

EUROPE 2040

The Way to a Global, Sustainable and Responsible Power

For the Conclave Board,
Co-founder of Conclave:
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of Conclave



The first Conclave “Europe 2040” took place on 24-26 November 2023 at the Presidential Palace of Cascais with the support of the Bled Strategic Forum and major European foundations. Operated by EuropaNova, the Conclave was hosted by President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa with the support of Antonio Costa, then Portuguese PM and presently European Council president elect. It gathered top politicians, academics, scientists, thinkers, entrepreneurs, trade unionists, artists, and citizens from the entire EU. Its **aim** was to **develop a shared understanding of the global and European political context** and of the **transformation potential of the EU**. In addition, the purpose of the Conclave was to **identify the European Union’s most pressing challenges**, which need to be tackled for the EU and its Member States to remain relevant in the future and **develop a trans-disciplinary and forward-looking framework to address them**. The results of the Conclave were presented to most of the EU heads of state and contributed to the preparation of the **Strategic agenda of the EU** adopted this June 2024 by the European Council.

Participants in the First Conclave “Europe 2040” discussed the collective destiny of Europeans, which is at stake in a rapidly changing world. After having listened to leaders from the outside world with challenging views, they aimed to identify what might be the new European public goods of tomor-

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row and the ways and means to produce them. The aim was to design the European Union we need in the short term and by 2040.

On this basis, the Member States and the EU institutions pledge a much stronger promotion of common European interests, values, and unity. To survive in an international environment that is henceforth dominated by force and to remain competitive in a more and more technology-driven world where critical size is fundamental, they insist on the fact that the **European Union needs to urgently change its mindset to assert itself as a first-class global, sustainable, and responsible power for citizens**, equipped with significantly en-

hanced decision-making and execution capabilities – all of which will indeed require the EU treaty changes and budgetary increases. They propose a major **focus on four** fields which, for a long time, were not at the heart of European **priorities**, but should now structure the strategic agenda with a clear objective of leadership and competitiveness: **Geopolitics, Science and Technology, Development model, and Democracy**. They draw the conclusion that these four domains, which are increasingly intertwined, **urgently need a radically new approach and a much higher degree of ambition**, if the EU and its

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Europe needs a radically new approach and a higher degree of ambition

Member States want to remain relevant to their citizens. In this respect, they identify seventeen fundamental issues that the Europeans need to tackle immediately to prepare a positive collective future. These issues are developed in the Conclave report.

This fundamental change can only happen if the citizens are on board and are effectively part of this democratic adventure.

Please read the Conclave Report “Europe 2040 : tomorrow is today. Co-building a global, sustainable and responsible power”: (EuropaNova publishing) <https://europanova.eu/conclave/report/>

→ China-US relations, fostering a more constructive dialogue and cooperation between these two major powers. Through such multilateral efforts, China demonstrates its commitment to a balanced and pragmatic approach to international relations, aiming to build bridges and reinforce global stability in an increasingly complex world.

China has been collaborating with members of the Global South to balance the gap between developing and developed countries. China, as a founding member of BRICS, has engaged heavily with developing countries in commerce and trade through BRICS. This BRICS mechanism is an increasingly influential force in the global financial

sector and political security. Measured by purchasing power parity, the BRICS countries have already outpaced the G7, accounting for 35.6% of the world’s GDP compared to the G7’s 30.3%. By 2028, this disparity is projected to grow even more in favor of the BRICS, with estimates showing a ratio of 36.6% to 27.8%. The robust intra-BRICS economic cooperation attracted more “middle power” nations to join. For example, in June, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan discussed his country’s pursuit of new opportunities to cooperate with BRICS in a speech at the Center for China and Globalization (CCG), a non-governmental think tank in Beijing.

Conclusion

In conclusion, China’s evolving role as a mediator in global conflicts underscores its growing influence on the international stage. By leveraging its economic ties and diplomatic principles, China has positioned itself as a key player in fostering dialogue and promoting political resolutions, as seen in its involvement in the Ukraine-Russia conflict and its successful mediation between Iran and Saudi Arabia. China’s

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commitment to peaceful coexistence, coupled with its innovative approaches to economic development and green transition, further solidifies its leadership in shaping a new world order. As China advocates for multilateral cooperation and continues to deepen its engagement with the Global South, its efforts will likely play a pivotal role in redefining the contours of international relations in the years to come. ■