

Weimar Plus Discussion

The EU in the World after the Russian war in Ukraine

13th April 2023 from 16h15 to 17h45

College of Europe, Nowoursynowska 84, 02-797 Warsaw (Natolin)

Russia's war in Ukraine, with its growing human toll and international repercussions, has shaped new geopolitical realities. At the international level, it has been an unprecedented attack against the rule-based multilateral order set up after the Second World War. At the European level, the outbreak of a new conflict in the East has shattered Europeans' illusions that hard security challenges can be offset by soft power and market integration alone. Together with previous crises (from the migration crisis to the pandemic), it has brought the EU's age of innocence to an end and made the need for strategic thinking more pressing than ever. These new realities will lead the EU to rethink its sense of purpose, while engaging massively in the reconstruction of Ukraine, and redefine its internal role in a geopolitical context marked by Sino-American rivalry, shifts in the Global South, rising international insecurity and continued erosion of liberal democracy. Will the EU raise up to these challenges? How much strategic autonomy can it strive for? What role will Russia and China play after the war in Ukraine ends? How will the new geopolitical context affect the internal equilibria within the Union, its approaches to enlargement, collective security, and the transatlantic relation?

This discussion will be organized in a Weimar Plus format by the Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe (Vienna), the French Institute of International Relations (Paris), Visegrad Insight, Res Publica Foundation, and the Austrian Embassy in Poland, at the premises of the College of Europe in Natolin.

Opening

Thomas Mayr-Harting, Visiting Professor at the College of Europe

Keynote

Wojciech Przybylski, Editor-in-Chief of Visegrad Insight and President of the Res Publica Foundation, Warsaw

Discussion

Dominique David, Advisor to the Executive Chairman of the French Institute of International Relations and President of the Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe

Dietmar Schweisgut, Secretary General of the Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe and former Head of the EU delegation to the People's Republic of China

Serafine Dinkel, Associate Fellow, Alfred von Oppenheim Center for the Future of Europe, German Council on Foreign Relations (tbc)

Aleksandra Koziol, Senior Analyst at the Polish Institute of International Affairs

Moderation: **Thomas Mayr-Harting**, Visiting Professor at the College of Europe