Istituto Affari Internazionali

Conference

EUROPEAN STRATEGIC AUTONOMY AND TECHNOLOGY: A 2026 REALITY CHECK

1 December 2026
10:00 – 13:00

Istituto Affari Internazionali
Via dei Montecatini 17
Rome

Working language: English

The conference looks at how technological dependencies, together with competition with China, Russia and the United States, are testing the credibility of the EU's strategic autonomy ambitions. Rather than revisiting individual sectors, it will focus on the broader strategic choices facing Europe in 2026: what the main challenges are, and what responses are available at EU and national level.

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PROGRAMME

9:30-10:00	**REGISTRATION & WELCOME COFFEE**
10:00-10:20	**OPENING REMARKS** **MARCO SIMONI,** Director, IAI **FERDINANDO NELLI FEROCI**, President, Fondazione CSF **ANTONINO CASCIO**, Deputy Director General for Political Affairs and International Security, Central Director for Strategic and Global Affairs, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
10:20-11:30	**SESSION I – THE CHALLENGES: STRATEGIC AUTONOMY IN A CHANGING TECHNOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT**
Speakers	**RICCARDO ALCARO**, Research coordinator; Head of the Global competition and political risk programme, IAI **PETER CHASE**, Visiting Senior Fellow, The German Marshall Fund of the United States **ELENA LAZAROU,** Director General, Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP)
Chair	**NICOLETTA PIROZZI,** Deputy Director, IAI
	Q&A
11:30-11:45	**COFFEE BREAK**
11:45-12:55	**SESSION II – THE RESPONSES: FROM STRATEGIC AMBITION TO CAPABILITIES**
Speakers	**FRANCO SPICCIARIELLO**, Director, Public Policy Eu Med & CEE, Amazon Web Services **LÚCIO VINHAS DE SOUZA,** Chief Economist and Director of the Economics Department, Business Europe **HENNING VÖPEL**, Director, Centrum für Europäische Politik (CEP)
Chair	**LUCA BARANA**, Senior fellow, IAI
	Q&A
12:55-13:00	**CONCLUDING REMARKS**
	LIGHT LUNCH TO FOLLOW