

Unifying Visions, Unlocking Sustainable Realities: The Role of Europe, Asia and Latin America in Global Economic Transition

10h15-10h30 | Opening remarks

Mikuláš Dzurinda, President, Martens Centre

10h30-11h30 | Panel 1

DISCUSSANTS

Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou, Member of European Parliament, Vice-Chair INTA Committee, Greece

Shreekant Gupta, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Delhi, India

Renu Kohli Senior Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress, India

Andreas Moerke, Professor of Business Administration, Intercultural Management and Business Ethics, Hochschule Worms, Germany

MODERATOR

Peter Hefele, Policy Director, Martens Centre

Euro-Asian Trade - Unlocking the Power of Sustainable Markets

In the realm of EU-Asia trade relations, a pertinent question arises – is the current framework fostering the transformation into a sustainable economy effectively in both Europe and Asia? This question is of great significance, as sustainable economic growth has become a paramount objective in today's global context. This panel will consider how private companies can best contribute to this objective and enhance collaboration, as well as in which fields Europe has a comparative advantage and is attractive for Asian nations, among other relevant issues.

11h30-12h00 | Coffee break

12h00-13h00 | Panel 2

DISCUSSANTS

Christina Chen, Research Fellow, Institute for National Defence and Security Research, Taiwan

Theresa Fallon, Founder and Director, Centre for Russia Europe Asia Studies, Belgium

Shairee Malhotra, Associate Fellow, Observer Research Foundation, India

Andreas Schwab, Member of European Parliament, Germany

MODERATOR

Tomi Huhtanen, Executive Director, Martens Centre

Navigating a New Era for Great Power Politics

By working together, Europe and Asia possess the potential to create a powerful force in advocating for a stable international order. Strengthening diplomatic ties and fostering strategic partnerships between nations will be key to global stability. Emphasising dialogue, cooperation, and adherence to international rules and norms will further bolster this collective effort. How can Europe and Asia jointly contribute to a stable, multilateral, rule-based international order which counters the rise of totalitarian regimes? Join us as our panellists seek to provide answers.

13h00-14h30 | Networking lunch

14h30-15h30 | Panel 3

DISCUSSANTS

Zsuzsa Anna Ferenczy, Assistant Professor, National Dong Hwa University in Hualien, Taiwan

Konstantinos Kyranakis, Deputy Minister of Digital Governance of Greece

King Wang Poon, Director of the Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities, Singapore University of Technology and Design, Singapore

Ivan Štefanec, Member of European Parliament, Slovakia

MODERATOR

Sandra Pasarić, Project Officer, Martens Centre

Innovation and Technology as a Driver of EU-Asia Relations

Innovation and technology play a pivotal role in fostering sustainable development. In particular, they can drive progress in critical areas including renewable energy, smart cities, circular economy, and sustainable agriculture, contributing to a greener and more resilient future. By harnessing innovation and technology, both regions can accelerate the adoption of renewable energy sources, optimise energy efficiency, and reduce carbon emissions. Establishing collaborative platforms and legal frameworks while leveraging promising business models will pave the way for a mutually beneficial and impactful partnership.

15h30-16h00 | Coffee break

16h00-17h00 | Panel 4

DISCUSSANTS

Nicolas Albertoni, Deputy Foreign Minister of Uruguay - online

Eleonora Catella, Deputy Director of International Relations, BusinessEurope, Italy

Antonio López-Istúriz White, Member of European Parliament, Spain, Secretary General of the Centrist Democrat International (IDC-CDI), Secretary Treasurer, Martens Centre

Sandra Rios, Director, Centre for Studies in Integration and Development, Brazil

MODERATOR

Luis Blanco, General Coordinator, Centrist Democrat International (IDC-CDI)

EU-Latin America - Partnering up with MERCOSUR

The MERCOSUR deal holds vast potential in fostering trade, investment, and economic cooperation between the regions. The business community will play a crucial role in facilitating sustainable transition in EU-Latin America trade relations. Harmonising regulations and improving market access can significantly boost bilateral trade, offering new avenues for economic growth and collaboration, while promoting sustainability and upholding social responsibility. Embracing sustainable practices, addressing regulatory challenges, and acknowledging the geopolitical implications will be instrumental in cultivating a thriving and mutually beneficial partnership.

