

**Public discussion in the framework of the EPC Strategic Dialogues**  
**European Political Community, enlargement and defense...**  
**What turn for geopolitical Europe?**

**Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> February, 18h00-19h45**

Institut français de Budapest, Budapest, Fő u. 17, Hungary

Registration for the event in Hungary: <https://forms.gle/ZNAjFVRLTScMtqP79>

The invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation last year has completely overhauled the geopolitical situation on the European continent in 2022. It has given new impetus to transatlantic cooperation, exposed key vulnerabilities in EU security, and put the EU's ambition to bolster its strategic autonomy to the test. How to assess the EU's geopolitical turn since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine? What has been the impact of the war on transatlantic cooperation in Europe and European defense integration? What about strategic autonomy and European sovereignty aspirations? What is the potential of the European Political Community (EPC) launched last year? What should the EPC seek to achieve ahead of the Chisinau Summit of June 2023? How does the EPC intersect with accession policy in general, and what about the EU's plans to "further advance the gradual integration" between the European Union and the Western Balkans in particular?

This open discussion is part of the EPC Reflection Forum initiative, an initiative launched in 2022 with the aim of intensifying exchanges on the EPC in Central and Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans. This discussion in Budapest will be organized by the Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe (Vienna), Eurocréative (Paris), the French Institute of International Relations (Paris) and the Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade (Budapest), in close cooperation with the French Embassy and the French Institute in Budapest.

*Working language:*

*French and Hungarian with simultaneous translation and online streaming*

18h00 *Opening*

**Claire Legras**, Ambassador of France to Hungary

**Márton Schöberl**, Director of the Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade (IFAT), Budapest

18h15 *Keynote*

**Levente Magyar**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary

18h25 *Discussion and Q&A*

**Gesine Weber**, Fellow at the German Marshall Fund Office in Paris

**Clotilde Warin**, Policy Advisor at the Centre for Analysis, Planning and Strategy (CAPS),  
French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Paris

**Gergely Fejérdy**, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade  
(IFAT), Deputy Director of the Otto Habsburg Foundation, Budapest

**Rodrigo Ballester**, Head of the Centre for European Affairs at the Mathias Corvinus  
Collegium (MCC), Budapest

**Florent Marcillacq**, Deputy Secretary General of the Austro-French Centre for  
Rapprochement in Europe, Vienna/Paris

Moderation: **Romain le Quiniou**, Director of Eurocréative, Paris

*19h45 end of the discussion*