

EU's Strategic Autonomy in the Era of Global Internet Governance

An Expert Roundtable organised by the Europe-Asia Centre, Brussels
9 am (Brussels time) 30 August 2021 (via Zoom)

Concept Note

The last European Council raised “strategic autonomy”¹ to the level of a central concept for a new phase of the European project. Building European strategic autonomy on a horizontal – cross-policy basis is expected to – strengthen EU multilateral action, reduce dependence on external actors, and make the EU less vulnerable in areas such as energy, disinformation digital technology. Especially, the new frontiers of global governance needs to be increased, and which must be fully understood in all its implications. This is the case of internet or cyberspace governance, as a new dimension of reality, is being massively amplified and transformed by the combined effect of the Internet of Things that connects trillions of objects and services to artificial intelligence. Until now, this is an area of growing a geostrategic competition and governance for cyberspace is still inconsistent and fragile, there is a huge potential for building European ‘strategic autonomy’ and ‘approach’ which can play a key role in improving the algorithms of governance at all levels build a truly multilateral way of governing internet.

AGENDA

9:00 am Opening Introduction (5 mins):

- **Ambassador (ret.) Piet Steel**, Chairman of Europe-Asia Centre, Belgium

9:05 am Keynote Speech (15 mins)

- **H.E. Violeta Bulc**, European Commissioner for Transport from 2014 to 2019, Slovenia

9:20 am Expert Roundtable (5 mins each + 30 mins discussion)

- **Ms Mireia Paulo**, Lecturer and Research Associate, Faculty of East Asian Studies, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany
- **Mr André Loesekrug-Pietr**, Chairman, Joint European Disruptive Initiative (JEDI), France
- **Dr Miguel Otero-Iglesias**, Professor of Practice at IE School of Global and Public Affairs and Senior Analyst at Elcano Royal Institute, Spain

10:05 am Concluding Remarks (5 mins):

- **Mr Matic Gajsek**, Deputy Director, Europe – Asia Center, Belgium

1 Foundation for European Progressive Studies: “Strategic Autonomy”, a new European concept:
<https://progressivepost.eu/strategic-autonomy-a-new-european-concept/>