

RETHINKING POWER. CONNECTING PERSPECTIVES. SHAPING COOPERATION.



Global Dialogue on Power

*CONCEPT, PROGRAMME
AND PARTICIPANTS*



Overview

On 21 October 2026 in Strasbourg, **Europa Nova** will convene the Global Dialogue on Power. Competition for leadership in artificial intelligence, quantum and biotechnologies, energy and innovation is reshaping the international order and accelerating the emergence of rival systemic powers. This transformation presents profound challenges not only for the major powers, but also for middle-sized countries, international institutions and societies seeking to preserve their strategic autonomy and capacity for action.

The Global Dialogue on Power will mark the beginning of a new collaborative process and an international platform for strategic reflection and action on the changing nature of power in this new technological era, how power is exercised, and how it can contribute to human progress and the global common good.

The Strasbourg gathering will be the first step in building this platform, bringing founding members together to align their ambitions, priorities and visions for future cooperation.

By convening international think tanks, academic leaders, diplomats, multilateral institutions, technology and energy experts, business leaders, civil society representatives and emerging global leaders from Europe, North America, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Indo-Pacific, the Dialogue will foster a fresh and strategic dialogue on the transformations reshaping the distribution and exercise of global power.

Steering Committee

António Vitorino, Chair

Bahadır Kaleagasi, General Rapporteur

Guillaume Klossa, President Europa Nova

Elise Cuny, Coordinator

Rationale

The international order is increasingly shaped by competition for leadership in AI, science and technology. This is giving rise to new forms of systemic power and challenges the positioning, strategic choices and room for manoeuvre of smaller states.

Power itself is becoming more complex, multidimensional and interconnected. In the second quarter of the twenty-first century, influence increasingly depends on the capacity to generate scientific and technological progress, mobilise investment and finance, secure sustainable energy systems, build infrastructure capacity, drive economic growth and strengthen economic resilience.

AI and other advanced technologies add a new dimension. Computing capacity, semiconductors, data, critical minerals, energy, scientific talent, financial resources, industrial ecosystems and regulatory standards are becoming increasingly important components of geopolitical power. At the same time, technological capabilities are increasingly concentrated in a limited number of states and corporations, raising new questions about sovereignty, governance, accountability and the distribution of power.

These transformations call for a global stocktake of strategies to redeploy power projection. They are also a wake-up call for governments, international institutions, business and civil society to reconsider how power is understood, framed and exercised.

The Global Dialogue on Power provides a platform for strategic dialogue and collaborative reflection across regions. The purpose is therefore to bring together different understandings of power, strategic ambitions and regional perspectives, while exploring where interests converge and where new forms of cross-regional cooperation may emerge.

Ahead of the Dialogue

Participating think tanks have shared their initial reflections on the Dialogue's three guiding questions and, through two online preparatory meetings, have developed a working memo to guide the Forum's discussions and inform the subsequent action plan. These exchanges have highlighted a shared commitment to collective intellectual reflection as a driver of action, as well as a common recognition of the urgency of translating ideas into concrete outcomes.

Three guiding questions

1. How should power be understood and defined in the second quarter of the twenty-first century?
2. Is systemic rivalry inevitable? What mindset, capabilities and conditions are required to exercise power effectively and responsibly?
3. How can power be harnessed in the service of global common goods?

Outcomes and Outputs

The Strasbourg meeting is intended not as a stand-alone conference, but as the beginning of a collaborative process. Participants will shape the initiative's future development by sharing their ambitions, priorities and ideas for deeper cooperation.

The discussions will therefore seek to identify concrete opportunities for cooperation, including joint research, publications, policy initiatives, international events and other projects developed by Europa Nova and members of the network.

A central objective will be to build consensus around the purpose, added value and working modalities of the partnership, and to identify a practical roadmap for its next phase.

21 OCTOBER 2026 STRASBOURG

PROGRAMME

21 OCTOBER 2026 - OPENING // 11.15 - 11.40

BENJAMIN HADDAD, MINISTER DELEGATE TO THE MINISTER FOR EUROPE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, RESPONSIBLE FOR EUROPE, FRANCE

CHRISTIAN DEBÈVE, REGIONAL COUNCILLOR AND CHAIR OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL'S 2ND COMMITTEE, RESPONSIBLE FOR CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION, EUROPE AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, GRAND EST REGION

WHY A WORLDWIDE DIALOGUE ON POWER?

António Vitorino, Bahadır Kaleagasi, Guillaume Klossa

Opening discussion on why a new international reflection on power is needed and why it should take the form of a collaborative process among think tanks and strategic institutions from different regions.

The session will take stock of recent strategic debates and contributions and establish the intellectual and political context for the Dialogue.

