

TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2012

ON THE SUMMITS: PERSPECTIVES FROM GLOBAL LEADERS
GLOBAL LEADER SPEAKER SERIES

EUROPE WITHOUT ILLUSIONS: REFLECTIONS FROM THE CZECH PRESIDENT

His Excellency Václav Klaus, President, Czech Republic

Europe is still in disarray, and states across the continent are reacting in different ways. Last year, the U.K. and the Czech Republic were the only EU members that rejected a new fiscal discipline treaty designed to prevent another eurozone crisis. Yet the Czech Republic—although not a eurozone member—has also agreed to contribute to a eurozone rescue fund at the IMF, and is an active participant in NATO's Afghanistan mission. President Klaus argues that European integration has gone too far, stifling economic growth, democracy, and national sovereignty. He envisions a profound restructuring of the EU social, economic, and political system. What are the Czech Republic's dynamics within the EU? What are the country's economic, political, and security priorities going forward? Join The Chicago Council for a candid conversation with the president of the Czech Republic on the situation in Europe and the NATO and G8 Summits.



His Excellency Václav Klaus was elected president of the Czech Republic in 2003 and was reelected for a second term in 2008. Prior to this, he served as the president of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament from 1998 to 2002. He also served as prime minister of the Czech Republic from 1992 to 1997, following his posts as finance minister and vice chairman of the government of the Czechoslovak Federal Republic. Klaus is one of the founders of the Civic Democratic Party and was its chairman from 1991 to 2002. He also served as chairman of the Civic Forum from 1990 to 1991. Before entering politics, he held various positions in the Czechoslovak State Bank, and worked as a researcher at the Czech Academy of Sciences. Klaus has published many books and articles. His most recent book, *European Integration Without Illusions*, was released in 2011. He holds a Ph.D. from the Prague School of Economics and various honorary degrees.

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A valid state or federal government issued photo ID is required to attend the program.

11:30 a.m. Registration and security check-in
12:00 noon Lunch, address, and discussion
1:15 p.m. Adjournment

Members \$50; Nonmembers \$60

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