



2025 CELIS Forum on Investment Screening and Economic Security (CFIS 25)

22nd to 24th October 2025 | Berlin (Germany)

On-site | Closed-door sessions | Chatham House

Hosted by the CELIS Institute | Convened by Steffen Hindelang and Roland M Stein

P R O G R A M M E

Held under the Patronage of the President of the Federation of German Industries



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About the CELIS Forum

The CELIS Forum (CFIS) is the flagship event of the CELIS Institute, now in its 7th year, and Europe's first and foremost place to discuss investment and economic security issues.

Thought leaders in investment control and economic security from Europe, the U.S. and beyond debate current challenges and influential ideas from both a strategic and highly practical perspective to chart geo-economic strategies for Europe.

The number of participants is limited to no more than 60 speakers and 60 attendees. Participants are invited with the view to form a trusted community of economic security experts from business, government, and academia who deal with the subject matter on a high level. Discussions at CFIS 25 will be held in private (strict Chatham House rule applies). Hence, there will be no public sessions.

The CELIS Forum is convened by Professor Steffen Hindelang, Executive Director and Co-Founder of CELIS Institute and Dr Roland M Stein, Director of the CELIS Institute.

About the CELIS Institute

The CELIS Institute is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan research enterprise dedicated to promoting better regulation of foreign investments in the context of security, public order, and competitiveness. It produces expert analysis and fosters a continuous trusting dialogue between policymakers, the investment community, and academics. More about the Institute at www.celis.institute.

Venue

All sessions will be held at this year's main venue, the **Haus der Deutschen Wirtschaft** (Breite Str. 29, 10178 Berlin, Germany). Dinners and certain side-events are taking place elsewhere and are marked in the programme.

Contact

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Wednesday, 22 October 2025

Haus der Deutschen Wirtschaft
Dress code: Business Attire

ACADEMIC WORKSHOP

8.30 – 16.00 CET **ACADEMIC WORKSHOP (SEPARATE PROGRAMME)**

FORUM OPENING

16.00 – 17.00 CET **REGISTRATION AND OPENING RECEPTION**

17.00 – 17.15 CET **CONVENERS' WELCOME REMARKS**

17.15 – 17.45 CET **OPENING KEYNOTE: *Germany's Economic Security Outlook***

Thomas Steffen (Permanent State Secretary, German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE), Berlin)

17.45 – 18.45 CET **PANEL 1: AT THE HELM – THE EXECUTIVE-FIRESIDE CHAT**
Building Trust Between Government and Business During Times of Geopolitical Shifts

Room Mendelssohn-Saal

- What is the role for businesses when it comes to economic security objectives?
- What management structures better allow firms to internalize economic security thinking and address geopolitical risk?
- The costs of security – innovation, competitiveness, competition, profit – how to find a meaningful balance?

Chair: *Alex Hofmann* (Head of Editorial of CEO.Table, Table.Briefings, Berlin)

Speakers: *Gundbert Scherf* (CEO & Co-Founder, Helsing SE, Munich)

Vladi Shlesman (CCO, Hadean, London)

Matthias Krämer (Head of External Economic Policy Department, Federation of German Industries, Berlin)

Quentin Lamarche (CEO, TechMet SMC, Geneva)

18.45 - 19.15 CET **TRANSPORTATION TO DINNER LOCATION**
Busses depart in front of the BDI at 19.00

19.30 CET **DINNER AT NENI BERLIN**
Address: Budapester Straße 40, 10787 Berlin

23.15 CET **TRANSPORTATION FROM NENI TO RADISSON COLLECTION HOTEL**
Address: Karl-Liebknecht-Str. 3, 10178 Berlin



Thursday, 23 October 2025

Haus der Deutschen Wirtschaft
Dress code: Business Attire

MORNING PANEL SESSIONS

08.30 – 09.00 CET **COFFEE**

09.00 – 10.30 CET **PANEL 2: STEERING THE STATE'S PURSE**
Governance, Trust, and Economic Security Considerations of state-backed Investment

Room: Mendelssohn-Saal

- How can investment-recipient countries balance the benefits of state capital with the risks of political influence?
- What governance standards and transparency practices should state-backed funds meet to build trust with host country regulators?
- What are the broader economic and financial market implications of investment or divestment decisions by state-backed funds in the context of economic security?

