



The European Council on Foreign Relations

The European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) is an award-winning international think-tank that aims to conduct cutting-edge independent research on European foreign and security policy and to provide a safe meeting space for decision-makers, activists, and influencers to share ideas.

We build coalitions for change at the European level and promote informed debate about Europe's role in the world.



We are living through a global counter-revolution. The institutions and values of liberal internationalism are coming apart and the pillars of globalisation are turned into geopolitical weapons. Societies are increasingly polarised and EU action is harder to forge.

But there is a way forward.

The European Council on Foreign Relations believes in building a new consensus for greater cooperation on European foreign and security policy. Our vision is to demonstrate that engaging in common European action remains the most effective way of protecting European citizens.

We provide an exclusive meeting space for decision-makers and influencers to share ideas for common action; promote informed debate on Europe's role in the world; and build pan-European coalitions for policy change.



Mark Leonard
Co-founder and director

Our leadership team



Vessela Tcherneva
Deputy director



Susi Dennison
Senior director,
strategy and transformation



Malcolm Jolliffe
Senior director,
finance and operations



Anna Kuchenbecker
Senior director,
strategic partnerships



Jeremy Shapiro
Director, research

Our unique approach

Contagious ideas

Crafting policy proposals that spark conversation

ECFR has brought together a team of distinguished policy experts to link cutting-edge research to practical policy. Our research is presented through seven programmes – Asia, Africa, European Power, European Security, Middle East and North Africa, United States – and cross-cutting thematic initiatives on geoeconomics and tech and on climate and energy.

Pan-european engagement

Playing a significant role in the national dialogue

ECFR is the only think-tank that has a truly pan-European network, with a presence in Berlin, London, Madrid, Paris, Rome, Sofia and Warsaw, as well as antennas in Brussels and Washington DC. Our pan-European structure allows us to understand national foreign policy priorities and challenges, be part of the national conversations, and grasp viewpoints from across the continent and beyond.

A community of leaders

Building European consensus

The ECFR Council is the strongest and most visible expression of ECFR's pan-European identity. Our over 350 council members act as ambassadors for ECFR's ideas within their networks and help us build the consensus for a common European foreign and security policy.

Transformative research and engaging formats

Since 2007, ECFR has built a reputation for innovative, intellectually rigorous, and engaging analysis which is dedicated to providing fresh perspectives on complex foreign policy issues. We convey our findings compellingly through policy briefs, special reports, commentaries, and policy alerts reaching broad audiences.

Power Audits

ECFR's Power Audits shift from the typical EU-centric focus to spotlight the individual roles and contributions of each member state on the global stage, based on field research carried out by our team of associates based in the 27 member states.

Policy Alerts

Problem, response, context – Policy Alerts are our shortest format, providing snappy and digestible responses to emerging events and hot topics.

Opinion polling

Through our public opinion polling in European countries, ECFR's analysis seeks to unlock shifting coalitions inside and beyond EU borders to promote a more internationally engaged union.

World in 30 Minutes

Curated by Mark Leonard, ECFR's weekly flagship podcast brings together high-level speakers from the Europe and beyond to discuss the events, policies, and ideas shaping the world. The podcast boasts thousands of subscribers from across the continent.

Views from the Capitals

Our Views from the Capitals series taps into ECFR's pan-European network to analyse European governments' stances and public opinion on vital foreign policy issues. Our US programme also features a Letter from Washington.

What does X think?

Through our essay collections, we feature prominent local voices often overlooked by European audiences to offer their perspectives on political developments. ECFR has showcased foreign policy debates from China, the Gulf, India, Russia, and Turkey.

Board of trustees

Carl Bildt, Co-chair, former prime minister and former foreign minister of Sweden

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Our offices

ECFR's network of offices are a vital component of our pan-European identity. Our presence in six EU countries, the United Kingdom, and the United States allows us to understand and influence the debate in key national capitals, building networks with policymakers and journalists in each country, and making sense of the big foreign policy questions driving different European countries and the US.



Our programmes and research initiatives

Programmes

- Africa
- Asia
- European Power
- European Security
- Middle East and North Africa
- United States

Initiatives

- Geoeconomics and Tech

Our experts on the record



Pan-European outreach

- ECFR experts and analysis frequently feature in top-tier media outlets like The Financial Times, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, Gazeta Wyborcza, The Guardian, Le Monde, The New York Times, El País, Politico Europe, Project Syndicate, La Repubblica, Süddeutsche Zeitung, and The Washington Post.
- Our analysts are frequently interviewed on radio and television, with broadcasters such as Al Jazeera, ARD, BBC, Bloomberg, CNN, Deutsche Welle, France 24, and NPR.

ECFR's website www.ecfr.eu attracts over 1 million unique visitors each year. We have over 300,000 active followers on social media.

1M+

Every year our experts and analysis are quoted more than 2,000 times in top media outlets in dozens of countries.

2k+

Our podcasts have around 250,000 listens each year. Mark Leonard's "World in 30 Minutes" named one of the "Best podcasts on EU politics" by PolicyLab.

250k

ECFR Council: A community of leaders

Our Council Members, led by Carl Bildt, Lykke Friis, and Norbert Röttgen, utilise their networks and collective influence to Europeanise national discussions on EU foreign policy. Comprised of current and former heads of state, senior political leaders, and influencers at national and European levels, the council forms a strategic community.

72 Civil society
leaders

31 Prominent
European
officials

19 Ambassadors

13 Government
ministers

30 Foreign
ministers

46 Business
leaders

19 Heads
of state and
government

19 Senior officials
in international
organisations

39 Parliamen-
tarians

14 European
commissioners

31 Academics

14 Journalists and
influencers

Annual Council Meeting



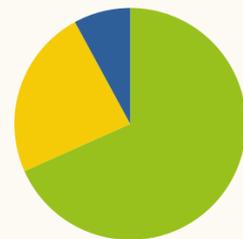
ECFR's Annual Council Meeting is the leading annual gathering on European foreign and security policy. The council meeting has retained the intimacy of a private club, allowing a safe space for high-level speakers from across the world to think creatively and practically about how Europe can strengthen its role as a global power. The Annual Council Meeting follows the energy of the debate to different European cities every year.

Past meetings have gathered memorable insights from high profile speakers, such as Martti Ahtisaari, Clément Beaune, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Josep Borrell, Jeroen Dijsselbloem, Timothy Garton Ash, Pekka Haavisto, Ann Linde, David Lammy, Bruno Le Maire, David McAllister, Anand Menon, Alexander Schallenberg, Wolfgang Schmidt, Stefano Sannino, Olga Stefanishyna, Alexander Stubb, Mark Suzman, Margrethe Vestager, George Soros, Věra Jourová, Pål Jonson, Ulf Kristersson, and Jutta Urpilainen and other heads of state and government, leaders in academia, business, and journalism.



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