



euiSS

European Union
Institute for
Security Studies

European Union Institute for Security Studies

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

March 2025

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THE EUISS IN 2024

The year 2024 was a year of critical elections and enduring international conflicts, which together shaped EU foreign policy. A new EU leadership took office after the European elections in June, while the US elections in November led to a return of Donald Trump to the White House. Throughout the year, the EU had to respond to two major wars on its doorstep: Russia's continuing war of aggression against Ukraine plus the violence between Hamas and Israel. Inevitably, the political and media debates focused on the fallout of these wars, even as conflicts and developments in the rest of the world continued – all calling for EU answers and engagement.

In 2024, the EUISS continued its work on how the EU could best to respond to these security

challenges. The purpose of the EUISS was and remains to combine rigorous research with policy-relevant conclusions, to help EU policymakers make sense of the world and think through their strategic options. As in previous years, the EUISS acted in 2024 as a trusted interface between EU officials and Member State diplomats and Europe's think tank and scholarly community.

In this annual report, you will see an overview of all EUISS activities in 2024. You will see the broad the scope of our work and the progress we made in linking it to the EU strategic agenda. Some of the highlights include our so-called 'flagship' projects. In particular, I want to mention three Chaillot Papers which generated a lot of debate and attention: 'Türkiye's cards in the world: Raising the stakes' and 'Contestation: The new dynamic driving global politics', both published in May 2024, and 'Ten ideas for the new team: How the EU can navigate a power political world' which came out in September 2024. In between, we held the EUISS annual conference in June



under the title: 'Can Europe defend itself?' with the participation of HR/VP Josep Borrell and numerous senior policymakers and experts from Europe and beyond.

In 2024 we published more than ever before, in terms of Chaillot Papers, Briefs, Commentaries and other written reports. We also did a record number of events, many of them in partnership with other think tanks and research institutes, as part of our effort to help build a common 'EU strategic culture' – and tried to use more innovative, interactive formats.

In addition to our core work, the EUISS also implements various Commission-funded projects. For several years, we have run a project on cyber diplomacy and another on countering foreign interference. In 2024, we started a new project on countering global

security threats. These projects enable the Institute to draw on its intellectual and networking strengths while expanding its operational support to EU policymakers in areas of strategic relevance.

Altogether 2024 was a year of success for the EUISS: we are capitalising on our specific role of being the EU's think tank on security and defence. And in a demanding and fast-changing geopolitical setting, we are constantly maximising the policy relevance and impact of our work. As the security landscape continues to evolve, we can conclude that, yes, there is a lot we have done in 2024; but equally that there is more work to do in 2025 and beyond.

Steven Everts

Director



EUISS FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

A new feature for 2024 was a greater emphasis on Institute-wide, collaborative projects such as the following Chaillot Papers



PUBLICATIONS

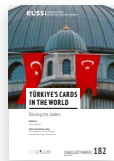
The breakdown of EUISS publications in 2024 was as follows:

5

CHAILLOT PAPERS

In 2024 the Institute published 5 Chaillot Papers:

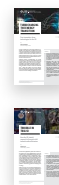
- > CP 181, 'EU-India relations: Gaining strategic traction', edited by Amaia Sánchez-Cacicedo (February)
- > CP 182, 'Türkiye's cards in the world: Raising the stakes', edited by Dalia Ghanem (May)
- > CP 183, 'Contestation: The new dynamic driving global politics', edited by Alice Ekman and Steven Everts (May)
- > CP 184, 'Hacking minds and machines: Foreign interference in the digital era', edited by Nad'a Kovalčíková (August)
- > CP 185, 'Ten ideas for the new team: How the EU can navigate a power political world', edited by Steven Everts and Bojana Zorić (September)



22

EUISS BRIEFS

In total, the Institute published 22 Briefs over the course of 2024, covering a wide spectrum of strategic and geopolitical issues.



27

EUISS COMMENTARIES

3

EUISS REPORTS



January	
Brief	The power and limits of data for peace
February	
Brief	Sahel reset: time to reshape the EU's engagement
Chaillot Paper	EU-India relations: Gaining strategic traction?
March	
Brief	Into the breach! EU military CSDP missions and operations
Brief	Of myths and molecules: Getting real about green hydrogen diplomacy
April	
Brief	Made in Ukraine: How the EU can support Ukrainian defence production
Chaillot Paper	Türkiye's cards in the world: Raising the stakes
May	
Brief	Going green without China?
Chaillot Paper	Contestation: The new dynamic driving global politics
Brief	Delivering together: Targeted partnerships for a secure world
Brief	Quo Vadis Kosovo? High time to realign with the West
June	
Brief	Turbocharging the energy transition
Brief	From hype to horizon: What the EU needs to know to bring IMEC to life
July	
Brief	Rehearsing for war: China and Russia's military exercises
Report	Preventing war in East Asia A European action plan to strengthen deterrence
Brief	Shifting tides: International engagement in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea
Brief	Four swans of the Black Sea: Security scenarios for a contested region

August

Chaillot Paper Hacking minds and machines: Foreign interference in the digital era

September

Chaillot Paper 10 ideas for the new team:
How the EU can navigate a power political world

Report Trump, Harris and transatlantic uncertainties:
What choices for Europe?

Brief Playing God with climate: The EU's geoengineering conundrum

Brief Strengthening resilience in the East: How the EU can empower countries against foreign interference

October

Brief 'Je t'aime, moi non plus': cognitive biases in the AU-EU relationship

Brief Minding the drone gap: Drone warfare and the EU

Brief Deconstructing Russia's bricolage tactics: Strategic insights for defeating the Kremlin

Brief The changing submarine cables landscape: Expanding the EU's role in the Indo-Pacific

November

Brief Trouble in Tbilisi: How the EU should respond to Georgia's drift towards authoritarianism

Report Countering cyber-enabled hybrid interference in the Western Balkans

December

Brief Curbing China's legacy chip clout: Reevaluating EU strategy

Brief The future of democracy: Lessons from the US fight against foreign electoral interference in 2024

CHAILLOT PAPERS



> EU-INDIA RELATIONS: GAINING STRATEGIC TRACTION? (N° 181)

Edited by Amaia Sánchez-Cacicedo, with contributions from Kanti Bajpai, Olivier Blarel, Amit Garg, Rohan Mukherjee, Karthik Nachiappan, Jagannath Panda, Marta Torres-Gunfaus [February 2024]

In this Chaillot Paper, both European and Indian experts explore how the EU and India might seize new opportunities for strategic partnership while highlighting underlying differences in outlook across critical issue areas.



> TÜRKİYE'S CARDS IN THE WORLD: RAISING THE STAKES (N° 182)

Edited by Dalia Ghanem, with contributions from Pinar Akpınar, Ondrej Ditrych, Rossella Marangio, Bojana Zorić [May 2024]

This volume focuses on Türkiye's presence in and interaction with four regions: the Western Balkans; the South Caucasus; the MENA and Africa. This engagement serves a dual purpose for Türkiye: diversifying partnerships to counter isolation and asserting strategic autonomy by distancing itself from the West.



> CONTESTATION: THE NEW DYNAMIC DRIVING GLOBAL POLITICS (N° 183)

Edited by Alice Ekman and Steven Everts, with contributions from Jan Joel Andersson, Ondrej Ditrych, Dalia Ghanem, Nad'a Kovalčíková, Rossella Marangio, Andrea Salvi, Amaia Sánchez-Cacicedo, Lukas Trakimavičius, Bojana Zorić [May 2024]

Contestation dynamics have intensified in recent years, to the point they are now driving global politics. This Chaillot Paper explores the convergence of diverse challenges to the current international order and how European leaders and policymakers should navigate this new reality.



> HACKING MINDS AND MACHINES: FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN THE DIGITAL ERA (N° 184)

Edited by Nad'a Kovalčíková, with contributions from Rumena Filipova, Bart Hogeveen, Ivana Karásová, Patryk Pawlak, Andrea Salvi [August 2024]

This Chaillot Paper delves into foreign interference and the risk it poses to democratic societies. It explores the interplay between information manipulation and disruptive cyber operations, revealing their role as complementary components within a broader strategy.



> **10 IDEAS FOR THE NEW TEAM: HOW THE EU CAN NAVIGATE A POWER POLITICAL WORLD (N° 185)**

Edited by Steven Everts and Bojana Zorić, with contributions from Jan Joel Andersson, Ondrej Ditrych, Alice Ekman, Steven Everts, Dalia Ghanem, Amaia Sánchez-Cacicedo, Giuseppe Spatafora, Joris Teer, Lukas Trakimavičius, Bojana Zorić [September 2024]

The EU's foreign and security policy is in urgent need of a reboot. As a new EU leadership takes the helm, we propose 10 ambitious yet actionable ideas to propel EU foreign policy forward.