Participants' Expectations and Ambitions, Roundtable

Participants will briefly share what they expect from the initiative, what perspectives and expertise they can contribute, and what they would like the platform to achieve.

21 OCTOBER 2026 - SESSION 1 // 11.45-13.15

FRAMING THE NEW DIMENSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS OF POWER

Chaired by António Vitorino and Bahadır Kaleagasi

ROUNDTABLE

The session will critically examine the concept of systemic power, bringing together different regional perspectives, strategic approaches and narratives, while identifying the gaps and limitations inherent in traditional understandings of power.

Participants will consider how technological capabilities, economic strength, finance, energy, industrial capacity, institutions, social cohesion and strategic resilience increasingly interact in determining the ability of states and societies to act.

The discussion will also take stock of existing strategies, governance frameworks and regulatory approaches designed to reduce excessive dependencies and safeguard strategic autonomy in an era of systemic rivalry.

Finally, participants will explore how power can be exercised not only competitively, but also cooperatively, particularly in protecting global common goods and addressing challenges that no country or region can manage alone.

LUNCH BREAK // 13.15 - 14.15

21 OCTOBER 2026 - SESSION 2 // 14.15- 15.45

BRINGING PERSPECTIVES TOGETHER AND BUILDING THE CASE FOR COLLABORATION : *FROM ANALYSIS TO ACTION*

Chaired by António Vitorino and Bahadir Kaleagasi

ROUNDTABLE

WORKING GROUPS

Using a collaborative format, the session will draw directly on participants' contributions to identify areas where cooperation can add genuine value and where the Dialogue can make a distinctive contribution to the international debate.

Particular attention will be given to identifying a limited number of shared priorities around which members can develop concrete projects.

The session will also seek to build consensus around the purpose and modalities of the partnership, including its strategic priorities, working methods, governance, potential outputs and next steps.

The objective is to leave Strasbourg not only with a richer understanding of the changing nature of power, but also with the foundations of an international network capable of thinking and acting together.

21 OCTOBER 2026 - CONCLUSION // 15.45-16.00

António Vitorino, Bahadir Kaleagasi, Guillaume Klossa

Summary of the principal conclusions, areas of convergence and proposed next steps for the Global Dialogue on Power.

Representatives and Participating Institutions

PARTICIPATING OFFICIALS

Benjamin Haddad

French Minister Delegate for Europe, attached to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France

Christian Debève

Regional Councillor and Chair of the Regional Council's 2nd Committee, responsible for cross-border cooperation, Europe and international affairs, representing Mr Franck Leroy, President of the Grand Est Region.

STEERING GROUP

António Vitorino

Chair of the Global Dialogue on Power; President of the Conclave; former Director-General of the International Organization for Migration; former European Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs; former Portuguese Minister of National Defence.

Guillaume Klossa

President of EuropaNova; CEO of T-Life; former Special Adviser on Artificial Intelligence to the President of the European Commission and the Commission Vice-President for Digital Affairs.

Bahadır Kaleagasi

General Rapporteur of the Global Dialogue on Power; President of the Bosphorus Institute; former Director-General of TUSIAD.

Elise Cuny

Coordinator of the Global Dialogue on Power, President of culture Solutions, Advisor to EuropaNova on cultural policies and cooperation.

PARTICIPANTS AND FOUNDING MEMBERS

Dexter Docherty, Foresight expert and former OECD expert. Lead author of the OECD's Strategic Foresight Toolkit for Resilient Public Policy; co-author and designer of the OECD's work on AI, gold and global markets, geoengineering, and the futures of multilateralism.

Dave Keating, Author of The Owned Continent; American-European journalist and Brussels correspondent for France 24.

Banca Transilvania — Romania

- Andrei Radulescu, Director, Macroeconomic Research, Member of the Global Elite Macroeconomic Research Team.

Center for International Relations Foundation (CIR/CSM) — Poland

- Adrianna Sniadowska, Chief Executive Officer.

Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) — Canada

- Matt Malone, Research Director for Digitalisation, Security and Democracy.

Cercle Européen Renert — Luxembourg

- Jochen Richter, President.

Chatham House — United Kingdom

- Miguel Castilla, Associate Fellow; former Peruvian Minister of Economy and Finance, economist, and former Ambassador of Peru to the United States.

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations — Belgium

- Jean-Louis De Brouwer, Director of the European Affairs Programme.

ELIAMEP – Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy — Greece

- Andréas C. Hatzidiakos, Senior Research Fellow, Wider Europe Programme.

European Cultural Foundation — European Union

- Isabelle Schwarz, Head of Public Policy.

Europa Nova — France

- Isabelle Négrier, Advisor to the President.
- Florian Mante, Treasurer.

