

2021 AGENDA

# Asia

ACTIVITIES BY FRIENDS OF EUROPE



# Agenda 2021

## Publication and event formats

**ONLINE DEBATE** Discussion on a topical issue hosted on Debating Europe

**DISCUSSION PAPER** A publication bringing together articles from a series of authors on a specific topic or theme

**FACTSHEET** A short outline of the issues in a particular policy issue

**POLICY BRIEFING** An in-depth report or study looking at a policy issue

**POLICY SUMMIT** High-level conferences on topical issues attended by a few hundred participants, including a large number from outside Brussels

**POLICY INSIGHT** Informative and interactive discussions with a panel of stakeholders, often held over lunch or dinner

**IN CONVERSATION WITH** Informal hour-long question-and-answer sessions with top leaders from a range of sectors

**WHAT THE CHIEF SAYS** Meetings of small groups of members with decision-makers from parliaments, governments, business, NGOs and the media

**STRATEGIC CONVERSATION** Online interviews inviting key policymakers to share their views on strategically relevant issues

## Stay informed

This is a provisional agenda which highlights just some of Friends of Europe's activities in 2021.

Our events are held either online or physically. Dates to be confirmed indicate topics that Friends of Europe will address, but for which dates remain to be defined. This agenda is adapting constantly and additional activities will be included as it evolves.

Please check our websites regularly for updates:

[friendsofeurope.org](https://friendsofeurope.org)

[debatingeurope.eu](https://debatingeurope.eu)



# Asia at Friends of Europe

The coronavirus pandemic may finally see Europe-Asia relations enter a new paradigm. From cooperating with ‘systemic rival’ China for PPE supply, to deepening relations with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the EU is acknowledging that while areas of divergence around trade and security remain, it’s time to focus on where we converge. Friends of Europe looks into Europe’s interaction with global partners in promoting new leadership, challenging inequalities and prioritising a green future. Our programmes and activities track these conversations – and foresee new ones – through publications and events that aim to make sense of our changing world.

Our Asia Programme, including the Europe-China Dialogue, looks at the political, economic and social facets of the ‘Asian century’ and provides a high-level platform for dialogue between policymakers, academics, civil society and business leaders. With interdependence between Asia and Europe set to grow even further, our ground-breaking work is contributing to a new interaction between the two regions and between the EU and individual countries including China, India, Japan and members of ASEAN. We also closely engage on the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM).

In the context of today’s changing world – in which Europe’s new ‘geopolitical Commission’ finds itself looking increasingly eastwards for partnership – Friends of Europe’s platform also offers a distinct opportunity to small- and medium-sized states who too often find themselves caught up in the midst of geopolitical competition between the world’s larger powers. Our Diplomatic Network aims to foster dialogue and exchange among members of Brussels’ diplomatic corps.

TBC  
Online

### **Diplomatic Network: scoping meeting**

ASIA

ROUNDTABLE

In the context of today’s changing world, Friends of Europe’s platform offers a distinct opportunity to small- and medium-sized states who too often find themselves caught up in the midst of geopolitical competition between the world’s larger powers. As many such states have come to see that there is strength in numbers, they have joined together to act as cooperative forces. By acting in concert, they enhance their regions’ prosperity and security. Such strength does not have geographical limitations, however. By working together in global fora, these states have the power to act as catalysts for positive change and to play a significant role in upholding the values of multilateralism and strengthening global governance. This first meeting of Friends of Europe’s Diplomatic Network will serve as a scoping meeting to highlight areas for cooperation and discussion in the years ahead.

TBC  
Online

### **Diplomatic Network: roundtable series**

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ROUNDTABLE

Friends of Europe’s Diplomatic Network will convene for an initial series of four roundtables in 2021. With the scope to be defined during the first meeting, areas of discussion may include: food systems in small- and medium-sized countries (including agriculture, food processing and production, and waste as a by-product of food production/consumption), the green transition, transport and connectivity, regional cooperation mechanisms, multilateral institutional reform, trade and investment, and so on.

TBC  
Online

### **Europe-China Dialogue: from pandemic preparedness to resilient partnership**

ASIA

POLICY INSIGHT

As the coronavirus spread across the world in early 2020, much of the spotlight was on competition – whether in the form of public diplomacy initiatives, supply chain interruptions to bogart ventilators and personal protective equipment (PPE), or the race to discover and have first access to a vaccine. After an initial shock, however, countries have woken up to the fact that they will need to work together to overcome new challenges. China and the EU have now both committed to ensuring that any COVID-19 vaccine becomes a global public good. But what comes next? In an increasingly interconnected world, the next pandemic isn’t far off. China, the EU and other countries will need to find ways to work together and build a partnership based on strengthening health systems and expertise-sharing.

TBC  
Online

### **Europe-China Dialogue series**

ASIA

POLICY INSIGHT

Friends of Europe’s Europe-China Dialogue aims to overcome differences and find ways to work together on issues such as the green transformation, technological innovation, and health preparedness.

These and other key issues will also be covered through insightful and timely publications—including discussion papers, factsheets and policy briefings, online debates and Debating Europe, our online citizen’s platform, and articles in Europe’s World, the Europe-wide online policy journal.

We will also be organising a number of ‘What the Chiefs Say’ events, our small, informal and off-the-record conversations exclusively for Friends of Europe members with a senior decision-maker.

These events are in search of partners; do please contact us to discuss this further.

**Dharmendra Kanani**

Director of Insights

+32 2 300 29 97

[dharmendra.kanani@friendsofeurope.org](mailto:dharmendra.kanani@friendsofeurope.org)

**Rahul Chawla**

Programme Executive

+32 2 300 29 93

[rahul.chawla@friendsofeurope.org](mailto:rahul.chawla@friendsofeurope.org)

**Friends of Europe**

Connect. Debate. Change.

5-6 Square Meeus, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

+32 2 893 98 10

[info@friendsofeurope.org](mailto:info@friendsofeurope.org)

[friendsofeurope.org](http://friendsofeurope.org)

Friends of Europe is a leading think tank that connects people, stimulates debate and triggers change to create a more inclusive, sustainable and forward-looking Europe.