



EUROPEAN STUDENT CONFERENCE

RETHINKING TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION
NEW APPROACHES TO TODAY'S CRITICAL CHALLENGES

YALE UNIVERSITY | 14-16 APRIL, 2023



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with



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With the support of the
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OUR MISSION

European Horizons empowers youth to foster a stronger transatlantic bond and a more united Europe — cornerstones of a future underpinned by democracy, equality, and freedom.

To do so, we deal in ideas. Our leadership opportunities build the knowledge, experience, and confidence our members need to voice their ideas; our workshops, projects, and conferences incubate these ideas; our growing network of chapters, partners, and policy-makers enhance them; and our publications provide a critical outlet for them to be heard.

THE EXECUTION

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

For the past six years, we have organized high-level conferences in the United States, Europe, and Asia for more than 1,200 young policy enthusiasts. Our conferences serve as a platform for innovation and policy incubation and lead to the publishing of independent research in our journal and other relevant academic publications.

PUBLICATIONS

We publish our yearly Review of European and Transatlantic Affairs [RETA], an academic journal with contributions from stellar undergraduate and graduate students. The review is accessible in university libraries worldwide. We have also published two books in collaboration with ASKO Europa Stiftung. Along with these, we publish weekly short-form pieces under the Transatlantic Perspectives label.

POLICY PROJECTS & CONFERENCES

Through preparatory workshops, our policy experts equip students with policy-writing, analysis, and rhetorical skills — educating and mentoring our members to excel in the multifaceted and international arena of policy-making.

GLOBAL NETWORK OF CHAPTERS, PARTNERS, AND ALUMNI

We have a diverse network of policy-makers and like-minded organizations. Close relationships with stakeholders like the European Parliament Liaison Office to Washington, D.C., the Konrad Adenauer-Stiftung, or the European Student Think Tank enable us to share and multiply our thoughts through collaboration, and ultimately amplify the voice of students.

100+
POLICY PAPERS
INCUBATED

1100+
MEMBERS

WELCOME TO THE
CONFERENCE
17
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCES

65
CHAPTERS

1300+
CONFERENCE
PARTICIPANTS

85+
POLICY BRIEFS
PUBLISHED

115+
ALUMNI AMBASSADORS

18
KEY PARTNERS



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CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

From 14-16 April 2023, exceptional undergraduate and graduate students from across the United States, Europe, and the world, will gather at Yale University for the 7th edition of the European Student Conference.

The conference will draw together these young leaders and decision-makers from politics, business, and academia to discuss new approaches to the critical challenges in transatlantic affairs today.

In doing so, the conference will seek to empower a new generation of young transatlantic leaders to face these challenges head on, and with the help of our guests and experts, begin to think both freely and critically about where our world is going and what to do about it.

FORMAT

The conference will be structured around three activities:

Two Keynote Addresses

The conference will open and close with keynote addresses featuring two *exceptional principals from politics and business*. The addresses will seek to weave together the frames, foci, and theme of the conference into a forward-looking message for today's emerging transatlantic leaders.

Three Panel Discussions

The focal topics of the conference will each be covered by one panel discussion that blends perspectives across sectors and geographies. The panels will allow participants to *interact directly and candidly with experts*.

Three Workshops

Participants will work in groups to *draft policy papers addressing key questions within the conference's three areas of focus*. Each area of focus will correspond to a workshop in which participants will benefit from the *guidance and perspective of a topic expert*. Groups will present their policy proposals at the conclusion of the conference.



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THEMES & TOPICS

This year's edition of the European Student Conference is built around the idea of **Rethinking Transatlantic Cooperation: Finding New Approaches to Today's Critical Challenges**. The headline theme captures the need for transatlantic cooperation to expand beyond security and into the critical challenges facing Europe, the United States, and, indeed, the rest of the world.

In particular, invitees and participants will engage around three pressing topics:

ENERGY CRISIS

How can transatlantic partnerships bolster energy autonomy and advance critical climate objectives in the face of geopolitical and environmental crises?



DYNAMIC SECURITY

Where must transatlantic security cooperation adapt to the changing realities of world order?

DEMOCRATIC TECHNOLOGY

How can policymakers and corporate leaders drive innovation in emerging technologies while protecting liberal democracy?



