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# STOA workshop

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## The future of EU's Open Strategic Autonomy: Ensuring citizens' well-being

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### Participants' booklet

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# The future of EU's Open Strategic Autonomy: Ensuring citizens' well-being

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STOA Workshop

Tuesday, 7 March 2023, 16:00 – 18:00 CET

Room SPINELLI 5G2 & online via Interactio

Participants' booklet

Prepared by Andrés García Higuera, Scientific Foresight Unit

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PE 737.146

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# 1. Programme

## **16:00 - 16:10 Welcome and introductory remarks**

- Lina GÁLVEZ MUÑOZ, MEP and STOA Panel member

## **16:10 - 16:30 Keynote speech**

- Diego RUBIO, Director of the National Office of Foresight & Strategy of the Spanish Government

## **16:30 - 17:10 Scientific opinions roundtable**

*Moderator:* Lina GÁLVEZ MUÑOZ, MEP and STOA Panel member

- Mikel LANDABASO, Director, JRC Seville
- Alice PANNIER, Research Fellow, Head of Ifri's Geopolitics of Technology Program
- Mario DAMEN, Policy Analyst, Strategic Foresight and Capabilities Unit, EPRS

## **17:10 - 17:50 Q&A session**

## **17:50 - 18:00 Closing remarks**

- Christian EHLER, MEP and STOA Chair

## 2. Introduction

Open Strategic Autonomy ensures the capacity to cope alone if necessary but without ruling out cooperation whenever possible. It goes some steps further from Smart Supply Chain management by taking into account geopolitics and not only economic factors. It relies on foresight to identify threats and ensures resilience by anticipating the required responses. Systemic thinking and foresight can be instrumental in helping policy makers reinforce their ability to anticipate disruption and normalise situations that would otherwise generate stress. The EU-wide [Foresight Network](#) leads the Commission's efforts to embed strategic foresight into its work. Starting on the second half of 2023, the [Spanish Presidency of the Council](#) is proposing to pay special attention to foresight and strategic autonomy as key elements for adding resiliency to the EU's long-term objectives of a greener, more digital and social Europe. The Commission and the Council are already involved and the participation of the European Parliament will bring the citizen's perspective to the debate.

The idea for this event is to facilitate a multidisciplinary, empirical and prospective debate to analyse which are the main strategic vulnerabilities of the EU in four key areas (energy, food, health, and digital technologies). It aims to contribute at finding the most effective ways to address these vulnerabilities, and the effects doing so could have on citizens and companies while also considering the current debate on the redefinition of European industrialization in a green key, to achieve climate neutrality in 2050. This debate should contribute to the conversation to define the path to be followed to take the EU towards an effective open strategic autonomy.

### 3. Welcome and introductory remarks

Lina GÁLVEZ MUÑOZ, MEP and STOA Panel member



Lina Gálvez Muñoz is a Member of the European Parliament since July 2019. In the EP, she is Vice-chair of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and member of the Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee and of the Panel for the Future of Science and Technology (STOA). She also belongs to the committees on Employment and Social Affairs. Lina Gálvez Muñoz PhD, European University Institute (Florence) is Economic History and Institutions Full Professor at the Economics Department at Pablo Olavide University (Seville). She has also been professor at the Universities of Reading (Reading), Carlos III (Madrid), and as a visiting professor at Centre for time use research at Oxford University (Oxford). She has more than hundred scientific publications and she has also been Vice-Rector of her university from 2007 to 2012 and served as Regional Minister of Knowledge, Research and University of the Government of Andalusia from 2018 to 2019.

#### Key message:

Strategic autonomy refers to the reduction of dependencies, which have been put on the table in a dramatic way with the pandemic and the war, specially in the energy field, but also in food, health or basic components of the value chains of our industry such as semiconductors or critical raw materials. We must extract the lessons learned to reindustrialize Europe, while at the same time achieving the goals of the digital and green transitions. Moreover, we must develop ambitious R&D policies and forge international alliances with like-minded countries. EU needs to move towards an open strategic autonomy, a key pillar of our sovereignty, the defense of our values, food sovereignty and reindustrialization and as a consequence to make the green and digital transitions fair, with greater equality between territories and with better jobs, preserving our values and our democracy. We cannot make the same mistakes as in the past, we cannot go from one dependency to another.

