



ESPAS Conference 2020

The 2020 ESPAS annual conference - **Thinking about the Future: Europe's Road to 2030** - will take place at the end of a momentous year in human history. The coronavirus pandemic is having a profound impact on societies and economies, and it is clear that many long-held assumptions about how we live, work and relate to each other are being challenged as never before.

*In the course of this two-day conference, we will consider **how to build a more resilient Europe in an uncertain world**, and explore **how Europe can navigate existing and emerging global trends in order to chart a course for 2030**.*

The conference will consider **how the coronavirus has affected our understanding of key global trends** and what this might mean for our common future, exploring the implications for Europe and other regions around the world. The question of **how the Union can increase its capacity to handle future shocks** - by better identifying risks, capabilities and opportunities - will also feature prominently in the discussion.

The conference will begin with a presentation of the European Commission's recently- published, first annual Strategic Foresight Report - Charting the course towards a more resilient Europe (https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/new-push-european-democracy/strategic-foresight/2020-strategic-foresight-report_en) - by Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič. In parallel, the event will look at how the conclusions of the 2019 ESPAS Report, Global Trends to 2030: Challenges and Opportunities for Europe (/orbis/sites/default/files/generated/document/en/ESPAS_Report2019_V14.pdf), now look in the light of the pandemic.

Building on the success of ESPAS in identifying global trends in recent years, together with the impetus the project has given to the development of foresight across the European institutions, the conference will explore **how to strengthen the link between global trends analysis and the practical needs of EU policy-making**.

The purpose of the ESPAS annual conference is to engage in a broad-ranging conversation with policy analysts and foresight experts in governments, think tanks, universities and many other organisations on what matters in this fast-moving field. The current crisis has underlined the importance of foresight in effective policy-making and we hope that the conference can contribute to that process.

Programme

WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER

Building a more resilient Europe in an uncertain world

14.30 - 14.45

Welcome and introduction

David Maria Sassoli, MEP, President of the European Parliament.

Introduced by:

Anthony Teasdale, Director General, European parliament Research Service (EPRS).

14.50 - 15.05

After the European Commission's first Annual Strategic Foresight Report - Building the future of EU strategic foresight

Keynote address:

Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President for Inter-institutional Relations and Foresight, European Commission.

15.05 Embedding strategic foresight into policy-making - Best practice:

Jyrki Katainen, former Prime Minister of Finland and former Vice-President of the European Commission.

15.15 Messages of support for the EU foresight network:

Pedro Sánchez, Prime Minister, Spain (video message);

Peter Altmaier, Federal Minister of Economy and Energy, Germany (video message);

Ana Paula Zacarias, Secretary of State for European Affairs, Portugal (video message);

Karoline Edtstadler, Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution, Austria (live);

Angel Gurría, Secretary-General, OECD (video message).

15.35 In conversation:

Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President for Inter-institutional Relations and Foresight, European Commission.

Moderator:

Michael Peel, EU Diplomatic Correspondent, Financial Times.

16.00 - 17.00

Towards a more resilient Europe: Assessing risks, opportunities and capabilities

Introduction:

Klaus Welle, Secretary-General, European Parliament.

Panel discussion:

Mikołaj Dowgiewlewiecz, Representative to the EU institutions, European Investment Bank;

Pascal Leardini, Deputy Secretary-General and Chief Operating Officer, European Commission;

Dr Benedetta Berti, Head of Policy Planning, Office of the Secretary General at NATO.

Questions and comments from the digital floor

Moderator:

Paweł Świeboda, Director General, Human Brain Project; CEO, EBRAINS.

17.00 - 18.15

Understanding the new big picture: How has coronavirus changed our thinking about key global trends?

Panel discussion:

Florence Gaub, Deputy Director, EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS);

Ian Goldin, Professor of Globalisation and Resilience, Oxford University;

Greg Treverton, Professor of the Practice of International Relations, University of Southern California (USC); former Director, National Intelligence Council (NIC);

Yu Jie, Senior Research Fellow, Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House.

Questions and comments from the digital floor

Moderator:

Christian Leffler, former Deputy Secretary-General, European External Action Service (EEAS).

18.30 - 19.00

From Horizon-Scanning to Resilience Building: The ESPAS story so far

Conversation with:

Matthew Reece, Head of Unit, Enlargement Unit, Council of the EU;

Ramona Gabar, Political Administrator, European Council and Strategic Planning Unit, General Secretariat of the Council;

Hervé Delphin, Head of Division, Strategic Planning, European External Action Service.

Moderator:

Franck Debié, Director, Library and Knowledge Services, European Parliament.

19.00

End of day one.

THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER

Navigating global trends: Charting a course for Europe

10.00 - 10.45

Welcome and introduction to the second day

Eva Kaili, MEP, Chair, Panel for the Future of Science and Technology (STOA).

Othmar Karas, MEP, Vice-President, European Parliament;

Followed by video presentations by:

Josep Borrell, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission;

Apostolos Tzitzikostas, President, European Committee of the Regions.

