

# Conference on the 30th anniversary of the dissolution of the Soviet Union

*With a specific focus on the political and historical development of the individual countries which materialized as a consequence of the dissolution*

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2022, 11.00 AM – 5.00 PM**  
**in ”Fællessalen”, The Danish Parliament, Christiansborg**

Due to the security regulations at Christiansborg, registration is mandatory. Registration fee is DDK 60,- (a light lunch and coffee/tea will be served) Registration not later than Tuesday May 3<sup>rd</sup> at “nemtilmeld”: <https://helsinki-komiteen.nemtilmeld.dk/> . Arrival not later than 10:30 for security control and registration.

## Description

The dissolution of the Soviet Union took place with the failed coup against Gorbachev in August 1991 and was executed at a meeting by Russia’s president Yeltsin, Ukraine’s president Kravchuk and Belarus’ president Shushkevich in the Belavejsky Forest on December 8, 1991. On December 25, 1991, the Soviet Union ceased to exist and USSR President Gorbachev resigned. The Soviet Union had by this time ceased to function. By the end of the year, all Soviet institutions had been closed down. The conference will shed light on this process and the subsequent 30 years of development in a historical and political perspective. Speakers from Denmark and from six countries involved will participate

## Welcome

- 11:00-11:10* **Charlotte Flindt Petersen**, Director, Danish Foreign Policy Society. Moderator.
- 11:10-11:15* **Martin Lidegaard**, MP, Social Liberal Party, former Minister of Foreign Affairs. *Welcome on behalf of the Danish Parliament, our host in the Parliament.*

## 1. Session

- 11:15-11:35* **Uffe Ellemann-Jensen**, Former MP, former Minister of Foreign Affairs. *How did I experience the liberation of the smaller countries from the Soviet Union? Via videolink*
- 11:35-11:50* **Martin Lidegaard**, MP, Social Liberal Party, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chairman of the Foreign Policy Board in the Danish Parliament. *Danish foreign policy relations with the countries of the former Soviet Union in 1991 and now.*
- 11:50-12:05* **Karsten Fledelius**, Chairman of The Danish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights. *Lessons learned from the process of dissolution of the Soviet Union, what does it take for a popular upheaval to take place, and what made people with Russian as their mother tongue prefer a different nationality than the Russian in 1991?*
- 12:05-12:25* **Valentyna Shapovalova**, Media researcher at University of Copenhagen. *The political narratives in Russian media in 1991 and in Putin's Russia.*
- 12:25-12:45* Discussion and Q&A.
- 12:45-13:20* Break, a light lunch will be served.

## 2. Session

- 13:20-13:40 **Vladimir Milov, Russia**, Russian energy policy expert, former Deputy Energy Minister, senior member of Navalny's team. *Russia's democratic opposition in 1991, now and in the future.*
- 13:40-14:00 **Alla Nazarova, Russia**, Secretary for the education board of the Duma of the Russian Federation. *The political system in the Russian Duma in 1991 and today.*
- 14:00-14:20 **Grigoriy Nemyria, Ukraine**, Member of Verkhovna Rada, vice chairman of the foreign policy committee, vice premier minister 2007-10. *Why Ukraine wanted independence in 1991? and how Ukraine had to fight for independence ever since.*
- 14:20-14:40 **Andrius Kubilius, Lithuania**, (TBC) MEP, Rapporteur for relations with Russia, former Lituianian premier minister, *The freedom movement of the Baltic Countries around 1990 and the threat from Russia today.*
- 14:40-15:00 Discussion and Q&A.
- 15:00-15:25 Break. Coffee, tea and cake will be served.

## 3. Session

- 15:25-15:45 **Pavel Tereshkovich, Belarus**, Historian. *On Belarusian identity in 1991 and under Lukashenko's rule, the role of identity politics in the political situation today.*
- 15:45-16:05 **Gigi Gigidze, Georgia**, former Georgian ambassador to Denmark. *The ethnic problems associated with Georgia's liberation from the Soviet Union.*
- 16:05-16:25 **Roza Turarbekava, Kazakhstan**, Kazakh historian and political scientist. *Political and economic development of the Central Asian countries since 1991.*
- 16:25-16:45 Discussion and Q&A.
- 16:45-17:00 **Hanne Severinsen**, The Danish Helsinki Committee and The Danish UN-association, Former MP, and member of PACE, special rapporteur for Ukraine. *Conclusions and final remarks.*



*The Conference is arranged by The Danish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, The Danish Foreign Policy Society The Danish UN-association and The Baltic Sea NGO-Network, and with economic support from The Folmer and Helle Visti Foundation for International Understanding.*