



Avatud Eesti Fond
Open Estonia Foundation



XIII OPEN SOCIETY FORUM
ORGANISED BY THE OPEN ESTONIA FOUNDATION IN COOPERATION WITH THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL
ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

TALLINN, NOVEMBER 6, 2008

THE EUROPEAN UNION AND RUSSIA: WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

In wake of the military conflict in Georgia, European leaders froze talks on the new EU-Russia cooperation agreement and called for a full-scale audit of the EU's relationship with Russia. Difficult questions about the future of EU-Russian relations abound. Does 8.8.8 represent the beginning of a new paradigm in European security? What are the lessons of the Russian-Georgian conflict for the EU? Are shared values a necessary precondition for a strategic partnership between the EU and Russia? Are dialogue and interdependency aims in themselves? Will attempts to promote democracy in the post-Soviet space inevitably produce strategic competition in the EU-Russia shared neighbourhood? Is there a genuine danger of a 'new Cold War'? How might the outcome of the US presidential elections affect the relationship between Russia and the West? How has the financial crisis influenced the relationship between Russia and the West?

These key questions will be addressed at the XIII Open Society Forum organised by the Open Estonia Foundation in cooperation with the European Council on Foreign Relations.

AGENDA

XIII Open Society Forum is moderated by **Andres Kasekamp**, Director of the Estonian Foreign Policy Institute.

13:30 Coffee and registration

14:30 Opening remarks by **Mall Hellam**, Executive Director of the Open Estonia Foundation

14:45-16:30 Introductory remarks and panel discussion

Participants include:

Toomas Hendrik Ilves, President of the Republic of Estonia

Martti Ahtisaari, Co-chair of the European Council on Foreign Relations, Chairman of the Board, Crisis Management Initiative; former President of the Republic of Finland, 2008 Nobel Peace Prize winner

Kadri Liik, Director of International Centre for Defense Studies in Estonia

Aleksander Smolar, Member of the European Council on Foreign Relations, Professor of Political Science, Chairman of the Board of the Stefan Batory Foundation in Poland

George Soros, Member of the European Council on Foreign Relations, Chairman of Open Society Institute

**The working language of the forum is English, and no translation or interpreting will be provided.*