

TERRY MARTIN

Journalist and TV news anchor

Good morning, everyone, I am Terry Martin. I am a TV news anchor based in Berlin, and I am delighted to be back here in Abu Dhabi for the World Policy Conference. Welcome to this session on the future of Europe. The full title of our session is “The Future of Europe After the Ukraine War and Trump’s Election.” Well, Trump, of course, has been re-elected and, in all likelihood, he will become president for the second time in January. On 20 January, he is due to be inaugurated. However, we need to remind ourselves that the Ukraine war is very much still ongoing. There are massive casualties there every day and nobody really knows how or when it is going to end. We need to be very clear about that. Yesterday, Ukraine reported being hit by over 90 missiles, around 200 drones – it was attacked again overnight – most of that targeting the country’s energy infrastructure, with the temperatures dropping below zero. Therefore, we are not really *after* the Ukraine war, and it is a bit premature to talk about it. We will be talking about how that *might* play out. There is a lot of speculation in the context of Trump having just been re-elected because he, of course, says he is going to end it very quickly.

In any case, we are gathered here at a pivotal moment in Europe’s history. The war in Ukraine has shaken the foundations of Europe’s security and redefined the continent’s relationships with its neighbors and its allies. Meanwhile, the return of Trump as US president signals a potential recalibration of transatlantic relations with ripple effects across trade relations, defense and climate cooperation – things we have been talking about here already.

Europe faces several pressing challenges. I am just going to mention three and then we will get things going. Number one, I would say, is security. The war in Ukraine has underscored the vital importance of NATO while raising questions about Europe’s strategic autonomy. Number two, economic realignment. There was a lot on that yesterday, fascinating discussions. Sanctions, energy diversification and global trade tensions demand a rethinking of Europe’s economic strategies. We also have challenges surrounding unity and leadership in Europe as well. That is no secret. The world is growing more polarized. Europe must find a way of navigating its internal divisions if it hopes to retain credibility as a global actor. These are some of the issues we will explore this morning with a distinguished panel of experts. Each of them brings unique insights into Europe’s challenges and opportunities. It is my great pleasure to introduce them now, starting here, and I will be jumping around a bit.

Yann Coatanlem is the cofounder of the NeuroPowered media company GlassView and a board member of the Paris School of Economics. He is also president of Club Praxis. In that role, he has worked to leverage big data to rethink Europe’s tax and welfare systems. Yann is the author of *Capitalism Against Inequalities: Offering Transformative Ideas for Policymaking*. I think it just came out last year.

Zaki Laïdi, who is no stranger to the World Policy Conference. He was until very recently, just last week, I believe, a personal adviser to the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security. He has been a professor at Sciences Po for over two decades now and he has advised French Prime Ministers and EU officials on global trade, politics and Europe's strategic positioning. He is also the founder of something called Telos.

Vuk Jeremić is the president of the Center of International Relations and Sustainable Development, a former Serbian Minister of Foreign Affairs. He has also served as the President of the 67th UN General Assembly, where he played a key role in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Vuk is a professor at Sciences Po and editor-in-chief of *Horizon Magazine*.

Norbert Röttgen is a senior member of the German Bundestag and a veteran of German foreign policy, having chaired the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Bundestag. He still sits on that committee. He is a former Federal Minister for the Environment. I am not sure you remember me being with you in Copenhagen at the COP in a background talk many years ago. Norbert has been instrumental in shaping Germany's approach to sustainability, transatlantic relations and European unity, and his party may very well end up leading Germany again come February. The polls point to that.

Hubert Védrine is the founder of Hubert Védrine Conseil and France's former Minister of Foreign Affairs. He has played a key role in shaping France's geopolitical strategy, and he has contributed to reflections on NATO's future as part of the NATO 2030 group.

We have an extraordinary concentration of expertise on topics hugely relevant to Europe's future and we are going to hear about that. Each panelist will deliver some opening remarks at the beginning. Following that, I will pose a question or two to each panelist and then we will open the floor to questions from all of you, so be thinking about questions as we go along. Let us have our opening statements. We have agreed on six, seven minutes each. Of course, they do not have to use all of that time. Discussion is much more fun.