



CONCEPT

The war in Ukraine appears to have catalysed the consolidation of two sets of adversarial geopolitical alignments. One includes a series of interlocking strategic partnerships linking China, Russia, North Korea and Iran. The other is characterised by growing coordination between the United States (US), Europe and key like-minded partners in the Indo-Pacific, notably Australia, Japan, South Korea or New Zealand, but also Taiwan. Since Moscow's war on Ukraine, China has helped Russia cushion Western economic and political pressure, and it provides Moscow with dual-use goods. For its part, the Democratic Republic of Korea (DPRK) has provided Russia with more munitions than any other country. In this regard, the presence of North Korean troops on Russian soil represents a significant escalation in the DPRK's support of Russia's aggression of Ukraine. Conversely, countries like Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and South Korea continue to stand behind Ukraine.

The consolidation of these adversarial geopolitical alignments threatens to amplify economic, technological and strategic divides, and undermine the future of the rules-based international order. However, it also co-exists - and clashes - with ongoing efforts to preserve multilateralism, and with numerous other international actors who reject the grammar of geopolitical rivalry, alignments or blocs, not least in the Indo-Pacific itself.

Can Europe, the US and their like-minded Indo-Pacific partners sustain the level of cooperation they have achieved in recent years? How can they deal more effectively with the challenge posed by growing Sino-Russian coordination and the emerging Russian-DPRK alliance? How aligned are these powers in reality? And what kind of challenges does the consolidation of adversarial geopolitical alignments pose for international order and for other actors, both in the Indo-Pacific and beyond? The third edition of the "Brussels Indo-Pacific Dialogue" will address such critical questions and it seeks to bring a European perspective to debates on the future of the Indo-Pacific and global order. The Brussels Indo-Pacific Dialogue brings together high-level experts and policymakers from Asia, Europe and America, and has become a landmark event for Indo-Pacific security debates in Brussels, Europe and beyond.

PROGRAMME (Public event)

Venue: “Balmoral I” and “Balmoral II” rooms, Stanhope hotel

09:20 – 09:30

OPENING REMARKS

Luis Simón

Director, Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy – VUB

09:30 – 09:45

WELCOME REMARKS

Masahiro Mikami

Ambassador, Embassy of Japan to the Kingdom of Belgium and to NATO

09:45 – 10:45

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL – THE EURO-ATLANTIC AND THE INDO-PACIFIC

Moderator

Karel De Gucht

President, Brussels School of Governance

Speakers

Baiba Braže

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Republic of Latvia

Mélanie Joly

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Canada

Stefano Sannino

Secretary General, European External Action Service

10:45 – 11:05

COFFEE BREAK

11:05 – 12:15

PANEL I – NAVIGATING UNCERTAINTY AND POLITICAL CHANGE AMONG PARTNERS

Moderator

Luis Simón

Director, Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy – VUB

Speakers

Benedetta Berti

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

Victor Cha

President, Geopolitics and Foreign Policy Department and Korea Chair, CSIS

Yuichi Hosoya

Director, Keio Center for Strategy, Keio University

12:15 – 13:00

LUNCH

13:00 – 14:15

PANEL II – ALIGNMENT TRENDS IN INDO-PACIFIC SECURITY

Moderator

Eva Pejsova

Japan Chair, Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy – VUB

Speakers

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

Caroline Millar

Ambassador, Embassy of Australia to the Kingdom of Belgium, Luxembourg and the EU

14:15 – 14:25

CLOSING KEYNOTE

Gen. Christopher G. Cavoli

Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), NATO (video message)

14:30

EVENT END

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