

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

17-18 November
2022 ESPAS Annual Conference

GEOPOLITICS IS BACK

CHARTING A COURSE FOR THE EU
IN A WORLD OF SHIFTS AND SHOCKS

EUROPEAN FORESIGHT DAYS

DAY ONE

Thursday, 17 November 2022

14.00 -15.00: *Transatlantic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific: Can it counterbalance China's rising footprint?*

Panel discussion:

- Yuichi Hosoya, Professor of International Politics, Keio University, Japan
- Max Bergmann, Director, Europe Program and Stuart Center, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Washington DC
- Ronja Kempin, Senior Fellow, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)
- Veerle Nouwens, Senior Research Fellow, Asia Studies, Royal United Services Institute (RUSI)
- Moderator:
- Eva Pejsova, Japan Chair, Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy (CSDS), Brussels School of Governance; Associate Fellow, "Fondation pour la Recherche Strategique" (FRS)

On the Japan-China partnership and on what falls in this strategic package:

- It is a timely moment to discuss the Japanese approach to China as we are reaching the 50th anniversary of diplomatic normalisation between the two countries. Furthermore, this year marked the first summit meeting between Kishida and Xi,
- We are seeing new trends and it is therefore important to closely evaluate what we are seeing. So far, two trends/order mark the relationship between China and Japan:
 1. The first direction is the one set by the US, which has been pushing for a decoupling policy and a new plan for a resilient semi-conductor. Japan is looking to work on this and create a new supply-chain relation between SK-JP-TW-US etc.
 2. The second direction is Japan's attempt at introducing China in the international community and priorities/push for an engagement policy rather than quiet diplomacy.
 - PM Kishida is trying to bring these trends together and combine them.
 - The new Japan's NSS comes out in a few weeks. We don't know much except for the fact that it is expected to be much more unclear than the 2013 one.

Q: In case of a war between China and Taiwan, what can we expect?

- Speakers are expecting that if the contingency were to happen, a huge number of ballistic missiles will come down – and if Japan does not prepare for this eventuality, it will not survive any kind of war in the Indo-Pacific.
- Japan has learnt from Ukraine the importance of surviving the first attack and the value of the International community.

On Germany and China

- There has been rising engagement by Germany with external powers:
- Soon Germany will publish the first ever “Germany Policy on China” in the first half of 2023.
- Since coming into office, Scholz has visited 20 countries because according to the speakers, he thinks that Asian countries and African countries will rise in the next 20 years to become confident players and economic partner. Thus, investing in these relationships with them seems meaningful.
- Speakers mentioned that his first foreign policy approach is to treat everyone as a partner - he sees his role “as a mediator” between countries and he tries to be “prudent and decisive”.
- According to some on the panel, Scholz believes that “German foreign policy must not hit the Germans” - this is where China comes in (e.g. to avoid complete ECONOMIC DECOUPLING from the Chinese market because it runs the risk of negatively impacting the country).
- The EU has showed that it has the power to push decisions and come to the negotiating table when needed

On the worst-case scenario for transatlantic relations:

- It very much depends on who gets elected next, who is going be the leader of the US
- Maybe climate change will be the one force driving us together, but when it comes to the US, speakers considered that much is dictated by its domestic politics which right now is assessed as highly unstable.)
- New Chatham House paper – RUSI paper published today: see here