



Sofitel Brussels Europe Hotel

Thursday, November 6, 2025

AGENDA

08.30 Registration and Coffee

09.15 Opening Address

Kaja Kallas, High Representative for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy, Vice-President, European Commission, Belgium
Dubravka Šuica, Commissioner for the Mediterranean, European Commission, Belgium

10.00 European Foreign Policy in a World of Conflict

The panel highlights the challenges in Europe's external actions and relations within a global environment marked by ongoing conflicts and fundamental changes in European foreign policy.

- ✓ **William Drozdiak**, Global Fellow, Wilson Center, Global Europe Program, USA
- ✓ **Taneli Lahti**, Deputy Managing Director for Global Issues, European External Action Service (EEAS), Belgium
- ✓ **Ian Lesser**, Distinguished Fellow & Adviser to the President, The German Marshall Fund of the US, Belgium
- ✓ **Bart M.J. Szewczyk**, Visiting Senior Fellow, The German Marshall Fund of the United States, Belgium
- ✓ **Loukas Tsoukalis**, President of the Board, ELIAMEP, Greece
- ✓ *Chair: Henry Foy, Brussels Bureau Chief, Financial Times*

10.45 Fueling Europe's Future:

Securing Critical Raw Materials for the Green and Digital Transition

This panel examines the pivotal role of critical raw materials for Europe's green, digital, and defense transitions. Supply chain vulnerabilities from high import dependency and geopolitical risks will be addressed.

- ✓ **Kerstin Jorna**, Director General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, EU Commission, Belgium
- ✓ **James Watson**, Director General, Eurometaux, Belgium
- ✓ **Rolf Kuby**, Director General, Euromines, Belgium
- ✓ **Christos Balaskas**, EIT RawMaterials Executive Board Member, VP, Commercial, Growth & Ext. Relations, Eldorado Gold, Greece
- ✓ **Panos Lolos**, General Manager of Copper Segment, ElvalHalcor S.A., Greece

Chair: TBD

11.30 Public-Private Collaboration For a Resilient and Inclusive Europe: Unlocking the Potential of "Made In EU"

- ✓ **Kostas Salvaras**, South-East Europe Cluster Area Vice President, Philip Morris International, Romania

Chair: TBD



12.00 European Trade Strategies in a Tariff War Era

This panel explores how the European Union is developing and implementing its trade strategies specifically in response to the current global climate marked by increasing tariff disputes and protectionist measures.

- ✓ **Gerassimos Thomas**, Director-General, DG for Taxation & Customs Union, European Commission, Belgium
- ✓ **Markus J. Beyrer**, Director General, BusinessEurope, Brussels, Belgium
- ✓ **Anni Podimata**, EU Affairs Director, VIOHALCO, Vice President, European Parliament (2011-2014), Greece
- ✓ **Karel Lannoo**, CEO, Centre for European Policy Studies, Brussels, Belgium
- ✓ *Chair: **Odin Linardatou**, Chief Editor, TO VIMA ENGLISH EDITION*

12.45 Presidency of the Council: Navigating European Challenges

Discussions will focus on how Cyprus & Greece plan to address key European challenges, foster unity among member states, and advance crucial policy agendas during their respective Presidencies.

Keynote Statement

- ✓ **Costas Kadis**, Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans, European Commission, Belgium

Discussion

- ✓ **Ioannis Vrailas**, Permanent Representative of Greece to the European Union, Belgium
- ✓ **Georgios Ioannides**, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus to the EU, Belgium
- ✓ *Chair: **Alexandra Voudouri**, Brussels Correspondent & Research Fellow, Kathimerini, DW Greek & ELIAMEP*

13.20 Break

14.00 In Conversation

- ✓ **Margaritis Schinas**, Vice President (2019-2024), European Commission, Belgium
- with
- ✓ **Nicholas Vinocur**, Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent, Europe, Politico

14.30 Powering Europe Through Cooperation: Energy Security, Circular Future & the East Mediterranean

The Panel will explore how Europe, with a focus on the East Mediterranean and Southeast Europe, can ensure energy security through regional cooperation and strategies for accelerating energy independence and sufficiency while respecting the green transition.