FEPS – Foundation for European Progressive Studies — European Union

- Nicolas Schmit, President and Co-President of the Europa Power Initiative.
- Paddy Siyanga Knudsen, FEPS expert and Coordinator of the African Non-State Actors Platform for Migration and Development.

FORAUS — Switzerland

- Sereina Capatt, Co-Director.
- Johan Sauser, Vice-President.

Geopolitics and Security Studies Center (GSSC) — Lithuania

- Ambassador Vytautas Leškevičius, Chief Policy Analyst and security and defence policy expert, former Permanent Representative of Lithuania to NATO.

Green European Foundation — European Union

- Meyrem Almaci, Co-President.

Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft Köln e.V. / German Economic Institute — Germany

- Alex Radunz, Policy Officer for European Affairs (Referent für Europapolitik).

Institute for Development and International Relations (IRMO) — Croatia

- Dr. sc. Jakša Puljiz, Director.

Institut Jacques Delors — France

- Sofia Fernandes, Deputy Director.

Kozminski University — Poland

- Adriana Lukaszewicz, Professor of Economics and International Relations, Expert at the Center for International Relations, Member of the Forecast Committee Poland 2000+ of the Polish Academy of Sciences.
- Adrian Lukaszewicz, Economist, Entrepreneur, and Director of Postgraduate Studies at Kozminski University.

Observer Research Foundation (ORF) — India

- Vivek Mishra, Deputy Director, Strategic Studies Program.

On Think Tanks (OTT) — Global

- Andrea Cabrera, Head of communication and marketing.

Policy Center for the New South — Morocco

- Abdelhak Bassou, Senior Fellow.

University of Denver — United States

- Professor Jonathan D. Moyer, Associate Professor at the Korbel School and Director of the Frederick S. Pardee Institute for International Futures.

University of Salento — Italy

- Professor Claudia Morini, Deputy Director of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence EUMANITY Demos and Vice-President of the Association for Supranational Democracy.

Von Kietz Strategies — Belgium

- Dariusz Dybka, Founding partner.

Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies — European Union

- Peter Hefele, Policy Director.

Stiftung Genshagen — Germany

- Marie Augère, Project Director, Dialogue européen – penser l'Europe politique, Stiftung Genshagen.

Youth Network

- Julia Czaban, Service Civique Européen.

Founding members who could not join us in Strasbourg:



ARCTIC ECONOMIC COUNCIL

Norway



GESDA

Switzerland



**ISSAM FARES INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC
POLICY & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

معهد عصام فارس للسياسات العامة والشؤون الدولية

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

ISSAM FARES INSTITUTE

Lebanon



GENRON NPO

Japan



JEJU FORUM

South Korea



BLED STRATEGIC FORUM

Slovenia



MEGAS

Egypt



**PRINCE SAUD AL FAISAL INSTITUTE
OF DIPLOMATIC STUDIES**

Saudi Arabia



**CONSEJO ARGENTINO PARA LAS
RELACIONES INTERNACIONALES**

Argentina



COMEXI

Mexico



Biographies

Steering Group

António Vitorino

Chair of the Global Dialogue on Power; President of the Conclave; former Director-General of the International Organization for Migration; former European Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs; former Portuguese Minister of National Defence.

Mr António Vitorino is a Portuguese lawyer and politician who served as European Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs from 1999 to 2004 and as Portugal's Minister of the Presidency and National Defence from 1995 to 1997. Elected to the Portuguese Parliament in 1980, he subsequently became Secretary of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Deputy Governor of Macao. From 1989 to 1994, he served as a judge at Portugal's Constitutional Court before becoming Minister of National Defence and Deputy Prime Minister under António Guterres. As European Commissioner, he contributed to discussions leading to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the Convention on the Future of Europe. From 2018 to 2023, he served as Director-General of the International Organization for Migration.

Guillaume Klossa

President of EuropaNova; CEO of T-Life; former Special Adviser on Artificial Intelligence to the President of the European Commission and the Commission Vice-President for Digital Affairs.

Guillaume Klossa is a European writer, thinker, business leader and think tank founder, bridging strategic reflection, public action and technological innovation. He is Co-founder, Chairman and CEO of T-life, an AI-powered deep tech company. He initiated the Global Dialogue on Power, fostering international debate on the evolving nature and responsibilities of power. As Founder and President of EuropaNova and Co-chair of the Europa Power Initiative, he champions a global, sustainable and responsible Europe. His work promotes pragmatic cooperation in the service of European citizens and the global common good. He served as Special Adviser on AI, emerging digital technologies and platforms to European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker. He also served as Sherpa for the European Council's reflection on the future of Europe, chaired by Felipe González. As Director and Executive Board member of the European Broadcasting Union, he led initiatives in strategy, data, AI and digital transformation. He chairs The Conclave, established with the support of European Council President António Costa. The Conclave helps EU leaders anticipate change and translate strategic foresight into action. He is the author of Une jeunesse européenne, Media for Good and Fierté européenne.

