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Welcome to a very important topic and session. We have wonderful speakers here who could not be better equipped to tell us about the state of Europe. The topic is about some basic European strategic issues. Please welcome Josep Borrell, the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs and a former President of the European Parliament. I am delighted to welcome the Foreign Minister of Austria, Karin Kneissl. The odd man out, if you will, when talking about European issues these days, and back from WPC 10 last year, is a Member of the House of Lords and a former Conservative Member of the UK Parliament, Michael Lothian. It is not an easy task to be the representative from the UK on EU matters these days. Nicolas Véron is a senior fellow at Bruegel in Brussels and at the Petersen Institute for International Economics in DC. Last but not least, he is a current Member of the French Parliament and a former Member of the European Parliament, Jean-Louis Bourlanges.

This will not be your typical future-of-the-EU session, where we will all bemoan the current state of the EU. Instead, all the speakers have picked their own individual strategic that they would like to address when it comes to European affairs these days. Josep Borrell, the challenge of migration these days could not be more urgent. I am based in Berlin, Germany, where the topic is on the daily agenda, and it is on the agenda of many of your countries, so I am very curious and delighted to hear what you think about this topic.