
Thursday 7 and Friday 8 December 2017
Ritz Carlton Hotel, Berlin

Thursday 7 December

0830–0900 Registration and refreshments

Welcome

0900–0915

Opening remarks

0915–0930

Plenary Session One | Uncertain Union: The Future of Europe

0930–1045

Europe is facing the most challenging period it has had to confront since the fall of the Berlin Wall. 2017 has or will see pressured elections in France, Germany, the UK and the Netherlands; a rise in populism within European borders; the UK's formal triggering of Article 50; and an uncertain future relationship with the US. With Brussels, Berlin, London and Paris looking inward, does Europe risk being left behind on questions of strategic relevance for its neighbourhood and its global position? Or can the EU27, led by freshly elected governments and supported by falling unemployment and a return to growth, build a coherent narrative for their future?

1045–1115 Refreshments

Break-out Sessions | Group One

1115–1245

A | Rocky Road Ahead? Brexit and the future of the UK-EU27 relationship

A year and a half after the UK voted to leave the European Union, the future of UK-EU relations is still far from clear. With negotiations now firmly underway, there are pressing questions about what the future agreement should look like, and whether a deep and comprehensive deal is indeed possible. All the while, discussions are taking place within the EU on reforming the Eurozone, improving economic performance, responding to the refugee crisis and strengthening security. How will these discussions affect the future deal between the UK and the EU? Is a mutually beneficial agreement possible? Which areas can the EU and the UK work together on?

B | The Data Dividend: Balancing Promise and Privacy

Big Data, and the new technologies and industries it is fuelling, offer potentially huge economic and social benefits. However, harnessing the full spectrum of potential involves thorny ethical issues around privacy. This is especially the case in many European countries with a strong culture of privacy, as reflected in the EU recently adopting some of the strongest data privacy regulations in the world. How will Europe cope in an era of Big Data? How can individuals' privacy be safeguarded against misuse without stifling new technologies? Does Europe need a privacy culture change?

C | Europe and a Resurgent Russia

From Ukraine to Syria, Russia is using the full arsenal of political, diplomatic and military tools available to re-establish itself as a global power. Compounded by the changing European political landscape, the question of how to deal with Russia is more pressing than ever. What incentive does Europe have to continue a dialogue with the Kremlin in the face of Russian aggression on NATO and the Nord Stream 2 project? How does Russia's relationship with the US fit into this?

1245–1345 Lunch

Keynote Conversation | Everything You Need to Know about AI in Europe

1345–1445

The creation of Artificial Intelligence is no longer a distant possibility explored in Science Fiction. Advancements in robotics and computing make this a question of when, not if. How can Europe best prepare for such a future? Regulation will prove a particular challenge, with the need for strong international cooperation on standards and governance – for example, as applied to autonomous killing in conflicts. How will this impact relations between countries? How can government control be organized without killing innovation?

1445–1515 Refreshments

Break-out Sessions | Group Two

1515–1645

A | The Old Becomes New: Re-Industrializing Europe

Global economic, political and technological trends are driving interest in re-industrializing Europe, albeit in a very different form than experienced in the 19th and 20th centuries. Increased popularity of protectionist policies in countries who were traditional champions of free trade; increased domestic competition in European export markets; new modes of production – all are making moving industrial and manufacturing back to Europe newly desirable and cost effective. Can Europe's economy adapt to an era of re-industrialization? What effects will this have on global supply chains? What policies are needed to ensure that jobs are not only adequately paid but guarantee the dignity of those working in radically changed industrial environments?

B | The Future of Free Trade: Multilateral, Bilateral, Regional, Protectionist?

The Trump Administration's protectionist rhetoric has signalled a radical departure from the free trade agendas of previous administrations. This has sparked a global uncertainty and uneasiness with how this will manifest over the next four years: will the current 'golden era' of free trade come to an end or will other major players, particularly China, be able to secure the future of the current system? Or is an alternative trade order based on bilateral and regional trade agreements most likely? Where does this leave Europe?