Bahadır Kaleagasi

General Rapporteur of the Global Dialogue on Power; President of the Bosphorus Institute; former Director-General of TÜSIAD.

Dr Bahadır Kaleagasi is President of the Paris Bosphorus Institute and a lecturer at Galatasaray University in Istanbul, specialising in international economic relations, globalisation, sustainable development and European integration. He is Honorary President of the Brussels Energy Club and a scientific member of the University of Brussels' Institute for European Studies. He also serves on the boards or advisory bodies of several international institutions. After graduating summa cum laude from Brussels and Istanbul Universities, he worked as a researcher and lecturer and contributed to European Commission studies and preparations for the Maastricht Treaty. He joined TÜSIAD in 1995, later becoming International Coordinator and, from 2016 to 2020, its CEO and board member.

Elise Cuny

Coordinator of the Global Dialogue on Power; President of culture Solutions; Adviser to EuropaNova on cultural policies and cooperation.

Elise Cuny coordinates the Global Dialogue on Power and advises EuropaNova on cultural policies and cooperation. Since August 2024, she has chaired culture Solutions, overseeing strategic development, content production, partnerships and networks relating to the European Union's international cultural relations. She has ten years of experience of capacity-building and research in international relations and diplomacy, and additional expertise on democratic innovations and citizen participation. Specialising in Africa-Europe partnerships, youth support and cultural and creative industries, she spent three years in Rwanda on an international investigation mission. From 2017 to 2019 at the Egmont Institute, she piloted the training programmes for experts deployed in civilian crisis management missions (CSDP, UN, OSCE). She holds master's degrees from the College of Europe and Sciences Po Lille.

Individual Experts and Founding Members

Meyrem Almaci

Co-President, Green European Foundation.

Meyrem Almaci is a Belgian politician of Turkish heritage, a mother of two, and an enthusiast of fantasy, anime, books and music. She led Belgium's Green Party from 2014 to 2022 and has been a member of the national parliament since 2007. She serves as Co-President of the Green European Foundation, contributing to European political debate and environmental policy discussions. Her political outlook centres on protecting the planet, acting responsibly towards future generations and maintaining a positive approach to everyday life. She advocates combining environmental responsibility with an appreciation of life and collective action. Her guiding principle captures this outlook: "Don't curse the darkness, light a candle."

Marie Augère

Project Director, Dialogue européen – penser l'Europe politique, Stiftung Genshagen — Germany.

Marie Augère specialises in European affairs, public administration and Franco-German cooperation. She studied at Sciences Po Paris and the Otto Suhr Institute of the Free University of Berlin, following her initial studies at Sciences Po's Franco-German campus in Nancy. She began her career in Franco-German university cooperation at the French Embassy in Berlin, working with the organisation then known as CIDU, now Campus France, before moving into business events. From 2008 to 2017, she coordinated the Franco-German Executive Master in European Governance and Administration (MEGA) at UP Transfer GmbH and the University of Potsdam. The programme was delivered on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of the Interior in cooperation with the École Nationale d'Administration, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University, Humboldt University of Berlin and the German University of Administrative Sciences Speyer. Her work focuses on European political cooperation, governance and dialogue.

Abdelhak Bassou

Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South — Morocco.

Abdelhak Bassou is a Senior Fellow at the Policy Center for the New South, a non-resident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council's Africa Center, and an Affiliate Professor at Mohammed VI Polytechnic University. He has an extensive career in Moroccan national security, including serving as head of the border division from 1978 to 1993, Director of the Royal Institute of Police in 1998, and Head of Regional Security in Errachidia and Sidi Kacem. From 2006 to 2009, he was Central Director of General Intelligence. He holds a master's degree in Political Science and International Studies from the Faculty of Law, Economics and Social Sciences in Rabat. His research examines geopolitical rivalries and African security, including conflict and terrorism. Since 2018, he has directed the Policy Center's annual report on African geopolitics and contributed to publications on EU-MENA relations and human security in the Atlantic space.

Sereina Capatt

Co-Director, FORAUS — Switzerland.

Sereina Capatt is Co-Director of foraus, Switzerland's participatory foreign policy think tank, where she works to bring young people and diverse perspectives into policy debates. Her experience includes work at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London, the Swiss government and the foreign desk of a major Swiss newspaper. Across these roles, she has engaged with sustainability, development cooperation and Eastern European affairs. She is particularly interested in how participation and coalition-building can influence power and advance collective solutions to global challenges. Her work combines policy engagement with an interest in inclusive decision-making and international cooperation. She studied International Relations in Geneva and Aarhus, as well as Eastern European Studies and Political Science in Bern.

