



European Strategy and  
Policy Analysis System

# ESPAS in Brief

#espas16

[The European Strategy and Policy Analysis System \(ESPAS\)](#) provides a framework for cooperation and consultation at administrative level, on a voluntary basis, between the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, and the European External Action Service, with the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee as observers, to work together on medium and long-term trends facing or relating to the European Union.

In 2015, we inaugurated a three-year work programme of events, built around key themes laid out in the ESPAS Report on [Global Trends to 2030: Can the EU Meet with Challenges Ahead?](#)



AN INTER-INSTITUTIONAL  
EU PROJECT

# The ESPAS Annual Conference

The ESPAS Annual Conference is our flagship event which normally takes place in November over two days and is co-hosted by the European Commission and the European Parliament. The 2015 ESPAS Annual Conference focused on [‘The Global Economic and Technological Revolution,’](#) and explored the challenges and opportunities that the digital revolution will bring to our economies and societies in the next 15 years.



“We need to move from management by crisis to management by foresight,”  
Enrico Giovannini, Visiting Fellow, EPSC, 2015 ESPAS Annual Conference

The 2016 ESPAS Annual Conference is dedicated to **Global Trends to 2030: Society and Governance**. It will bring together leading global experts and practitioners to explore innovations in the **world of work** and **welfare, public services** and **governance**. The conference sessions will also shed light on pressing contemporary challenges such as inequalities, trust, and how investment and innovation can lead to sustainable growth and inclusive prosperity.

How is the digital revolution transforming societies? How can democracy be rebooted and what is the relationship between citizens and governments? How will automation, robotics and artificial intelligence impact employment and society? And how do global trends and an environment of high uncertainty and volatility affect long-term policy planning? At the same time, what do we need to invest in to shape a future of shared prosperity? What will be the game-changers?

These are some of the questions that thought leaders from around Europe and the world will be invited to discuss.

In 2017, the Annual Conference will reconvene around the theme of the **‘Global Trends to 2030: Geopolitics’**

# Strategic Dialogues on Future Challenges to European Security

ESPAS has also launched the **Strategic Dialogues on Future Challenges to European Security**.

The inaugural event focused on **'Uses and Abuses of the Internet: Fighting Radicalisation and Terrorism'**. Concern about cyber warfare targeting critical infrastructure and 'cyber Jihad' has intensified. **Baroness Joanna Shields**, UK Minister for Internet Safety and Security spoke about a one-of-a-kind campaign to fight radicalisation via the Internet that she is spearheading.

Our second event was on **'Islamic State: The Threat in Europe'**. **Peter Neumann**, Professor of Security Studies at King's College London and Head of the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence and **Dr Shiraz Maher**, Senior Fellow, spoke on the recruitment of foreign fighters and Daesh support networks within Europe.

ESPAS also hosted **Patrick Ky**, Executive Director of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) to discuss the manifold security challenges in the field of aviation, with a special focus on cyber security.

Our most recent strategic dialogue focused on **'A Europe That Protects'**. We hosted **Robert Črepinko**, Head of the European Migrant Smuggling Centre; **Manuel Navarrete**, Head of the European Counter Terrorism Centre; **Steven Wilson**, Head of the European Cyber Crime Centre; and **Dietrich Neumann**, Head of Business Area, Corporate Services, from **Europol** to highlight the changing scope of work of the EU's law enforcement agency and the future security challenges that they anticipate in their respective fields.

## Putting Foresight Into Practice

ESPAS involves an **Inter-Institutional Project Team** which applies recognised foresight techniques to discussions on key trends.



This practical application of foresight techniques builds competences in foresight methods across and within the EU institutions. It is an example of ESPAS' «in-reach» activities that encourage the sharing of insights and expertise between services and departments and tangibly contributes to the development of a foresight community. To date, foresight exercises have focused on education, energy, radicalisation, trust and corruption, and have included the participation of external experts.

# The ESPAS Young Talent Network

The ESPAS Young Talent Network created in 2015 brings together a diverse community of professionals from all EU institutions participating in ESPAS who are committed to devote a portion of their time to think about global trends, critically discuss the resulting challenges, and consider policy alternatives on major issues.

This peer network brings the added value of inter-institutional thinking to the analysis of trends and challenges.

The objectives of the network are three-fold:

- **Cooperation:** to build a community and closer cooperation between the various EU institutions and bodies, notably the services which are devoted to the analysis of trends;
- **Learning:** to pool the expertise of the participants, exchange ideas and think out of the box about challenges and opportunities ahead and thereby build insights, knowledge and better understanding of global, regional and sectoral trends;
- **Action:** to engage in the analysis of trends, challenges and impact, both in terms of policy and governance, and bring foresight into their everyday work.



## Governance

The ESPAS process is coordinated by a steering group, encompassing senior officials from the participating EU institutions or bodies, chaired by the Head of the European Political Strategy Centre (EPSC) in the European Commission. The secretariat of the network is provided by the [European Parliament](#) and the ESPAS project team implements the guidelines decided by the steering group.

### INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



European Commission



European Parliament



Council of the European Union



European External Action Service

### OBSERVERS



Committee of the Regions



European Economic and Social Committee

## Resources



**ORBIS** is a global foresight hub and the world's largest library of prospective studies. Discover the long-term trends that will shape society. Read, learn and contemplate a wide variety of topics that concern you and the rest of the world's citizens.

### Global Trends to 2030: Can the EU meet the challenges ahead?

The ESPAS report assesses a long-term political and economic environment facing the EU over the next 20 years, and identifies the major global trends that are likely to shape the future.



## Contacts

EPSC: [EPSC-EU-STRATEGIC-FORESIGHT@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EPSC-EU-STRATEGIC-FORESIGHT@ec.europa.eu)

EPRS: [EPRS-GlobalTrends@ep.europa.eu](mailto:EPRS-GlobalTrends@ep.europa.eu)