17h00 | Closing remarks

Tomi Huhtanen, Executive Director, Martens Centre

17h15 | Networking cocktail

Nicolas Albertoni, Deputy Foreign Minister of Uruguay

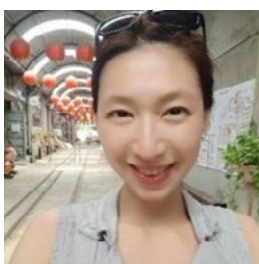
Nicolas Albertoni has served as Deputy Foreign Minister of Uruguay since 2022, prior to which he occupied the role of Deputy Secretary of International Relations of the Colorado Party 2020-2022. In the same period 2020-2022 he additionally served as Secretary General for the Binational Commission of the Salto Grande Hydroelectric Power Plant. He is the author of several books, the latest of which being “Trade Protectionism in an Uncertain and Interconnected Global Economy” (Routledge, 2023).

Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou, Member of European Parliament, Vice-Chair INTA Committee, Greece

Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou has served as a Member of the European Parliament since 2019, prior to which she was an elected representative in the Greek parliament for the New Democracy Party 2012-2019. She currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Committee on International Trade as well as a member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Delegation for relations with Israel. Before entering politics, she held several professional positions including Director of the EGNATIA EPIRUS Foundation, a Greek private non-profit organisation, and Evaluator, Viewer and Monitor for the European Commission.

Eleonora Catella, Deputy Director of International Relations, BusinessEurope, Italy

Eleonora Catella is Deputy Director of the International Relations Department of BusinessEurope. She is in charge of relations between the EU and the United States, Canada, Latin America and South East Asia. Her responsibilities also include trade policy instruments such as anti-dumping and safeguards. Before joining BusinessEurope, she was a case handler of anti-dumping investigations in DG Trade at the European Commission (2009-2012), worked on a project on inter-parliamentary communications at the European Parliament (2007-2008) and on trade policy at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2005).

Christina Chen, Research Fellow, Institute for National Defence and Security Research, Taiwan

Christina Chen is a Research Fellow at the Institute for National Defence and Security Research in Taiwan. Working within the Division of Chinese Politics, Military and Warfighting Concepts, her areas of research expertise include political economy, East Asian politics, Chinese politics, state-society relations, as well as central-local relations.

Mikuláš Dzurinda, President, Martens Centre, Slovakia

Mikuláš Dzurinda is President of the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies. He is the former Prime Minister of Slovakia (1998-2006) and has held various positions in government since first entering politics in 1990. During his time as Prime Minister, Dzurinda introduced far-reaching reforms that enabled Slovakia to begin the process of joining the EU and NATO. Dzurinda is a founding member of the Slovak Democratic and Christian Union – Democratic Party (SDKÚ-DS) and was chairman of the party from 2000 to 2012.

Theresa Fallon, Founder and Director, Centre for Russia Europe Asia Studies, Belgium

Theresa Fallon is the founder and director of the Centre for Russia Europe Asia Studies (CREAS) in Brussels. She is concurrently a member of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, a Nonresident Senior Fellow of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, a member of the CEPS Task Force on AI and Cybersecurity, a member of the Loisach Group on transatlantic relations, and a member of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations. In 2021, she was named EU Influencer of the Year in the field of trade and economics. In 2017, she was listed by Foreign Policy magazine as one of the top 20 women to follow on Twitter in the areas of foreign policy and national security.

Zsuzsa Anna Ferenczy, Assistant Professor, National Dong Hwa University in Hualien, Taiwan

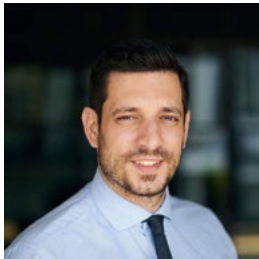
Dr. Zsuzsa Anna Ferenczy is Affiliated Scholar at the Department of Political Science of Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Associated Research Fellow at the Institute for Security & Development Policy (ISDP Stockholm), Head of the Associates Network at 9DASHLINE, Research Fellow at Taiwan NextGen Foundation and Consultant at Human Rights Without Frontiers in Brussels. Based in Taiwan, Zsuzsa is Adjunct Assistant Professor at the National Dong Hwa University in Hualien. Between 2008 and 2020 Zsuzsa worked as a political advisor in the European Parliament. In May 2019 she published her book, “Europe, China, and the Limits of Normative Power”. Zsuzsa is a regular commentator in international media outlets.

