

**Conference on 'Europe and the rest of the world'**

**followed by CER birthday reception**

4 February 2020

14:00 – 14:30 Registration

14:30 – 14:45 **Welcoming remarks by Charles Grant**, Director, Centre for European Reform

14:45 – 16:00 **Session 1: EU foreign, migration, security and defence policy under the new Commission**

The von der Leyen Commission faces fundamental questions over the EU's foreign, migration, security and defence policies. Brexit means Europe is losing one of its main defence spenders and industrial powers – will other member-states step up to fill the spending cap and begin to take defence seriously or will defence continue to be a dirty word? How will the EU most effectively engage China and Russia in a world where its objectives no longer immediately match those of the US? What steps must the EU take to ensure greater coherence between its internal and foreign policies, in particular when it comes to migration?

Speakers:

- **Rosa Balfour**, Senior Fellow, The German Marshall Fund of the United States
- **Śławomir Dębski**, Director, Polish Institute of International Affairs
- **Thijs van der Plas**, Director General for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
- **Nathalie Tocci**, Director, Istituto Affari Internazionali

Chair: **Paul Adamson**, Founder, Encompass

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 – 17:45 **Session 2: The EU and the world economy (trade, competition and industrial policy)**

The world is changing. China is becoming more assertive. Under Trump, the US has retreated from its position as a guarantor of the rules based trading order. The dominance of the tech giants is posing new questions for governments and democracy. Yet, in this increasingly assertive world, Europe is yet to find a role. Will it align with the US to contain the Chinese economic model, or take a more accommodative stance? Will it become a bastion of global free trade, or give in to its more protectionist urges? What role will competition policy play, and is it time to loosen the rules somewhat so as to facilitate the emergence of European tech champions? As the challenges mount, will Europe find itself looking inward or outward?

Speakers:

- **Maria Demertzis**, Deputy Director, Bruegel
- **Shada Islam**, Director of Europe & Geopolitics, Friends of Europe
- **Pascal Lamy**, President Emeritus, Jacques Delors Institute
- **Michael Landesmann**, Senior Research Associate, The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies

Chair: **Sam Lowe**, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for European Reform

17:45 – 18:00 **Closing remarks by Sam Lowe**, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for European Reform

18:00 – 20:00 **Reception with keynote speech by Phil Hogan**, European Commissioner for Trade

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