BRIEFS

> **THE POWER AND LIMITS OF DATA FOR PEACE**

By Sarah Bressan

This Brief analyses the EU's conflict early warning and analysis system and its role in conflict prevention, and examines how it can be further strengthened to support the EU's preventive action.

> **SAHEL RESET: TIME TO RESHAPE THE EU'S ENGAGEMENT**

By Rossella Marangio

The recent series of military coups in the Sahel has led the EU to reassess its posture in the region. This Brief explores the challenges the EU faces in balancing strategic interests with its commitment to democratic values, and puts forward recommendations for future engagement in a region that remains critical for European security interests.

> **INTO THE BREACH! EU MILITARY CSDP MISSIONS AND OPERATIONS**

By Jan Joel Andersson

For more than 20 years, the EU has deployed troops beyond its borders. But what has been the impact? At a time when the EU is faced with the challenge of taking on a larger role in security and defence, this Brief presents three alternatives for future EU military CSDP missions and operations.

> **OF MYTHS AND MOLECULES: GETTING REAL ABOUT GREEN HYDROGEN DIPLOMACY**

By Lukas Trakimavičius

Myths and misconceptions often cloud conversations about green hydrogen's role in the energy transition. A realistic approach is essential to build successful green hydrogen partnerships, starting with a firm grasp of the fundamentals of how we produce, transport and consume this fuel.

> **MADE IN UKRAINE: HOW THE EU CAN SUPPORT UKRAINIAN DEFENCE PRODUCTION**

By Jan Joel Andersson, Ondrej Ditrych

Ukraine urgently needs investment in local production capacities and repair and maintenance facilities. The EU and Ukraine have a shared strategic interest in supporting the reform and development of Ukraine's rapidly expanding defence industry.

> **GOING GREEN WITHOUT CHINA?**

By Lukas Trakimavičius

Beijing's grip on the clean tech industry makes it difficult for the EU to go green without access to Chinese supply chains. Lukas Trakimavičius explores the strategies available to the EU to reduce its dependency on China while pursuing its energy transition goals.

> **DELIVERING TOGETHER: TARGETED PARTNERSHIPS FOR A SECURE WORLD**

By Jan Joel Andersson

At a time of increasing fragmentation, Europe needs stronger security and defence partnerships. We argue that the EU should forge closer ties with countries around the world on key issues of common security. But for partnerships to deliver on security and defence, they must be targeted, squarely focused on output and flexible.

> **QUO VADIS KOSOVO? HIGH TIME TO REALIGN WITH THE WEST**

By Bojana Zorić, Ilir Deda

To restore its credibility, particularly in its pursuit of EU and NATO membership, Kosovo needs to demonstrate full alignment with Western policies. Sustained Western diplomatic engagement with both Kosovo and Serbia is essential in the coming months to prevent the already precarious security situation from deteriorating further.

> **TURBOCHARGING THE ENERGY TRANSITION**

By Lukas Trakimavičius

In its ambition to become a green energy and technology hub, the EU has to reckon with China's dominance over clean tech supply chains. For the EU to achieve its goals, it must embrace emerging innovative technologies.

> **FROM HYPE TO HORIZON: WHAT THE EU NEEDS TO KNOW TO BRING IMEC TO LIFE**

By Dalia Ghanem, Amaia Sánchez-Cacicedo

The ambitious India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor project aims to boost trade and connectivity between Asia and Europe. But the initiative faces geopolitical, financial and logistical challenges. How can the EU tap into the project's economic and geostrategic opportunities?

> **REHEARSING FOR WAR: CHINA AND RUSSIA'S MILITARY EXERCISES**

By Ondrej Ditrych, Alice Ekman

China and Russia have increased their military cooperation, regularly conducting joint exercises in or near disputed areas or adversaries' waters. The EU must closely monitor the locations, nature and objectives of these exercises to gain insight into Moscow and Beijing's capacities, intentions and broader visions of future conflicts.

> **SHIFTING TIDES: INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA AND THE RED SEA**

By Rossella Marangio

Amidst a climate of mounting insecurity, it is vital for the EU to define its role in the increasingly complex political landscape emerging in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea. We examine what strategic posture the EU should adopt vis-à-vis the region.

> **FOUR SWANS OF THE BLACK SEA: SECURITY SCENARIOS FOR A CONTESTED REGION**

By Ondrej Ditrych

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has significantly altered regional security dynamics in the Black Sea. We explore four potential scenarios for the next decade and argue that the EU needs to invest more in the security of the region.

> **PLAYING GOD WITH CLIMATE: THE EU'S GEOENGINEERING CONUNDRUM**

By Lukas Trakimavičius

Although increasingly touted as offering a solution to the worst effects of global warming, geoengineering technologies are controversial. But as the planet's temperatures continue to rise, the EU must consider whether geoengineering could provide deliverance from our climate woes.

> **STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE IN THE EAST – HOW THE EU CAN EMPOWER**

COUNTRIES AGAINST FOREIGN INTERFERENCE

By Nad'a Kovalčíková, Leonardo De Agostini,
Beatrice Catena

In the wake of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, Eastern countries have been increasingly exposed to foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI) tactics. We explore how the EU's enlargement policy has been targeted by FIMI operations and argue that the EUPM Moldova mission could serve as a blueprint for a renewed EU approach to CSDP.

> 'JE T'AIME, MOI NON PLUS': COGNITIVE BIASES IN THE AU-EU RELATIONSHIP

By Rossella Marangio, Frank Mattheis

The AU-EU partnership, although vital for addressing transregional challenges, continues to be subject to tensions. We argue that cognitive biases play a significant role in perpetuating misunderstandings within the partnership and offer suggestions on how to move past them.

> MINDING THE DRONE GAP: DRONE WARFARE AND THE EU

By Jan Joel Andersson, Sascha Simon

Drones have become ubiquitous in conflicts, from the wars in Ukraine and Gaza/Israel/Lebanon to the civil wars in Sudan, Syria and Myanmar. We explore the impact of drones on modern warfare and how the EU should respond to their growing prominence on the battlefield.

> DECONSTRUCTING RUSSIA'S BRICOLAGE TACTICS: STRATEGIC INSIGHTS FOR DEFEATING THE KREMLIN

By Ondrej Ditrych

Using the concept of the bricoleur, drawn from French social theory, we explore how Russia deploys a range of improvisational tactics to disrupt the existing global political order.

> THE CHANGING SUBMARINE CABLES LANDSCAPE: EXPANDING THE EU'S ROLE IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

By Yuka Koshino

The Indo-Pacific, a region marked by complex geopolitics, faces unique challenges in ensuring the security of its submarine cables. For the EU, the vulnerability of undersea communications cables poses a strategic risk, calling for more proactive measures to protect this critical infrastructure.

> TROUBLE IN TBILISI: HOW THE EU SHOULD RESPOND TO GEORGIA'S DRIFT TOWARDS AUTHORITARIANISM

By Ondrej Ditrych

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has significantly altered regional security dynamics in the Black Sea. This Brief explores four potential scenarios for the next decade and argues that the EU needs to invest more in the security of the region.

> CURBING CHINA'S LEGACY CHIP CLOUT - REEVALUATING EU STRATEGY

By Tim Rühlig

The EU is increasingly concerned about strategic dependencies on Chinese technology, particularly with regard to China's output of legacy semiconductor chips. We examine what steps the EU can take to build resilience against economic security risks in this domain.

> THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY: LESSONS FROM THE US FIGHT AGAINST FOREIGN ELECTORAL INTERFERENCE IN 2024

By Nad'a Kovalčíková, Giuseppe Spatafora

The US's three main adversaries – Russia, China and Iran – actively sought to influence the outcome of the 2024 presidential election. This Brief examines the various tactics that they employed, arguing that the EU can learn from innovative strategies put in place by the US.

ONLINE COMMENTARIES

January

Guns. Lots of guns – EU strategic responsibility and the European defence industry

By: Jan Joel Andersson

Amid wars and elections: Getting the EU political transition right

By: Steven Everts

The US pause on LNG terminals will not put Europe at risk

By: Lukas Trakimavičius

February

India's moment: Narrative vs. reality?

By: Amaia Sánchez-Cacicedo

Navalny's two legacies

By: Ondrej Ditrych

March

Doubling down on desperation: The implications of defunding UNRWA for Palestinian refugees and Lebanon's security

By: Dalia Ghanem

Preparing for a possible Trump 2.0: What Europe needs to do now

By: Steven Everts

April

Ukraine: Torn between grit and bitterness

By: Steven Everts

India's 2024 election outcome: Old wine in old bottles?

By: Amaia Sánchez-Cacicedo

June

Here is how to protect the EU against Chinese electric vehicles and wind energy

By: Joris Teer, Lukas Trakimavičius

NATO's Washington Summit: Between expectations and reality

By: Giuseppe Spatafora

September

What the EU should do for Ukraine now

By: Ondrej Ditrych

The US elections: What choices for Europe?