@linagalvezmunoz



## 4. Keynote speech

Diego RUBIO, Director of the National Office of Foresight & Strategy of the Spanish Government



Diego Rubio is the Director of the National Office of Foresight & Strategy of the Spanish President's Office and Spain's sherpa at the EU-Wide Foresight Network of the European Commission. He holds a BA in History from the Autonomous University of Barcelona, a Master from the École Normale Supérieure of France, and a PhD from the University of Oxford. Previously, he was stipendiary lecturer and research fellow at the University of Oxford, Professor of Applied History and Governance at IE University, and advisor for a number of international organizations, including the United Nations, the European Commission, and the Ibero-American General Secretariat.

*@espana\_2050*

## 5. Scientific opinions roundtable

Mikel LANDABASO, Director, JRC Seville



Mikel Landabaso works in the European Commission since 1990. He is Director for Fair and Sustainable Economy at the Joint Research Centre, managing the Seville site. Previously he was Director for Strategy and Corporate Communication at DG COMM under the President's Cabinet. He has also worked as Head of Cabinet of Regional Policy Commissioner and Head of Unit in several Units, including as responsible for Smart and Sustainable Growth and the Structural Funds for Spain, as well as assistant to the Director General of DG Regio. These jobs covered both, policy design and policy implementation.

Before joining the EU Commission, he worked as Head of the Research Department and Assistant to the Director General of the Basque Innovation Agency (SPRI S.A. a holding company with over 20 subsidiaries) 1986-1990. He has also worked part time as lecturer at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) in Belgium (2001-2007), visiting Fellow at University of North Carolina (USA) (2000), lecturer at Deusto University and the public University of the Basque Country in Spain (1987-1990). He is currently Honorary Visiting Professor at Cardiff University. He was given the 2004 "Christiane Bom Award" for his contribution to innovation in European Regional policy by the European Regional Development Agencies Association – EURADA.

Mikel Landabaso is PhD in Economics (University of the Basque Country 1994, Spain), M.A. in Development Economics (University of East Anglia 1983-84, U.K.), Diploma in Advanced European Studies, with a scholarship from the Basque Government (College of Europe 1985-86, Belgium) and Licenciado en Ciencias Economicas (Universidad del Pais Vasco, 1978-1983). He did with senior year of Highschool at Moundsvew High (Saint Paul, Minnesota, 1977-78, U.S.A.) with an AFS scholarship.

### Key message:

EU strategic autonomy and technological sovereignty are intimately connected in the Green and Digital transitions, from wind turbines to solar panels and semiconductors. We need a net zero industrial innovation policy which covers the whole EU and each region (Partnerships for Regional Innovation / Smart Specialisation).

@landabaso1  
@EU\_ScienceHub

## Alice PANNIER, Research Fellow, Head of Ifri's Geopolitics of Technology Program



Alice Pannier has been leading the Geopolitics of Technology program at the French Institute of International Relations (Ifri), Paris, since 2020. Her research focuses on the geopolitical dimension of new technologies; European technology, industrial, and research and innovation policies; and EU external relations.

Prior to joining Ifri, she was Assistant Professor in International Relations and European Studies at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University in Washington, USA. Previously, she was a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute of strategic research (IRSEM) at the French ministry of armed forces. She is a graduate of King's College London and Panthéon-Sorbonne University and holds a doctorate in political science from IEP Paris, co-supervised with King's College.

*@AlicePannier*  
*@IFRI\_*  
*@Ifri\_Europe*

## Mario DAMEN, Policy Analyst, Strategic Foresight and Capabilities Unit, EPRS



Mario Damen is a senior policy analyst at the Strategic Foresight and Capabilities Unit of the European Parliament. He coordinates foresight conversations and scenario projects involving external experts and stakeholders and publishes on various topics of a strategic, geo-economic or geopolitical nature. Among his recent publications are [EU Strategic Autonomy 2013-2023](#), [Values in the EU's external policies](#), [Multilateralism and democracy](#), [Trade and geo-economics](#), [The Eastern Partnership](#), and [EFTA countries – balancing integration and autonomy](#).