- ✓ **Tomas Anker Christensen**, Cabinet Expert, Senior Advisor to European Commissioner Dan Jørgensen, Belgium
- ✓ **Geoffrey Pyatt**, Assistant Secretary of State, Energy Resources (2022-2025), USA
- ✓ **Theodore Tzouros**, Executive General Manager, Chief Corporate and Investment Banking, Piraeus Bank, Greece
- ✓ **Charles Ellinas**, CEO, EC Cyprus Natural Hydrocarbons Company Ltd, Republic of Cyprus
- ✓ **Simone Tagliapietra**, Senior Fellow & Professor, Bruegel & John Hopkins, Belgium
- ✓ *Chair: **Nik Gowing**, Co-Director, Thinking the Unthinkable, United Kingdom*

15.30 Rearming Europe's Defence:

The Response to a Multipolar World

The discussion explores the significant financial, military, and political investments Europe would need to make, and the strategic repercussions it would face, if it had to assume primary responsibility for its own defense in a scenario with reduced U.S. military commitment.

- ✓ **Agnieszka Bartol**, Permanent Representative of Poland to the EU
- ✓ **Guntram Wolff**, Senior Fellow, Bruegel
- ✓ **Camille Grand**, Secretary General, Aerospace, Security and Defence Industries Association of Europe (ASD), Belgium
- ✓ **Benedetta Berti**, Secretary General (designate), NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Belgium
- ✓ **Yannis Maniatis**, MEP, Vice Chair, S&D Group in the European Parliament, Belgium

✓ *Chair: **Angelos Athanasopoulos**, National and Regional Press Director, European People's Party - EPP, Belgium*

16.10 Enlarging The Union:

Regaining Momentum

EU enlargement is a geopolitical necessity, not just for the Union, but for the candidate countries themselves. It strengthens the collective security and stability of the entire region, benefiting both current member states and aspiring ones.

- ✓ **Gert-Jan Koopman**, Director General for Enlargement & Eastern Neighbourhood, EU Commission, Belgium
- ✓ **Elisa Spiropali**, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Republic of Albania
- ✓ **Nemanja Starović**, Minister of European Integration, Republic of Serbia
- ✓ **Predrag Zenović**, Chief Negotiator for Montenegro's Accession to the EU
- ✓ **JUDr. Miroslav Lajčák**, National Security Adviser to the Prime Minister, Slovak Republic
- ✓ **Elena Lazarou**, Director General, ELIAMEP, Greece

*Chair: **Maria Tadeo**, Europe Correspondent, Le Grand Continent*

17.00 Revamping Europe's Economy:

Investment, Innovation, And EU Convergence

Analyzing the economic growth prospects for Southeast Europe, exploring strategies to attract investment, foster innovation, and achieve greater economic convergence with the European Union.

- ✓ **Declan Costello**, Deputy Director General for Economic & Financial Affairs, EU Commission, Belgium
- ✓ **Michael G. Arghyrou**, Head of the Economics Office of the Prime Minister, Hellenic Republic
- ✓ **Maria Demertzis**, Economy, Strategy and Finance Center Leader, Europe, The Conference Board, Belgium
- ✓ **Nikos Vettas**, General Director, IOBE, Greece
- ✓ **Elias Korosis**, Global Investment Partner, Federated Hermes Private Equity, Chair, Invest Europe, Belgium
- ✓ **Konstantinos Diamantouros**, Head of Brussels Office, SEV, Permanent Delegate to BusinessEurope, Belgium
- ✓ **Gemma Webb**, CEO RetuRO SGR, Romania

✓ *Chair: **Nektaria Stamouli**, Eastern Mediterranean Correspondent, POLITICO Europe*



18.00 Demographic Crossroads:

Addressing Population Shifts & Cultivating the Talent Pool

The Panel will explore strategic responses, including policies to attract and retain skilled workers to cultivate a robust talent pool, securing Europe's economic and social vitality amidst population shifts.

- ✓ **George Pagoulatos**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Greece, OECD, France
- ✓ **Christos Staikouras**, Minister of Infrastructure & Transport (2023-2025), Hellenic Republic
- ✓ **Achim Schmitten**, Lead Economist & Program Leader, World Bank, Belgium

Chair: **Helena Smith**, Correspondent in Greece, Turkey and Cyprus, *The Guardian*

18.30 End - Drinks

