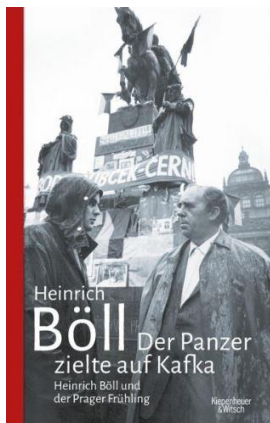


## PERSONAL INVITATION

### From Prague Spring to 2019: Years of Change in Europe

**Date:** 20 February 2019  
**Time:** 18:30 - 22:00  
**Venue:** Atelier29, Rue Jacques de Lalaing 29, 1000 Brussels



In August 1968 Heinrich Böll was invited by the Czechoslovak Writers Association to Prague where he witnessed the violent suppression of the “Prague Spring” reform movement by the troops of the Warsaw Pact. Back then René Böll accompanied his father. We are honoured to welcome him in Brussels to present the book ‘Der Panzer zielte auf Kafka - Heinrich Böll und der Prager Frühling’ (*Heinrich Böll and the Prague Spring*) - a gripping compilation of texts by Heinrich Böll and photos by René Böll himself. Together with René Böll, the Czech author Radka Denemarková and former Member of the European Parliament Milan Horáček, we will discuss the events of 1968 in Czechoslovakia and their impacts on Europe.

Afterwards, we would like to take stock of the political situation in the Visegrad countries prior to the European Parliament elections. In Western Europe the term ‘Visegrad’ has unfortunately become a synonym for a lack of EU-wide solidarity, for narrow-mindedness and for nationalist politics. However, we should take a differentiated look at the different political realities in this region. What are the differences among them, and where can we observe common, pan-European trends? What is left from the hopes of the ‘Velvet Revolution’ 30 years after 1989?

#### Programme

**18:30**

**Welcome drink**

**19:00**

**Welcome by Ellen Ueberschär, President of the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Germany**

**19:10 – 20:00**

**Presentation and discussion**

**‘Der Panzer zielte auf Kafka - Heinrich Böll und der Prager Frühling’ (*Heinrich Böll and the Prague Spring*)**

- **René Böll**, artist, Germany
- **Radka Denemarková**, author, Czech Republic
- **Milan Horáček**, former Member of the European Parliament, Germany/Czech Republic

**Moderation:** Klaus Linsenmeier, Head of Office, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Prague

**20:00 – 21:00**

**Debate**

**Stock taking: The Visegrad countries 30 years after 1989**

- **Radka Denemarková**, author, Czech Republic
- **Jakub Eberle**, Senior Researcher, Institute of International Relations Prague, Czech Republic
- **Péter Krekó**, Director, Political Capital Institute, Hungary

**Moderation: Eva van de Rakt**, Head of Office, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung European Union, Brussels

**21:00**

**Buffet dinner & Drinks**

**Join us to bid farewell to**

**Klaus Linsenmeier,**

**the former Head of Office of the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung European Union in Brussels  
and to welcome our new Head of Office,  
Eva van de Rakt.**

**Please register by 11 February 2019 via [this link](#)**

**Working languages: English and German (simultaneous translation)**