10.45 - 11.45

Defining Europe's place in the world: How to be an effective global player in 2030

Panel discussion:

David O'Sullivan, former Secretary-General, European Commission;

Stefano Sannino, Deputy Secretary-General, European External Action Service (EEAS);

Nathalie Tocci, Director, Italian Institute for International Affairs;

Pierre Vimont, former French Ambassador to US; Visiting Professor, Columbia University.

Questions and comments from the digital floor

Moderator:

Heather Grabbe, Director, Open Society European Policy Institute.

11.45 - 12.45

How far can foresight offer a foretaste of the future?

Panel discussion:

Eva Kaili, MEP, Chair, EP Panel for the Future of Science and Technology (STOA);

Jeanette Kwek, Head, Centre for Strategic Futures, Government of Singapore;

Alexander Schieferdecker, Head of Strategic Foresight and Policy Planning, Federal Chancellery, Germany;

Jaana Tapanainen-Thiess, Secretary General, Government Report on the Future and Government Foresight Group, Prime Minister's Office, Finland.

Questions and comments from the digital floor

Moderator:

Simonetta Cook, Member, Cabinet of Charles Michel, President of European Council.

12.45 - 14.00

Lunch break

14.00 - 15.00

After the US Presidential election: Where next for America and Transatlantic relations?

Keynote conversation:

Madeleine Albright, former US Secretary of State; author of 'Hell and Other Destinations: A 21st Century Memoir' (2020).

David McAllister, MEP, Chair, Committee on Foreign Relations, European Parliament.

Moderator:

Jim Cloos, Deputy-Director General, General Secretariat, Council of the EU.

15.00 - 16.00

What future for democracy and government post-coronavirus?

Panel discussion

Professor Brigid Laffan, Director, Robert Schuman Centre, European University Institute (EUI);

Professor Stephan Lewandowsky, Chair in Cognitive Psychology, University of Bristol;

Mathew Burrows, Director, Foresight, Strategy and Risks Initiative, Atlantic Council; author of 'The Future, Declassified' (2014);

Antonella Mei-Pochtler, Special Advisor to the Austrian Federal Chancellor Sebastian Kurz; Head of Think Austria, the Federal Chancellor's strategy and planning unit.

Questions and comments from the digital floor.

Moderator:

Shada Islam, Director, New Horizons Project; Fellow at the Vrije University Brussel; Visiting Professor, College of Europe.

16.00 - 17.00

How can we build a sustainable economic recovery post-coronavirus?

Panel discussion

Lucile Schmid, Vice-President, La Fabrique écologique;

Celine Gauer, Head of the Recovery and Resilience Task Force, European Commission;

Luiz de Mello, Director of Policy Studies, Economics Department, OECD;

Jacob Funk Kirkegaard, Senior Fellow, German Marshall Fund (GMF) and Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE).

Questions and comments from the digital floor

Moderator:

Maria Demertzis, Deputy Director, Bruegel.

17.00 - 17.40

The Biden foreign policy: Challenges and Opportunities

Keynote address:

Robert Zoellick, former President, World Bank; former Deputy US Secretary of State; author of 'America in the World: A History of US Diplomacy and Foreign Policy' (2020)

Moderator:

James Elles, Honorary President, ESPAS.

17.45 - 18.45

Strategic autonomy and global interdependence: Where next for Europe on foresight?

Panel discussion:

Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission;

Klaus Welle, Secretary General of the European Parliament;

Jim Cloos, Deputy Director-General, General Secretariat, Council of the EU;

Stefano Sannino, Deputy Secretary-General, European External Action Service (EEAS).

Moderator:

James Elles, Honorary President, ESPAS.

18.45

Close of conference.

Speakers



Madeleine ALBRIGHT

Chair, Albright Stonebridge Group and
Albright Capital Management Former U.S.
Secretary of State



Peter ALTMEIER

Federal Minister of Economy and Energy,
Germany



Benedetta BERTI

Head, Policy Planning, Office of the
Secretary General at NATO



Mathew J. BURROWS

Director, Foresight, Strategy, and Risks
Initiative, Atlantic Council



Jim CLOOS

Deputy Director-General, Council of the EU
Secretariat



Simonetta COOK

Member, Cabinet of Charles Michel,
President of European Council



Hervé DELPHIN

Head of Division, Strategic Planning,
European External Action Service.



Luiz DEMELLO

Director of Policy Studies, Economics
Department, OECD;



Maria DEMERTZIS

Deputy Director, Bruegel



Mikołaj DOWGIELEWICZ

Representative to the EU Institutions,
European Investment Bank



Karoline EDTSTADLER

Federal Minister for the EU and
Constitution, Austria



Josep Borrell FONTELLES

High Representative of the Union for
Foreign Affairs



Ramona GABAR

Political Administrator, European Council
and Strategic Planning Unit, General
Secretariat of the Council.



