

The Federal Agency for Civic Education, the German Atlantic Association e.V., the Center for Advanced Security, Strategic and Integration Studies, and the North American Studies Program of the University of Bonn warmly invite you to:

“European Independence”? Europe’s Role between the United States and China

Panel Discussion with

Dr. Mikko Huotari, Director Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS)

Prof. Dr. Klaus W. Larres, Richard M. Krasno Distinguished Professor, UNC-Chapel Hill

PD Dr. Julia Leininger, German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS)

moderated by **apl. Prof. Dr. Jasper Trautsch**,
North American Studies Program, University of Bonn

Tuesday, 5 May 2026 | 18:15 (CET)
Bundeskanzlerplatz 2E | 53113 Bonn

On January 20, 2026, Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, called for “a new form of European consciousness” at the World Economic Forum in Davos, highlighting energy, defense, and access to raw materials as areas of particular concern. While the goal of more European self-reliance and autonomy sounds desirable in theory, several fundamental questions arise about how it can be put into practice: How independent can Europe truly be in an era of unprecedented global integration? What does “European independence” mean in the context of the intensifying U.S.–China rivalry that is (re)shaping world politics in the 21st century? What political, economic, financial, and social costs might a more independent Europe entail?

To explore these and other pressing questions and think about the role Europe should play in the emerging new world order, distinguished experts on Europe’s relations with both the United States and China will join us for a panel discussion.

The discussion will be held in English.



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