initiative, Atlantic Council
Co-director, Completing Europe report

David Koranyi is an expert in: the geopolitics of energy, Hungarian, European, and US foreign and energy policy, European integration, and the Western Balkans. He is the editor of a book, *Transatlantic Energy Futures-Strategic Perspectives on Energy Security, Climate Change and New Technologies in Europe and the United States*, published in December 2011 by John Hopkins SAIS Center for Transatlantic Relations.

Mr. Koranyi served as Undersecretary of State and Chief Foreign Policy and National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Hungary, Gordon Bajnai (2009-2010). He also worked in the European parliament as Chief Foreign Policy Adviser and Head of Cabinet of a Hungarian member of the European Parliament (2004-2009). Mr. Koranyi is a Member of the European Council on Foreign Relations, the Hungarian Europe Society, and the International Advisory Board of the XII Project. He was a member of the Hungarian NATO Strategic Concept Special Advisory Group (2009), the recipient of the German Marshall Fund's Marshall Memorial Fellowship (2010), a Marshall Memorial Fellow Selection Board Member (2011), and a beneficiary of the French Foreign Ministry's Personalities of the Future Fellowship (2012).

Mr. Koranyi obtained his master's degree in international relations and economics, with a major in foreign affairs from Budapest Corvinus University.



Mr. Ian Brzezinski

Senior Fellow, Brent Scowcroft Center, Atlantic Council
Co-director, Completing Europe report

Ian Brzezinski is a resident senior fellow with the Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security and is on the Atlantic Council's Strategic Advisors Group. He has served in senior policy positions in the US Department of Defense and the US Congress. He currently leads the Brzezinski Group, which provides strategic insight and advice to government and commercial clients.

Mr. Brzezinski served as deputy assistant secretary of defense for Europe and NATO policy (2001-05). His lead responsibilities included NATO expansion; Alliance force planning and transformation; and NATO operations in the Balkans, the Mediterranean, Afghanistan, and Iraq. He served for seven years on Capitol Hill, first as a legislative assistant for national security affairs to the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Senator Bill Roth, (1995–2000) and then as a senior professional staff member on the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations (2000–2001). As the staff coordinator of the Senate NATO Observer Group, he facilitated coordination and communication between the US Senate and the executive branch on NATO enlargement, NATO operations in the Balkans, and Alliance force modernization, among other issues.

Mr. Brzezinski served as a volunteer in Ukraine (1993-1994) advising the Ukrainian National Security Council, Foreign Ministry, Defense Ministry, and Parliament. He served as a member of the policy planning staff in the Defense Department (1991–93), a consultant to the Center for Naval Analysis (1991–1992) and a support analyst/information assistant at the National Security Council (1986–1987). He also worked for five years as a principal at Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc., providing policy and technical support to US combatant commands and foreign clients.