



The Boris Mints Institute  
for Strategic Policy Solutions  
to Global Challenges  
The Gershon H. Gordon Faculty of Social Sciences  
Tel Aviv University

# The International System in 2017

## A Multi-polar World: Main Trends in Economics, Politics and Business

---

### An Outline of the Annual Meeting

**15-17.9.2016**

Vanajan Linna Hotel,  
Helsinki

The Boris Mints Institute was founded with the intention to encourage research, planning and innovative thinking in order to promote a significant positive change in the world. BMI is focusing on eradicating waste of scarce resources and designing strategic innovative plans to enhance the welfare of communities around the globe.

BMI's DNA requires that its innovative ideas be transferred in real time to policy makers. BMI has already held several academic events and extended significant support for research projects in Food Security, Renewable Energy and Conflict Resolution.

BMI is holding an annual meeting, inviting only a handful of leaders to join the rather small circle of members of the international board of BMI and a handful of carefully picked expert scientists. In this exclusive meeting, global challenges are discussed in depth and the merit of strategic policy solutions is brought before the group of experienced and successful leaders to be judged and assessed quite vigorously and to encourage new ideas to come out of this intimate forum to be most effective at fixing what seems to be broken in the conduct of this world.

---

### The 2016 meeting

The 2016 BMI meeting will take place in Helsinki on September 2016 and will focus on the International System in 2017, trying to understand the political economic environment of business and social affairs and direction of international relations following the Brexit and awaiting the presidential elections in the USA: How do international institutions and bureaucracies with both old and new, superpower and moderator players, such as our host country of Finland, shape and cope with the new realities of the day.

After a day of presentations by leading global experts on the subject and a thorough discussion with the board of BMI on September 16, a group of outstanding Ph.D. students will draft a clear summary of the discussion and the findings as well as steps to follow on the most pressing issues and disseminate the information and findings obtained in the meeting.

# Agenda

---

## 15.9.16

20:00 Reception/Dinner at the Vanajan Linna Hotel, Helsinki

## 16.9.16

07:00 Breakfast at the Vanajan Linna Hotel, Helsinki

### 09:00 Symposium: The International System in 2017

Convener: **Dr. Boris Mints**

#### 09:15 Lead Lecture:

**Sergei K. Dubinin**, Member of the Supervisory Council, JSC-VTB Bank, Former Chairman of the Bank of Russia 1995-1998.

*The Third Millennium: Multipolar and Multivector World*

09:45 **Prof. Itai Sened**, Head of BMI, Founding Chair, School of Social Studies and Chair of the Department of Public Policy, Tel Aviv University  
*BMI Celebrates One Year of Full Activity*

10:00 Coffee Break

### 10:15 First Panel: Tension, Prospects and Complexities Between East and West

**Prof. William T. Bianco**, Department of Political Science, University of Indiana - Bloomington  
*Current U.S. Politics and its affect on International Relations with Europe, East and West*

**Ambassador René Nyberg**, CEO, East Office of Finnish Industries 2008-2013, Former Ambassador of Finland to Russia and Germany  
*Current Russian Politics and its affect on International Relations with Europe, East and West*

11:00 Discussion

11:15 Coffee Break

### 11:30 Second Panel: The Political Economy of Russian Engagement in Europe

**Mr. Esa Härmälä**, Former General Director at Metsähallitus (state forests and parks), Former General Director (energy) at the Ministry of Employment and the Economy  
*Energy and Agriculture Policies in Europe of the Third Millennium*

**Dr. Laura Solanko**, Senior Advisor in BOFIT, Bank of Finland  
*Russia's Economic Transition: fiscal federalism and regional economic development in Russia*

**Kari Liuhto**, Professor of International Business, Director, The Pan-European Institute  
*Russian Investments in EU*

**Raimo Valo**, CEO, East Office of Finnish Industries  
*Industrial Policies in Europe of the Third Millennium*

12:30 Lunch

### 13:30 Third Panel: Round Table on Global Affairs in 2017

Chair: **Prof. Itamar Rabinovich**, Former Ambassador of Israel to USA and President Emeritus of Tel Aviv University

#### Participants:

**Esko Aho**, Executive Chairman of Board of Directors, East Office of Finnish Industries, former prime minister of Finland

**Prof. Armen Darbinian**, Rector of Russian-Armenian State University and former Prime-Minister of Armenia

**Remes Seppo Yukha**, Co-Founder and Chairman of EOS Russia

14:45 Coffee Break

#### 15:00 Key Note Speaker:

**Prof. Simon Hix**, Harold Laski Professor of Political Science, London School of Economics and Political Science, Fellow of the British Academy  
*The Causes and Consequences of Brexit*

#### 15:30 Closing Lecture:

**Václav Klaus**, Co- Founder of the Václav Klaus Institute, former President of the Czech Republic  
*Did the Brexit referendum enhance the Chances for Much Needed Changes in Europe?*

16:00 Discussion

16:30 BMI Steering committee – Business Meeting

20:00 Dinner

## 17.09.2016

### 10:00 Ph.D. Students Presentation

BMI Ph.D. Students: **Sagit Azari-Viesel**: The Plight of the European Middle Class

**Karen Umansky**: Analysis of populist radical narratives in British party politics that led to the Brexit

10:30 **Guided Summary group** and drafting of the BMI white paper