

International Republican Institute (IRI) side event
'Transatlantic Tango: A Debate on the Future of Transatlantic Relations'
Dock 15, 11:00-12:30, 31 May 2022

Like every partnership, the transatlantic community has had its share of ups and downs. In the last twelve months, we have seen extremes driven by geopolitics, personalities and the trends of the times. These divisions have deepened in the wake of foreign policy blunders and miscommunications, and the lingering hangover in Europe from the Trump presidency. Yet when the community was called to act in the aftermath of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, it came together and delivered sanctions against Russia and Belarus, saw a German reversal on security and defence and drove worldwide support for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. In a moment of crisis, it demonstrated the real value of transatlantic bonds and proved again the ends democracies can achieve when they work together. Yes, some had to be dragged kicking and screaming, but collectively the transatlantic community came together. The current euphoria about this unity, however, does not paper over pre-existing differences and divisions. The aim of the Transatlantic Tango is to discuss and debate the future of the relationship. With several important European elections behind us, many eyes have turned to the midterms in the United States, where change seems all but certain. How will election results in the United States have an impact on the transatlantic agenda, and how can we maintain and utilise this momentum to find common ground and resolve lingering disagreements?

Discussants:

Elmar Brok – President, European Union of Christian Democratic Workers (CDU, Germany)
Kelley Currie – Adjunct Senior Fellow-Indo-Pacific Project, Center for New American Security
Miriam Lexmann – Member of the European Parliament (KDH, Slovakia)
Daniel Mitov – Member of the National Assembly (GERB, Bulgaria)
Brigham McCown – Rear Admiral, United States Navy (ret.)
Jan Erik Surotchak – Senior Director for Transatlantic Strategies, International Republican Institute

Moderator:

Antonia Ferrier, Chief Strategy & Communications Officer, CGCN Group (UK)