By: Giuseppe Spatafora, Christian Dietrich

October

Georgia: Frontline in the fight for democracy

By: Steven Everts

November

Back with a vengeance? Trump, Brussels and the world

By: Giuseppe Spatafora

From Washington to Brussels: The US election and EU foreign policy

By: EUISS (Commentary mini-series)

The chips are down: Trump 2.0, the EU and Ukraine

By: Ondrej Ditrych, Giuseppe Spatafora

Europe's Indo-Pacific rebalancing under Trump 2.0: Beyond 'business as usual'

By: Lizza Bomassi



EVENTS

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

EUISS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

> Europe's strategic choices in a world of contestation

On 11 June, In the wake of the European parliamentary elections, the conference discussed the strategic options and choices facing the EU. How should it navigate a world of growing geopolitical contestation and intensifying security threats? Amid talk of Europe being 'mortal' and in peril, what steps are needed to protect European citizens, interests, and values? What is the right balance between 'defending Europe' and winning the 'battle of offers'?

We took stock of the achievements of the current mandate and explored ideas for the new EU leadership to take forward, as fostering security across all dimensions is becoming a central priority for the future of the EU project.

The event was organised in partnership with the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU and Egmont Royal Institute for International Relations.

AFRICA

Seminar on the future of African-Europe relations with LUISS

On 8 February, our seminar took the form of a therapy session for the Africa-EU couple and offered some fresh perspective on the future of their relationship.

EUISS analysts presenting their contributions to the 'Ten ideas for the new team' flagship. →

COAFR briefings: the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea

On 26 June, the EUISS and the Africa Working Party of the Council of the EU (COAFR) held a new session of the EUISS-COAFR meetings. They discussed the EU's aspirations and role in the region amid competing influences, and how to better shape and coordinate EU policies and actions.

West Africa and the Sahel: Better understanding, for appropriate EU engagement

On 26 September, we hosted a closed-door roundtable discussion in Paris bringing together independent experts and EU policy-makers for an assessment of the situation in West Africa and the Sahel. Moderated by Rossella Marangio, the roundtable aimed at assessing the current understanding of dynamics in the region and exploring policy options for a renewed approach.



Workshop on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus approach

On 26 November, in partnership with the Hungarian Presidency of the Council, the workshop brought together experts and practitioners to discuss how to improve cooperation between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts.

COAFR Briefings: Insecurity Dynamics in West Africa and the Sahel

On 27 November, the EUISS and the Africa Working Party of the Council of the EU (COAFR) held a new session of the EUISS-COAFR meetings. They discussed ongoing challenges in West Africa and the Sahel including organised crime, terrorism, governance and regional integration (ECOWAS). The meeting provided recommendations on how to engage with the region and what trends the EU should watch out for.

Africa's perspectives: Unpacking the AU-EU partnership

On 28 November, the EUISS and the United Nations University Institute on

Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS) gathered EU and AU practitioners and experts to discuss the state of the relationship between the two organisations and how to forge a stronger partnership on the road towards the AU-EU summit in 2025. The seminar also addressed the opportunities for the partnership to deliver on multilateralism in a world characterised by increased competition.

ASIA

EU-India relations: How to gain strategic traction?

On 14 March, building upon the recently published EUISS Chaillot Paper 'EU-India relations: Gaining strategic traction?', the seminar delved into key dimensions of EU-India cooperation, bringing together European and Indian experts.

EU-India relations: Decoding worldviews & norms

On 18 April, building on the Chaillot Paper 'EU-India relations: Gaining strategic traction?' the webinar explored a critical yet often overlooked aspect of EU-India relations: the normative dimension.

EU contributions to avoiding military conflict in East Asia

On 21 June, the Institute hosted a closed-door roundtable focused on the EU's role in preventing military conflict in East Asia. A



potential conflict in this region would severely impact European prosperity and security, disrupting the supply of critical goods such as semiconductors, raw materials, and medicine.

EUISS-CSDS Korea Dialogue 2024

On 10 October, the Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy (CSDS) and the EUISS hosted Korean think tank and industry representatives and former policymakers to Paris. During this closed-door dialogue, European and Korean participants proposed solutions to shared security challenges and strategies to strengthen economic resilience. Key discussions included enhancing defence collaboration, particularly in cybersecurity and defence industry integration, and de-risking economic ties with China by diversifying supply chains and boosting domestic production.

EU-India 1.5 Track Dialogue (EUISS-Ananta Aspen Centre-Institute Montaigne)

On 21–22 October the Institute organised the 2024 EU-India Strategic Dialogue in Delhi in collaboration with the Ananta Aspen Centre and Institute Montaigne.

This closed-door gathering brought together officials, experts and policymakers for two days of frank discussions on shared security, economic and technological challenges, exploring opportunities for deeper collaboration. To strengthen cooperation, issues such as tech leakage, regulatory barriers and supply chain diversification need to be addressed, potentially through a sectoral approach under the TTC.

EU-Indonesia Track 1.5 Dialogue

On 3–4 December alongside the European University Institute (EUI) and the EU Delegation in Jakarta, the Institute co-hosted

the first EU-Indonesia Track 1.5 Dialogue in Florence. Experts and policymakers from the EU and Indonesia came together to address trade, environmental policy and geopolitics. Despite acknowledged differences, both sides explored potential collaboration on critical raw materials, green tech and multilateral reform.

RUSSIA AND THE EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD

Russia's domestic politics: stasis, crisis or Putinism reloaded?

On 7 February, the EUISS organised a closed-door event convening EU policymakers and Russia experts to explore the undercurrents within the Russian governing elite and society.

Strengthening resilience in the eastern neighbourhood

On 25 April, the Institute convened a closed-door event in Brussels, bringing together independent experts and EU policymakers to engage in a strategic discussion on how the EU can further support resilience in three partner countries: Moldova, Georgia and Armenia.

COEST informal retreat: Resilience challenges in the Eastern neighbourhood

On 17 May, the EUISS hosted a second informal retreat of COEST. Its aim, against the backdrop of Russia's war on Ukraine and its regional impacts as well as other adverse developments in the neighbourhood, was to explore the evolving nature of resilience challenges, and to engage in a discussion about how the EU can help the partners to face them better.

The Black Sea: Security scenarios

On 26 May, the EUISS convened a closed-door collaborative scenario-building exercise focused on Black Sea Security in Brussels.

Scripting the future of Belarus

On 25 June, the Institute convened a closed-door meeting in Brussels, bringing together independent experts and EU policymakers to engage in a collective assessment of trends determining Belarus' future.

Russia in Africa: Competing for strategic influence in the post-Wagner world

On 4 July, the EUISS brought together EU policymakers and independent experts for a collective assessment of Russia's policy in Africa.

The North Caucasus: Resting or restive?

On 19 September the EUISS convened a closed-door event in Brussels, bringing together independent experts and EU policymakers for a collective assessment of current developments in the North Caucasus. The roundtable, moderated by Ondrej Ditrych, featured introductory briefings by Emil Aslan (Charles University) and Harold Chambers (Indiana University).

Russia's war economy: Resilient or reckless?

On 13 November the EUISS convened a closed-door event in Brussels, bringing together independent experts and EU policymakers for a collective assessment of the current state and future outlook of Russia's economy, as well as the EU's sanctions efforts.

THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Open Virtual events: on Chaillot Paper: 'Türkiye's cards in the world: Raising the stakes' and Unveiling Türkiye's strategy in MENA & Africa

On 13 and 28 June, we hosted a live discussion on LinkedIn to analyse this interesting trend, focusing on Türkiye's strategic partnerships with the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf region, and Africa.

**EUISS event on 'Russia's
war economy: Resilient or
reckless?' held in Brussels.**



Decoding Türkiye's role in the Western Balkans & South Caucasus

On 28 June, we hosted a webinar to explore Türkiye's aspirations and influence in the Western Balkans and South Caucasus.

WESTERN BALKANS

Building cyber and FIMI resilience in the Western Balkans amidst continuous threats

On 13 February, the EUISS, in cooperation with the EU Cyber Direct and the Countering Foreign Interference project, organised a workshop aimed at addressing the challenges that the Western Balkans face in cybersecurity, foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI), and hybrid threats. The workshop was convened with diplomats and cybersecurity experts from the Western Balkans.

COWEB working session: Security challenges in the Western Balkans in the current geopolitical context

On 5 March, the Institute organised a closed-door roundtable for a delegation of the European Council's Working Party on the Western Balkans Region (COWEB), on security challenges in the Western Balkans.

Unpacking bilateral disputes in the Western Balkans

On 4 July, the EUISS hosted a closed-door roundtable discussion to address bilateral disputes in the Western Balkans and how the EU should handle them.

