



From Copenhagen to Campus: Denmark's EU Presidency 'A Strong Europe in a Changing World'

Public event - 9 October, 17.00 – 18.30

Leiden University – Auditorium A006, Schouwburgstraat 2, Den Haag

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We are facing a new international order marked by uncertainty, global strategic and economic competition, and rising levels of conflict. Russia's continued war of aggression against Ukraine, transatlantic ties, climate change and economic competition from China all bear important consequences for the EU and member states. Under the slogan 'A strong Europe in a changing world', the Danish EU Presidency will work for a secure Europe as well as a competitive and green Europe. But what steps should the EU and member states take and how is the Danish EU Presidency seeking to deliver on global foreign policy and security challenges? And what lies ahead in the months to come?

In this public event, Leiden University's Europe Hub and the Clingendael Institute are pleased to welcome **Ms. Lotte Machon, State Secretary for Foreign Policy of the Kingdom of Denmark** for a Keynote. Ms. Machon's keynote is followed by an interactive debate featuring **Ms. Heleen Bakker (Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**, **Dr. Louise van Schaik (Clingendael Institute)** and **Professor Antoaneta Dimitrova (Leiden University)**.

Join us on 9 October at the Schouwburgstraat for a unique opportunity to bring your political theory classes to life. This is your chance to ask your burning geopolitical questions directly to a top-tier diplomat and engage in a lively discussion on the future of the Europe!

Preliminary programme:

17.00 – Doors open

17.15 - Keynote: Ms. Lotte Machon, State Secretary for Foreign Policy, Kingdom of Denmark

17.30 – Interactive Panel Discussion

- Lotte Machon, State Secretary for Foreign Policy, Kingdom of Denmark
- Heleen Bakker, Director-General for European Cooperation, Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Dr. Louise van Schaik, Head of EU & Global Affairs unit, Clingendael Institute
- Prof. Dr. Antoaneta Dimitrova, Professor of Comparative Governance, Leiden University
- Moderator: Wouter Zweers, Research Fellow, Clingendael Institute

18.30 – End of event

This event is held on the record



Speaker biography's

Ms. Lotte Machon is State Secretary for Foreign Policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark since 2025. She previously served as State Secretary for Development Policy from 2021-2024. From 2019-2021, she held the position of Director for Africa, Policy and Development, within the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, after having served as Director for Development Policy and Financing from 2017-2019. Lotte Machon has served at Denmark's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York and the Danish Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, covering also South Sudan, Sudan and the AU. She holds a Master's Degree in International Relations from London School of Economics and Political Science and Psychology from University of Copenhagen.

Ms. Heleen Bakker is Director-General for European Cooperation at the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She has a longstanding diplomatic career, previously serving as Director of European and International Affairs at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy. Before, she served as Deputy Chief of Mission and Head of the Political Department at the Netherlands Embassy in Washington, as well as Head of the Directorate for European Integration/External Policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Dr. Louise van Schaik is Head of the EU & Global Affairs Research Unit of the Clingendael Institute, a renowned thinktank of International Relations based in The Hague. A Member of the European Integration Committee of the Dutch Advisory Council on International Affairs, she has extensively analysed the EU's diplomatic performance in various fields, among which foreign policy, climate change, energy, health and food standards.

Prof. Dr. Antoaneta L. Dimitrova is Professor at the Institute for Security and Global Affairs at the Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs of Leiden University. Her research explores governance transfer across borders, especially the EU's impact on post-communist transformations in Central and Eastern Europe. She also examines EU enlargement, democratic backsliding and state capture, and the EU's neighbourhood policy towards the Western Balkans, Belarus, Ukraine, and Moldova.

Wouter Zweers is a Research Fellow at the EU & Global Affairs Unit of the Clingendael Institute. He has published extensively on EU enlargement and neighbourhood policies, as well as democratisation, geopolitical competition and security and stability in East and Southeast Europe.