

A Year Later: America, Europe, and the World

February 5, 2026 / CEVRO University, Prague

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16:00—16:05 WELCOME REMARKS

Amb Daniel Fried, *Weiser Family Distinguished Fellow, Atlantic Council, former US Ambassador to the Republic of Poland*

16:05—16:15 KEYNOTE REMARKS

Alexandr Vondra, *Member of European Parliament, PCTR Board Chairman*

16:15—17:15 A NEW STRATEGIC REALITY FOR THE TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP

One year into his second term, US President Donald Trump has redefined the terms of engagement in the transatlantic relationship, whether taking a hands-on approach to end Russia's invasion of Ukraine, pushing for greater defense spending within NATO, or changing the nature of the US-EU trade relationship. Reflecting on the evolution of the partnership over the past year and looking ahead to a critical 2026, what opportunities exist to bolster cooperation between the United States and Europe? And how can Washington and its European partners protect transatlanticism in the face of threats from within and without?

Speakers:

Amb Paula J. Dobriansky, *Vice Chair, Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security, Atlantic Council; former Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs; Senior Fellow, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University*

Paul McCarthy, *Senior Research Fellow, European Affairs, Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom, Heritage Foundation*

Amb Daniel Fried, *Weiser Family Distinguished Fellow, Atlantic Council, former US Ambassador to the Republic of Poland*

Amb Adrian Zuckerman, *Chairman of the Board, Alianța; former US Ambassador to Romania*

Moderator:

Jan Jireš, *Senior Fellow, PCTR, former Deputy Minister of Defense (ALTA. Vondra)*

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17:15–18:15 THE SHATTERED AXIS: VENEZUELA, IRAN, AND THE FUTURE OF THE CHINA–RUSSIA ALLIANCE

At the beginning of 2026, US forces conducted an extraction mission that captured Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. The US has since demanded the expulsion of Chinese, Russian, and Iranian influence from Venezuela. Simultaneously, the massive domestic protests in Iran seem to confirm the gradual decline of the Tehran regime. Despite recent events, Moscow and Beijing's practical support for their allies has been limited as Russia remains focused on the war in Ukraine and China appears to be prioritizing its broader trade relationships. Does Maduro's removal and instability in Tehran signal a collapse of the strategic foothold that Russia and China spent decades building? Will it weaken their alliance and its capacity to take hostile actions against the West?

Speakers:

Dr. Kaush Arha, *President, Free and Open Indo-Pacific Forum, and a senior fellow at the Pepperdine Institute for Diplomacy, Security, and Innovation, and the Krach Institute for Tech Diplomacy at Purdue*

Ian Brzezinski, *Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council*

Dr. James Carafano, *Senior Counselor to the President and E.W. Richardson Fellow, The Heritage Foundation*

Moderator:

Tomáš Pojar, *Vice President, CEVRO University, PCTR Board Member, and former National Security Advisor to the Government of the Czech Republic*