

# NEXT100 SYMPOSIUM BERLIN 2024

Horizons Unbound:  
An Interdisciplinary Blueprint  
for the Next Century

Speakers: <https://next100symposium.org/> | Updated program: <https://www.next100symposium.org/program-2024>

Event venue: VKU Forum, Invalidenstraße 91 10115 Berlin

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## THURSDAY 16th MAY

<b>8:45</b>	<b>Registration Open</b>	
<b>9:00 - 9:30</b>	<b>Arrival Networking</b>	<b>Networking</b>
9:30	Opening of the Next 100 Symposium 2024	Odessa Primus, GARI
9:35 - 10:00	GARI's Introduction to the Next 100 Challenges and how they all fit together with Michal Koran, GARI	
10:00 - 10:30	Global Shifts and the Dynamics of Disintegration	Tony Curzon Price Michael Vorländer Jeffrey Saunders
10:30 - 10:45	Spotlight: Milena Roveda - Gauss Fusion	Milena Roveda
<b>10:45 - 11:15</b>	<b>BREAK</b>	<b>Networking</b>
11:15 - 11:45	Big Global Energy Question	Frederick Bordry Lenka Kovačovská Mirek Topolanek Tony Curzon Price
11:45 - 12:00	Spotlight: Joachim Bitterlich - Strategic autonomy – a promising concept?	
12:00 - 12:15	Spotlight: Jiri Sedivy, Director, European Defence Agency - Experiences from Ukraine and the future of warfare	
12:15 - 12:45	Evolving Global Disorder, Strategic Security and Defense Choices; Navigating Europe's Defense Challenges and Bridging the Gap with US and China	Hans Pung Jiri Sedivy Patti Morrissey
12:45 - 13:00	Spotlight: Hans Pung, President of RAND Europe: Experts on Trial: Navigating Data, Technology, and Mistrust in Public Conversations	
<b>13:00 - 14:00</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>Networking</b>
14:00 - 14:15	Spotlight: Nestor Maslej - What is going on with AI? Highlights from the 2024 AI Index Report	



## 14:15 - 15:45 POLICY ROUNDTABLES

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**Entangled Autonomy and the Cost of EU's Independence:** EU's military autonomy faces vulnerabilities due to reliance on non-European defence acquisitions, particularly from the U.S., which recent geopolitical events have amplified. Strategic challenges include aligning member states' interests, reducing reliance on external suppliers, and managing supply chain vulnerabilities. The EU aims to reduce external reliance through its Defense Industrial Strategy, focusing on innovative financial strategies to balance defence spending and enhance autonomous capabilities.

Jiri Sedivy  
Patti Morrissey  
Jeffrey Saunders  
Nestor Maslej  
Thomas Neubert  
Franz Xaver Maurer  
Edyta Mazur\*  
Faruk Bašić\*  
Róbert Bednár\*

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**Beyond Green Transition: Future of Energy, Future of EU:** Efforts to diversify energy sources, manage the energy transition, and improve efficiency; nuclear energy's role in decarbonization, energy efficiency disparities, and socio-economic impacts; investments in grid infrastructure, clean energy subsidies, public-private partnerships, cybersecurity, and policy alignment for sustainable energy integration; and developing policies to position the EU as a leader in the global energy transition.

Lenka Kovačovská  
Mirek Topolánek  
Frederick Bordry  
Tony Curzon Price  
Odessa Primus  
Stephen Leach  
Jakub Jezierski\*  
Anna Pająk\*  
Binta Kofta\*  
Elizabeth Mware\*

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**Danse Macabre of Elections and Transitions: The super-election year 2024 - by RAND Europe:** Impacts of 2024's super-election year. How will these elections redefine international norms, alliances, and policies across security, technology, economy, and environmental governance, providing insights to navigate the emerging global landscape?