Andrea Cabrera

Head of communication and marketing, On Think Tanks

Andrea Cabrera is a strategic communications professional with over 15 years of experience in storytelling, advocacy and campaigns for social and environmental impact. She currently coordinates communications at On Think Tanks (OTT), supporting initiatives that strengthen think tanks and their contribution to public policy and social change. Previously, she worked with organisations including WWF, FAO and World Vision, leading communications initiatives on climate change, biodiversity, food security and child protection. Her work focuses on translating complex issues into compelling stories that inspire engagement and collective action

Miguel Castilla

Associate Fellow, Chatham House — United Kingdom; former Peruvian Minister of Economy and Finance and Ambassador of Peru to the United States.

Miguel Castilla holds a PhD in Economics and has held senior positions in Peru's public administration, including Minister of Economy and Finance and Ambassador to the United States. He has more than 20 years of experience in multilateral development banking, with management roles at the Inter-American Development Bank and the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF). His expertise includes public management, development finance, international finance and economic development. He chairs HÁGASE Instituto, a public policy think tank, advises companies and international financial institutions, and serves on the boards of companies across the financial, industrial and services sectors. As Minister, he led reforms to mining taxation and royalties. His recent policy work focuses on mining formalisation, critical minerals and subnational investment of mining revenues.

Jean-Louis De Brouwer

Director of the European Affairs Programme, Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations — Belgium.

Jean-Louis De Brouwer is Director of the European Affairs Programme at the Egmont Institute, which he joined in October 2019 after retiring from the European Commission. As a Commission director, he was responsible for immigration, asylum, visas and border policies; implementation of the EU 2020 agenda and employment policies; and humanitarian aid operations and policy. He holds master's degrees in Law, Sociology, and Public Administration and International Relations from the Catholic University of Louvain. Before joining the Commission, he held positions in the Belgian civil service and served as Director-General of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences. He teaches public law, political science and EU politics at Belgian universities and lectures on international relations, the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice, and immigration and humanitarian policy.

Dexter Docherty

Foresight expert and former OECD expert; lead author of the OECD's Strategic Foresight Toolkit for Resilient Public Policy.

Dexter Docherty is a foresight expert specialising in geosecurity, geofinance and technology futures. He has led scenario-planning processes involving senior government officials worldwide. At the OECD, he was lead author of the Strategic Foresight Toolkit for Resilient Public Policy and co-author and designer of work on artificial intelligence, gold and global markets, geoengineering, and the futures of multilateralism. Before leaving the OECD in October 2026, he worked on strategic foresight and public policy. His previous positions included roles at Policy Horizons Canada and the Canadian Department of Justice. He holds a master's degree in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation from the University of Oxford and a bachelor's degree in History from McGill University.

Dariusz Dybka

Founding partner, ddy — Belgium.

Dariusz Dybka is a founding partner at Von Kietz Strategies in Brussels and board member and Programme Director at the European Strategy Institute (Poland). He previously served as Senior Vice-President and Head of Sustainability at Edelman, Climate Attaché at Poland's Permanent Representation to the EU, and Principal Adviser at Business and Science Poland in Brussels. In 2007, he was a Lantos Fellow at the US House of Representatives. He specialises in the legal aspects of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process and served as an Alternate Member of the Kyoto Protocol Compliance Committee's Facilitative Branch from 2012 to 2016. His previous experience also includes work with the Centre for International Relations in Warsaw and the European Roundtable on Climate and Sustainable Transition in Brussels. His work spans climate policy, sustainability, European affairs and international cooperation.

Sofia Fernandes

Deputy Director, Institut Jacques Delors — France.

Sofia Fernandes is Deputy Director of the Jacques Delors Institute and Director of the Notre Europe Academy. She oversees the Institute's management and development, civic engagement activities and promotion of Jacques Delors' legacy. Her expertise centres on European social policy, including employment, labour mobility, skills, social rights and support for economic and social transitions. She previously taught at ESPOL – Catholic University of Lille from 2014 to 2020 and trained professionals for the European Institute of Public Administration from 2013 to 2017. Before joining the Institute in 2010, she worked at the Jacques Delors European Information Centre in Lisbon, Portugal's Permanent Representation to the EU and the Portuguese Institute for Quality. She holds a degree in European Affairs from the University of Lisbon and a master's degree in International Relations from the Higher Institute of Social and Political Sciences in Lisbon, and also studied at the University of Bologna.

