



CONCEPT

The re-election of Donald J. Trump as the 47th president of the United States (US), the subsequent shift in America's foreign policy and the harsh treatment of allies have shaken the foundations of the US-led alliance system, with profound repercussions for European and Indo-Pacific security. The transactional approach to alliance management and uncertainty surrounding the US commitment to the North Atlantic Alliance pose a significant challenge to the cohesion, effectiveness and ability of NATO to provide security guarantees within its geographical perimeter, as well as its ability to expand cooperation with East Asian partners.

Waking up to these challenges, European allies and Japan grasp the necessity of stepping up their own security, building up their defences and adapting to the rapidly changing global environment. Fortuitously, this new momentum could lead to opportunities for like-minded countries in Europe and the Indo-Pacific to further strengthen and rethink their cooperation in the security domain and beyond. Against this background, several key questions arise: how can Japan and European partners help to mitigate the impact of a potential US disengagement from NATO? How can they join forces in maintaining a rules-based international order and boost strategic deterrence in the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific? What concrete avenues for cooperation can be explored within and outside the NATO framework?

The Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy (CSDS) will partner with the Kajima Institute for International Peace (KIIP), the Institute for Security and Development Policy (ISDP) and the Prospect Foundation to convene a private and a public event in Brussels, bringing together leading experts from Europe, Japan, Taiwan and NATO. The discussions on the first day will explore the internal dynamics within NATO, with a first session focusing on the perspectives of key European NATO member states (DE, FR, PL, UK), followed by another session focusing on the future of deterrence in the Indo-Pacific region. The public segment will zoom in on the perspectives for cooperation between Europe and Japan within the new geostrategic context. A special briefing will be hosted on the second day, examining the future of nuclear deterrence.

PROGRAMME

14:30 – 15:00 **Registration and Welcome Coffee**

15:00 – 15:10 **Welcome remarks**

Luis Simón

Director, Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy – VUB

15:10 – 16:30 **Public Panel – Europe and Japan: Partners for Uncertain Times**

Moderator

Giulia Tercovich

Deputy Director, Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy – VUB

Speakers

Masafumi Ishii

Professor, Gakushuin University

I-Chung Lai

President, Prospect Foundation

Eva Pejsova

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

Niklas Swanström

Director, Institute for Security and Development Policy

16:30 **End**