Hans Pung  
Tomas Kafka  
Donna Kunzler  
Ionela Ciolan  
Michal Koran  
Fan Yin\*  
Ali Musab\*

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\* ReDefine Next 100 Delegates

Jakub Jezierski  
Róbert Bednár  
Faruk Bašić  
Fan Yin

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15:45 - 16:15 [ReDefiners](#)' reflections and take on the future, followed by a glass of wine



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## FRIDAY 17th MAY

8:30 - 9:30	<b>GARI Closed Strategic Breakfast Meeting at VKU Forum</b>	<b>By special invitation</b>
9:15 - 9:45	<b>Registration Networking</b>	<b>Networking</b>
9:45 - 9:50	Opening of Day 2	
9:50 - 10:35	Rediscovering Wonder: The Future of Fundamental Science in an Age of Commercialisation	Frederick Bordry Tim Palmer Manfred Krammer Michal Koran
10:35 - 10:50	Spotlight: Tim Palmer - The Geometry of Chaos	
10:50 - 11:20	Society & Politics: Should Disorder Be the New Normal?	Hans Pung Nestor Maslej Elizabeth Nelson
11:20 - 11:50	Trade Realities: European Uncertain Autonomy and Global Geoeconomics	Donna Kunzler Michal Koran
<b>11:50 - 12:45</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>Networking</b>
12:45 - 13:00	Spotlight by Patti Morrissey: The Expanding "Battlespace": An Existential Challenge to the Western Rules-Based Order	
13:00 - 13:30	The Yin and Yang of the Digital Century	Tony Curzon Price Sebastian Hallensleben
13:30 - 14:00	The Quicksands of Governance	Olaf Bohnke Sebastian Hallensleben Elizabeth Nelson

### 14:00 - 15:30 POLICY ROUNDTABLES

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**Gauss Fusion** - Fusion energy, at the cutting edge of scientific advancement, offers a promising yet challenging path to sustainable power. Recent breakthroughs in magnetic confinement and laser-driven inertial fusion have moved us closer to net energy gain. However, significant obstacles remain in scaling stable fusion reactions for commercial use, requiring substantial investments and stringent safety regulations. Despite these hurdles, the potential for fusion energy to provide a nearly inexhaustible, low-carbon source of power continues to drive global research. Looking ahead, the focus will be on improving reactor efficiency and addressing material science challenges, maintaining a realistic yet optimistic outlook on fusion's role in future energy solutions.

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Milena Roveda  
Lenka Kovačovská  
Frederick Bordry  
Mirek Topolánek  
Michal Kořan  
Jakub Jezierski\*  
Faruk Bašić\*  
Róbert Bednár\*

**Digitalisation & Humanity by VDE:** This roundtable will address fake content and bots generated by generative AI technologies, which has surged significantly over the past year or so. The rapid evolution of these technologies not only poses a

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Sebastian Hallensleben  
Tony Curzon Price  
Elizabeth Nelson



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threat to public trust but is also deeply entangled with the digital economy, influencing corporate finance and investment decisions. As these automated systems increasingly impact how we frame freedom of speech and other fundamental liberties, crafting straightforward policies becomes a formidable task. We will discuss the urgent need for implementing pseudonymous digital identities and robust trust protocols, focusing on rebuilding digital trust and resilience. These measures aim to align technological advances with the protection and promotion of societal and economic integrity.

Nestor Maslej  
Odessa Primus  
Anna Pająk\*

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**Industrial Transition:** This roundtable examines the transformative impact of the so-called “Industry 4.0” technologies such as IoT, advancements in automation, new materials, and physical technologies like robots and 3D printing on business practices, market structures, and the job market. We will discuss how these technologies are not just streamlining operations but also creating a new environment within various sectors, with a very diverse impact both regionally and socially. The session will address the societal implications of these changes, including shifts in employment patterns and the skills gap, and explore strategies to mitigate risks like cyber vulnerabilities and the potential for increased geopolitical tensions. The goal is to equip policymakers and industry leaders with insights to navigate and shape a resilient, inclusive future in a rapidly evolving tech-driven landscape.

Donna Kunzler  
Patti Morrissey  
Ionela Ciolan  
Olaf Bohnke  
Joachim Schmitz-Brieber  
Jeffrey Saunders  
Edyta Mazur\*  
Binta Kofta\*  
Elizabeth Mware\*  
Ali Musab\*

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\* ReDefine Next 100 Delegates

Edyta Mazur

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15:30 [ReDefiners](#)’ reflections and take on the future  
Closing remarks

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## PANEL DESCRIPTIONS

### Global Shifts and the Dynamics of Disintegration

*This session aims to map out the complexity, scale and speed of recent dynamics driving global changes*

The first panel of our conference sets the stage with an in-depth exploration of the fragmentation of the global order. This discussion addresses a critical dynamic—the oscillation between cooperative and less cooperative international frameworks—which has traditionally shaped global politics. However, recent developments present a unique context; the concurrent political fragmentation and the reversal of the global commercial order's openness are phenomena that, when combined with massive technological shifts, have created an unprecedented scenario. These technological advancements have radically altered social communication, supply chains, and even the nature of warfare, contributing to a situation that surpasses many historical crises in both scale and rapidity. This panel will provide a comprehensive overview of the current state of global order and discuss potential future trajectories, setting the foundational tone for the symposium by linking these insights back to the broader thematic concerns outlined in the conference's introduction.