John J. Goodman

Director, Syracuse University Strasbourg; Assistant Professor, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University.

John J. Goodman directs Syracuse University's international studies programme in Strasbourg, France, while serving as an Assistant Professor at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. His responsibilities include academic affairs, budgeting, student services, housing, and oversight of faculty, staff and students. He represents the university in engagement with local, national and international stakeholders, including the Council of Europe, the European Court of Human Rights, ARTE TV, the European Parliament, and diplomatic missions in Strasbourg. Previously, he served as Associate Director of the Conflict Resolution Program at The Carter Center, supporting efforts to mitigate and end armed conflict in Africa. His work included advising President Jimmy Carter and senior management on sensitive issues and collaborating with the International Committee of the Red Cross in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Peter Grk

Secretary-General, Bled Strategic Forum — Slovenia.

Peter Grk is Secretary-General of the Bled Strategic Forum and National Coordinator for the Western Balkans at Slovenia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. With 16 years of diplomatic experience, he has held postings in Ankara, Copenhagen and Brussels. During Slovenia's 2008 Presidency of the Council of the European Union, he chaired the Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CIVCOM). In 2011, he served as Political Coordinator at Slovenia's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. He previously advised Slovenia's Foreign Minister from 2009 to 2011 and served as Chief Foreign Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister from 2013 to 2014. His work focuses on diplomacy, European affairs and regional cooperation, particularly in the Western Balkans.

Andréas C. Hatzidiakos

Senior Research Fellow, Wider Europe Programme, ELIAMEP — Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy, Greece.

Andréas C. Hatzidiakos holds a PhD in Political Science and specialises in international and strategic relations, particularly the Middle East, North Africa, the Gulf and the Sahel. More than a decade as a political and military adviser at the French Ministry of Armed Forces, including as a Seconded National Expert at the European External Action Service, shaped his expertise in policy, strategy and operational practice. His research covers counter-terrorism, radicalisation, armed conflict, authoritarianism, defence policy and armament. His broader interests include conflict prevention and mediation, security sector reform, the prevention of violent extremism and terrorist financing. Alongside his role at ELIAMEP, he is co-director of OPEWI – Europe's War Institute. Since 2008, he has lectured at several European universities, including Sciences Po institutions.

Peter Hefe

Policy Director, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies — European Union.

Peter Hefe has served as Policy Director at the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, the European People's Party's political foundation and think tank, since January 2022. His work focuses on foreign and security policy, economic and industrial policy, international development cooperation, and energy and climate policy. Before joining the Centre, he held several senior positions at the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS). From 2019 to 2020, he directed its Asia and Pacific department in Berlin; from 2015 to 2019, he led the Energy Security and Climate Change regional project in Hong Kong; and from 2010 to 2015, he headed the KAS China Office in Shanghai. He joined KAS in 2003, initially working on economic policy and political education. He holds a PhD in Economics and Economic History from the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt and specialises in the political, economic and social development of Asia and the Mediterranean.

Dave Keating

Author of The Owned Continent; American-European journalist and Brussels correspondent for France 24.

Dave Keating is an American-European journalist based in Brussels and correspondent for France 24, where he covers European affairs and moderates live events. His writing has appeared in the New Statesman, Energy Monitor, IP Quarterly, Euractiv, Forbes and World Politics Review. He previously edited EuropeanVoice.com, a sister publication of The Economist, and authored The Owned Continent. He was ranked the leading EU social media influencer in 2023, placing second in 2024 and 2022 and third in 2021 and 2020. Since arriving in Brussels in 2010, he has covered European politics, climate policy and international affairs. He holds a BA in Film and Television and European History from New York University and an MSc in Journalism from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism.

Yasushi Kudo

Founder and President, Genron NPO – The Japan Center for International Exchange — Japan.

Yasushi Kudo is the founder and President of Genron NPO, an independent Tokyo-based think tank established in 2001. Under his leadership, the organisation has conducted policy research, evaluated government performance and assessed political parties' election pledges. It convenes more than 500 Japanese opinion leaders and experts to develop solutions to domestic and international policy challenges. Kudo has initiated influential Track II diplomacy initiatives, including the Tokyo–Beijing Forum in 2005 and the Japan–Korea Future Dialogue in 2013. In 2020, Genron NPO established the Asia Peace Conference, bringing together Japan, the United States, China and South Korea. Since 2012, Kudo has represented Japan on the Council of Councils. He also established the Tokyo Conference in 2017 to advance global governance and international policy cooperation.

Ambassador Vytautas Leškevičius

Chief Policy Analyst and security and defence policy expert; former Permanent Representative of Lithuania to NATO, Geopolitics and Security Studies Center (GSSC) — Lithuania.