EUISS seminar on Religion, conflict prevention and countering radicalisation in Western Balkans

On 15 October, we convened a closed-door seminar in Sarajevo on 'Religion, conflict prevention and countering radicalisation in the Western Balkans'. The seminar brought together experts, including journalists and academics from think tanks, universities and media organisations across the Western Balkans.

Reshuffling the cards after the 2024 US elections: Implications for the Western Balkans

On 3 December, we convened a roundtable discussion in Brussels on 'Reshuffling the cards after the 2024 US elections: Implications for the Western Balkans'. The event brought together independent experts and EU policymakers for a collective assessment of the impact of the US elections on the Western Balkans.

TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS INCLUDING LATIN AMERICA

Briefing for COTRA delegates ahead of the US election

On 1 October, the EUISS briefed the Working Group on Transatlantic Relations (COTRA) on the EUISS report 'Trump, Harris and transatlantic uncertainties', ahead of the US elections in November.



↑ EUISS event 'To deter, coerce, or corrode: What goals can EU sanctions efforts achieve?' held in Brussels.

COTRA Away Day

On 8 November, the EUISS hosted the Working Group on Transatlantic Relations (COTRA) in Paris for an Away Day, focusing on the results of the US presidential election. Member State delegates engaged in a closed-door, scenario-based exercise on the consequences of the electoral outcome for the EU.

From Washington to Brussels: Trump's victory and the future of US and EU foreign policy

On 21 November, the EUISS hosted a live discussion on LinkedIn drawing from the EUISS commentary series 'From Washington to Brussels: the US election and EU foreign policy'.

Cross-regional ripple effects: EU-Latin America relations in the wake of the U.S. presidential election (EUISS Latin America Day – part 1)

On 2 December, the EUISS organised a closed-door 'Latin America Day' to discuss revitalising EU-Latin America cooperation. The first session focused on analysing large-scale geopolitical shifts (the effects of the US presidential elections on Latin America). The event was attended by EU policymakers and regional experts.

ECONOMIC SECURITY AND TECHNOLOGY

Starting with the end in mind: Fully de-risked gallium, germanium, and rare earth value chains by 2030

On 9 December, the EUISS was pleased to welcome representatives from the EU Commission, Member State governments, industry, research technology organisations, think tanks and universities to a closed-door

scenario workshop: ‘Starting with the end in mind: de-risked gallium, germanium, rare earth value chains by 2030’.

To deter, coerce, or corrode: What goals can EU sanctions efforts achieve?

On 18 November, an EUISS closed-door workshop examined the effectiveness of EU sanctions as a tool of foreign policy, focusing on their capacity to deter, compel or corrode the (military) capabilities of rival states and other regimes.

ENERGY

EU energy diplomacy: Lessons learned from COP28 (with EU climate envoys)

On 18 January, the EUISS organised a fireside chat with Tony Agotha, the EU Special Envoy for Climate and Environment Diplomacy.

EU FOREIGN POLICY

Webinar on Contestation: the new dynamic driving global politics.

On 30 May, a EUISS webinar discussed the Chaillot Paper ‘Contestation: The new dynamic driving global politics’.

Launch event: 10 ideas for the new team

On 17 September, the EUISS launched its new Chaillot Paper, ‘10 ideas for the new team: How the EU can navigate a power political

world’. The event, held in Brussels, convened EU officials, experts, and journalists.

CYBER

The future of responsible state behaviour in a fragmented cyber capacity ecosystem

On 13 May, in light of the United Nations Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on security of and in the use of information and communication technologies intersessional meetings, the EUISS organised an event titled ‘The future of responsible state behaviour in a fragmented cyber capacity ecosystem’ in New York.

**EUISS event ‘Launch event: 10 ideas
for the new team’ held in Brussels. ↓**



An action-oriented approach to cyber threats: How to tackle emerging threats within the future UN mechanism

On 14 May, during the OEWG intersessional meetings, the EUISS organised a cross-regional event on ‘An action-oriented approach to cyber threats: How to tackle emerging threats within the future UN mechanism’, the event aimed at deepening understanding and fostering collaborative approaches to combat evolving threats.

Action-oriented approach to the protection of critical infrastructure – Lessons learnt in preparedness from major international events

On 2 December 2024, the EUISS, as part of the Advancing the Cyber Programme of Action (PoA) project, hosted a side-event during the 9th substantive session of the Open-ended

Working Group (OEWG) on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Titled ‘*Action-oriented approach to the protection of critical infrastructure – Lessons learnt in preparedness from major international events*’, the event aimed to explore how exchanges at the UN level can help share lessons from these high-profile events, promote the global adoption of best practices, and translate them into actionable strategies for strengthening cyber resilience worldwide.

Declaration by the EU and its Member States on a Common Understanding of the Application of International Law to Cyberspace

On 5 December 2024, the EUISS, as part of the Advancing the Cyber Programme of Action (PoA) project, hosted a reception at the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations in New York to present the ‘Declaration by the EU and its Member States on a Common Understanding of the Application of International Law to Cyberspace’. The reception was organised on the sidelines of the 9th substantive session of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025.

TRANSNATIONAL SECURITY

EU Council table-top exercise on hybrid threats

On 5 March, the EUISS facilitated a one-day table-top exercise in cooperation with the European Hybrid Centre of Excellence in Helsinki, within the framework of the EU Council’s Horizontal Working Party on



Enhancing Resilience and Countering Hybrid Threats, chaired by the Belgian Presidency.

EU-NATO foresight seminar on resilience of critical infrastructure

On 18 April, the EUISS contributed to the EU-NATO joint seminar focused on the issue of 'Resilience of critical infrastructure in an age of strategic competition'.

Hybrid threats' nexuses: Taking EU-NATO cooperation to the next level

On 31 August 2024, the EUISS hosted a side session as part of the GLOBSEC Forum in Prague to discuss the evolving nature of hybrid threats, and particularly the growing cyber-FIMI nexus, as well as the institutional responses by the EU and NATO to these evolving threats.

Hacking Minds and Machines

On 10 October, the EUISS held an online event to discuss foreign interference in the digital era building upon the recently published EUISS *Chaillot Paper* titled 'Hacking Minds and Machines'. This event examined the linkages between foreign information manipulation interference (FIMI) and cyberattacks focusing on three specific case studies.

Role of women in enhancing peace and security in Colombia (EUISS Latin America Day – part 2)

On 2 December, this closed-door roundtable focused on the security challenges of communities in Colombia, highlighting the leading role of women in contributing to peacebuilding efforts. The event brought together EU

policymakers, regional experts and representatives from local NGOs.

SECURITY AND DEFENCE

EU CSDP military missions and operations

The EU's role in global security took centre stage on 13 March 2024, as the EUISS co-hosted a dynamic discussion with the Egmont Institute and the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Schuman Security and Defence Forum 2024

On 28 May, the EUISS organised a closed-door meeting with the participation of peace, security and defence policy experts from think tanks and academia from around the world. The event provided experts with an opportunity to preview the key issues on the agenda of the main event of the Forum.

UNDER THE EU CYBER DIPLOMACY INITIATIVE – EU CYBER DIRECT PROJECT

EU informal meetings of Cyber Ambassadors and Cyber Commanders

EU Cyber Direct contributed to the EU Informal Meetings of Cyber Ambassadors and Cyber Commanders that took place on 17 January



2024 in Brussels and was organised by the Belgian Presidency. EU Cyber Direct co-organised the session on the UN processes: 'Taking stock. Anticipating the Future'.

Building resilience in and with the Western Balkans: Converging approaches and divisive external threats

On 13 February, the EU Cyber Direct project hosted a workshop in collaboration with the EUISS titled 'Strengthening resilience to cyber-enabled hybrid operations in the Western Balkans.'

OEWG Side Event: Hacking the boundaries of trust

On the margins of the seventh substantive session of the UN Open-Ended Working Group on ICTs, EU Cyber Direct, together with the European External Action Service, held a hackathon on 6 March 2024. The event aimed to critically examine and identify avenues for enhancing the effectiveness of multistakeholder involvement in cyber diplomacy.

International Law in Cyberspace: Taking stock, comparisons and the way forward

EU Cyber Direct, the EUISS, and the European External Action Service, with the support of the Belgian Presidency of the Council, organised a workshop on 12 March 2024 titled 'International Law in Cyberspace: Taking stock, comparisons, and the way forward'.

European Cyber Agora 2024

On 23-24 April, high-level panel discussions took place featuring representatives from EU institutions, national governments, cybersecurity agencies, civil society, academia, and industry. Participants also engaged in workshops led by the Agora expert community, exploring topics such as cybersecurity policy, the future of cyber diplomacy, the geopolitics of AI, the role of the private sector in hybrid conflict, election security, influence operations, cyber mercenaries, cyber skills, and more.