### Big Global Energy Question



***This session provides a holistic overview of crucial trends and strategic realignments in global energy, emphasizing both a scientifically informed understanding and the practical aspect of crafting future policies.***

This stage debate addresses the critical trends shaping global energy futures, strategies, and policies with a focus on adapting to the demands of climate change and sustainable transitions. The session will serve as a prism for evaluating the effectiveness of decarbonization policies through the lens of environmental, economic, and social impacts while integrating perspectives from physics to explore foundational principles affecting energy systems. It will also highlight transformative innovations in energy technologies and how these can redefine the landscape of knowns and unknowns in energy futures.

### **Evolving Global Disorder and Strategic Security and Defense Choices**

***This debate will focus on the future of defense strategies and policies against the backdrop of technological interdependence, geopolitics and global fragmentation.***

This panel examines the critical intersections of defense, technology, and geopolitics, considering the future of warfare and international relations. It discusses how technological and trade dependencies, alongside with production capacities, shape military and strategic vulnerabilities and policies. The conversation aims to delineate down-to-earth expectations for the future, propose realistic responses to emerging geopolitical challenges, and outline contingency plans in a world marked by increasing fragmentation and apparent disorder.

### **Rediscovering Wonder: The Future of Fundamental Science in an Age of Commercialization**

***This panel advocates for rekindling of the essence of scientific inquiry and discovery, inspired by the legacy of thinkers like Richard Feynman, in the face of prevailing incentives for commercial and applied utilizations.***

This discussion explores the state and future of fundamental science, focusing on how the drive towards efficient specialization and commercial applications may be overshadowing the intrinsic curiosity that fuels scientific discovery. In an era dominated by rapid advancements in applied sciences, this discussion seeks to rekindle the joy and awe at the heart of pure scientific inquiry, much in the spirit of Richard Feynman. Participants will debate the current landscape of fields like physics, where the anticipation for the 'next big thing' persists, and discuss strategies to balance the push for practical outcomes with the foundational pursuit of knowledge for its own sake. The panel will address how the scientific community can nurture an environment that celebrates fundamental research and does not shy away from holistic perspectives.

### **Society & Politics: Should Disorder Really Be the New Normal?**

**Is it possible to augment stability and safeguard freedom in liberal democracies, amid rapid socio-political changes and growing extremization at all ends of the ideological and social spectrum?**

This panel assesses the shifting dynamics within developed democracies of the Euro-Atlantic space, where both ends of the political spectrum display increasing activism, complicating the search for a moderate political middle. The session will delve into the complexities and unprecedented pace of social and political changes,



discussing their implications for governance amidst significant policy challenges—from digital and environmental transformations to cultural debates and migration issues. Additionally, the panel will consider the effects of polarization, opportunism, and populism on effective governance, exploring whether this seeming disorder can be managed or even reversed, and what strategies might be employed to stabilize these trends in the short and long term.

### **Trade Realities: European Uncertain Autonomy and Global Geoeconomics**

***This stage discussion explores the implications of Europe's quest for resiliency and selective autonomy on its global trade relationships, regional economic stability, and overall competitiveness in an uncertain global environment.***

The debate will dissect the current state of global trade, examining the precarious balance between maintaining open commercial flows and responding to increasing geopolitical pressures. It analyzes the mixed outcomes of Europe's strategic shifts towards greater economic sovereignty, highlighting the challenges posed by external dependencies, particularly with China and the U.S., and the internal disparities among how EU regions are vulnerable to these shifts. The discussion will address Europe's vulnerabilities and opportunities in technology and production, the broader impact of protectionist trends on global trade architectures, incorporating also the business and supply chain perspectives. With the evolving landscape of globalization—marked by cautious engagement and selective isolation—the panel will explore viable strategies for Europe to navigate these dilemmas, ensuring resilience in a fragmenting global economy.

