

Think

new things

Make

new connections

Europe after Merkel: how can the EU best build on its strengths and mitigate its risks?

17-18 March 2022

(with departures on 19 March for in-person guests)

Programme

Participants and observers are reminded of the private and confidential basis on which Ditchley Foundation conferences are held. All those participating do so in their personal capacities, not as spokespeople for any country or institution. In addition, all the proceedings take place under the **'Ditchley Rule'**, whereby all contributions are unattributable and interventions are made in strict confidence; this also applies to exchanges that take place outside the formal sessions. Those present are free to draw afterwards on the substance of what has been said, but not under any circumstances to reveal to any person not participating in the conference who it was that said it. The Rule will be scrupulously observed in the Note later produced on the conference by the Director. The verbal discussions will **not** be recorded, and private Zoom chats are, by definition, private. Public Zoom chats (i.e. chats sent to 'Everyone') will be saved, as substantive comments and exchanges may potentially contribute to the final conference report.

A Note about the programme:

The following programme encompasses the timings for guests in multiple time zones, as shown (*these are not comprehensive, due to space limitations*). Inevitably, some sessions fall during guests' night-time hours at certain points in the programme and these guests are not expected to join at these times; however, all guests are welcome to attend all the sessions.

Please note the timings as they relate to you.

Legend:

AEDT: Australian Eastern Daylight Time

CET: Central European Time

CST: China Standard Time

EDT: Eastern Standard Time

GMT: Greenwich Mean Time/UK time

IST: India Standard Time

JST: Japan Standard Time

DITCHLEY

Day 1 – 17 March

	In-person guests	Remote guests
	Arrivals: Guests arriving by train will be collected from the 1050 service from London Paddington, arriving at Charlbury at 1204.	
1300 GMT	Light lunch	
0945 EDT 1345 GMT 1445 CET		<i>Ditchley host opens Zoom call early, for those who would like to check their connection or who have a question.</i> Ditchley telephone number, in case of need: +44 (0)1608 677346 (landline) or email: Conference.coordinator@ditchley.com
1350 GMT	In-person guests take their seats in the Library	
0955 EDT 1355 GMT 1455 CET		Remaining guests join the Zoom call.

1000 EDT
1400 GMT
1500 CET

Director, James Arroyo, opens the conference, *invites everyone to mute their microphone and turn on their video, and explains the procedure for the day.*

PLENARY SESSION I

How do the EU and its member states need to evolve given the challenges and opportunities in front of them?

After introductory remarks, the discussion will be open for interventions from participants. Please use the **'Hand Raise'** function in Zoom or raise your nameplate if you are in the room to indicate your wish to speak.

Your active participation in the discussion is encouraged. Remote guests: please familiarise yourself ahead of the conference with the location of the Hand Raise button: depending on your device, it is usually found under the 'Reactions' menu; under 'Participants', next to your name; or under 'More' on mobile devices.

	In-person guests	Remote guests
1200 EDT 1600 GMT 1700 CET	Break (40 min) Tea in the Saloon	Break (30 min)

	In-person guests	Remote guests
1230 EDT 1630 GMT 1730 CET		Guests re-join the Zoom call, using the <i>same</i> Zoom link. (The shorter break is to expedite the setting up of the working groups in Zoom. You are welcome to keep your audio/video turned off until the session begins.)
1240 EDT 1640 GMT 1740 CET	In-house guests take their seats in their break-out rooms	

1245 EDT
1645 GMT
1745 CET

Following introductory remarks from the Director, participants will be moved into their Zoom break-out rooms.

Please be ready to engage in active discussion and as a courtesy to your fellow group members, please keep your video on and multi-tasking to a minimum.

Working Group discussion, Session One

Group A

Strategic foreign policy, defence and national security challenges facing the EU: the relationship with the US and China; containment of Russian actions; and the approach to European defence.

Group B

The EU's economic strategy and the approach to open strategic autonomy, along with the Indo-Pacific strategy and digital markets.

Group C

The strategic challenges for the EU (which also face much of the rest of the industrialised world): the transition to renewable energy and the adaptation to climate change; demographic decline; and the control and absorption of immigration from the south (including paths toward a common approach on asylum and illegal migration).

1415 EDT 1815 GMT
1915 CET

Working Group discussion closes (hard stop: Zoom break-out groups close automatically)

1900 GMT	Drinks in the Saloon	
1945 GMT	Dinner	

Day 2 – 18 March

	In-person guests	Remote guests
0800 GMT	Breakfast	

0900 GMT

1000 CET

1430 IST

1415 CST

1800 JST

2000 AEDT

PLENARY SESSION II

EU Indo-Pacific Strategy: How can the EU build its economic reach and influence in the region?

Views from Europe and the Indo-Pacific

1015 GMT 1115 CET 1545 IST 1815 CST 1915 JST 2115 AEDT	Brief break Coffee in the Saloon	Brief break
1030 GMT 1130 CET 1600 IST 1830 CST 1930 JST	Guests take their seats in the Library	Guests re-join the Zoom call, using the <i>same</i> Zoom link as before.