Chair: *Danielle Myles* (Senior Editor, fDi Intelligence, Financial Times, Milan)

Speakers: *Chua Eu Jin* (Head of Institutional Relations & Managing Director Singapore Market, Temasek Holding, Singapore)

Quentin Lamarche (CEO, TechMet SMC, Geneva)

Stanisław Kastory (Co-Founder & General Partner, Expeditions Fund, Warsaw)

Vera Eichenauer (Economist, Federal Ministry of Finance, Berlin)

Sherpa: *Simon Sharghi-Erdmosa* (Programme Associate, CELIS Institute, Berlin)

10.30 – 11.00 CET **NETWORKING AND REFRESHMENT BREAK**



11.00 – 12.30 CET **PANEL 3: BALANCING INNOVATION AND SOVEREIGNTY**
The Role of FDI Screening and FSR in Shaping Strategic Technologies

Room: Mendelssohn-Saal

- How can investment controls be designed to attract the capital needed to scale innovation in critical technologies without compromising national security or strategic autonomy?
- What complementary roles do FDI screening and the EU FSR Regulation play in safeguarding innovation ecosystems from distortive foreign influence?
- What management structures can small-and medium-sized tech firms adopt to build trust with FDI screening authorities on the handling of sensitive technologies and national interests?

Chair: *Mikael Wigell* (Founder & CEO of the Economic Security Forum, Helsinki)

Speakers: *Alvaro Ramos* (Vice President Legal, Qualcomm, San Diego)

Sofía Trénor (Director EU Affairs Public Policy, Amazon Web Services, Brussels)

Jens Prinzhorn (Head of Public Sector Affairs, Aleph Alpha, Heidelberg)

Santiago Conde Lara (Deputy Director, Foreign Investment Unit, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Enterprise, Madrid)

Julia Jasinska (Head of Global Policy & International Affairs, Nokia, Brussels)

Sherpa: *Francesco Giovanni Lizzi* (PhD Candidate in Political and Social Sciences, University of Bologna)

LUNCH

12.30 – 14.00 CET **LUNCHEON**

PARALLEL BREAK OUT SESSIONS

14.00-15.30 CET

PANEL 4A: TO THE DEFENCE OF DEFENCE?

Investment Screening and Strategic Autonomy in the EU Defence Sector

Room: Mendelssohn-Saal

- How will and do screening authorities deal with foreign investment in this space considering the expansion of the European industrial base in the defence sector?
- How to foster cooperation on screening in this sector?
- What type of mitigation agreements are necessary to decrease risks related to the entry of foreign actors during times of geopolitical tensions?

Chair: *Jason Hewitt* (Counsel, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (UK) LLP, London)

Beltram Dumontier (Group Trade Compliance Director, Thales Group, Meudon)

Tsiporah Fried (Senior Visiting Fellow, Hudson Institute, Washington D.C.)

Sebastian Gräfe (Desk Officer for Investment Screening, German Ministry of Defence (BMVg), Berlin)

Dominik Eisenhut (Senior Legal Counsel Special Projects, Airbus SE)

Sherpa: *Anna Vlasuik Nibe* (Assistant Professor, University of Southern Denmark, Sønderborg)

PANEL 4B: POWERING AHEAD

Investment Screening in Energy Technologies and Production

Room: Amerongen-Schleyer-Saal

- What is the key economic security risks associated with modern energy grids and the energy transition, and how can governments and private sector actors effectively collaborate to mitigate them?
- What are the key challenges in developing European capabilities in inter alia, advanced battery production?
- How can regulatory action and private-public coordination support energy tech innovation without undermining economic security imperatives?

