

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels Indo-Pacific Dialogue 2024

3 December 2024, Brussels

The **Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy** (CSDS) successfully held the third edition of the Brussels Indo-Pacific Dialogue on 3 December 2024 in Brussels. Over 100 attendees drawn from EU institutions, NATO, European and Asian governments and the expert and student communities joined the event for a discussion on relations between the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions. The Dialogue discussed how political change and uncertainty in each region, plus the nature of contemporary strategic alignments, is altering global security.

The Dialogue began with welcome remarks by CSDS Director **Luis Simón** and Ambassador **Masahiro Mikami**, Embassy of Japan to the Kingdom of Belgium and to NATO, underlined that “**as new leadership emerges among like-minded partners, closer coordination is more critical than ever**”.

A high-level panel followed with a focus on the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions. Brussels School of Governance President, **Karel de Gucht**, moderated a panel with **Baiba Braže**, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Republic of Latvia; **Mélanie Joly**, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Canada; and **Stefano Sannino**, Secretary General, European External Action Service.

Minister **Braže** stated that “**Latvia values dialogue with like-minded partners in the Indo-Pacific**”. Minister **Joly** stressed that “**Canada is well-positioned to help link together Europe, the Indo-Pacific and the Arctic regions**”. Secretary General **Sannino** remarked that “**what we have been trying to do as a European Union is to create a strong security and economic network across the Indo-Pacific**”.

Two policy panels followed this high-level discussion. The first, focusing on navigating uncertainty and political change among partners, saw **Luis Simón** moderate a panel with **Benedetta Berti**, Head, Policy Planning, Office of the Secretary General, NATO; **Victor Cha**, President, Geopolitics and Foreign Policy Department and Korea Chair, CSIS; and **Yuichi Hosoya**, Director, Keio Center for Strategy, Keio University.

Dr **Berti** stated that “**NATO already knew that China and Russia were working together, but no one appreciated how deep their partnership would be after Russia’s war on Ukraine**”. Dr **Cha** underlined that “**in the United States there will be continuity on China and economic security, but President Trump has a transactional view of alliances**”. Finally, Professor **Hosoya** remarked how “**the United States needs many tools to enhance its influence in the international community, and the Japan-US alliance can be one such tool**”.

The second panel, which discussed alignment trends in Indo-Pacific security, saw the CSDS Japan Chair, **Eva Pejsova**, moderate a panel with **Alice Ba**, Professor, International Relations and Comparative Politics, University of Delaware; **Sarah Kirchberger**, Head, Asia-Pacific Strategy and Security, Institute for Security Policy, Kiel University; **Saurabh Kumar**, Ambassador, Embassy of India to the Kingdom of Belgium, Luxembourg and the EU; and **Caroline Millar**, Ambassador, Embassy of Australia to the Kingdom of Belgium, Luxembourg and the EU.

Professor **Ba** stated that “**Southeast Asia is in a critical geographic and political space in the Indo-Pacific, but the region seeks to reject forced choices**”. Dr **Kirchberger** underlined that “**North Korea hangs on the economic saline drip of China**”. Ambassador **Kumar** argued that “**India’s vision is for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region and India would like to see respect for international law, sovereignty and territorial integrity**”. Finally, Ambassador **Millar** remarked how “**Australia wants a peaceful, stable and prosperous region and that is why Australia engages in deep partnerships and works to uphold the rules**”.

The Dialogue was concluded by a keynote speech by General **Christopher G. Cavoli**, Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), NATO, who stated that “**NATO’S interactions in the Indo-Pacific are not about projecting military power, but about creating opportunities for all nations to enjoy peace and stability without coercion. The interconnectedness of our regions is undeniable. And the strength of NATO, including the strength of the alliance’s relationships with partners in the Indo-Pacific, will define the future of global peace and security**”.

The Dialogue was generously sponsored by the Embassy of Japan to the Kingdom of Belgium and Mission to NATO, the Australian Department of Defense’s Strategic Policy Grants Program (SPGP), the Taipei Representative Office in the EU and Belgium, the Embassy of India to Belgium, Luxembourg and the EU. This project was (co)sponsored by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

To engage with the debate on social media, follow #IndoPacific on our platforms X, BlueSky and LinkedIn. Individuals can relive the debates at the 2024 Brussels Indo-Pacific Dialogue on our YouTube channel.

Full details on the 2024 Brussels Indo-Pacific Dialogue can be found here: <https://csds.vub.be/event/brussels-indo-pacific-dialogue-2024-2/>.

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