OEWG Speed Dating Event: Bridging the boundaries of trust

On 15 May, in light of the United Nations Open-Ended Working Group intersessional meeting, EU Cyber Direct, together with the European External Action Service, organised a side-event titled 'Bridging the boundaries of

trust – Deciphering the full potential of multi-stakeholder involvement in cyber diplomacy’.

Misunderstandings and Mythmaking: Demystifying narratives of AI and conflict

On 28 May 2024, EU Cyber Direct hosted its eighth research seminar, where participants were invited to discuss narratives of AI and conflict in relation to three myths currently dominating mainstream discourse.

Belgian Presidency event with cyber ambassadors on 20-21 June 2024 (Leiden)

Roundtable: Bridging the Silos–Leveraging cyber within the foreign, security and defence policy of the EU

On 26 June 2024, the EU Cyber Direct – EU Cyber Diplomacy Initiative organised a high-level roundtable in collaboration with the European External Action Service and the EUISS.

EU:CD Fellows at the eighth session of the Open-Ended Working Group on ICTs

As part of the EU:CD Fellowship programme, we welcomed the cohort of 2024 to New York to participate in the 8th substantive session of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025 between 8–12 July 2024.

Sino-European Expert Working Group on the Application of International Law in Cyberspace, fourth meeting

The European Union Institute for Security Studies – implementor of the EU Cyber Diplomacy Initiative – the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Luiss Guido Carli University, The China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) and Xiamen University convened a joint Sino-European Expert Working Group on the Application of International Law in Cyberspace (EWG-IL).

On 19–20 September 2024, they held their fourth meeting at LUISS Guido Carli University in Rome, Italy.

European Cyber Diplomacy Dialogue 2024

On 4–5 November 2024, the EU Cyber Direct – EU Cyber Diplomacy Initiative and the European University Institute (EUI) organised the annual retreat at the EUI in Florence, Italy.

Book launch: ‘Emerging and Disruptive Digital Technologies: National, regional and global perspectives’

On 13 November, EU Cyber Direct launched its most recent edited volume at The Hague Program on International Cyber Security’s Annual Conference.

THE COUNTERING FOREIGN INTERFERENCE (CFI) PROJECT

FIMI CSDP Network Inception Meeting:

On 15 January, the CFI project held a session to discuss challenges and needs to address foreign information manipulation and interference in the CSDP missions.

Workshop with CSDP missions

On 30 January, the CFI project contributed to a seminar for Press and Public information officers from CSDP missions with an interactive training session on raising situational awareness and building resilience to foreign information manipulation and interference.

Demo Workshop on Resilience and Vulnerability to FIMI

On 22 March, the CFI project, jointly with its co-applicants, introduced work on digital tools to assess threats in the information environment. The workshop was held for the staff members from CSDP missions and operations.

Addressing foreign information manipulation and interference in crisis

On 24 April, the CFI project organised a CSDP Network Inception training session for the Mission Analytical Capability analysts jointly with the EEAS.

Countering Foreign Interference Network Meeting: Strengthening EU security and resilience

On 17 May, the CFI project brought together the Brussels-based Community of Practice focused on tackling foreign information and manipulation interference (FIMI) within the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) to discuss foreign interference challenges and ways to assess them.

The CFI at the State of the Union 2024

On 24 May, the CFI project co-organised a panel with the European Media & Information Fund (EMIF) at the State of the Union conference, hosted by the European University Institute in Florence. The discussion delved into the critical issue of FIMI targeting EU states and partners, including through local proxies. The panel acknowledged that the development of the FIMI concept by the EEAS addressed a critical gap in a common understanding of the evolving threat landscape in the information domain. FIMI has evolved beyond a communications challenge and is increasingly recognised as a full-fledged security threat, particularly relevant also in the context of CSDP missions in EU partner countries.

Western Balkans diplomats training

On 7 June 2024, the CFI project delivered a second training course within a capacity building programme for junior diplomats of the Western Balkans. A group of junior diplomats from the Western Balkans engaged in insightful discussions on their countries' varied experiences with foreign interference, examining diverse policy responses and exploring potential solutions that can be developed to counter this threat more effectively. 88% of

the survey respondents acknowledged having benefited from the training.

Interference's Many Faces in Times of Hybridity – Countering Foreign Interference Dialogues 2024

On 24 and 25 June, the EUISS together with the European University Institute–School of Transnational Governance held the second edition of the Countering Foreign Interference (CFI) Dialogues, the flagship event of the project. The event explored FIMI within the wider spectrum of foreign interference, including technological and psychological aspects of interference operations.

FIMI as a Global Threat in a Year of Elections – 2024 London FIMI Forum

On 14 October, the CFI Project contributed to the annual London FIMI forum, organised by the EU Delegation to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The CFI project hosted a panel titled Security implications from the evolving threat of FIMI. The panel triggered a discussion on FIMI within the traditionally conceived security and defence landscape. FIMI poses a significant threat to democracies worldwide and its global impact undermines public trust and influences political outcomes of democratic processes. FIMI is a security threat, not limited to the information space.

Cognitive security kick-off workshop, London

On 14 October, this hybrid interactive workshop focused on cognitive security, addressing new strategies to counter cognitive manipulation. The roundtable brought together UK-based experts on cognitive and behavioural science, security experts, communication specialists, academics and think tank researchers.

Countering Foreign Interference CSDP network meeting: bringing together EU actors for enhanced situational awareness

On 25 November, the CFI project organised a meeting that, for the first time, brought together CSDP Missions and Operations as well as EU Delegations from host countries to exchange insights on the reality of FIMI in the field.

NETWORKS

- > **The EUISS is a member of the Steering Committee of the European Strategy and Policy Analysis System (ESPAS) network.**

ESPAS is an inter-institutional EU process promoting foresight and anticipatory governance. It brings together nine EU institutions and bodies who are committed to thinking longer term about the challenges and opportunities facing Europe and, through foresight, to support policymakers to make the right policy choices. In 2024, the EUISS actively participated in the ESPAS Steering Committee meetings and working groups, spoke at the ESPAS annual conference and was an active contributor to the Global Trends 2040 report published in April 2024.

- > **The EUISS is also a member of The Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific (CSCAP)**

which is a non-governmental (track two) process for dialogue on security issues in the Asia Pacific. CSCAP provides an informal mechanism for scholars, officials and others in their private capacities to discuss political and security issues and challenges facing the region. It also provides policy recommendations to various inter-governmental bodies, convenes regional and international meetings, and establishes linkages with institutions and organisations in other parts of the world to exchange information, insights and experiences around regional political-security

cooperation. The CSCAP Steering Committee meets twice a year.

The role of CSCAP EU, under the leadership of the EUISS, is to contribute actively to CSCAP activities by providing the best European expertise on key regional security issues.

In its capacity as the coordinator of CSCAP EU, the EUISS ensured the participation of EU experts in various CSCAP events (including the biennial General Conference in the region), provided European perspectives to CSCAP's annual publication (the *CSCAP Regional Outlook*), and organised the annual thematic seminar gathering European experts on Asia.

> The EUISS runs two major EU-funded projects, on cyber and countering foreign interference:

The EU Cyber Diplomacy Initiative – EU Cyber Direct.

Funded by the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments, EU Cyber Direct provides policy support, research, outreach and capacity building in the field of cyber diplomacy.

Implemented by the EUISS, Carnegie Europe and Leiden University's Institute of Security and Global Affairs, its objective is to identify opportunities for increased convergence between the EU and other stakeholders on the application of existing international law in cyberspace and development of cyber norms and confidence-building measures. The project looks at the ongoing cyber-related process at the global, regional and national levels with the aim of increasing participation of different stakeholder groups in regional and global debates on responsible behaviour and resilience in cyberspace, particularly through building capacities and sharing knowledge about the EU's standards, policies and good practices.

The EU Cyber Direct project focuses on four key themes:

1. conflict prevention and advancing responsible behaviour in cyberspace through

international law, norms, and confidence-building measures (CBMs);

2. cyber resilience and critical infrastructure protection;
3. cybercrime and criminal justice in cyberspace; and
4. new and emerging technologies with a potential disruptive effect.

EU Cyber Direct supports EU cyber diplomacy efforts and consequently contributes to the development of a secure, stable and rights-based international order in cyberspace through extensive dialogues with strategic partners all over the world. The project is a continuation of the work launched by the EUISS in 2018.

Detailed information about project activities and research can be found on the project website: www.eucyberdirect.eu

Advancing the Cyber Programme of Action (PoA)

The EUISS is spearheading the 'Advancing the Cyber Programme of Action (PoA)' project. The project aims to strengthen the EU's diplomatic efforts leading up to the conclusion of the UN Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies in July 2025. The project supports this goal through in-depth research, analysis, outreach, and public engagement.

