

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



European Strategy and
Policy Analysis System

DAY TWO

Friday, 18 November 2022

16.45 -17.30: *The future of the EU, strategic foresight and the role of ESPAS*

Klaus Welle (SG EP)

- Six paradigm shifts: Russian imperialism, individualism, new European map, EU complementing NATO, security, strategic sovereignty.
- War is initially negative, but if Ukraine wins, the outcome may be positive: Russia may be further away and the Ukrainian army – being the strongest army in Europe by that time – may effectively be the European army.
- We are closing a period of 30 years (1991-2021) starting a fundamentally new era.
- The EU should be aware that it has the same potential as the US, but does it have the same political will and long-term view? Bold moves are necessary.
- We should complement ESPAS by ISPAS, not only Transatlantic, but also Asia.

Stephen Quest (DG JRC)

- We have the same values in a world that is changing fast: that is the tension.
- Foresight helps finding the right balance.
- And we need to be 'brutally honest' in doing so, as Ann Mettler said.
- We are building ISPAS with currently 9 partners, we need to include all perspectives around the world.

Didier Seeuws (DG in Council)

- Summed up all relevant policy areas.
- ESPAS being inter-institutional has added value.
- Foresight is very important to keep the long term view whereas the European Council is currently doing mostly short term crisis management.

Herve Delphin (Dir EEAS)

- Foresight has increasingly a role to inform the political debate in these complex times.
- Foresight cannot be reduced to technology.
- There are a lot of grievances about the EU in the world, but also a lot of expectations.
- Therefore, the EU should take up the challenge and not be afraid of the shock and awe of all events happening.
- Look for example at strategic autonomy: a few years ago it was fringe, now it is center stage.