

„Visegrad and Eastern Partnership - lessons to learn from V4 experience“

Václav Nekvapil

What is V4 experience?

- ▶ Shared:
 - ▶ historical experience (with Russia, ex-USSR)
 - ▶ starting point
 - ▶ objective
 - ▶ newly elected democratic elite



What is V4 experience?

- ▶ Differences
 - ▶ size
 - ▶ interests
 - ▶ internal/mutual problems
 - ▶ priorities



What is V4 experience?

- ▶ Transition to democracy
 - ▶ “6-6-6-60” rule by Ralph Dahrendorf
 - ▶ “Return to Europe” (feeling of historical injustice)
 - ▶ Transition-transformation-europeisation...



EU 1989-2004

- ▶ from 12 to 25/27 member states
- ▶ from EC to EU
- ▶ from Single European Act to EU Constitution
- ▶ from internal borders to Schengen
- ▶ from national currencies to Euro

- ▶ and...from Mitterrand („enlargement will take decades“)...



EU 1989-2004

...to Chirac („you missed an opportunity to keep quiet“)



Eastern Partnership

- ▶ established in 2008 (contra-balance to southern dimension of the ENP)
- ▶ example of Germany:
 - ▶ stability behind the border (Balkans lessons)
 - ▶ new markets
 - ▶ reunification as 1st enlargement
- ▶ V4 countries as advocates of Eastern Partnership countries in the EU for the same reasons



EP countries

▶ Shared:

- ▶ historical experience (Bandera? Karabakh?)
- ▶ starting point (1991? 2000? 2003? 2004?)
- ▶ objective (EU? Russia? Neutrality?)
- ▶ newly elected democratic elite (new? elected? democratic?)



EP countries

▶ Differences

- ▶ size (Moldova vs. Ukraine)
- ▶ interests (South Caucasus vs. Belarus)
- ▶ internal/mutual problems (East/West Ukraine, „Transnistria“)
- ▶ priorities (Donbas, Armenia)



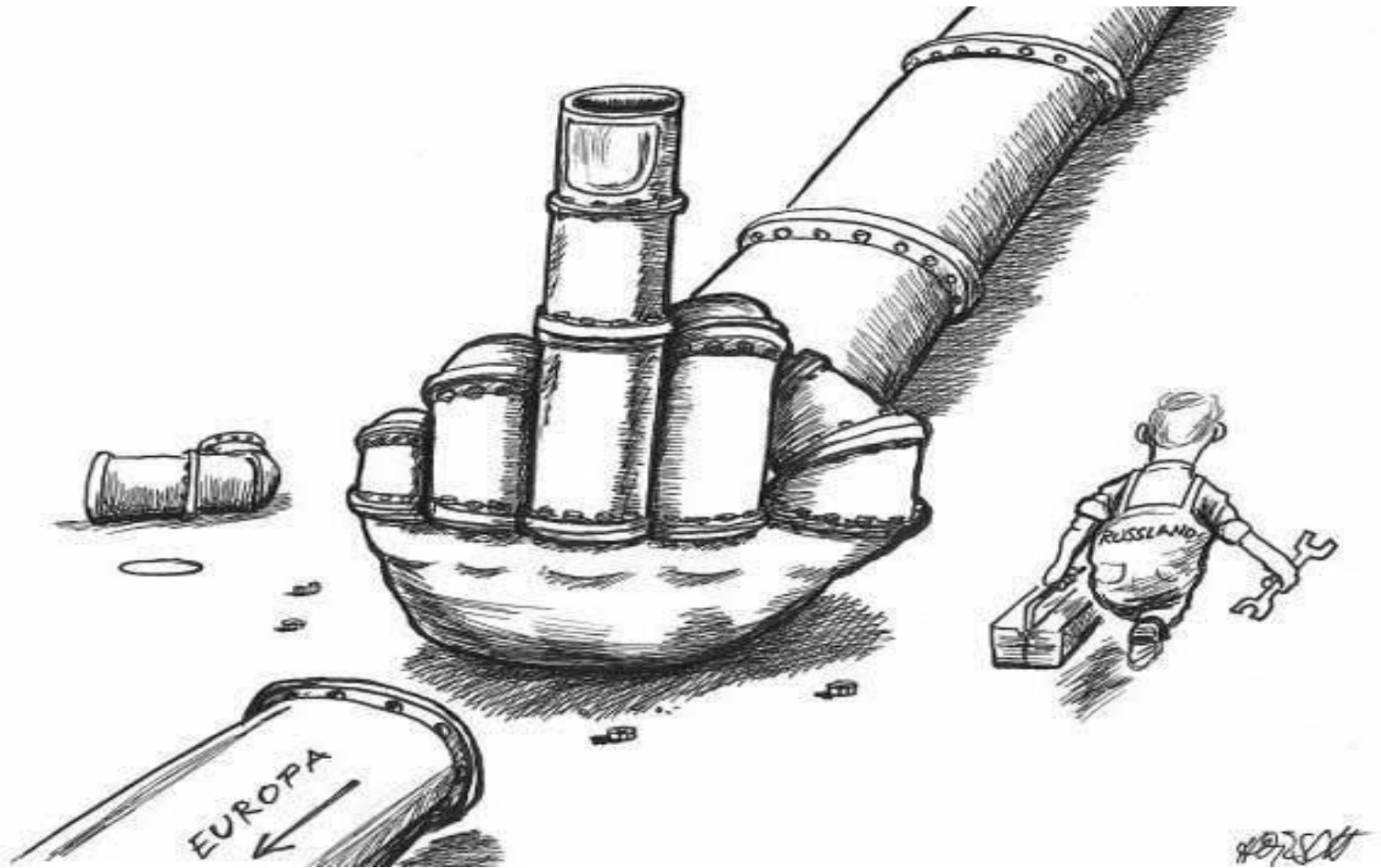
V4 could play an important role

▶ opportunities

- ▶ know-how of the transition – learning from our mistakes
- ▶ “Dichtung und Wahrheit” – myths of EU integration (sovereignty , “Western prices, Eastern salaries”, obeying Brussels like Moscow before, second-class membership, who is “Brussels”?)
- ▶ knowledge of the territory
- ▶ cautious approach towards Russia



V4 could play an important role



V4 could play an important role

▶ risks

- ▶ high expectations (EU will solve our problems...)
- ▶ some myths can be true
- ▶ East-East cooperation instead of East-West
- ▶ demonization/obsession about Russia



V4 could play an important role



Eastern Partnership – what for?

- ▶ not membership – EU is not willing to enlarge, the membership doors will close after Croatia for a long time (27 vs. 1)
- ▶ good governance
- ▶ values, proven practices
- ▶ sectoral integration policies
- ▶ open markets and open minds





Yes we can





Thank you....