In doing so, the project bolsters the EU's commitment to promoting an open, free and secure cyberspace, while fostering resilient societies.

It is funded by the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) at the European Commission.

Countering Foreign Interference (CFI) project

The EUISS is leading the Countering Foreign Interference (CFI) project. Launched on 1 January 2023, this 3-year, multi-million euro EU-funded project focuses on enhancing

knowledge and developing EU methodologies and tools to detect, analyse, assess and prevent, deter and counter threats emerging in the information space. Through the funding from the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments and close cooperation with the European External Action Service, the project's goal is to enable the EU to address foreign policy needs and forge new partnerships to counter foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI). By doing so, it will contribute to strengthening the resilience and responses against FIMI, reinforcing the EU's role as a global security provider and defender of democratic values. Implementing partners include: the University of Antwerp, the University of Milano-Bicocca, the European University Institute and School of Transnational Governance.

Detailed information about project activities and research can be found on the project webpage: <https://www.iss.europa.eu/projects/countering-foreign-interference>

Security Cooperation and Programme Enhancement-SCOPE

The **SCOPE** (Security Cooperation and Programme Enhancement) project – formerly *MASA* (*Monitoring and Support Action*) – started in September 2024. It will be implemented over four years, by a consortium led by the EUISS, in partnership with DGAP, IAI, ICCT and SIPRI. The project aims to ensure the coherence and visibility and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the actions under the EU's Global Threats Programme by improving effectiveness, coordination and complementarity among its components and with other relevant initiatives (EU or non-EU). Funded by FPI, the project covers five threat areas: (i) countering terrorism, including prevention of violent extremism; (ii) mitigating threats posed by intentional, accidental or naturally occurring release of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials; (iii) fighting organised crime, illicit trafficking and smuggling; (iv) addressing threats to critical infrastructure; and (v) threats related to the global and trans-regional effects of climate change and environmental factors having a potentially destabilising impact on

peace and security. The outputs of the projects are organised around five key result areas: 1. Monitoring and evaluation; 2. Coherence and Coordination; 3. Context Analysis; 4. Expert Analysis; and 5. Visibility, Liaison and Information Sharing. SCOPE is supporting the organisation of the *Brussels Climate Security Dialogue* (February 2025) and a side-event to *COTER: Technologies and the fight against global threats* (March 2025).

An aerial, top-down view of a four-person rowing team on a body of water. The rowers are in a white racing shell, moving away from the viewer. The water is a deep blue with visible ripples and the wake of the boat. The text 'EUISS TEAM' is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

EUISS TEAM

DIRECTOR

Steven Everts



Start with Steven Everts joined the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) as Director in September 2023. Prior to joining the EUISS, Dr Everts worked at the European External Action Service (EEAS) where he served as Senior Advisor to the HR/VP on Strategy and Communications. Previously, he was a Senior Advisor in the Asia-Pacific Department of the EEAS. From 2009–2012 he was a Member of the Cabinet of HR/VP Catherine Ashton with responsibility for Asia and the Pacific, Turkey, and the general issue of how to frame and strengthen the EU's relations with its strategic partners. Between 2005 and 2009, Steven Everts worked for SG/HR Javier Solana, both as his Personal Representative for Energy and Foreign Policy and as a Member of his Cabinet.

Before his time at the EU, he was a Senior Research Fellow at the London-based Centre for European Reform and Director of the CER's transatlantic programme, which covered the full range of US-European relations.

He holds a DPhil in International Relations from the University of Oxford and an MA in Political Science from Leiden University in the Netherlands.

SENIOR ANALYSTS

Jan Joel Andersson



Jan Joel Andersson is Senior Analyst at the EUISS, where he heads the analysis of security and defence, including CSDP, Capability Development, Defence Industry and Technology & Innovation issues.

Between 2017–2022, he was a member of the Chief Executive's Policy Office (cabinet) at the European Defence Agency, advising the EDA Chief Executive on strategy and policy, specifically on the EU defence initiatives (CARD, PESCO, EDF), relations with the European Commission and the defence and high-tech industries.

He was Senior Analyst for Transatlantic Security, NATO and US Politics at the EUISS from 2014 to 2017, during which time he supported the consultation and drafting process of the EU Global Strategy and was a member of the secretariat assisting the 'Group of Personalities' in the drafting of their proposal for a Preparatory Action for defence-related research, presented to the Commission in 2016.

He has also worked in the private sector for a world-leading crisis management consultancy and has held faculty appointments at universities and in think tanks in the United States, Sweden and France. He has published widely on European and transatlantic security and defence, capability development, and defence industry issues.

He was educated at the United World College of the Adriatic in Italy, graduated from Uppsala University in Sweden, and received his MA and PhD in political science from the University of California at Berkeley.

Ondrej Ditrych

Ondrej Ditrych is a Senior Analyst at the EUISS where he is in charge of the Russia and the Eastern Neighbourhood portfolio.

His professional career has been dedicated to research and strategic advice, foresight, and analysis on international security matters for civilian and military decision-makers, bridging the worlds of policy and expertise.

He was previously the head of and senior researcher at the Institute of International Relations Prague, a public research institute established by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, and was a visiting scholar at CERI, Sciences Po Paris, a visiting researcher at Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, and a Fulbright research fellow at Belfer Center, Harvard University. He held the position of assistant/associate professor of international relations at Charles University in Prague (2013–2023) and was a visiting lecturer at the University of Copenhagen (2019) and the VU Amsterdam (2023). He is the author of a number of policy publications on politics and security in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, hybrid threats, ethno-political conflict and revolutionary violence, and foresight and global risks, as well as more than 20 scholarly articles including in journals such as *Cooperation and Conflict*, *Security Dialogue*, *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* or *International Relations* and four books, most recently the edited volume *Revolutionaries and Global Politics: War machines from the Bolsheviks to ISIS* (Edinburgh University Press).

He received his MA in Political Science and PhD in International Relations from Charles University, Prague, and an MPhil in International Relations from the University of Cambridge.

Alice Ekman

> until September 2024

Alice Ekman is the Senior Analyst in charge of the Asia portfolio at the EUISS. She covers foreign policy and security developments in the Asian/Indo-Pacific region – including in China, the Korean Peninsula, Japan, India and ASEAN. At the Institute, she also manages regular ‘Track 1.5’ dialogues with the EU’s partners in Asia and coordinates the EU member committee of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific (CSCAP EU). Alice Ekman was formerly Head of China Research at the French Institute of International Relations (Ifri) in Paris. She has also been Visiting Scholar at Tsinghua University (Beijing), at National Taiwan Normal University (Taipei) and at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies (Seoul). She is a co-founder of the European Think Tank Network on China (ETNC).

She holds a master’s degree in International Relations, Economics, and Anthropology (China focus) from the London School of Economics and a

PhD in International Relations from the Institut d'études politiques de Paris (Sciences Po). She is fluent in Mandarin Chinese. She is the author of *Rouge Vif – L'idéal communiste chinois* (L'Observatoire, 2020), which received the prize of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs for best geopolitical book of the year.

Dalia Ghanem

> until August 2024

Dalia Ghanem joined the EUISS in May 2022. She is responsible for analysis and research on the Middle East and North Africa region. Her research interests focus on EU-MENA relations.

Before joining the EUISS, she was a senior resident scholar at the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut, where her research focused on Algeria's political, economic, social and security developments. Her research also examined political violence, radicalisation, civil-military relationships, transborder dynamics and gender.

Dr. Ghanem has been a guest speaker on these issues in various conferences and a regular commentator in different Arab and international print and audio-visual media.

Prior to joining Carnegie in 2013, she was a teaching associate at Williams College in Massachusetts, and she also served as a research assistant at the Center for Political Analysis and Regulation at the University of Versailles. She holds a PhD from the University of Versailles-Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines.

Nad'a Kovalčíková

Nad'a Kovalčíková is the Senior Analyst in charge of the transnational security portfolio at the EUISS and a project director of the multi-million euro, EU-funded initiative 'Countering Foreign Interference: A project to strengthen EU CSDP capacities against foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI)'. In particular, her research focuses on hybrid threats, foreign interference, disinformation, resilience and democracy, election security, and transatlantic cooperation. She is a member of the ESPAS strategic foresight Steering Group; a mentor within the innovative network of Harvard Women in Defense, Diplomacy, and Development; an expert collaborator for Minsait's Ideas for Democracy; and a 2019 awardee and currently also a member of the Steering Committee of Women In International Security. She was formerly a Programme Manager and Fellow at the Alliance for Securing Democracy in the German Marshall Fund of the United States. She also worked at NATO, the European Parliament, the French and Canadian embassies, and several NGO and think tank projects.