### **The Yin and Yang of the Digital Century**

***This panel will assess how the dualities of the digital economy can be navigated amidst rising entropy and the unexpected effects of regulatory attempts.***

Doesn't it sometimes just feel painful to stay a tech optimist? Sure, the past decade of rapid digitalization brought about improved interactions between citizens and state administration, more space for the suppressed and marginalized voices, more social and economic interconnectedness and market opportunities. It helps research and science, logistics, or efficiency. It makes life for many much easier. But for some more so than for others. The ruthless data commodification, highly corporate framework of digital social networks, privacy and cybersecurity concerns and vulnerabilities, the profound societal pathologies induced by continuous smartphone and social network use permeated our societies and economies in perhaps an irreversible way. One specific aspect that seems to be overlooked is the enormous increase of entropy in society due to digitalization, and with entropy comes disorder and uncertainty, at least for some. In other words, digitalization has a growingly disparate impact on different parts of societies and regions, leaving many vulnerable behind. In such an entangled environment any policy or regulation attempt will have trouble with success while likely bringing about unexpected and undesired effects: precisely because of the extreme increase of entropy. At the same time, if these deepening negative effects go unchallenged, it will further fuel the erosion of democratic societies.

### **The Quicksands of Governance**



## ***How can we realistically work out and pursue policies when governance effectiveness is lacking behind the societal complexity and divisiveness?***

This panel probes into the shifting landscape of democratic governance, particularly in light of the impending European Parliamentary elections, the formation of a new EU Commission, and the significant topic of future Ukrainian EU membership. Governments are stretched very thin when trying to turn challenges into opportunities and tackle the rapid complex evolution. It will explore the specific challenges of governing a deeply polarized society amid the rapid pace of multiple converging —ranging from digital transformation and energy shifts to geopolitical tensions and trade realignments. The discussion will also assess how these dynamics could influence the EU's legislative and policy-making processes, focusing on strategies for effective governance that can accommodate the complexities of modern Europe and ensure cohesive policy responses to both internal divisions and external pressures.

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## **POLICY ROUNDTABLES**

### **Introduction to N100 Policy Roundtables**

The policy roundtables at the Next 100 Symposium build on the plenary discussions of the Symposium, allowing for practical policy exploration of specific themes and challenges. These sessions bring together experts from various fields to translate general debate into targeted policy discussions. Participants will assess current policies, identify contradictions, and propose practical solutions. This segment aims to enhance the dialogue from the plenary sessions by turning the insights into practical and policy considerations.

*(Note: Policy tables are dynamically updated in the programme)*

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### **Beyond Green Transition: Future of Energy, Future of EU: Policy Roundtable**

#### **Overview and Context**

The roundtable will address the EU's efforts in enhancing energy security, managing the energy transition, and ensuring energy efficiency. Key achievements, such as diversifying energy sources away from Russian gas and the strides made under the European Green Deal, will be discussed alongside ongoing challenges like the balance between immediate energy security needs, long-term sustainability goals, competitiveness and diverging social and economic impacts.

#### **Critical Policy Areas and Debates**

Specific policy realms: the role of new gas infrastructure versus renewable energy commitments, the position of nuclear energy within the EU's decarbonization pathway, and the disparities in energy efficiency advancements across member states. It will explore the socio-economic impacts of energy policies, particularly on vulnerable regions and populations within the EU, highlighting the necessity for targeted interventions and equitable transition strategies. The roundtable will also tackle the infrastructural and regulatory needs to support an integrated internal energy market capable of accommodating a high share of renewable sources while maintaining grid stability.





## **Strategic Directions and Policy Reflections**

Discussion will include investment priorities for grid enhancement, subsidy structures to support equitable access to clean energy, and the potential re-evaluation of the Emissions Trading System. Furthermore, questions related to the inherent contradiction between IEM and state interventionism and aid as well as the paths to align energy market integration with energy security will also be covered. The roundtable aims to generate actionable insights on fostering public-private partnerships for innovation in energy storage and grid management, enhancing cybersecurity measures for digitalized energy systems, and crafting educational initiatives to support workforce transitions to green technologies. The interplay of internal market dynamics with international energy cooperation will also be a key focus, assessing how the EU can navigate these often contradictory pathways (such as the role of EU-wide supervision, data management, and many more) towards a resilient and sustainable energy future.

