

15
APR
2025

IN-PERSON EVENT

11:00-12:30

📍 WMCES, Rue du Commerce 20, 1000 Brussels

Hedging Chaos:

How can the EU Shape a new Trading Power?

ABOUT THE EVENT

As recent actions by the Trump administration highlight committing to a rules-based, multilateral order is no longer enough. The EU needs an expanded trading playbook to meet the geopolitical moment. And while a strong transatlantic trading alliance will remain central to the EU's economic future, Brussels should not be purely reactive to policy shifts in Washington.

This event will explore whether Brussels's conception of the transatlantic alliance should be broadened into that of a trans-oceanic network, with an initial focus on Japan and South Korea. Both of these states and the EU face a US-China trade trilemma and all exhibit fundamental security dependencies on Washington. In this context, closer partnerships with Tokyo and Seoul will diversify EU trading risks and create a hedge against greater US conditionality.

What other strategies should the EU employ to "hedge the chaos" of Transatlantic relations? What now for EU – China policy? A shift back towards accommodation rather than aggressive derisking? Can countries like the US, Canada and Australia also play an important role in the EU shaping a new type of global trading power?

PROGRAMME

- 11:00** Registration and Coffee
- 11:30** Welcoming Remarks
- 11:35** Panel Discussion
- 12:20** Q&A
- 12:30** End of Discussion followed by light lunch

SPEAKERS

Welcoming Remarks:

Tomi Huhtanen

Executive Director, Martens Centre

Discussants:

Noah Barkin

Visiting Senior Fellow, German Marshall Fund (GMF), Berlin
Senior Advisor Rhodium Group

Eoin Drea

Senior Research Officer, Martens Centre

Lionel Laurent

Columnist, Bloomberg Opinion

Moderator:

Sandra Pasarić

Project Officer, Martens Centre



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