She obtained her PhD in international economic relations with a focus on globalisation and security threats from the University of Economics in Bratislava (EUBA), and master's degrees in politics and government from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), in European Affairs from

the Institut d'études politiques de Paris (Sciences Po), and in international relations from EUBA.

Rossella Marangio

Rossella Marangio joined the EUISS as a Senior Analyst in September 2023. Her research focuses on EU–Africa relations, including relations with regional and sub-regional organisations, EU strategic engagement towards Africa, the humanitarian–development–peace nexus and the role of civilian CSDP missions.

Before joining the EUISS, she worked as a civil servant in several postings in Africa, including EU Delegations, CSDP and UN missions. Before these civil servant roles, she conducted extensive research in the Horn of Africa, and co-operated with several think tanks and international institutions, particularly concerning the role of international and regional organisations in peacebuilding, and cooperation between the EU, the AU and the UN.

Dr Marangio holds a PhD from the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies in Pisa and MA degrees from the College of Europe and the University of Trieste.

Andrea Salvi

> until November 2024

Andrea Salvi is a Senior Analyst at the EUISS. He leads the analysis of cyber and digital issues, and he is the project director of the multi-million euro EU Cyber Direct project.

Before joining the EUISS he worked as a project officer responsible for the scientific direction and development of the DRMKC Risk Data Hub at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission.

He also served as a human rights statistics consultant for the United Nations Missions in South Sudan. Previously, he worked as a postdoctoral research fellow at Luiss University (Rome) and as a research affiliate at the Center for Research in Leadership, Innovation and Organization researching cybersecurity, cyber-physical critical infrastructures, and high-reliability organisations. He specialises in quantitative methods and computational social sciences, making use of cutting-edge data technologies to answer security and political questions.

He holds a PhD in Political Science from Trinity College Dublin with a thesis on reactive violence in civil conflict and counterinsurgency practices as an Andrew Grene Scholar in Conflict Resolution. He holds master's degrees in International Relations, Law and Government of the EU and Cybersecurity.

His work has been published in peer-reviewed journals such as *International Studies Quarterly* and *Computers & Security*. He has also contributed to several edited volumes. He has extensive lecturing experience in quantitative methods for security and intelligence, political risk and conflict studies.

Tim Rühlig

Tim Rühlig joined the Institute in September 2024 as the Senior Analyst for Global China.

Dr Rühlig's research focuses on China's foreign, economic and technology policy, EU-China relations, economic security, German-China policy, and Hong Kong affairs. He is also working on the politicisation of technical standard-setting and China's role as a security actor in the Pacific and beyond.

Before joining the EUISS, Tim worked at the European Commission for DG I.D.E.A., the in-house advisory hub of President Ursula von der Leyen, with a focus on China's technology policy. Previously, he was a Senior Research Fellow at the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) and a Research Fellow at the Swedish Institute of International Affairs (UI).

He is the founder of the Digital Power China (DPC) research consortium that brings together European engineers, computer scientists as well as China scholars and economists. He is the chairman of the Working Group on 'high technology and innovation' of the China in Europe Research Network's (CHERN), an EU Cost Action. He is a participant of the European Think-tank Network on China (ETNC), which he coordinated in 2018.

Among his publications is the monograph 'China's Foreign Policy Contradictions' which was published in 2022 by Oxford University Press.

Dr Rühlig received a BA in Political Science and Cultural Anthropology from the University of Tübingen, an MA in International Relations and Peace and Conflict Research from the Goethe University of Frankfurt and the Technical University of Darmstadt as well as a PhD from the University of Frankfurt.

SENIOR POLICY ANALYST

Katarzyna Sidło

Katarzyna Sidło joined the EUISS as a Senior Policy Analyst for the Middle East and North Africa in December 2024.

Previously, she was Director of the Middle East and North Africa Department at CASE—Center for Social and Economic Research, Poland. During her eleven years at CASE, she conducted policy-oriented and academic research, the former commissioned by clients such as the European Parliament, the European Commission, the European Space Agency, the European Committee of the Regions, and the Polish and British governments.

In the past, Dr Sidło was a Visiting Scholar at G. Tsereteli Institute of Oriental Studies of Ilia State University, Tbilisi (2019/2020) and at the Centre of Islamic Studies at the University of Cambridge (2015), as well as a SHARIAsource Editor for Islamic Finance at the Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School. Currently, she holds the position of a recurring visiting professor

at ASERI–Graduate School of Economics and International Relations at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan, Italy.

Dr Sidło holds a PhD (summa cum laude) and an MA (five-year programme in Arabic and Islamic Studies) from the Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Warsaw. She also holds a BSc from the Faculty of Economic Studies from the same university. Within the Erasmus programme, she also studied at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London and at the University of Jordan.

Clotilde Bômont

Clotilde Bômont is a Senior Policy Analyst in charge of the Cyber and Digital technologies portfolio at the EUISS. In this capacity, she also supports the implementation of the ‘EU Cyber Direct–EU Cyber Diplomacy Initiative’ (EUCD) and the ‘Advancing the Cyber Programme of Action Initiative’ (PoA), two EU-funded projects led by the EUISS.

Her research mainly focuses on the EU’s digital policies and initiatives and on emerging and disruptive technologies.

Prior to joining the EUISS, Clotilde Bômont was a research fellow at the Institute for Strategic Studies (IRSEM) in Paris, a public research agency of the French Ministry of the Armed forces, and was affiliated with the academic research and training centre GEODE at Paris 8 University.

She was also a visiting scholar at Columbia University in New York and an associate research fellow at the Saint–Cyr Coëtquidan military academy’s research centre, and she cooperated with the French Ministry of the Armed forces on the organisation’s digital transformation and industrial policy.

Dr Bômont holds a PhD in Political Geography with a focus on cloud computing and military information and communication systems from Panthéon–Sorbonne University. She obtained a MA in Geopolitics from the Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS) and Panthéon–Sorbonne University.

RESEARCH ANALYSTS

Lizza Bomassi

Lizza Bomassi joined the EUISS in October 2024 as the Research Analyst for the Indo–Pacific. Her research focuses on European foreign policy towards the Indo–Pacific with a particular interest in regional geopolitical developments.

She brings extensive experience from over a decade working at Carnegie Europe, where she held a senior role overseeing strategic initiatives across multiple areas and conducting research on Europe–Asia relations.

Prior to working at Carnegie, she contributed to founding an International Task Force on Preventive Diplomacy and establishing a global network of parliamentarians on conflict prevention. In the 2000s, she worked for Save the Children in Afghanistan and Pakistan, contributing to health and education projects for displaced children and their families.

She is the editor of the report *Reimagining EU-ASEAN Relations: Challenges and Opportunities* (Carnegie, 2023) and co-author of *The Southern Mirror: Reflections on Europe from the Global South* (Carnegie, 2022). She has been featured in various media outlets and journals in the Asia Pacific and has addressed the academic, policy, and think-tank communities on Europe-Asia relations. She is an alumnus of the Asian Forum on Global Governance, a United People Global board member, and is fluent in English, French and Tagalog (Filipino).

Lizza Bomassi double-majored in Communications and Psychology at Simon Fraser University (Canada) and holds a master's degree in Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

Caspar Hobhouse

Caspar Hobhouse is a Research Analyst at the EUISS. He is in charge of the portfolio on climate and energy security and is based at the institute's headquarters in Paris.

His research is focused on securing Europe's energy and climate security over the course of the global energy transition. On energy, he examines both the challenges to Europe's energy security and the opportunities presented by the energy transition to build a resilient, cheap, secure and interconnected energy system that benefits not only Europeans but also neighbouring regions. On climate, his works addresses the risks that climate change poses to global security, identifies future global challenges resulting from changing weather patterns, and supports efforts to prepare Europe and its partners for more hostile environmental conditions.

Prior to joining the EUISS, he held positions in several think tanks and government institutions with a focus on energy, climate and European foreign policy. Most recently he was a Policy Analyst at E3G working to secure Europe's energy system with a focus on energy infrastructure.

He has previously conducted research on spatial planning of energy infrastructure, climate mitigation efforts in the GCC and Iraq, strategic communications between the EU and its partners, and global climate diplomacy.

He holds an MPhil in Regional Studies and History from the University of Oxford with a focus on the Southern Neighbourhood and the Middle East, as well as a BA with honours in International History from the London School of Economics (LSE).



Giuseppe Spatafora

Giuseppe Spatafora is a Research Analyst at the EUISS, where his research focuses on transatlantic and EU-NATO relations. In this capacity, he monitors trends and policy developments related to EU-US and NATO-EU relations, as well as the broader transatlantic relationship (North and South), covering the full range of security challenges.

Before joining the EUISS, Dr Spatafora worked at NATO's Policy Planning Unit, in the Office of the Secretary General. He provided policy advice on strategic issues such as support to Ukraine, strengthening transatlantic ties, strategic foresight and emerging threats. He served in the EU-NATO Task force on the resilience of critical infrastructure, coordinated the Secretary General's Annual Report for 2022 and 2023, and supported NATO's reflection process on the Southern Neighbourhood.