Vytautas Leškevičius is a Lithuanian security and defence policy expert with 30 years of experience in international security, transatlantic relations, NATO and EU affairs. His career includes senior responsibilities in security policy, international relations and strategic analysis, notably as Lithuania's Permanent Representative to NATO. He also led the team coordinating Lithuania's first Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Throughout his career, he has participated in major negotiations and policy processes concerning NATO and EU security and defence, resilience and crisis management. He currently serves as Chief Policy Analyst at the Geopolitics and Security Studies Center, a Vilnius-based think tank, and as a non-resident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council. His work focuses on European security and transatlantic cooperation.

Ambassador Simona Leskovar

Programme Director, Bled Strategic Forum; representative of Slovenia's Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.

Simona Leskovar became Programme Director of the Bled Strategic Forum in September 2024. Until August 2024, she served as Slovenia's Ambassador to the United Kingdom and Permanent Representative to the International Maritime Organization. Previously, she was State Secretary at Slovenia's Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. A career diplomat with 28 years of service, she has served as Ambassador to Japan and the Republic of Korea, Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, and in Washington, DC. She advised Slovenia's Foreign Minister during the country's first EU Presidency in 2008 and later directed the Young Bled Strategic Forum. She initiated the Young Ambassadors mentoring programme to encourage young women to pursue careers in diplomacy and international relations. In 2024, she received the European Diplomat of the Year award.

Professor Adriana Łukaszewicz

Professor of Economics and International Relations, Kozminski University; Expert at the Center for International Relations; Member of the Forecast Committee Poland 2000+ of the Polish Academy of Sciences — Poland.

Adriana Łukaszewicz is an economist, political scientist and international relations specialist whose interdisciplinary approach combines economic analysis with political and international perspectives. Her research interests include energy markets, aviation, the global economy and the economies of the Gulf oil monarchies. She is a recognised national and international expert on Gulf affairs and has conducted research and professional exchanges at leading regional institutions, including the Emirates Centre of Strategic Studies in Abu Dhabi, Qatar University, the Al Jazeera Center for Studies in Doha and the Diplomatic Academy of Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Through her academic and policy work, she contributes to the analysis of global economic developments, regional dynamics and international relations.

Adriana Łukaszewicz

Founder and partner of Koźmiński University.

Adrian Łukaszewicz holds a Master's degree in Economics and is completing his PhD in Business Management. He is the owner of a group of companies specializing in design-and-build projects for the hospitality industry across Europe and offshore markets. He is also a founder and partner of Kozminski University, where he is responsible for postgraduate studies in Business Management.

Matt Malone

Research Director for Digitalisation, Security and Democracy, Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) — Canada.

Matt Malone is Research Director for Digitalisation, Security and Democracy at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI). He is a scholar and practitioner whose work focuses on the intersection of law, technology and government accountability. His professional interests encompass the implications of digital transformation for public institutions, the legal frameworks governing technological change, and the responsibilities of governments in ensuring accountability. Through his research and policy engagement at CIGI, he contributes to discussions on digitalisation, security and democracy. His work brings together legal analysis and practical experience to examine how institutions can respond to technological developments while maintaining transparency, accountability and effective governance.

Vivek Mishra

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Vivek Mishra is Deputy Director of the Strategic Studies Programme at the Observer Research Foundation. His research focuses on US foreign policy, domestic politics in the United States, America's role in the Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific, and implications for South Asian security. His other interests include India-US defence relations and great-power competition. Previously, he was a Research Fellow at the Indian Council of World Affairs in New Delhi, Assistant Professor of International Relations at NIAS in Kolkata, and a Fulbright-Nehru Visiting Scholar at Columbia University's Saltzman Institute of War and Peace in 2015–2016. He holds a PhD and an MPhil in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University. His publications include books on Indian diplomacy, institution-building, the United Nations General Assembly and maritime strategy, alongside more than 20 peer-reviewed articles and 16 book chapters.

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Claudia Morini is an Associate Professor of EU Law in the Department of Law at the University of Salento, Italy, where she previously served as a Senior Researcher. She coordinated the Jean Monnet Module EU-ProWomen from 2022 to 2025, focusing on women's rights, gender equality and democratic participation in the European Union. In June 2026, she obtained the National Scientific Qualification for Full Professor of EU Law. She teaches EU law, international and European human rights law, and European cultural heritage law. She is Vice-Director of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence EUMANITY DEMOS and Vice-President of the Association for Supranational Democracy. Her research and academic work cover EU legal frameworks, disaster response, judicial cooperation, non-discrimination and democratic participation.