## **Conclusion**

This policy roundtable seeks not only to outline the complexities and intersections within EU energy policy but also to forge consensus on practical and actionable, forward-looking policies that align with both immediate needs and long-term environmental and economic sustainability. Through comprehensive dialogue, the roundtable will contribute to the development of robust policy frameworks that can effectively respond to the dynamic global energy landscape, ensuring the EU remains at the forefront of the global transition to sustainable energy.

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## **Entangled Autonomy and the Cost of EU's Independence: Policy Roundtable**

### **Overview and Context**

This policy roundtable assesses the entangled nature of the European Union's realities when addressing its autonomy in military affairs. It focuses on the EU's significant reliance on non-European sources for defense acquisitions, notably from the U.S., and the vulnerabilities exposed by recent geopolitical events. Discussions will cover the increasing complexity of military technology, including advancements in AI, UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles), smart materials, and energy-using equipment, highlighting the challenges involving the necessary EU path to ensuring these technologies can be developed and produced within its borders to reduce dependency.

### **Strategic Challenges and Policy Initiatives**

The European Commission's introduction of the Defence Industrial Strategy, particularly the European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP), marks a pivotal step toward reducing reliance on external powers and bolstering the internal defense industry. The strategy aims to increase intra-EU trade in defense materials from 18% to 40% by 2030 and boost investments in local production capabilities. However, the EU faces significant obstacles, such as aligning member states' interests, balancing immediate security needs with long-term industrial goals, and addressing the technological complexities of modern military needs. The session will also discuss the EU's heavy reliance on imports for critical raw materials, particularly from China, and military hardware from the USA, underlining a significant strategic vulnerability.





## **Interdependencies and Supply Chain Vulnerabilities**

Amidst efforts to secure more autonomous defense capabilities, the roundtable will explore broader supply chain issues that compromise strategic independence. Discussions will focus on how the EU can realistically accelerate the development and integration of cutting-edge military technologies within its borders, diversify sources of critical raw materials to reduce dependency on external suppliers, especially China, and enhance cooperation among member states to achieve a more balanced and self-reliant defense industrial base. The roundtable will examine policy questions on supporting innovation in the defense sector, particularly in technologies where Europe currently lags, and strategies to protect and expand domestic production of semiconductors and other critical components essential for modern military technology.

## **Financing Challenges and Economic Constraints**

The financing of the complex enhancement military capabilities poses a significant challenge amidst the EU's current economic pressures. The ongoing costs incurred by the Russian war against Ukraine, alongside the substantial financial commitments to the green transition and mounting expenditures related to past debts and changing demographic, place considerable strain on national budgets. This panel will explore viable financial strategies that can support the necessary increase in defense spending. It will also discuss the potential for reallocating existing resources, innovative financing mechanisms, and the role of EU-wide fiscal policies in achieving a balanced approach to funding defense and security needs. Banks play a crucial role in financing defense projects, yet this involvement is frequently met with scrutiny and ethical concerns from various stakeholders. This roundtable will address the opacity surrounding the role of banks in military financing, examining the regulatory frameworks and ethical considerations that govern these activities.

## **Conclusion**

The roundtable aims to look for a broad consensus on actionable policies that ensure the EU's long-term security interests are not compromised by external dependencies or market dynamics, thereby supporting a robust and independent European defense capability. These considerations are crucial for shaping an EU defense policy that not only addresses current challenges but also anticipates future needs and conflicts, ensuring realistic independence and strengthening defense capabilities.

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## **Industrial Transition: Policy Roundtable**

This roundtable examines the transformative impact of the so-called "Industry 4.0" technologies such as IoT, advancements in automation, new materials, and physical technologies like robotization and 3D printing on business practices, market structures, and the job market. We will discuss how these technologies are not just streamlining operations but also creating a new environment within various sectors, with a very diverse impact both regionally and socially. The session will address the societal implications of these changes, including shifts in employment patterns and the skills gap, and explore strategies to mitigate risks like cyber vulnerabilities and the potential for increased geopolitical tensions. The goal is to equip policymakers and industry leaders with insights to navigate and shape a resilient, inclusive future in a rapidly evolving tech-driven landscape.



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