

THE EU'S INDO-PACIFIC STRATEGY TODAY: WHERE TO AND HOW?

Concept note

Date of event: Wednesday 18 October 2023

Format and location: in-person

CIDOB premises

Elisabets, 12, 08001

Barcelona, Spain

Time: 13:15h / 17:15 (CET)

Duration: 4 hours

Since the launch of the EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy in 2021, the region has seen the mushrooming of minilateral arrangements and bilateral partnerships along geo-political fault lines. This is symptomatic of how regional powers are re-aligning and balancing themselves between the U.S. and China to leverage their influence amidst growing uncertainty and shifting alliances. Regional and extra-regional powers seek to secure a safe space in the region along security and geo-economic lines. This event will look at concrete policy orientations for a strengthened EU within that space in the Indo-Pacific.

Ahead of the next edition of the EU-Indo-Pacific Forum in February 2024, the EU needs to review the implementation of its Indo-Pacific Strategy to assess its current assets and vulnerabilities in a swiftly changing region. For this purpose, the first panel will unpack key EU interests in the region within the current conjuncture. What are the implications of changing regional powers and emerging minilateral partnerships for EU interests (ASEAN+, AUKUS, QUAD, I2U2, IMEC, IORA, etc)? Where are we absent and should be more present? Which sub-regions within the Indo-Pacific provide the highest potential to EU interests?

The second panel will look at EU interests from a security standpoint, taking into account the heightened regional competition. How can the EU become a partner or a leader to cooperative security arrangements? Does its emphasis on maritime security suffice? If not, what more could be done? Can the EU Global Gateway channel a geo-strategic approach of the EU to the Indo-Pacific, specifically?

PROGRAMME

13:15-13:45h

WELCOME COFFEE & APPETIZERS

13:45-14:00h

WELCOME & KEYNOTE INTRODUCTION

Steven EVERTS – Director, EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), Paris

Paola PAMPALONI – Acting Managing Director, Asia and the Pacific, European External Action Service (EEAS), Brussels

Javier SALIDO – Director General for North America, Eastern Europe, Asia & the Pacific, Spanish Ministry for External Affairs, EU & Co-operation (MAUC), Madrid

14:00-15:30h

PANEL I | EU KEY INTERESTS IN THE INDO-PACIFIC TODAY: WITH WHOM AND WHERE?

Moderator

Amaia SANCHEZ – Associate Analyst for South Asia, EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), Paris

Speakers

Mathieu DUCHÂTEL – Resident Senior Fellow and Director of International Studies, Institut Montaigne, Paris *[hybrid]*

Maaïke OKANO-HEIJMANS – Senior Research Fellow, Clingendael Institute, The Hague

Jagannath PANDA – Head, Stockholm Center for South Asian and Indo-Pacific Affairs (SCSA-IPA), Stockholm

Jean-Loup SAMAAAN – Senior Research Fellow at the Middle East Institute, NUS, Singapore *[hybrid]*

First respondent – **Richard TIBBELS** – EUSE for the Indo-Pacific, Asia and the Pacific, EEAS, Brussels

15:30-15:45h

COFFEE

15:45-17:15h

PANEL II | EU SECURITY IN THE INDO-PACIFIC: HOW?

Moderator

Pol MORILLAS – Director, CIDOB, Barcelona

Speakers

Olivier BLAREL – Senior Visiting Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington D.C. *[hybrid]*

Tobias GEHRKE – Senior Policy Fellow, Geoeconomics, ECFR, Berlin

Yuka KOSHINO – Research Fellow for Security and Technology Policy, IISS, London

First respondent – **Emilio DE MIGUEL** – Special Envoy for the Indo-Pacific, Spanish Ministry for External Affairs, EU & Co-operation (MAUC) and Director Casa Asia Centre, Madrid

CLOSING REMARKS

Niclas KVARNSTRÖM – Head of Department for Asia, the Pacific and Latin America, Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Stockholm

Steven EVERTS – Director, EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), Paris