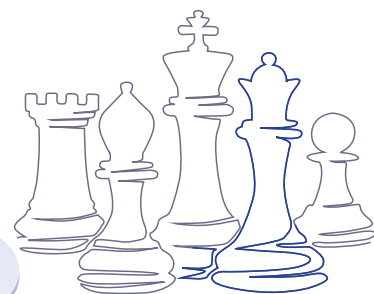




DUBROVNIK FORUM

NAVIGATING THE GLOBAL RESHUFFLE

7 - 8 July 2023 CROATIA



Context

In the second year of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, we continue to witness incredible human suffering, and the momentous impact the war has had on the functioning of the global system based on the principle of territorial integrity of states, the rule of international law and open economic relations. In conjunction with violent regional conflicts in other parts of the world, an accelerating great-power competition, and human-caused environmental crisis, a global reshuffle is taking place and affecting every corner of our planet.

Western countries remain steadfast in their unified response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and a significant majority of UN members support the respect for Ukraine's territorial integrity. At the same time, middle ground and emerging states are rightly highlighting that their concerns and perspectives need to be integrated in the global decision-making on a more balanced footing.

The 2023 Dubrovnik Forum aims to provide a vital platform for discussing possible responses to these challenges, with a focus on the dynamics and needs of global geopolitics and geo-economics. The Forum will feature an opening discussion, keynote speeches by senior officials, a geopolitical panel, and additional panels dealing separately with Europe's energy transition, the challenges in the Mediterranean basin, the Western Balkans' Euro-Atlantic path and the EU's global role, as well as a special OECD side-event.

7th July 2023

**OECD Dubrovnik Talks
Labour Migration in South East Europe:
How to Make the Most of It**

Labour migration has become a common phenomenon in South East Europe, as many seek better opportunities abroad. Holistic structural reform agendas can play a vital role in retaining talents. How can we unleash the region's potential to achieve higher economic growth and enable conditions that alleviate the main factors contributing to large-scale emigration? Which policy measures do we need to maximize the opportunities the large diaspora offers for the region's socio-economic development? What would constitute successful integration policies in destination countries? How do we approach the re-integration of returnees? Can we tap into the emigration-seizing benefits from strategic diaspora engagement? What role can the private sector play in attracting diaspora investments and skills? And what potential does regional cooperation hold in addressing common challenges?

8th July 2023

**Setting the Scene
Navigating the Global Reshuffle - An Opening Discussion**

**Working Sessions
Panel 1
World Order out of Order: How to Stabilize World Politics?**

Russia's aggression against Ukraine and the resulting geopolitical tensions have disrupted traditional multilateralism and challenged the core assumptions of the rules-based international order. Simultaneously, the war has consolidated "the West" and highlighted the urgency of addressing global disunity. As various actors propose divergent and competing solutions to urgent transnational challenges, will these confrontations lead to a variety of entrenched opposing camps? Can we find more room for dialogue-promoting agendas and all-encompassing multilateral action? How can we attain territorial integrity and peace for Ukraine as well as strike an international balance that fosters global peace and progress in the near term and beyond?

8th July 2023

Panel 2

Europe's Energy Transformation: From Dependant to Ascendant

Europe is still quite heavily dependent on the import of fossil fuels from other countries, and the structure of its energy imports is rapidly changing since the beginning of the Russian aggression against Ukraine. At the same time, Europe aims to be a global player in the policies and practices of the transition to renewable sources and de-carbonization along with the fight against climate change. What are the prospects and repercussions of that endeavour and how can the planned deadlines be achieved? How does Europe's energy transformation affect national economies worldwide, as well as economic cooperation or fair competition? What are the geopolitical and overall consequences of Europe's energy transformation and the European Green Deal? How can Europe turn its energy deficiency to its advantage and develop so that it becomes energetically and technologically autonomous? Can Europe be a leader in the establishment of global standards for the green transition and integrate them as one of the building blocks of a renewed multilateralism and global understanding?

Panel 3

The Mediterranean and Beyond: Strengthening the Bonds

The Mediterranean has long been a crucial crossroads of cultural and economic exchange, but also the site of intense geopolitical competition. Against the backdrop of Russia's war against Ukraine, the pursuits of global players in expanding their influence across the area have intensified. All the way down the African continent, we see divergent interests – in domains from food and energy security, infrastructure investments to military armament. What can the Europeans, the EU and other international organizations do to mitigate the migration crisis and its impact on both African nations and the Mediterranean region as a whole? What role and weight will the EU's new asylum and migration pact have? At the same time, cities and communities across the Mediterranean basin are especially vulnerable to climate change, with droughts, fires, heatwaves, and water shortages. What are the ways to address the growing impact of climate change on future migrations?

Panel 4

Western Balkans: A New Euro-Atlantic Momentum

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has underscored the strategic importance of the Western Balkans and a sense of momentum of the EU enlargement process. With granting EU candidacy status to Ukraine and Moldova, and then also to Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Western Balkans countries found themselves at a critical juncture, after years of stalemate, with lingering fear of being overlooked regarding their EU membership path. How to balance the fulfilling of EU membership criteria and the EU's strategic interest in a stable and secure Western Balkans? Which areas of cooperation would be most beneficial and valued for both sides? Which steps need to be taken in order to increase the faith of citizens in the benefits of belonging to the Euro-Atlantic community, especially in view of aggressive disinformation campaigns carried out by various external actors?

Panel 5

Has the EU Learned to Speak the Language of Power?

The European integration project was conducive in bringing about many decades of growing cooperation and economic prosperity among its member states, which is without precedence in Europe's history. At the same time, the European Union has become a global player in the world economy. Does its political and military power have the weight comparable to its economic power? On the one side, the global financial crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic and now the unjustified and illegal Russian aggression against Ukraine have all shown that the EU is able to act decisively and efficiently on the international stage when challenged by a major crisis. On the other side, there are influential critics who say that the EU needs further reform to exert greater might in world politics. So, has the EU truly learned to speak the language of power?