Mario studied political science and public administration at the universities of Leiden, Heidelberg and the Ecole Nationale d'Administration in Strasbourg/Paris. He joined the services of the European Parliament in 2005, where he worked for the Transport Committee, the Delegation for relations with the United States, the Cabinet of the President and the Policy Department for external relations before joining the Strategic Foresight unit in 2022.

### Key message:

EU strategic autonomy, strategic sovereignty or capacity to act are different terms referring to the capacity of the European Union and its Member States to reduce dependencies on others and be able to pursue their own goals and actions on matters of strategic importance. A broad understanding of the term includes defence, geo-politics and geo-economics, but also pursuing European values. EU strategic autonomy and transatlantic cooperation are often perceived as conflicting policies, but if mutual interests are sufficiently recognised and respected, autonomy and partnerships can go together well. The European Parliament Research Service keeps track of the debate on EU strategic autonomy and contributes to it by various [publications](#).

@EP\_ThinkTank

## 6. Closing remarks

Christian EHLER, MEP and STOA Chair



Dr Christian Ehler has been a Member of the European Parliament for Brandenburg since 2004 and belongs to the Group of the European People's Party (EPP/CDU).

He has been a Member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) for over ten years and has been its coordinator for the EPP since the beginning of this legislative period. As rapporteur for Horizon 2020 (2014-2020) and Horizon Europe (2021-2027) Dr Christian Ehler is considered one of the leading figures in the design and implementation of the European Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation. He is the initiator of the ITRE working group on the implementation of the Framework Programmes, which ensures close parliamentary scrutiny of Europe's research and innovation funding. Furthermore, Dr Christian Ehler is Chair of the European Parliament's STOA (Science and Technology Options Assessment) Panel.

In addition to his engagement in the field of research and innovation, in the European Parliament Dr Christian Ehler is also Member of the US Delegation and substitute Member of the Committee on Culture and Education, the Delegation for relations with Israel and the Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean.

@MEP\_Ehler

## 7. About STOA

### Mission

The Panel for the Future of Science and Technology ([STOA](#)) forms an integral part of the structure of the European Parliament. Launched in 1987, STOA is tasked with identifying and independently assessing the impact of new and emerging science and technologies.

The goal of its work is to assist, with independent information, the Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) in developing options for long-term, strategic policy-making.

### The STOA Panel

The STOA Panel consists of 27 MEPs nominated from eleven permanent parliamentary committees: Agriculture & Rural Development ([AGRI](#)), Culture & Education ([CULT](#)), Employment & Social Affairs ([EMPL](#)), Environment, Public Health & Food Safety ([ENVI](#)), Internal Market & Consumer Protection ([IMCO](#)), International Trade ([INTA](#)), Industry, Research & Energy ([ITRE](#)), Legal Affairs ([JURI](#)), Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs ([LIBE](#)), Regional Development ([REGI](#)) and Transport & Tourism ([TRAN](#)).

The STOA Chair for the second half of the 9<sup>th</sup> parliamentary term is [Christian EHLE](#)R, with [Ivo HRISTOV](#) and [Ivars IJABS](#) elected as 1st and 2nd Vice-Chairs, respectively.

### The STOA approach

STOA fulfils its mission primarily by carrying out science-based projects. Whilst undertaking these projects, STOA assesses the widest possible range of options to support evidence-based policy decisions. A typical project investigates the impacts of both existing and emerging technology options and presents these in the form of studies and options briefs. These are publicly available for download via the [STOA website](#).

Some of STOA's projects explore the long-term impacts of future techno-scientific trends, with the aim to support MEPs in anticipating the consequences of developments in science. STOA communicates its findings to the European Parliament by organising public events throughout the year.

### Focus areas

STOA activities and products are varied and are designed to cover as wide a range of scientific and technological topics as possible, such as genetic engineering, antimicrobial resistance, energy, pollution, sustainable agriculture and fishing, artificial intelligence & digital technologies such as blockchain, 5G, satellite communications, IoT and Internet, Covid-19 and health in general.

These activities are clustered within three main thematic areas: Artificial intelligence & other disruptive technologies, The new Green Deal, and Quality of life. In addition, STOA's work addresses four cross-cutting policy areas: Science, technology and innovation; Societal and ethical challenges; Economic challenges; and Legal challenges.