1035 GMT

1135 CET

1605 IST

1835 CST

1935 JST

PLENARY SESSION III

EU technology legislation and trade: what are the prospects for progress through the US and EU Trade and Technology Council? Will draft legislation constrain or enable technological innovation and entrepreneurship in the EU?

After introductory remarks, the discussion will be open for interventions from participants. Please use the **'Hand Raise'** function in Zoom or raise your nameplate if you are in the room to indicate your wish to speak.

1135 GMT 1235 CET 1705 IST 1935 CST 2035 JST	Break Coffee in the Saloon	Break <i>It is helpful if guests remain logged into Zoom, in order to expedite the setting up of the working groups.</i>
1155 GMT 1255 CET 1725 IST 1955 CST 2055 JST	In-house guests take their seats in their break-out rooms	Remaining guests re-join the Zoom call using the <i>same</i> Zoom link as earlier.

1200 GMT
1300 CET
1730 IST
2000 CST
2100 JST

Following introductory remarks from the Director, participants will be moved into their Zoom break-out rooms.

Please be ready to engage in active discussion and as a courtesy to your fellow group members, please keep your video on and multi-tasking to a minimum.

Working Group discussion, Session Two

Group A

Strategic foreign policy, defence and national security challenges facing the EU: the relationship with the US and China; containment of Russian actions; and the approach to European defence.

Group B

The EU's economic strategy and the approach to open strategic autonomy, along with the Indo-Pacific strategy and digital markets.

Group C

The strategic challenges for the EU (which also face much of the rest of the industrialised world): the transition to renewable energy and the adaptation to climate change; demographic decline; and the control and absorption of immigration from the south (including paths toward a common approach on asylum and illegal migration).

	In-person guests	Remote guests
1300 GMT 1400 CET 1830 IST 2100 CST 2200 JST	Lunch	Break
1000 EDT 1400 GMT 1500 CET	In-house guests take their seats in the Library	Remote guests re-join the Zoom call using the <i>same</i> Zoom link as earlier.

Director welcomes everyone back, and explains the procedure for the following sessions

PLENARY SESSION IV

Report-back sessions:

In a series of overlapping report-back discussions, the Rapporteurs and Chairs from each group will provide the main points, as they see them, to have emerged from their discussion, before the remaining members of those groups are invited to add their comments.

Each session will last approximately 25 minutes.

1005 EDT 1405 GMT
1505 CET

Presentation of key points from discussions in **Group A**

Strategic foreign policy, defence and national security challenges facing the EU: the relationship with the US and China; containment of Russian actions; and the approach to European defence.

1030 EDT 1430 GMT
1530 CET

Presentation of key points from discussions in **Group B**

The EU's economic strategy and the approach to open strategic autonomy, along with the Indo-Pacific strategy and digital markets.

1055 EDT 1455 GMT
1555 CET

Presentation of key points from discussions in **Group C**

The strategic challenges for the EU (which also face much of the rest of the industrialised world): the transition to renewable energy and the adaptation to climate change; demographic decline; and the control and absorption of immigration from the south (including paths toward a common approach on asylum and illegal migration).

1120 EDT 1520 GMT
1620 CET

PLENARY SESSION V

Conference Rapporteur presentation:

Final discussion, followed by closing remarks

	In-person guests	Remote guests
1200 EDT 1600 GMT 1700 CET	Tea in the Saloon	Conference closes

The following portion of the programme will bring an invited audience from the wider Ditchley community, via Zoom, to hear a presentation of the of the main findings, lines of discussion and conclusions (if any) from the conference, and to participate in a Q&A.

1245 EDT 1645 GMT 1745 CET	In-house guests take their seats in the Library for Director's briefing ahead of the post-conference panel discussion.	A separate Zoom link will be provided to our remote guests for this session, and all conference participants are welcome to re-join for this discussion, if they would like to do so.
---	---	--

1300 EDT 1700 GMT
1800 CET

Briefing for an invited Ditchley audience, followed by a Q&A:

Europe after Merkel: how can the EU best build on its strengths and mitigate its risks?

1415 EDT 1815 GMT
1915 CET

Briefing closes

1900 GMT	Drinks in the White Drawing Room	
1945 GMT	Black-tie Dinner and overnight	

Day 3 – 19 March

0800 GMT **In-person guests:** Breakfast followed by departures

0900 GMT Transport to Charlbury station for the 09.27 train to Paddington (arrives 10.39)

NOTE 1: Luggage

It is helpful if your luggage is labelled with your name, so that your luggage may more easily be directed on arrival and departure.

*Please place your baggage (other than hats, coats and hand luggage) outside your bedroom **by 8am** on Saturday, so that it may be collected and brought to the Hall. Individual arrangements will be made should anyone need to leave earlier.*

Please note: Luggage will be arranged in the Hall according to whether you are travelling to the station or by car. Please check that your luggage is in the correct place prior to your departure and avoid placing belongings in the vicinity of luggage destined for the station.

NOTE 2: Internet Access

*Wi-fi is available throughout the ground floor of the main house. The network name is '**Ditchley Guest**' and no password is required.*