Chair: *Rainer Quitzow* (Research Group Leader Geopolitics of Energy and Industrial Transformation, Research Institute for Sustainability (RIFS), Potsdam)

Jonne Lansink (Case Handler, Investment Screening Bureau, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, The Hague)

Phillip Offenberger (Head of Government and Executive Affairs, Siemens Energy, Brussels)

Lars-Göran Larsson (Head of Department, Department for Foreign Direct Investments, Inspectorate of Strategic Products (ISP), Stockholm)

Nikolas Keßels (Head of Economics & Global Affairs, ZVEI e.V, Berlin)

Sherpa: *Tobias Pfeiffer* (Dipl. Jurist; LL.M. Graduate in Energy and Climate Law, University of Groningen)



15.30 – 16.00 CET **KEYNOTE INTERVENTION**

Denis Redonnet (Deputy Director General for Trade and Economic Security, European Commission, Brussels)

16.00 – 16.20 CET **NETWORKING AND REFRESHMENT BREAK**

PANEL SESSION

16.20 – 18.20 CET **PANEL 5: STRENGTHENING THE CHAIN**

Cross-Border Collaboration on Investment Screening

Room Mendelssohn-Saal

- Why is it important for screening authorities to engage in outreach programmes to strengthen collaboration with foreign states or aid in the development of screening capabilities?
- What is the role of non-governmental organisations and private actors in the investment screening and economic security space?
- What are the main opportunities and challenges for states seeking to develop investment screening capabilities?

Chair: *Sarah Bauerle-Danzman* (Associate Professor, Indiana University, Bloomington)

Speakers: *John Kay* (Head of Programmes and Strategic Partnerships, CELIS Institute, Berlin)

Ana Maria Belacurencu (Case Handler, Romanian Competition Authority, Bucharest)

Joachim Pohl (Head of the International Investment Governance Unit, Investment Division at Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Paris)

Ota Šimák (Director of the Department of Trade Policy and International Economic Organizations, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Prague)

Andrew Preston (Deputy Director, Investment Security and Organised Crime, British Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, London)

Sherpa: *Neil Noronha* (J.D. Candidate at University of Virginia School of Law; CFIS Programme Sherpa, CELIS Institute, Berlin)

CFIS EVENING PROGRAM

- 18.20 – 18.45 CET **TRANSPORTATION TO DINNER LOCATION**
Busses will depart in front of the BDI at 18.30
- 18.45 – 19.30 CET **WELCOME, FOLLOWED BY A SMALL TOUR OF THE BUNDESTAG**
- 19.30 CET **CFIS BANQUET WITH DINNER SPEECH AT BERLIN DACH-GARTEN-RESTAURANT**
Address: Platz der Republik, 11011 Berlin
- Christoph Israng (Commissioner for Economic Security, Foreign Trade Promotion, and Foreign Trade Policy, Federal Foreign Office, Berlin)*
- 23.15 CET **TRANSPORTATION FROM BUNDESTAG TO RADISSON COLLECTION HOTEL**
Address Karl-Liebknecht-Str. 3, 10178 Berlin



Friday, 24 October 2025

Haus der Deutschen Wirtschaft
Dress code: Business Attire

MORNING PANEL SESSIONS

08.30 – 09.00 CET **COFFEE**

09.00 – 10.30 CET **PANEL 6: PROTECTION OR PROTECTIONISM?**
Mitigation, Compliance, and Judicial Recourse in Investment Screening

Room: Mendelssohn-Saal

- Which risks can—and cannot—be effectively mitigated, and how can mitigation strategies be harmonized across EU Member States?
- How can authorities ensure that mitigation measures are not only adopted but effectively implemented and enforced?
- How do we prevent mitigation tools from becoming instruments of economic protectionism?

Chair: *Anne Bonet* (Director of Investment Screening, FPS Economy, Brussels)

Speakers: *Thomas Ernoult* (Head of Unit, Foreign Investment Screening, French Treasury, Paris)

Tomasz Dolny (Head of Unit, Free Movement of Capital and Application of EU Law, DG FISMA, European Commission, Brussels)

Michael Considine (Senior Advisor, FGS Global, Washington D.C.)

