



trans-
european
policy
studies
association

▶▶▶ JOIN THE TEPSA ACADEMY & SKILLS LAB ◀◀◀

AGENDA

22-26 June 2026

DAY 1

SETTING THE STAGE

Monday, 22 June 2026

On Day 1, we will become acquainted with the “what” and “why” of European strategic autonomy, positioning this concept in the current geopolitical context.

▶ 14:00-14:45

Introduction

with Allegra Wirmer (TEPSA)

▶ 14:45-15:45

Session I: Positioning European strategic autonomy in the current political context

with Almut Möller (European Policy Centre)

▶ 16:00-17:00

Session II: Understanding strategic autonomy

with Niklas Helwig (Academic Coordinator)

▶ 17:00-17:45

Session III: Internal reflection and introductory brainstorming

with Niklas Helwig

▶ 18:00

Welcome reception

DAY 2

EUROPEAN DEFENCE

Tuesday, 23 June 2026

On Day 2, we will examine how to ensure European security in an evolving geopolitical context, learn about EU-NATO cooperation, and meet with key EU institutional European defence stakeholders.

▶ 10:00-12:00 **Visit to the European Commission: Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space (DG DEFIS)**

▶ 12:00-13:30 **Lunch break**

▶ 13:30-14:45 **Session I: Meeting with the European Defence Agency**
with Niklas Nováky (European Defence Agency)

▶ 15:15-16:30 **Session II: EU-NATO cooperation**
with Camille Grand (ASD Europe)

▶ 16:45-17:30 **Session III: Synthesis and internal reflection**
with Niklas Helwig

DAY 3

ECONOMIC SECURITY AND TECHNOLOGY

Wednesday, 24 June 2026

On Day 3, we will learn how the EU should overcome entrenched dependencies in the energy and digital sectors, through in-depth thematic sessions and a visit to the European Commission.

▶ 9:45 - 10:45 **Session I: Securing strategic autonomy as alliances shift**

with Jim Cloos (TEPSA)

▶ 11:00-12:00 **Session II: Trade in turbulent times**

with Peter Sandler (DG TRADE)

▶ 12:00-13:30 **Lunch break**

▶ 13:30-15:00 **Session III: Panel discussion on tech sovereignty**

with Jan Penfrat (EDRi), Ania Helseth (Meta), Vasco Pereira da Silva (Allied for Startups), Susana Aires Gomes (CEPS) moderated by Niklas Helwig

▶ 15:15-16:15 **Session IV: Overcoming energy dependencies**

with Stefan Šipka (European Policy Centre)

▶ 16:45-17:30 **Session V: Synthesis and internal reflection**

with Niklas Helwig

DAY 4

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Thursday, 25 June 2026

On Day 4, we will continue our journey through specific aspects of European strategic autonomy and map Europe's position in a multipolar world. We will visit the European External Action Service and learn about key partners for Europe's strategic ambition.

▶ 10:00-12:00 **Visit to the European External Action Service (EEAS)**

▶ 12:00-13:30 **Lunch break**

▶ 13:30-14:30 **Session I: Panel discussion on Europe's reorienting: key partners for the strategic autonomy ambition**

*with Shada Islam (New Horizons Project), Mariella di Ciommo (ECDPM), Emilie Kerstens (Flint Global)
moderated by Niklas Helwig*

▶ 14:45-15:30 **Session II: EU perspectives on the Arctic**

with Karen van Loon (Clingendael)

▶ 15:30-16:15 **Session III: Synthesis and internal reflection**

with Niklas Helwig

▶ 16:30-17:15 **Session IV: Closing and certificates of completion**

DAY 5

SKILLS LAB

Friday, 26 June 2026

During the Skills Lab, we will enhance our advocacy skills through a tailored workshop aimed at strengthening practical skills and helping participants succeed in the academic and professional context!

▶ 8:45 - 12:05 **Skills Lab: Advocacy & positive lobbying**

with Ophélie Omnes

In this practical training, you will develop tangible skills relevant to a career in EU affairs. The Skills Lab will engage an experienced trainer to conduct hands-on training relevant to advocacy, with interactive exercises and tailored recommendations.

Learn how to identify, reach, and communicate with the key stakeholders you need to engage in order to affect change at the policy, societal, or academic levels.

▶ From 12:05 **Closing lunch**

MORE ABOUT **TEPSA**



The Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA) was established in 1974 as the first transnational research network in the field of EU affairs. Our network comprises 50 leading research institutes in 37 European countries, with an office in Brussels.

Our aim is to provide high-quality research on a number of European themes to stimulate discussion on policies and political options for Europe. This is achieved by the interaction between the European and national institutions as well as the academic and research community, and citizens.

TEPSA is active on a wide range of topics, focusing on differentiated integration, the EU's external relations, democratic participation and citizens' engagement.

More information on our activities can be found at www.tepsa.eu.



Co-funded by
the European Union