

Reshaping Europe Through Crises

2022



Overview - Day 1

Titled ‘Reshaping Europe Through Crises’, this year’s EIF was yet another successful meeting of policymakers, industry leaders and academics over two days of panel discussions and interviews. **Day one** opened with an introduction of the forum by Mikuláš Dzurinda, President of the Martens Centre on the need to preserve the EU’s values while addressing current and future challenges. This was followed by a keynote speech from Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament, discussing the most pressing issues currently facing the EU.

The **first panel topic “Seeking Stability: Inflation and Tackling Europe’s Economic Challenges”** was discussed by Luděk Niedermayer, MEP, EPP Group and Pim Lescauw, Expert at the Cabinet of Executive Vice President Dombrovskis, European Commission, moderated by Eoin Drea, Senior Research Officer at the Martens Centre. The panellists debated how best to control inflation and the risks of increased government spending. Following a coffee break, there was an exclusive interview with Klaus Welle, former Secretary-General of the European Parliament and current member of the Martens Centre Academic Council, discussing the recent weaponisation of refugees and energy, and how the EU could become a global leader in world crises. This was moderated by Margherita Movarelli, Head of Communications and Marketing at the Martens Centre.

The **second panel, “Repower EU: Building a True European Energy Union”** followed directly after the interview. The panellists were Jerzy Buzek, MEP, EPP Group, Philipp Offenberger, Senior Manager Europe of Breakthrough Energy and Prof. Brenda Shaffer from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, and was moderated by Dimitar Lilkov, Senior Research Officer at the Martens Centre. The future of energy security including digitalisation, decentralisation and storage alongside renewable sources, were all discussed.

The last discussion of the day, was an interview in cooperation with Google on the **topic of “Building Europe's Technological Sovereignty and Digital Resilience”**. Dimitar Lilkov interviewed Thiébaud Meyer, Director of the Office of the CISO, Google Cloud on how cyber security requires a joint EU-wide effort and the importance of secure supply chains. Day one concluded with a networking cocktail for all participants and guests.

Overview - Day 2

Day 2 began with a networking breakfast before the start of **Panel 3, “War and Peace: Strategic Autonomy and the Future of European Security Policy”**. Henna Virkkunen, MEP, EPP Group, Stijn Mols, Head of Division, Security and Defence Policy at EEAS and Jamie Shea, former Deputy Assistant Secretary-General for Emerging Security Challenges at NATO and Senior Research Associate at the Martens Centre all debated this topic, chaired by Tomi Huhtanen, Executive Director of the Martens Centre. Critical infrastructure dependent on Russia and China, and the need to enhance the European Defence Industrial and Technological base were discussed in depth.

Next was an interview in cooperation with Microsoft on the **topic of “EU Cyber Legislation and the Geopolitics of Cybersecurity”**. Eleftheria Katsi, Communications and Press Assistant at the Martens Centre moderated this discussion with Florian Pennings, Director of European Government Affairs – Cybersecurity at Microsoft on findings from Microsoft’s Digital Defence Report and how AI and machine learning are used in their analysis.

Eoin Drea, Senior Researcher at the Martens Centre then held an interview in cooperation with Johnson & Johnson on the **topic of “The EU as a Global Hub for Health Innovation”** with Anouk De Vroey, Head of Government Affairs and Policy Pharmaceutical & Vaccines EMEA at Johnson & Johnson, who spoke about the impact of inflation and austerity on healthcare innovation and the need for policy to enable investment into science and new medications.

The **Forum’s final panel was on “Geopolitical Realities in a Changing World”**. This panel comprised Radostaw Sikorski, MEP, EPP Group, Susan Danger, CEO of the American Chamber of Commerce to the EU and Theresa Fallon, Director of the Centre for Russia Europe Asia Studies (CREAS), chaired by Peter Hefele, Policy Director of the Martens Centre. Topics discussed included the EU’s evolving strategic culture and the current role of the transatlantic relationship. The day’s discussions ended with an interview in cooperation with Alberto Zilio, Director of External and Legislative Affairs Europe at AT&T, on **“Bridging the Pond: What Future Role for the EU-US Trade and Technology Council?”**. The discussion highlighted the fundamental nature of trade agreements to transatlantic relations and the need for clear deliverables that are long-term and sustainable. The discussion was moderated by Anna Nalyvayko, Project Officer at the Martens Centre. Antonio López-Istúriz White, MEP, EPP Group, and Secretary-Treasurer of the Martens Centre gave the closing remarks of EIF 2022 where he stressed the need for pragmatism and remaining united in the face of adversity. The event concluded with a networking lunch for all attendees.

