

# Transatlantic Dialogue on the Indo-Pacific 2026

Webcast

26 MAY 2026 (14:00 - 15:00 EDT / 20:00 - 21:00 CET)

VUB BRUSSELS SCHOOL OF GOVERNANCE  
CENTRE FOR SECURITY,  
DIPLOMACY AND STRATEGY

CSIS

CENTER FOR STRATEGIC &  
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## CONCEPT

The global security environment is in flux. The emergence of multiple crises is straining the strategic bandwidth of the United States (US) and its core allies in Europe and the Indo-Pacific. As the latest US National Defence Strategy points out, even unmatched military power cannot be applied everywhere at once. Faced with the simultaneous challenges of deterring China, managing instability in the Middle East and sustaining support for Ukraine, Washington and its partners are increasingly forced to balance priorities across multiple fronts. This dynamic has prompted varying degrees of strategic hedging among US allies – from Tokyo to key European capitals – as they seek to mitigate the risks of American retrenchment and political volatility by developing their own regional strategies, bolstering defence postures and strengthening horizontal cooperation.

The “CSDS-CSIS Transatlantic Dialogue” is an annual initiative convened by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and the Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy (CSDS) at Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). Its 6<sup>th</sup> edition will be held in Washington DC on 26 May 2026 to discuss the challenges and prospects for cooperation between the US, Europe and Indo-Pacific allies in an era of unprecedented strategic uncertainty. The event will bring together leading experts and practitioners from Japan, the US and Europe to assess ways of approaching deterrence and alliance management in the Indo-Pacific and Europe at times of simultaneous strategic challenges in multiple regions.

## PROGRAMME

### Public Event

26 May 2026 (14:00 – 15:00 EDT / 20:00 – 21:00 CET)

14:00 – 14:10

#### Welcome Remarks

**Victor D. Cha**

President, Geopolitics and Foreign Policy Department, CSIS

**Luis Simón**

Director, Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy – VUB

14:10 – 15:00

#### Panel Discussion

*Speakers*

**Max Bergmann**

Director, Europe, Russia and Eurasia Programme, CSIS

**Kristi Govella**

Japan Chair, CSIS

**Eva Pejsova**

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

**Michito Tsuruoka**

Professor, Keio University

*Moderator*

**Nicholas Szechenyi**

Vice President, Geopolitics and Foreign Policy, Senior Fellow, Japan Chair, CSIS

15:00

#### End of event