

# FOREWORD

In the recent years Central European Cooperation become one of the most important regional platform within the EU. In many fields, the Visegrad Countries managed to outpace their own role models: the Benelux and the Nordic Cooperation.

Although on a political level there is an overwhelming optimism currently, but in order to keep up the level of this Visegrad euphoria, the region has to finally deliver through the implementation of concrete projects. If we fail to implement the ongoing strategic projects or to convert the political willingness into new ones with meaningful economic impact, Visegrad can face a crisis similar to the post EU accession one.

The current issue of the *BiztPol Affairs* introduces some of the key dimensions and possibilities of the V4 cooperation. I was lucky to be the part of some of the most important initiatives introduced in this paper in the field of defence, foreign policy and economy in the last five years.

Being part of the Defence Austerity Visegrad 4 (DAV4) process from the beginning, it is spectacular how much the region developed on the field of defence and security. In a few years we have managed to convert the declarations to a concrete project. The Visegrad Battle Group is an important product of this cooperation, but unless we make some of its components permanent, or launch common procurement, education or regular military exercises on its basis it can easily become the dead end street of military cooperation.

When we have launched with my colleagues the project Central Europe: Fit for the Future, which results are reviewed in this issue we have seen that the Visegrad Countries failed to create a ground for regional cooperation of the business actors and grab the 'high-hanging fruits'. The future of the Central European cooperation lies in how much we can approach the issues of (non)competitive education, migration, the Roma issue, the transformation of social systems and the development of infrastructure through a regional approach.

I believe the recommendations of analyses in the *BiztPol Affairs* will help us in the development of the next phases of DAV4, Central Europe Fit for the Future and GLOBSEC seminars and help to better articulate Hungarian interests within the V4 cooperation.

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