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| **JOINT CONFERENCE**  **Digital Transition and Single Market Observatory**  **Labour Market Observatory**  **Sustainable Development Observatory**  **Accelerating transitions to build an open strategic autonomy of Europe**  **6 December 2022 | 09:30 – 18:00** |

**Background information:**

The President of the EU, Charles Michel, stated in 2020. 'European strategic autonomy – these are not just words. The strategic independence of Europe is our new common project for this century. It's in all our common interest. European strategic autonomy is goal number one for our generation'[[1]](#footnote-1)

Originally focused on matters of security and defence, open strategic autonomy has expanded to encompass a wide range of policies from geopolitics, trade and economics (i.e. critical raw materials and supply chains) to technology, environment and climate, social and governance.

However, EU Member States still do not agree to what levels of ambition should strategic autonomy be pursued or how would the concept of strategic autonomy be defined. In the wake of the COVID-19 crisis and then with the war in Ukraine, all seem to agree that the EU should develop more capabilities to increase self-sufficiency.

The EESC on the resolution on [The war in Ukraine and its economic, social and environmental impact](https://www.eesc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/files/qe-09-22-154-en-n.pdf), *'emphasizes the need to accelerate the development of a strategic and technological autonomy for Europe and calls on EU leaders to confirm their unity and determination to make the European Union a more independent and sovereign power by improving our defence capabilities and limiting our dependencies in energy, critical raw materials and food'.*

This Conference jointly organised by the three EESC Observatories, the Digital Transition and Single Market Observatory, the Labour Market Observatory and the Sustainable Development Observatory, aims to explore what strategic autonomy should mean, how could civil society help to accelerate transition to an open strategic autonomy of Europe, and how to ensure coherence between EU policies in the short and medium term.

**Draft programme**

**9:30 – 10:15 Opening session**

* **Ms Christa Schweng**, EESC President
* European Commission *(tbc)*
* **Ms Eva Kaili**, Vice President of the European Parliament in charge of Foresight *(tbc)*

Moderated by: **Ms Giulia Barbucci**, EESC Vice-President

**10:15 – 11:30** **Setting the scene: European strategic autonomy - what, how, and why?**

*This panel will be an introduction to the thematic session by exploring what strategic autonomy should mean. How should different policy dimensions be efficiently interlinked? Can we fall into autarchy? Can there be an autonomy of the European financial sector? What this would imply? How a strategic autonomy can help improve European competitiveness?*

Moderated by: **Ms Judith Vorbach** EESC **speaker** at the [2022 ESPAS Conference](https://espas.eu/)

* **Ms Paola Piccinini**,Head of Unit**,** European Commission, Joint Research Centre, JRC.E.7 - Knowledge for Security and Migration
* **Mr Duncan Cass-Beggs**, Head of foresight, OECD
* **Ms Sandra Parthie**, rapporteur [INT/958](https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/our-work/opinions-information-reports/opinions/2021-annual-foresight-report), 2021 Annual Foresight Report
* **Q&A**

**11:30 – 13:00** **Health, labour and social dimensions of the strategic autonomy**

*How to ensure autonomy in the area of health?**Which are the main social challenges and opportunities? How to ensure a just transition while building a strategic autonomy?*

Moderated by: **Mr Lech Pilawski**, President of the Labour Market Observatory

* **Mr Roberto Poli**,Mastering Social Foresight, University of Trento, Italy
* **~~Ms Jessica Imbert~~**~~,~~~~Director External Affairs, MedTech Europe (tbc)~~  **Ms Kristel Van der Elst**, CEO, The Global Foresight Group (tbc)
* **Ms Isabelle Schömann,** Confederal Secretary, ETUC (tbc)
* **Q&A**

**13:00 – 14:30 *Lunch Break***

**14:30 – 15:45** **Strategic autonomy and the environment**

Which policies and strategies are needed to limit our dependencies in energy and raw materials? What does imply a strategic autonomy applied to food systems? How the green transition can help to modernise the EU industry?

Moderated by: **Mr Arnaud Schwartz**, President of the Sustainable Development Observatory

* **Ms Diana Lenzi**, President of the European council of young farmers (CEJA) *(tbc)*
* **Mr Rene Mono,** Director, Berlin Civic Energy Association *(tbc)*
* **Mr Patrick Ten Brink**,Secretary General, European Environmental Bureau (EEB) *(tbc)*
* **Q&A**

**15:45 – 17:00** **How can EU help eco-friendly innovation and protect fundamental citizens' rights?**

Is it possible to achieve EU digital sovereignty? How to best address our dependency on raw and scarce materials?

Moderated by: **Ms Louise Grabo**, President of the Digital Transition and the Single Market Digital and Sustainable Development Observatory

* **Mr Andrea Renda**,Head of Global Governance, Regulation, Innovation and the Digital Economy (GRID) at CEPS *(tbc)*
* **Mr Dumitri Fornea,** rapporteur [CCMI/177](https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/our-work/opinions-information-reports/opinions/critical-raw-materials-resilience-charting-path-towards-greater-security-and-sustainability) Critical Raw Materials Resilience: Charting a Path towards greater Security and Sustainability
* **Q&A**

**17:00 – 17:45 Wrap up sesssion**

* **Mr Angelo Pagliara**, rapporteur [INT/998](https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/our-work/opinions-information-reports/opinions/strategic-foresight-report-2022), Strategic Foresight Report 2022 *(tbc)*
* **Mr Alain Coheur,** INT Section President
* **Mr Peter Schmidt,** NAT Section President
* **Mr Laurenţiu Plosceanu,** SOC Section President

**Languages EN, FR, DE, ES, IT, PL, PT**

1. [Recovery Plan: powering Europe's strategic autonomy - Speech by President Charles Michel at the Brussels Economic Forum - Consilium (europa.eu)](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/09/08/recovery-plan-powering-europe-s-strategic-autonomy-speech-by-president-charles-michel-at-the-brussels-economic-forum/) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)