Shreekant Gupta, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Delhi, India

Shreekant Gupta is Professor, Department of Economics, University of Delhi. He has over 30 years of policy and academic experience in environmental issues including environment and development, pollution abatement and climate change. He has also taught at National University of Singapore, University of Maryland and Nazarbayev University and worked as an economist in the Environment Department of the World Bank at Washington DC. He served on the Economic Options Committee of the Montreal Protocol and was Lead Author (Sixth Assessment Report) and Coordinating Lead Author (Fifth Assessment Report) of the IPCC. He received his PhD in Economics from the University of Maryland and was Fulbright Fellow at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Shastri Fellow at Queens University, Canada.

Renu Kohli, Senior Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress, India

Renu Kohli is currently Senior Fellow, at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP), a New Delhi based public policy think tank. She is a former staff member of the Reserve Bank of India and the International Monetary Fund. As a practitioner, she has exposure to central banking and macroeconomic surveillance, while her research experience includes past association with the Indian Council for Research in International Economic Relations (ICRIER, as Professor) where she led research on macroeconomic and financial sector related policy issues. She has published in peer-reviewed journals and authored a book on India's capital account liberalization. A longtime consultant to foreign investors interested in India, she is a short-term expert with the IMF capacity training institutions, and a frequent contributor to op-eds in prominent business newspapers.

Konstantinos Kyranakis, Deputy Minister of Digital Governance of Greece

Konstantinos Kyranakis has worked as a freelancer in the field of digital marketing, creating websites and applications. He was a co-founder of the BrainGain initiative for the return of young people to Greece. From 2013 to 2017 Konstantinos was President of the youth branch of the European People's Party, YEPP. In January 2017, the international magazine Forbes selected him among the 30 most influential young people under 30 in Europe, in the Law & Policy category. In the parliamentary elections of 2019, he was elected for the first time as a Member of Parliament in the South Sector of Athens II, where he was re-elected in the elections of June 25, 2023 and on June 27 he was sworn in as Deputy Minister of Digital Governance.

Antonio López-Istúriz White, Member of European Parliament, Spain, Secretary General of the Centrist Democrat International (IDC-CDI), Secretary Treasurer, Martens Centre

Antonio López-Istúriz White is a Member of the European Parliament representing Partido Popular from Spain since 2003. From 2002 to 2022, he served as Secretary General of the European People's Party. He is currently Chair of the European Parliament's Delegation for relations with Israel, a Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Conference of Delegation Chairs, the Delegation for relations with the Arab Peninsula, and the Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean. Antonio López-Istúriz is also Secretary Treasurer of the Martens Centre and since 2002 serves as the Secretary General of the Centrist Democrat International, the world's biggest alliance of centre-right political parties.

Shairee Malhotra, Associate Fellow, Observer Research Foundation, India

Shairee Malhotra is Associate Fellow, Strategic Studies Programme at India's leading think tank Observer Research Foundation (ORF). She also served as the T20 Coordinator for the Taskforce on Reformed Multilateralism during India's G20 presidency. Shairee has experience working in Brussels - at the European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS), and as a Trainee at the European External Action Service (EEAS) where she was selected at a success rate of only 1% for non-EU nationals.

Andreas Moerke, Professor of Business Administration, Intercultural Management and Business Ethics, Hochschule Worms, Germany

Andreas Moerke is Professor of Business Administration, Intercultural Management and Business Ethics at the Hochschule Worms in Germany. Prior to that he was Executive Team Manager for Energy Storage Europe at Messe Düsseldorf GmbH, where he was in charge of organizing the leading fair for energy storage systems for industry, mobility and buildings, with a special focus on decarbonization of industry and retail. Andreas has extensive experience in relations with Japan as his previous roles included CEO of Messe Düsseldorf Japan, Member of the Board & Auditor in the Japanese IT company Landscape and Co-Founder and Partner of a private German-Japanese business & market entry consultancy. Additionally, he held research positions in Berlin and Tokyo, with a focus on international management, industry structures & corporate governance in Japan and Germany

King Wang Poon, Chief Strategy Officer, and Director, Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities, Singapore University of Technology and Design, Singapore

Poon King Wang is the Chief Strategy Officer at the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), and concurrently the Director of the Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities at SUTD, where he also heads the Smart Cities Lab and the Future Digital Economies and Digital Societies initiative. In these concurrent roles, King Wang focuses on innovation; future of work, learning and education; and the impact of AI and technology on people, economies and societies. He has served/is serving on the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung's Strong Cities 2030 Network, the Future of Work working group of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, and Singapore's SkillsFuture Research Advisory Panel, amongst others. King Wang received the Public Administration Medal (Silver) in 2021 for his contributions.