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Isabelle Négrier

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Isabelle Négrier has over 25 years of experience in the energy sector and international relations, specialising in European affairs, the energy transition, sustainable development and strategic partnerships. She previously served as Managing Director of EuropaNova and now advises its President. At EDF, she works on strategy, business development and influence, supporting decarbonisation and sustainable growth. Her previous responsibilities included international public affairs for the EDF Group across 22 countries and serving as Territorial Director for Paris and the Île-de-France region. She has also held several board positions and advised Streetco, an inclusive mobility start-up. A graduate of ESCP Business School and Sciences Po, she focuses on strengthening European cooperation and translating strategic priorities into practical outcomes.

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Jakša Puljiz holds a PhD in Economics and is Director of the Institute for Development and International Relations (IRMO). He has over 25 years of experience in government, European Commission advisory work and applied policy research. After joining IRMO in 2001, he developed expertise in economic development and EU policy and contributed to Croatia's EU accession negotiations. In 2012, he became Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds, leading work on EU funding, programming and the National Reform Programme. He later advised Croatia's Prime Minister on economic affairs. From 2017 to 2025, he headed IRMO's European Policies Department, focusing on EU economic governance and cohesion policy. His work has included assignments for the European Commission, World Bank and national authorities. He became Director of IRMO in 2025.

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Alex Radunz

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Jochen Richter

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Jochen M. Richter is the founder and President of Cercle Européen Renert, an independent think tank in Luxembourg. A German national and committed European, he brings three decades of experience across the European Commission and European Parliament, including positions in research, competition, the internal market and conciliation. He served in the cabinets of European Commissioners Frits Bolkestein and Leonard Orban. He has taught at the University of Luxembourg since 2019 and at Heinrich Heine University. Since 2024, he has also lectured on European integration at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv. An author and editor, his publications include Last Train West and Europe and the Emerging New Global Order. He also chairs the Global Security Forum of the UN-registered Diplomatic Council.

Maria João Rodrigues

Chair of the Advisory Board, Re-Imagine Europa; President of the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (2017–2025); former Vice-President of the S&D Group in the European Parliament (2014–2019); former Portuguese Minister of Employment (1995–1997) — European Union.

Maria João Rodrigues is a European politician and academic with extensive experience across European institutions, including EU Presidencies, the Council, the European Council, the European Commission and the European Parliament. A former Portuguese Minister of Employment, she has contributed to major European initiatives, including the EU growth and jobs strategy, the Lisbon Treaty, eurozone reform, the European Pillar of Social Rights and the development of relations with strategic partners. From 2014 to 2019, she served as Vice-President of the Socialists and Democrats (S&D) Group in the European Parliament, coordinating parliamentary work and interinstitutional negotiations on the European agenda. An academic and full professor, she also chaired the European Commission's board for socio-economic research. She has authored around 100 publications and delivered more than 2,000 conferences across Europe and internationally.

Johan Sauser

Vice-President, FORAUS — Switzerland.

Johan Sauser is Vice-President and a board member of foraus, Switzerland's participatory foreign policy think tank. Since 2024, he has been a doctoral assistant at the Global Studies Institute at the University of Geneva. He holds a bachelor's degree in International Relations and a master's degree in European Studies. His academic and policy interests focus particularly on mobility and European integration, areas in which he examines the connections between cross-border movement, political cooperation and Europe's evolving institutional landscape. Through his work with foraus, he has organised several events addressing these intersecting themes. His activities combine academic research with opportunities for policy dialogue and participation in discussions on European affairs.

Nicolas Schmit

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Nicolas Schmit is a Luxembourgish politician who served as European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights from 2019. Born on 10 December 1953, he is a member of Luxembourg's Socialist Workers' Party (LSAP). Before joining the European Commission, he was a member of Luxembourg's government from 2004 to 2019, contributing to national and European policy discussions. He also served as a Member of the European Parliament in 2019. In 2024, he became the Party of European Socialists' lead candidate for the European elections. His political career has focused on employment, social rights and European cooperation, reflecting his longstanding engagement with social and economic policy at both national and EU levels.

Isabelle Schwarz

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Paddy Siyanga Knudsen

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Paddy Siyanga Knudsen is a Zambian development economist with over 17 years of professional experience. She holds a master's degree in Financial Economics from SOAS and a bachelor's degree in Development and Economics from the London School of Economics. Her work covers development cooperation, regional integration and migration governance. She has supported governments, regional economic communities, development partners, EU institutions, civil society and UN agencies in research, programme development, implementation and evaluation. Her migration work spans Europe, Jordan, China and several African countries, focusing on labour migration, development and diaspora engagement. She is Vice-President of the Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism, serves on international migration governance bodies and the GIZ Diaspora Advisory Board, and coordinates the African Non-State Actors' Platform on GFMD/GCM.

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