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ENERGY CRISIS

Main question: How can transatlantic partnership bolster energy autonomy and advance critical climate objectives in the face of geopolitical and environmental crises?

Guiding questions:

- How can transatlantic cooperation increase reliable energy supply while avoiding geopolitical tripwires and uneasy dependencies?
- How can the transatlantic bond help meet international UNFCCC agreements, notably the Paris Agreement and the Glasgow Climate Pact?
- What role does transatlantic cooperation play in the increasing competition over battery metals and critical minerals?
- What are the security implications of climate change? What avenues and mechanisms can be used to advance a common transatlantic agenda on climate-fuelled conflict and instability?

DYNAMIC SECURITY

Main question: Where must transatlantic security cooperation adapt to changing realities?

Guiding questions:

- What must be done to strengthen the European pillar of NATO? What role can the United States play in driving this change?
- How should the transatlantic security community confront the proliferation and potential use of nuclear weapons?
- What does NATO expansion mean for the alliance in the context of an evolving global balance of power?

DEMOCRATIC TECHNOLOGY

Main question: How can policymakers and corporate leaders drive innovation in emerging technologies while protecting liberal democracy?

Guiding questions:

- How can Europe bolster the size and competitiveness of its software and technology sectors?
- How can the EU work with the United States to build powerful standards on data protection and AI, even when faced with resistance from large corporations?
- What does ethical AI technology look like, and what can transatlantic partners do to ensure it wins the broader AI race? Where is ethical AI most critical?





Laurent Bélanger-Lowe
Executive Director

— “ —

My first ESC was life-changing: real thinking, unvarnished discussion, and the chance to build and expand my worldview.

A unique opportunity not just for undergraduates but for emerging leaders and thinkers in the transatlantic space.

— ” —

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES?

01 CREATING A CANDID DIALOGUE

The conference will create a free and candid dialogue between established leaders, decision-makers, experts, and a new generation of young transatlantic leaders who are exploring their place in the world.

02 DRIVING HOME THE CONVERSATION

Participants will bring the perspectives gained from their work and exchange back to their university communities and broaden the discussion over today's transatlantic agenda.

03 INCUBATING NEW POLICY IDEAS

The conference will incubate 25+ high-quality policy proposals, the best of which our organization will publish and amplify through our network of partners.

04 BUILDING ATLANTIC LEADERSHIP

Standout participants will have the opportunity to join our leadership team and help us build a new generation of transatlantic leaders.



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THE WEEKEND'S AGENDA

Day "Zero" - Friday, 14 April

Time	Activity	Location
19:00 - 21:00	Evening Welcome Reception	Rosenfeld Hall, 109 Grove Street

Day One - Saturday, 15 April

Time	Activity	Location
9:00 - 10:15	Registration & Breakfast	William L. Harkness Hall
10:00 - 10:15	Formal welcome by the Executive Director	Sheffield-Sterling- Strathcona Hall
10:15 - 11:30	Fireside Chat: Democratic Technology	
11:30 - 13:30	Policy Memo Workshop Session #1 with Policy Experts	William L. Harkness Hall
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch	
14:30 - 15:45	Panel Discussion: Dynamic Security	Sheffield-Sterling- Strathcona Hall
15:45 - 16:30	Coffee Break & Networking	
16:30 - 18:00	Keynote Fireside Chat with José Manuel Barroso + Q&A with the Audience	
19:00 - 21:30	Dinner, Social Events around Yale	Chaperoned upon request



THE WEEKEND'S AGENDA CONTINUED

Day Two - Sunday, 16 April

Time	Activity	Location
10:00 - 11:45	Breakfast + Policy Memo Workshop Session #2	William L. Harkness Hall
11:45 - 13:00	Fireside Chat: Energy Crisis	Sheffield-Sterling- Strathcona Hall
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch & Partner Expo	William L. Harkness Hall
14:00 - 14:45	Final Policy Memo Pitches	Sheffield-Sterling- Strathcona Hall
14:45 - 15:45	High-Level Discussion on the War in Ukraine with Vladyslav Rashkovan	
15:45 - 16:00	Closing Ceremony	



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