



JIM HOAGLAND

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Good afternoon. I am Jim Hoagland. This particular session is to discuss an enduring mystery so far: the American Presidential Transition, the post-election of Donald J. Trump in the United States. We have a distinguished panel to discuss this question. We will start with two former ambassadors to Washington, from Europe and from Asia who know the American society well. That will come in very handy, since we Americans are still puzzled by what we have managed to do to and for ourselves, with the election of Mr Trump.

This is going to be necessarily a very impressionistic exercise, since there are very few hard and clear facts yet about the transition from Barack Obama to Donald Trump as President. The only rule so far for Mr Trump in his transition seems to be that there are no rules. He will do pretty much as he did in the campaign: what he thinks is the right thing to do. We will have to figure it out in many cases post facto. We have about 60 days to go which is going to be very much a process of trial and error on the part of our President-elect.

We will then move from our two ambassadors to two eminent businessmen. One from Mexico, one from Korea, who will give us their sense of how the global economy is likely to respond to Mr Trump's initiatives, as far as we can deduce them. Finally, we have two public intellectuals; one from Serbia and one from China to discuss the world of ideas and Donald J. Trump. To conclude, we have a young American working very much in the technological blogosphere to give us a sense of what it might mean for the future.

We will have the usual presentations. Then, we will move to a question and answers section. First of all, I would like to introduce François Bujon de l'Estang. He was President of the FBE International Consultants, an old friend from Washington and a distinguished viewer of the American scene.