

The Sino-Russian Eastern Partnership: Implications for Europe

A round-table discussion organised by the EU Institute for Security Studies

Wednesday, 3 May 2017

Rond-point Robert Schuman 6, Brussels
Scotland House meeting room (8th floor)

Following the annexation of Crimea, the outbreak of the conflict in Ukraine, and the imposition of sanctions in 2014, Russia proclaimed its 'turn to the East' - a reorientation of its foreign and economic policies away from the West. For Russia, a closer partnership with China was supposed to offer a viable alternative to the West and allow it to offset the impact of sanctions. However, questions abound. What exactly does the 'East' signify in Russia's eastward pivot? How does the pivot work in practice – indeed, does it work at all? How does it manifest itself in the economic, geopolitical, military or regional spheres? Are Russia and China building an alliance which would fundamentally alter the geostrategic landscape in Eurasia and beyond? Finally, what are the potential implications of this newly emerging relationship for Europe?

17:00-17:30 Registration and welcome coffee

17.30 Opening remarks

Alfredo Conte, Head of Strategic Planning Division, European External Action Service

17.45 - 19:00 Panel Discussion

Chair **Antonio Missiroli**, Director, EU Institute for Security Studies

Speakers **Nicu Popescu**, Senior Analyst, EU Institute for Security Studies

Michał Makocki, Associate Analyst, EU Institute for Security Studies

Gunnar Wiegand, Managing Director for Asia Pacific, European External Action Service

Alexander Gabuev, Senior Associate and Chair of Russia in the Asia-Pacific Program, Carnegie Moscow Center

19.00 - 20.00 Cocktail