

## ZAKI LAÏDI

Personal Advisor to the High Representative and Vice President of the Commission EEAS

### **Ali Aslan, International TV Presenter and Journalist**

Before we go to the audience, I know you wanted to jump in here quickly.

### **Zaki Laïdi**

Of course, I think the achievements of Europe have been quite impressive and, in my view, the biggest was to cut our dependency on Russian oil and gas because they have hijacked our Russian policy. That was something that was denied by a certain number of member states, but I have to say that those member states – and you know which ones I am referring to – have dramatically changed their position and it is a huge achievement that should be noticed. There are obviously many issues in the future and the role, and the strategic responsibility of Europe is going to be a key question for the future of our security. Indeed, NATO is absolutely crucial, and Mr. Putin made it larger, but NATO in itself is still not going to be able to solve the problems of European security, which means that Europeans need to take more responsibility. It is not against NATO but even within NATO. However, we need to have a strong European pillar without NATO capable of dealing with what the French military said, to be prepared for a war of high intensity in Europe. This war is going to cause a sea-change in the perception and the strategic perception of our security, but we do indeed need to take more responsibility.

### **Ali Aslan**

I think Europe taking more responsibility is also something Washington is very receptive to, given its constant pleas in previous years for Europeans to step up to the plate, so it is certainly music to Washington's ears.