10.30 – 11.00 CET **NETWORKING AND REFRESHMENT BREAK**

PARALLEL BREAKOUT SESSIONS

11.00 – 12.30 CET **ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS: GLOBAL TRENDS**

- What are the latest country-specific developments in investment screening?
- Which economic areas are most relevant for investment screening?
- What are the main challenges in investment screening?

PANEL 7A

EU Neighbourhood

Room: Mendelssohn-Saal

Chair:

Zoran Nechev (Policy and Advocacy Fellow, Think Europe, Ljubljana)

Speaker:

Mircea Esanu (Executive Director, Public Services Agency, Chişinău)

Yeghishe Kirakosyan (Member of the Arbitration Council, Arbitration and Mediation Center of Armenia (AMCA), Yerevan)

Victor Mizo (President of the Foreign Investors Council of North Macedonia; Vice President, Government Affairs, Kostal Group, Skopje)

Sherpa:

Dominika Pietkun (PhD Researcher at the Institute of Legal Sciences; Associate, CMS, Warsaw)

PANEL 7B

Latin America and Caribbean

Room: Smartfactory

Chair:

Martin Friedl (Director-Latin America & Caribbean, Center for Private International Enterprise (CIPE), Washington D.C.)

Speaker:

Joanna Davies (Chief Commercial Officer, Fathom Consulting, London)

Rodrigo Monardes (Head of International Affairs, International Finance and Affairs Division, Ministry of Finance, Santiago)

Sergio Pardo (Executive Director for Investment and International Trade, the Argentine Agency of Investment and International Trade (AAICI), Buenos Aires)

Sherpa:

Eugenio Sanchez (PhD Researcher at the Centre for International Studies (CERI), Sciences Po, Paris)

PANEL 7C

Indo-Pacific

Room: Denkfabrik

Chair:

Tobias Pierlings (Head of Division for External Economic Policy South and Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Oceania, Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE), Berlin)

Speaker:

Robert Tay (Commissioner, Office for Significant Investments Review, Singapore)

Megumi Ezaki (Director of the Foreign Investment Policy and Review Office, Ministry of Finance, Tokyo)

Ramya Raman (Former Legal Consultant for International Investment Treaties and Framework, Government of India; Partner, P&A Law Offices, New Delhi)

Sherpa:

Dominika Pietkun (PhD Researcher at the Institute of Legal Science; Associate, CMS, Warsaw)

LUNCH

12.30 – 14.00 CET **LUNCHEON**

13.00 – 14.00 CET **LUNCH BOOKTALK: THE TRUTH ABOUT CFIUS**

The Secret Story Behind the US' Most Powerful Regulator.

Luci Hague (Partner, Kirkland & Ellis LLP, Washington D.C.)

Room: Mendelssohn-Saal

AFTERNOON PANEL SESSION

14.00 – 15.30 CET **PANEL 8: NEXT STEPS FOR EUROPE**

The Revision, Outbound & Future Challenges

Room: Mendelssohn-Saal

- What are the key developments in the trilogue negotiations, and what are the emerging challenges?
- How is the EU approaching outbound investment screening, and what policy directions are currently taking shape?
- How can enhanced investment controls be reconciled with the smooth functioning and freedoms of the EU internal market?

Chair: *Steffen Hindelang* (Professor of International Investment and Trade Law, Uppsala University)

Speakers: *Florentine Kessler-Grobe* (Head of Unit, Foreign Investment Screening, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE), Berlin)

Andrew Hill (Senior Policy Advisor, American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union, Brussels)

Szabolcs Nagy (Trade and Investment Diplomat, Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU, Brussels)

Sherpa: *Floor Doppen* (PhD Candidate at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Political Science, University of Antwerp; Managing Programme Associate, CELIS Institute, Berlin)

CLOSING-KEYNOTE

15.30 – 15.50 CET **CLOSING KEYNOTE**

Peter Sandler (Director for Economic Security, Directorate General for Trade and Economic Security, European Commission, Brussels)

FAREWELL

15.50 – 16.00 CET **FINAL REMARKS BY THE CONVENORS**

16.00 CET **FAREWELL RECEPTION**

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