Dr. Florence GAUB

Deputy Director, EUISS



Céline GAUER

Head of the Recovery and Resilience Task
Force (RECOVER)



Ian GOLDIN

Professor of Globalisation and Resilience,
Oxford University



Angel GURRÍA

Secretary-General, Organisation for
Economic Cooperation and Development
(OECD)



Heather GRABBE

Director, Open Society European Policy
Institute



Shada ISLAM

Director, New Horizons Project; Fellow at
the Vrije University Brussel; Visiting
Professor, College of Europe



Dr Yu Jie

Senior Research Fellow on China, Chatham
House



Eva KAILI

MEP, Chair, EP Panel for the Future of
Science and Technology (STOA)



Othmar KARAS

MEP, Vice-President, European Parliament



Jyrki KATAINEN

former Prime Minister of Finland and
former Vice-President of the European
Commission



Jacob Funk KIRKEGAARD

Non-Resident Senior Fellow Peterson
Institute for International Economics,
Resident Senior Fellow, GMF



Jeanette KWEK

Head, Centre for Strategic Futures,
Government of Singapore



Professor Brigid LAFFAN

Director, Robert Schuman Centre,
European University Institute (EUI)



Pascal LEARDINI

Deputy Secretary-General and Chief
Operating Officer, European Commission



Christian LEFFLER

Former Deputy Secretary-General,
European External Action Service



**Professor Stephan
LEWANDOWSKY**

Chair in Cognitive Psychology, University of
Bristol



David McALLISTER

MEP, Chair, Committee on Foreign
Relations, European Parliament



Antonella MEI-POCHTLER

Special Advisor to the Austrian Federal
Chancellor Sebastian Kurz; Head of Think
Austria, the Federal Chancellor's strategy
and planning unit



David O'SULLIVAN

Former EU Ambassador to the US



Michael PEEL

EU Diplomatic Correspondent, Financial
Times



Matthew REECE

Head of Unit, Enlargement Unit, Council of
the EU.



Pedro SÁNCHEZ

Prime Minister, Spain



Stefano SANNINO

Deputy Secretary-General, European
External Action Service



David Maria SASSOLI

MEP, President of the European Parliament



**Dr. Alexander
SCHIEFERDECKER**

Head of Division Strategic Foresight and
Policy Planning German Federal
Chancellery



Lucile SCHMID

Vice-President, La Fabrique écologique



Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ

Vice-President for Inter-institutional Relations and Foresight, European Commission



Paweł ŚWIEBODA

Director General, Human Brain Project



Jaana Tapanainen-THIESS

Secretary General, Government Report on the Future and Government Foresight Group, Prime Minister's Office, Finland



Nathalie TOCCI

Deputy Director, Italian Institute for International Affairs



Greg TREVERTON

Professor of the Practice of International Relations and Spatial Sciences, University of Southern California



Laurence TUBIANA

President and CEO, European Climate Foundation, Member High Council on Climate, France



Apostolos TZITZIKOSTAS

President, European Committee of the Regions



Pierre VIMONT

Former Secretary General, European External Action Service



Klaus WELLE

Secretary General of the European Parliament



Ana Paula ZACARIAS

Secretary of State for European Affairs, Portugal



Robert ZOELICK

Former President, World Bank; former Deputy US Secretary of State; author of 'America in the World: A History of US Diplomacy and Foreign Policy' (2020)

Useful links :

1. European Commission 2020 Strategic Foresight Report: Chartering the course towards a more resilient Europe. (https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/new-push-european-democracy/strategic-foresight/2020-strategic-foresight-report_en)
2. Towards a more resilient Europe post-coronavirus: An initial mapping of structural risks facing the EU.
([https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2020/653208/EPRS_STU\(2020\)653208_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2020/653208/EPRS_STU(2020)653208_EN.pdf))
3. Towards a more resilient Europe post-coronavirus. Capabilities and gaps in the EU's capacity to address structural risks.
([https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2020/652024/EPRS_STU\(2020\)652024_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2020/652024/EPRS_STU(2020)652024_EN.pdf))
4. Global Trendometer 2019.
([https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2019/646111/EPRS_STU\(2019\)646111_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2019/646111/EPRS_STU(2019)646111_EN.pdf))
5. Global Trends to 2030: Can the EU meet the challenges ahead?
(https://espas.secure.europarl.europa.eu/orbis/sites/default/files/generated/document/en/espas_report_2015.pdf)
6. Foresight within the EU institutions: The ESPAS process so far.
([https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2020/649405/EPRS_BRI\(2020\)649405_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2020/649405/EPRS_BRI(2020)649405_EN.pdf))
7. Global Trends to 2035: Economy and Society.
([https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2018/627126/EPRS_STU\(2018\)627126_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2018/627126/EPRS_STU(2018)627126_EN.pdf))
8. Global Trends to 2035: Geo-politics and international power.
([https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2017/603263/EPRS_STU\(2017\)603263_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2017/603263/EPRS_STU(2017)603263_EN.pdf))
9. What is Strategic Foresight? (Video) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OytuOln6X6Y&feature=youtu.be>)



ESPAS The European Strategy and Policy Analysis System (ESPAS) brings together the various European Union institutions and bodies in a process of administrative-level cooperation designed to identify and analyse the medium- and long-term trends facing the European Union and their implications for policy-makers. This dialogue was established in the early 2010s as a means of promoting longer-term thinking in the EU policy process and encouraging the Union's various institutions to cooperate more closely in the field of foresight.