Sandra Rios, Director, Centre for Studies in Integration and Development, Brazil

Sandra Rios is Director of CINDES, the Center for Integration and Development Studies, an independent think tank based in Rio de Janeiro. Her areas of expertise include trade policy, trade negotiations, and international economic integration. She acts as a consultant for the National Confederation of Industry of Brazil (CNI) and teaches Trade Policy at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio). She has been a researcher at the Institute for Applied Economic Research (Ipea).

Andreas Schwab, Member of European Parliament, Germany

Andreas Schwab has served as a member of the European Parliament since 2004 and is currently Chair of the Delegation for Northern cooperation and for relations with Switzerland and Norway and to the EU-Iceland Joint Parliamentary Committee and the European Economic Area (EEA) Joint Parliamentary Committee. In addition, he is also a member of the Conference of Delegation Chairs, Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, and the Subcommittee on Tax Matters. Since 2014 he has been Vice-Chair of the CDU/CSU Group in the European Parliament.

Ivan Stefanec, Member of the European Parliament, Slovakia



Ivan Stefanec has served as a Member of the European Parliament for the European People's Party since 2014 and is currently a member of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection as well as the Delegation for relations with Japan. As a member of the Slovak Democratic and Christian Union-Democratic Party, he was an elected member of the National Council of the Slovak Republic 2006-2014, occupying the positions of Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on European Affairs 2010-2012 and Vice-Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on European Affairs 2012-2014. Immediately before beginning his service as an elected representative, with the Slovak government he held the role of governmental plenipotentiary for the introduction of the Euro.

● Master of ceremonies

Theo Larue, Editorial and Publications Officer, Martens Centre



Theo Larue grew up in Paris, holding dual French and American citizenship. He is a graduate of Royal Holloway, University of London, from which he holds a BA History and International Relations, and an MS in Political Science. His political research interests revolve around domestic French and American politics, EU economic policy, and all aspects of international relations. In addition to his native English and French, Theo speaks Spanish.

Peter Hefele, Policy Director, Martens Centre



From December 2010 to February 2015, Peter worked as Director of the China Office of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Shanghai. From March 2015 until April 2019, he was Director of the Regional Project “Energy Security and Climate Change” (RECAP), based in Hong Kong SAR / PR China. From May 2019 to November 2021, he was Director of the Department Asia and the Pacific at KAS in Berlin. Since then, he has served as the Martens Centre’s Policy Director. His main fields of expertise are economic policy, international development cooperation and energy/climate policy. He is an expert on political, economic and social developments in Asia and China.

Tomi Huhtanen, Executive Director, Martens Centre



Tomi started his career by working for the Finnish delegation of the European People’s Party in the European Parliament. From 1999 to 2007, he was a Political Adviser and subsequently a Senior Adviser for the EPP, mainly focusing on economic and social policy. During this period, he launched the European View policy journal, of which he became Editor-in-Chief. In 2007, he was put in charge of launching the political foundation of the European People’s Party, the Centre for European Studies (renamed the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies in 2014); in the same year, he was nominated as the Centre’s Director, and is since October 2015 its Executive Director.

Sandra Pasaric, Project Officer, Martens Centre



During her studies, Sandra acted as a delegate in the Austrian Youth People’s Party (JVP) and has been a PR & Marketing team leader at AIESEC Austria. She worked as a project manager in London and Düsseldorf, having previously completed an internship at Volkswagen in Pamplona. Before joining the Martens Centre, she worked in the European Parliament, in the team of a Croatian MEP (EPP), after having completed a traineeship within the European Economic and Social Committee and European Committee of the Regions.

Luis Blanco, General Coordinator, Centrist Democrat International (IDC-CDI)



Luis Blanco holds a PhD in Political Science from Bielefeld University (Germany) as well as a Bachelor’s degree in International Relations and a Master’s degree in International Politics from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). He specialized in EU relations with third countries, with a focus on EU’s strategic partnerships. In 2018, after several years working with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in projects in Latin America, Asia and Europe, he joined the European People’s Party in Brussels as the chief of cabinet of the EPP secretary general, a position he held until June 2022. In October 2021 he was appointed general coordinator of the Centrist Democrat International (IDC-CDI), the world’s biggest alliance of centre-right political parties.