



CONCEPT

The return of President Donald J. Trump to the White House in January 2025 has multiple consequences for United States (US) allies in Asia and Europe. With China remaining a number one strategic priority for the US administration, the debate, started in the context of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, revolves around the trade-offs and pay-offs of deterring China in the Indo-Pacific versus countering its influence in Europe and globally. At the heart of this debate lie a series of questions around the nature and scale of the Chinese challenge to US power and international order: should China be seen as a regional threat or a global one? How much effort should the US devote to countering a low-cost Chinese effort to create instability in regions like Europe or the Middle East? What is the level of coordination between China and Russia? Ranking threats and regions – and figuring out how the two intersect – is critical to determining how should Washington think about underpinning deterrence in two – or more – regions simultaneously and, should deterrence fail, how to respond to concurrent or nearly concurrent contingencies in more than one region.

The central question for US allies in Europe and Asia remains the same: how should they approach deterrence and structure their relationships in an era of strategic competition and simultaneous threats in more than one region? And what are the implications of a reduced US presence? The CSDS-CSIS Transatlantic Dialogue 2025 will assess the benefits and drawbacks associated with treating Europe and the Indo-Pacific as separate, intertwined or integrated theatres; and of three ideal-type models of approaching America's Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific alliances: decoupling, cooperation and integration. Concretely, it will zoom in on how NATO and America's Indo-Pacific allies should structure their relationships – internally and with each other – diplomatically, militarily and in relation to defence industrial and technological matters; as well as how they should treat China and Russia diplomatically.

PROGRAMME

Conference Room 110, CSIS

14:00 – 14:10 **WELCOME REMARKS**

Victor D. Cha

President, Geopolitics and Foreign Policy Programme, CSIS

Luis Simón

Director, Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy – VUB

14:10 – 14:30 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Thomas Wright

Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy, Strobe Talbott Center for Security, Strategy and Technology, Brookings Institute; Former Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Strategic Planning, National Security Council

14:30 – 15:45 **PANEL DISCUSSION**

Moderator

Eva Pejsova

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

Speakers

Max Bergmann

Director, Europe, Russia and Eurasia Programme, CSIS

Benedetta Berti

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

Gregory Poling

Director and Senior Fellow, Southeast Asia Program and Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative, CSIS

Michito Tsuruoka

Professor, Keio University, and Deputy Director, Keio Center for Strategy (KCS)

15:45 **END**