### ESMH

The European Science-Media Hub ([ESMH](#)), operating under the political responsibility of the STOA Panel, is a platform to promote networking, training and knowledge sharing between the European Parliament, the scientific community and the media. The ESMH creates a network among policy-makers, scientists and media involving science, academia, educational and research entities, and professional associations of journalists and scientists.

For journalists and media representatives, the ESMH organises training sessions and workshops on current technological developments, both as subjects of their reporting and as means of facilitating

their work. Via media monitoring and media intelligence tools, the ESMH follows the most popular topics in the field of science and technology on different platforms including journals, newspapers and social media.

The ESMH makes information available to journalists, other media and citizens about new scientific developments, as well as about scientific topics that attract media attention, and promotes information based on evidence.















### **EP Forum for Academic Freedom**

In 2022, the STOA Panel established the [EP Forum for Academic Freedom](#), as its new initiative. This authoritative platform monitors the state of play of the academic freedom in the EU member states and offers a platform to all stakeholders to discuss how to protect the academic freedom in Europe.

The EP Forum for Academic Freedom publishes studies and organises events to tackle the different aspects of the academic freedom. Academic Freedom



## STOA Panel members

	Panel Member	Committee		Panel Member	Committee
	Marc ANGEL (S&D, LU) <b>EP Vice-President</b> <b>STOA Bureau member</b>			Rosa D'AMATO (Greens/EFA, IT)	<b>REGI</b>
	Christian EHLER (EPP, DE) <b>STOA Chair</b> <b>STOA Bureau member</b>	<b>ITRE</b>		Jakop DALUNDE (Greens/EFA, SE)	<b>TRAN</b>
	Ivo HRISTOV (S&D, BG) <b>1st STOA Vice-Chair - STOA Bureau member</b>	<b>ITRE</b>		Pietro FIOCCHI (ECR, IT)	<b>ENVI</b>
	Ivars IJABS (Renew Europe, LV) <b>2nd STOA Vice-Chair - STOA Bureau member</b>	<b>ITRE</b>		Emmanouil FRAGKOS (ECR, EL)	<b>AGRI</b>
	Atidzhe ALIEVA-VELI (Renew Europe, BG)	<b>EMPL</b>		Lina GALVEZ MUÑOZ (S&D, ES)	<b>EMPL</b>
	Adam BIELAN (ECR, PL)	<b>IMCO</b>		Maria GRAPINI (S&D, RO)	<b>TRAN</b>
	David CORMAND (Greens/EFA, FR)	<b>IMCO</b>		Martin HLAVÁČEK (Renew Europe, CZ)	<b>AGRI</b>



	Panel Member	Committee		Panel Member	Committee
	Marina KALJURAND (S&D, EE)	<b>LIBE</b>		Susana SOLÍS PÉREZ (Renew Europe, ES)	<b>ENVI</b>
	Radan KANEV (EPP, BG)	<b>EMPL</b>		Barbara THALER (EPP, AT)	<b>TRAN</b>
	Maria-Manuel LEITÃO-MARQUES (S&D, PT)	<b>IMCO</b>		Patrizia TOIA (S&D, IT)	<b>ITRE</b>
	Victor NEGRESCU (S&D, RO)	<b>CULT</b>		Marion WALSMANN (EPP, DE)	<b>JURI</b>
	Michèle RIVASI (Greens/EFA, FR)	<b>ENVI</b>		Pernille WEISS (EPP, DK)	<b>ITRE</b>
	Bronis ROPĖ (Greens/EFA, LT)	<b>AGRI</b>		Juan Ignacio ZOIDO ÁLVAREZ (EPP, ES)	<b>INTA</b>
	Jordi SOLÉ (Greens/EFA, ES)	<b>ITRE</b>	AGRI: Agriculture and Rural Development CULT: Culture and Education EMPL: Employment and Social Affairs ENVI: Environment, Public Health and Food Safety IMCO: Internal Market and Consumer Protection INTA: International Trade ITRE: Industry, Research and Energy JURI: Legal Affairs LIBE: Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs REGI: Regional Development TRAN: Transport and Tourism		

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This is a publication of the Scientific Foresight Unit (STOA)  
EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service



PE 737.146