Sieps

Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies

New World Order – Implications for Europe

High-level conference on European security

IVA Konferenscenter, Grev Turegatan 16, Stockholm
6 November 2026, 08:30–16:00
Language: English. Free of charge.

08:00–08:30
Registration and coffee.

08:30–09:10
The European Security Landscape – What is to be done? A conversation with Commissioner for Space and Defence Andrius Kubilius and Swedish Minister for Defence Pål Jonson
Moderator: Göran von Sydow, Director, SIEPS.

09:20–10:20
1. The Architecture of European Security – Designing a Cohesive Defence Framework
Over the last decade, European security and defence policy has been conditioned by three notable factors: Russia's war in Ukraine, internal EU divergences and questions of EU competencies, and not least, the state of transatlantic relations. Against this backdrop, the panel will explore ideas and traces of an emerging European security and defence order, particularly in relation to the role of NATO, the prevalence of hybrid threats, the defence and integration of Ukraine, and the EU's ability to act.

Speakers: Sven Biscop (Egmont), Katarina Engberg (SIEPS), Barbara Kunz (Swedish Institute of International Affairs)
Moderator: Jakob Lewander, Researcher in Political Science (SIEPS)

10:20–10:50
Coffee break

10:50–11:50
2. Geo-economic Power EU – Balancing Between Protection and Openness
Market rules and standards have become parameters of state power going beyond the traditional notions of competition law and economic growth. As the EU finds itself backsliding in the global economy, significant policy steps have been taken to maximise the single market's geo-economic potential and its economic security. Overcoming national fragmentation and promoting market scale has become the Commission's major geopolitical project in this endeavour.

The purpose of this panel is therefore to engage with divisive elements embedded in the EU's geo-economic drive, such as the tension between openness and strategic autonomy, and between supranational governance and member state ownership. It will also explore how to overcome divergences in energy, tech, and industrial policies. Looking ahead, the focal question will be how the EU can navigate these contradictions and modes of governance to foster growth, institutional balance and social cohesion.

Speakers: Elvire Fabry (Jacques Delors Institute), Erik Jones (EUI), Georg Riekeles (EPC)
Moderator: Anna Wetter Ryde, Senior Researcher in Law (SIEPS)

11:50–13:20
Lunch

13:20–14:10

3. Leadership and Autonomy in the Digital Tech Stack – What Can Be Done?

The digital industry is central to today's global economic competition. Advanced chips, cloud infrastructure, and AI increasingly underpin economic growth and state power, setting new standards for surveillance, coercion, and strategic dependencies.

All the while, the EU remains heavily dependent on the US and China across much of the tech stack and is losing ground in key technologies. This panel examines the risks and opportunities facing Europe in this context. What has the EU done to strengthen its technological autonomy and competitiveness, and promote its values — and what more is needed?

Speakers: Dennis Broeders (Leiden University), Björn Fägersten (Swedish Institute of International Affairs), Sylvia Schwaag Serger (Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences)
Moderator: Johannes Jarlebring (SIEPS)

14:10–14:40
Coffee break

14:40–15:30

4. How to Project Power from Within – Institutional Division of Labour

European support for Ukraine has pushed the EU toward more creative arrangements to agree on more assertive foreign policies. As the expectations and demands for the EU to become a more ambitious security actor are likely to grow, this development challenges the institutional balance and the Union's treaty-based decision-making procedures. This panel will reflect on the effects that a geopolitical EU will have on our political and constitutional system in terms of efficacy, autonomy, and democratic legitimacy.

Speakers: Niklas Helwig (FIIA), Cecilia Malmström (Peterson Institute), Mark Rhinard (Stockholm University)
Moderator: Göran von Sydow (SIEPS)

15:30–16:00
Keynote Concluding Remarks
Brigid Laffan (EUI)

List of Speakers

Sven Biscop, Director of Europe in the World Programme, Egmont – The Royal Institute for International Relations
Dennis Broeders, Professor of Global Security and Technology, Leiden University
Katarina Engberg, Senior adviser, Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies
Elvire Fabry, Director of Trade and Economic Security Programme, Institute Jacques Delors
Björn Fägersten, Senior Research Fellow, Swedish Institute of International Affairs
Niklas Helwig, Leading Researcher, Finnish Institute of International Affairs
Johannes Jarlebring, Senior Researcher, Swedish Institute for European policy Studies
Pål Jonson, Minister for Defence, Government of Sweden
Erik Jones, Director, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies – European University Institute
Andrius Kubilius, Commissioner for Space and Defence
Barbara Kunz, Head of Programme Department – Swedish Institute of International Affairs
Brigid Laffan, Emeritus Professor, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies – European University Institute
Jakob Lewander, Researcher in Political Science, SIEPS
Cecilia Malmström, Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics
Mark Rhinard, Professor of International Relations, Stockholm University
Georg Riekeles, Head of Europe's Political Economy Programme, European Policy Centre
Anna Wetter Ryde, Senior Researcher in Law, SIEPS
Sylvia Schwaag Serger, Professor and President, Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences
Göran von Sydow, Director, SIEPS