

ALI ASLAN

International TV Presenter and Journalist

Good morning, everyone. Welcome to the very first session on day two. It is a rather early session, particularly for those who may have watched the penalty shoot-out between Argentina and Holland, as I did, which ended at 2am. Nonetheless, it is great to be here and joking aside, this is one of the most pertinent and timely sessions of this year's World Policy Conference. The title is, "The Future of the EU and European Security After the Ukraine War". I wish we could sit here today and speak about the state of the world after the war in Ukraine, unfortunately we are not quite there. However, I could not have asked for a better panel and more esteemed speakers to dive into this very timely and important subject. In alphabetical order, to my immediate left, he is a member of the German Bundestag and the Coordinator of Transatlantic Cooperation of the German government, please welcome, Peter Beyer. Peter, it is good to have you with us and I will come back to you in just a moment. We have with us the former President of Mongolia, ladies and gentlemen, please welcome, President Elbegdorj. He is a very good friend of the World Policy Conference, and he has been here many times, he is a Senator in the Polish Parliament and Chairman of the Foreign and EU Affairs Committee in the Polish Senate, good morning to Bogdan Klich. I am delighted to have with us the Personal Advisor to the High Representative and Vice President of the Commission of the EEAS, great to have him with us, Zaki Laïdi. Last but certainly not least, he is the Founder of the Hubert Védrine Council and, of course, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs of France, delighted to see him, Hubert Védrine, ladies and gentlemen.