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The initial idea for our first session was to have a look at the global Eurasian continent in the larger sense and compare the security situation at both ends of the continent. I will ask Jean David Levitte to speak first because I know that he will paint a very broad picture and I will then give the floor to the other speakers. We have very distinguished speakers throughout the whole meeting and I will now present the speakers for this first session very quickly.

Jean David Levitte is called in France a diplomator, which means more or less a great diplomat. I have never seen him under any stress, which is a remarkable and quite unique thing. He has served under four French presidents.

Richard Haass is one of the best known experts on international affairs in the United States. Richard is currently the President of the Council on Foreign Relations. For a number of years, he was Director of the Policy Planning Staff in the State Department and he is the author of many very well known books.

Han Sung-Joo is also an internationally known figure and, if I may say so, my most long standing Korean friend, of more than 30 years. He is a prominent university professor and has been Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador to the United States, as well as holding many other very distinguished positions.

We also have Igor Morgulov, who is the only diplomat in office today. Igor is the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation in charge of Asian affairs. I am very grateful to him for coming to this meeting.

Last but not least, we have Ambassador Oshima from Japan, who is well known at the WPC and a very distinguished diplomat. He is currently Chairman of the Institute for International Economic Studies in Tokyo.

Let me therefore start with Jean-David and I am sure that we will have a very exciting discussion.