

MEP Eva Maydell
Parlement européen
Bât. ALTIERO SPINELLI
08F255
60, rue Wiertz / Wiertzstraat 60
B-1047 Bruxelles/Brussel

March 23, 2023

Dear MEP Maydell,

Thank you for agreeing to be a part of our High-Level Strategy Group. As Europe grapples with the impact of cycles of profound and accelerating transformation, we at the Bertelsmann Stiftung want to invest in deeper reflection with a high-level gathering of experts. I would like to use this letter to formally invite you to be a part of this conversation.

Given the instrumentalization of economic dependencies for political goals, Europe must rethink its idea of comprehensive and inclusive security, toward preserving its economic and social cohesion. Only if the EU manages its economic ties strategically, embracing the capacities of technology and engaging in resource, energy and tech transformation with an eye to future opportunities, will it be able to preserve its competitiveness and with it its political and social cohesion, so that the EU's democratic foundations might be reinforced.

The Foundation is looking to further sharpen the impact its analyses have on the policy planning and decision-making in Berlin, in other European capitals and in Brussels, without losing our hallmark depth, rigor and comparative approach. Including senior decision-makers like you in our thinking will help us achieve these ambitions.

Our hope is to begin a strategic reflection exercise with a small group of experts on April 17, 2023 (Time: 12:30 - 16:30, including lunch) at our Berlin offices, which I would chair and our Senior Advisor, Cathryn Clüver Ashbrook would moderate.

Other invitees include Christoph Heusgen, Chairman of the Munich Security Conference, Rainer Hoffmann, former Chair of Germany's Trade Union Confederation and Arancha Gonzalez Laya, Dean of the Paris School of International Affairs and former Foreign Minister of Spain. We would make all necessary travel arrangements and compensate you for your time. We would ask our guests to offer opening thoughts on a different prompt, given their professional perspectives. Given your expertise on technology policy, we would be

particularly interested in hearing your reflections on how the Union should rethink its allocation of financial and economic resources to meet the challenges of deep transformation.

The Bertelsmann Stiftung is one of the leading private operating foundations in Europe. Through our projects we strive to stimulate debate and provide impetus for social, political, and economic change. Serving the public good and having a sustainable impact are the fundamental principles of our activities. The foundation's initiatives not only generate solutions, but also provide empirically sound guidance for a broad public.

I look forward to meeting you in Berlin in April.
Sincerely,

Ralph Heck