

CONFERENCE - DEBATE

# EU EXTERNAL ACTION: TIME FOR A STRATEGIC REBOUND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF 16 EUROPEAN THINK TANKS

WEDNESDAY 15 MAY 2013 • 9.30 am > 4.10 pm

Hotel Silken Berlaymont

Boulevard Charlemagne 11/19 - 1000 Brussels - Belgium

Europeans need to tackle the negative impact of the crisis on EU influence in the world. While focusing on fiscal consolidation and economic recovery, the EU needs to break out of its defensive attitude and make room for new strategic thinking.

In the report *“Think Global–Act European. Thinking strategically about the EU’s external action”* (Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute, April 2013) experts from 16 Europeans think tanks address key priorities for the EU to preserve its relevance in a rapidly changing world. A wilted patronising EU fits uncomfortably within the new multipolar setting where influence is being renegotiated. A more forward looking strategy for the EU to effectively influence the global agenda must begin with a serious scrutiny of the incoherence of the EU’s external action policies.

9.30 am > 9.40 am **Welcome address and introduction**

António VITORINO, President, Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute

9.40 am > 11 am **Session 1: Engaging with middle and global powers**

**Keynote speaker:** Pascal LAMY, Director General, World Trade Organisation

**Chair:** Elvire FABRY, Senior Research Fellow, Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute

11 am > 1 pm **Session 2: Leveraging the economic weight of the EU worldwide**

To keep up with globalisation and remain an influential actor of the global agenda requires the EU to go beyond Member States’ export contest. The EU needs to actively develop the external dimensions of its single market (trade, financial regulation, energy, agriculture...) and to address the weaknesses of the external representation of European interests. Gaining bargaining power requires the EU to balance assertiveness against a more acute capacity to identify shared interest and develop mutual trust with old and new economic partners.

**Speakers:** Jean-Luc DEMARTY, Director General Trade, European Commission

Jo LEINEN, Member of the European Parliament

Philip LOWE, Director General Energy, European Commission

David O’SULLIVAN, Chief Operating Officer, EEAS

**Chair:** Yves BERTONCINI, Director, Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute

**Discussants:** Daniela SCHWARZER (SWP); Federico STEINBERG (Elcano); Sami ANDOURA (Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute)



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1 pm > 2 pm

**Lunch Break**

2 pm > 4 pm

**Session 3: Reinforcing EU regional influence**

The litmus test for the EU's credibility at the global level is its capacity to manage successfully an ever more challenging neighbourhood. The EU has yet to find an adequate response to competing influences in the region (illiberal values, alternative attractive markets...), anticipating the spillover effects of major instability. A shift towards a more innovative engagement with other regional actors in its vicinity, to manage threats and develop opportunities, requires pragmatism in combining trade, hard security, migration and development policies.

**Speakers:**

**Elmar BROK**, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, European Parliament

**Jean-Yves LE DRIAN**, French Minister for Defence

**Stefano MANSERVISI**, Director General, Home Affairs, European Commission

**Hugues MINGARELLI**, Managing Director, Middle East and Southern Neighbourhood, EEAS

**Chair:**

**Eneko LANDABURU**, Former Director General RELEX, European Commission

**Discussants:**

**Daniel KEOHANE** (FRIDE); **Christophe HILLION** (SIEPS); **Hans MARTENS** (EPC)

4 pm > 4.10 pm

**Concluding remarks**

**António VITORINO**, President, Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute

Please confirm your participation at:

**[inscription@notre-europe.eu](mailto:inscription@notre-europe.eu)**

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