Panel Takeaways

Panel

Key Takeaways

Seeking Stability: Inflation and Tackling Europe's Economic Challenges

- Inflation distorts the economy and makes people poorer.
- EU Commission proposals must be realistic, making debt reduction targets more country-specific and gradual.
- Rising spending will increase the balance of payments deficit and increase inflation.

Repower EU: Building a True European Energy Union

- Energy security should remain a key priority. The EU's decarbonisation efforts need to be calibrated to ensure that Europe has sufficient domestic/imported energy supply.
- Renewable energy must be backed up in the short term by flexible, multimodal storage solutions, decentralisation and digitalisation.

War and Peace: Strategic Autonomy and the Future of European Security Policy

- An integrated Europe is enlarging rapidly to the East.
- The war is a wake-up call for the EU not to be so dependent on other countries and regions in the future.
- The EU has a number of complementary instruments that NATO does not have.

Geopolitical Realities in a Changing World

- The EU's strategic culture must change to resolutely defend our values, friends and allies.
- Protectionism is rising on both sides of the Atlantic but there is a necessity to stay together.
- The European pillar within NATO must be strengthened

Interview Takeaways

Interview	Key Takeaways
<u>Interview with Google, 'Building Europe's Technological Sovereignty and Digital Resilience'</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transatlantic cooperation is an important pillar in boosting digital resilience and tackling the growing number of online threats.• Public and private sector need to work together on securing EU cyberspace.
<u>Interview with Microsoft, 'EU Cyber Legislation and the Geopolitics of Cybersecurity'</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Geopolitical crises such as Russia's war in Ukraine lead to more cybersecurity threats.• 98% of cybersecurity concerns can be stopped with good cyber "hygiene".
<u>Interview with Johnson & Johnson, 'The EU as a Global Hub for Health Innovation'</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policy must enable more investments into science, new medications and new innovations.• An EU Pharma Strategy needs to ensure a predictable IPR environment, enable Health Data and encourage the shift to value-based healthcare systems.
<u>Interview with AT&T, 'Bridging the Pond: What Future Role for the EU-US Trade and Technology Council (TTC)?'</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The success of TTC will depend on the openness of the platform. It must be integrate also industry and other stakeholders such as academia, civil society, and the European Parliament.• The key is having deliverables that are longterm and sustainable.

Keynote Speakers

Keynote Speakers

Key Takeaways

Mikuláš Dzurinda, President of the Martens Centre

- The EU is facing the greatest challenge in its neighbourhood since the fall of Communism.
- Europe finds itself in increasingly complex geopolitical circumstances.
- These new geopolitical realities will require require quick, precise and sustainable responses to anticipate future threats while preserving the block's values and principles.

Interview with Klaus Welle, former Secretary-General, European Parliament

- The conflict in Ukraine shows how food, energy and refugees can be weaponised. When there is a major crisis, citizens know that the place for solving it is the EU.
- In the new world order, prices are no longer the only factor influencing decision-making. Security is coming more to the forefront.
- The introduction of the Spitzenkandidat has brought greater attention and media coverage to European Parliament elections as it is more interesting to speak about people

Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament

- We are living through a perfect storm of instability.
- War on our continent has forced us to look inwards, to rediscover our founding principles.
- The strength of the European Union lies in its experience with difficult negotiations and the ability of compromise.

Antonio López-Istúriz White, MEP, EPP Group, and Secretary-Treasurer of the Martens Centre

- We sit here together with different nationalities, this diversity brings resilience.
- Europe was and is built around crises. That's the moment we realise that we need each other.
- The EPP is still the responsible, moderate, centrist political spectrum in Europe. As long as the EPP is in charge, this crisis will be fought.