C | Old Threats, New Challenges: Changing Security Perceptions in Northern Europe

Russia's newfound foreign policy assertiveness has highlighted how Northern Europe and the Baltic States are on the frontlines of European security, making the area a testing ground for European unity, transatlantic resolve and diplomatic skill. How has the region reacted to this changed security landscape and what is the potential for further cooperation with non-NATO members such as Finland and Sweden? Will NATO's diplomatic and political responses and the reinforcement of its Eastern flank be enough to reassure its members against Russian military capacities and postures? How well will the EU-NATO 2016 Joint Declaration and its regular reporting mechanisms work to increase European security and in what timeframe?

1645–1700 Short break

Plenary Session Two | Stabilizing the Neighbourhood: North and Sub-Saharan Africa

1700–1815

In the face of on-going instability in North and Sub-Saharan Africa, the countries of Europe have taken diverse approaches to stabilizing their southern neighbourhood; from partnerships promoting democratic transformation to political reform to supporting military intervention leading to regime-change. What concepts, instruments and tools can Europe field to engage in these countries? Who are Europe's reliable and legitimate partners? Is Europe doing enough to enable its partners to take care of their own security and what is the right balance between political, economic and military support? What are the prospects of addressing the root causes of instability?

1815–1915 Reception

Conference Dinner and Keynote Conversation

1915–2130

Friday 8 December

0900–0930 Refreshments

Plenary Session Four | One Year In: Taking Stock of the Transatlantic Relationship

0930–1045

With President Trump in office for almost one year, it is time to assess his administration's policies and their impact on the transatlantic relationship. Has the Trump-administration put forward a coherent plan to fundamentally alter the United States' foreign policy? Has the US president been true to his word and transformed his country's alliances according to a more transactional understanding of partnership? Where does Europe feature in the new administration's political, economic and security thinking and who are the central figures for policy towards Europe in the White House? How has Europe reacted to the new tone and, if Washington has neglected established institutions, what are the prospects for bridge-building and productive working relationships outside of these forums?

1045–1115 Refreshments

Break-out Sessions | Group Three

1115–1230

A | Bitter Medicine? Migration: Need vs Want in an Ageing Europe

Migration has become one of the most controversial issues in European states. While aging societies need substantial migration in order to maintain economic performance and social services, there is a growing uneasiness with seemingly uncontrollable migration from North Africa and the Middle East. Failures to properly integrate new arrivals have contributed to this unease, particularly regarding Muslim immigrants. What can be done to fix these imbalances of need and perception? Can – and how – should new immigrants be more thoroughly integrated into European societies? What should a reasonable migration policy look like?

B | NATO and the 2% Goal: Keep Calm and Spend Wisely

Only five of NATO's members are currently meeting the agreed-upon target to spend 2% of their GDP on defence: Estonia, Greece, Poland, the UK and the US. The pressure is on the other members of the alliance to increase their military spending. However, many of the European member states have also declared their readiness to contribute more to common defence, posing the question of how to best allocate their spending. How realistic is a sudden increase in defence budgets of NATO's European members? What is the correct mix of NATO vs European defence for member states? Can the US warning of moderating its commitments to NATO be turned into an opportunity for reform of the organization?

C | Beyond Carbon: Europe's Energy Outlook Beyond 2020

The recent announcement from Europe's energy utilities that no new coal-fired plants will be built in the EU after 2020 will overhaul the future of energy generation across the region. Even more ambitious, the industry has committed to provide 100% carbon-neutral electricity by 2050. However, affordable prices and a lack of effective storage systems mean conventional carbon-based energy sources are still needed. Furthermore, Germany is heavily reliant on coal as a bridge away from nuclear under its Energiewende transition and there is similar opposition in Poland and Greece. Are the European energy utilities likely to be able to meet their commitments? How will this change the European energy mix and outlook? What does this mean for relations with Russia, Ukraine and Turkey?

1230–1330 Lunch

Keynote Conversation

1330–1430

Closing Remarks

1430–1500

1500 End of conference