He obtained his PhD (DPhil) at the University of Oxford with a dissertation on external support and foreign intervention. He has authored articles and book chapters on proxy wars, NATO and European security. He holds an MPhil from Oxford and a BA from John Cabot University in Rome.

Joris Teer

Joris Teer is a Research Analyst at the EUISS. He leads the portfolio on economic security and technology and is based at the Brussels Liaison Office.

Prior to joining the EUISS, he was a strategic foresight and China analyst at the Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS), focusing on the dilemmas of deep economic interdependence at a time of great power rivalry.

Together with Director of Political Affairs Han ten Broeke, he initiated HCSS Boardroom, an initiative to make the strategies of Dutch and European industry and investors more geopolitically shock-resistant. His contributions to the Strategic Monitor, a multi-annual strategic foresight project that HCSS together with the Clingendael Institute executes for the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Defence, focused on trends in geoeconomics and strategic technologies. He was also the Project Coordinator of the Europe in the Indo-Pacific Hub. Finally, he was a member of the Peace and Security Committee of the Advisory Council on International Affairs of the Netherlands.

He has conducted research on great power competition, strategic technologies (including semiconductors), critical raw materials, defence issues in the Indo-Pacific and strategic foresight methods.

Joris Teer holds a dual M.Sc. Degree in International Affairs focusing on China's politics and foreign policy from Peking University and on the international relations of the Middle East, crisis-decision making and political Islam from the London School of Economics. He received an honours BA from Amsterdam University College.

He is also a PhD candidate at the Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy at the Free University of Brussels, focusing on the implications for the EU of the growing use by China and the US of weaponised interdependence-strategies.

Bojana Zorić

Bojana Zorić joined the Institute in September 2023 as a Research Analyst for the Western Balkans.

In this capacity, she covers the analysis of policy and security developments in the Western Balkans, particularly in the context of enlargement, transatlantic relations, third-party influence, as well as other day-to-day developments that affect the Euro-Atlantic security infrastructure.

Previously, she held the position of Senior Policy Analyst at the Regional Cooperation Council in Sarajevo, where she, among others, led the analysis of the Balkan Barometer, including in security and (geo)political domains. Before that, she was stationed in Brussels with the European Committee of the Regions and in Stockholm with the Swedish International Liberal Centre, where she worked on democracy building and promotion in Eastern Partnership countries.

Dr Zorić contributed to book volumes published by Routledge and Springer Handbook of Political Science and International Relations and has published in several peer-reviewed journals focusing on security developments in the Western Balkans, including in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, and North Macedonia.

She holds a PhD in Political Science with a specialisation in Security Studies from Masaryk University. She also completed an MA in European Union-Russia Studies at the Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies (University of Tartu) and an MA in Russian Philology and Pedagogy at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (University of Zagreb). During her academic pursuits, she also studied at KU Leuven, Saint Petersburg State University, and Tallinn University.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 (1999) and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

ASSOCIATE ANALYSTS

Amaia Sánchez-Cacicedo

> until June 2024

Amaia Sánchez-Cacicedo is the Non-resident Associate Analyst in charge of the South Asia portfolio at the EUISS. She contributes to the analysis of South Asian security and foreign policy, focusing especially on India, Afghanistan and Pakistan. She monitors ongoing security developments in South Asia and relations with the EU.

She is a graduate of Georgetown University and completed her PhD at the Politics and International Studies Department of the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), University of London. Her PhD research culminated in her first book *Building States, Building Peace: Global and Regional Involvement in Sri Lanka and Myanmar* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014).

Prior to joining the EUISS, she was an adjunct professor at IE University in Madrid where she taught courses on peace and conflict resolution, as well as on Asian international relations. She also taught at SOAS and at the University of Zurich and worked for the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in Costa Rica, Kenya and Sri Lanka.

Lukas Trakimavičius

> until August 2024

Lukas Trakimavičius is an Associate Analyst at the EUISS, where he is in charge of the portfolio on energy and environmental security. He is also a Non-Resident Fellow at the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA), based in Washington D.C. He also supports the World Energy Council's efforts on the energy transition. Before joining the EUISS, he worked at the NATO Energy Security Centre of Excellence, focusing on clean technologies, the energy transition, and the geopolitics of energy. He also served in the Economic Security Policy Division of the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, working on energy security, energy diplomacy, and broader economic security issues in the Central and Eastern Europe region. Before that, he held several positions at the Emerging Security Challenges (ESC) and Political Affairs and Security Policy (PASP) divisions at NATO HQ, where he worked on energy security, arms control, disarmament, and WMD non-proliferation matters. Lukas Trakimavičius holds a postgraduate degree from the London School of Economics (LSE).



TRAINEES

January-July 2024:

- > Adam Eskang
- > Alexander Royall
- > Fee-Marie von der Brelie
- > Lily Grumbach
- > Pelle Smits
- > Sascha Simon
- > Simmi Saini
- > Smaranda Olariu

September-December 2024

- > Alessia Caruso
- > Calvin Nixon
- > Carole-Louise Ashby
- > Ioana Trifoi
- > Lisa Hartmann González
- > Marlene Marx
- > Martins Gelazis
- > Tamara Noueir



ANNEX

**OVERVIEW OF EUISS
ACTIVITIES IN 2024**

January	
18	EU energy diplomacy: lessons learned from COP28 (with EU climate envoys)
February	
7	Russia's domestic politics: stasis, crisis or Putinism reloaded?
8	Seminar on the future of African-Europe relations with LUISS
13	Building cyber and FIMI resilience in the Western Balkans amidst continuous threats
March	
5	COWEB working session: Security challenges in the Western Balkans in the current geopolitical context
5	EU Council table-top exercise on hybrid threats
13	EU CSDP military missions and operations
14	EU-India relations: How to gain strategic traction?
April	
18	EU-India relations: Decoding worldviews & norms
18	EU-NATO foresight seminar on resilience of critical infrastructure
25	Strengthening resilience in the eastern neighbourhood
May	
13	The future of responsible state behaviour in a fragmented cyber capacity ecosystem
14	An action-oriented approach to cyber threats: How to tackle emerging threats within the future UN mechanism
17	COEST informal retreat: Resilience challenges in the Eastern neighbourhood
26	The Black Sea: Security scenarios
28	Schuman Security and Defence Forum 2024
30	Webinar on Contestation: The new dynamic driving global politics.
June	
11	Europe's strategic choices in a world of contestation
13 and 28	Open Virtual events: on Chaillot Paper: 'Türkiye's cards in the world: Raising the stakes' and Unveiling Türkiye's strategy in MENA & Africa
21	EU contributions to avoiding military conflict in East Asia
25	Scripting the future of Belarus
26	COAFR briefings: the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea
28	Decoding Türkiye's role in the Western Balkans & South Caucasus
August	
31	Hybrid threats' nexuses: Taking EU-NATO cooperation to the next level

July	
4	Russia in Africa: Competing for strategic influence in the post-Wagner world
4	Unpacking bilateral disputes in the Western Balkans
September	
26	West Africa and the Sahel: Better understanding, for appropriate EU engagement
17	Launch event: '10 ideas for the new team'
19	The North Caucasus: resting or restive?
October	
1	Briefing for COTRA delegates ahead of the US election
10	EUISS-CSDS Korea Dialogue 2024
10	Hacking Minds and Machines
15	EUISS seminar on religion, conflict prevention and countering radicalisation in Western Balkans
21-22	EU-India 1.5 Track Dialogue (EUISS-Ananta Aspen Centre-Institute Montaigne)
November	
8	COTRA Away Day
13	Russia's war economy: Resilient or reckless?
18	To deter, coerce, or corrode: What goals can EU sanctions efforts achieve?
21	From Washington to Brussels: Trump's victory and the future of US and EU foreign policy
26	Workshop on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus approach
27	COAFR Briefings: Insecurity dynamics in West Africa and the Sahel
28	Africa's perspectives: unpacking the AU-EU partnership
December	
2	Cross-regional ripple effects: EU-Latin America relations in the wake of the US presidential election (EUISS Latin America Day – part 1)
2	Role of women in enhancing peace and security in Colombia (EUISS Latin America Day – part 2)
2	Action-oriented approach to the protection of critical infrastructure – Lessons learnt in preparedness from major international events
3	Reshuffling the cards after the 2024 US elections: Implications for the Western Balkans
3-4	EU-Indonesia Track 1.5 Dialogue
5	Declaration by the EU and its Member States on a Common Understanding of the Application of International Law to Cyberspace
9	Starting with the end in mind: Fully de-risked gallium, germanium, and rare earth value chains by 2030