

## Conference

# New dynamics in the EU's relations with Asia: security, trade, and connectivity

**21 November 2022**

CEPS, Brussels

Scientific organisers:

**Stefania Benaglia** | Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)

**Thomas Christiansen** | LUISS School of Government

**Giulio Pugliese** | European University Institute and University of Oxford

## Introduction

As spacious as it is, the Indo-Pacific macro-area is crowded with geo-political and geo-economic presence from every major power, as well as sustained engagement from the world's largest militaries.

*How can Europe's changing trade and security ambitions find their rightful place in the Indo-Pacific, the gravity centre of China/U.S. rivalry?*

Whether on land or sea, tensions are rising in every area of international connectivity in Europe and Asia: from fragmented supply chains and trade networks to challenges in technological, political and security governance; not to mention climate disasters, relativist definitions of human rights, and the first international war on European soil since World War II.

The recent geo-political events and macroeconomic earthquakes in Europe, from the energy and food crises to the spectre of stagflation, have further underlined the urgency of reinforcing resilient connectivity links for the EU on friendly shores in the Indo-Pacific. The region hosts no less than two-thirds of global economic growth and nearly half the world's population.

*Can we speak of a geo-economic turn to EU-Asia trade policy? And can EU-Asia relations truly be renewed at the intersection of trade and security, in a region where the EU is traditionally expected as a trade partner and a relatively neutral broker of development finance? Is the EU capable of picking up both its pace and its image in the region to safeguard both values and interests?*

This public workshop takes stock of recent trends in EU-Asia relations and showcases recent publications stemming from the EU-Asia Security and Trade (EAST) Jean Monnet-funded project as well as EUI's own EU-Asia Project.

## Programme

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### Welcome

09.00 - 09.10 **Karel Lannoo** | CEO, CEPS

### Introduction to the EAST Project

09.10 - 09.20 **Thomas Christiansen** | LUISS School of Government

### Introduction to the European University Institute's EU-Asia Project

09.20 - 09.25 **Giulio Pugliese** | European University Institute and University of Oxford

### Keynote Speech

09.25 - 09.45 **Maria Martin-Prat** | Deputy Director-General, DG Trade, European Commission

### Strategic contestation in the Indo-Pacific region: what role for Europe?

09.45 - 11.00 Chair:  
**Thomas Christiansen** | LUISS School of Government

Speakers:

**Sven Biscop** | Egmont Royal Institute for International Relations

**Emil Kirchner** | Emeritus Professor, University of Essex

**Eva Pesjova** | Japan Chair, Vrije Universiteit Brussels

**Serafijn Gentils** | DPhil candidate in Area Studies (China), University of Oxford

11.00 - 11.30 Coffee break

### A geo-economic turn in trade policy?

11.30 - 12.45 Chair:  
**Johan Adriaensen** | Maastricht University

Speakers

**Clara Weinhardt** | Maastricht University and GPPi

**Ferdinand De Ville** | Ghent University

**Soo Yeon Kim** | National University of Singapore

**Malorie Schaus** | GRID Research Fellow, CEPS

12.45 - 14.00 Lunch

**EU-Asia connectivity: at the intersection of trade and security**

14.00 - 15.15

Chair:

**Giulio Pugliese** | European University Institute and University of Oxford

Speakers:

**Evgeny Postnikov** | University of Melbourne

**Stefania Benaglia** | Associate Researcher, CEPS

**Atsuko Higashino** | University of Tsukuba

**Amaia Sánchez-Cacicedo** | European Union Institute for Security Studies

15.15

Closing remarks

**Thomas Christiansen** | LUISS School of Government