



Annual Report 2022

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1. PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

After the slowing down of the pandemic at the end of 2021, the year 2022 was characterized by the Ukrainian war.

Although there were signs that Russia had the intention to attack Ukraine at the end of 2021, it was still a total shock that Russia really started this war. It was to everybody's surprise when Ukraine reconquered a large portion of Ukrainian territory.

We can only hope that Ukraine can reconquer more territory and then that the war can stop.

Also, the upcoming elections in the US will play an important role, in case the Republican Party (Trump or one of his disciples) wins the elections.

The safety of Ukraine is then not guaranteed.

In the year 2022 most of the energy and time went to the finishing and publication of the book "The Austrian School of Economics in the 21st Century," and of course, the Research Project "The developments in the (financial) market from a Classical Liberal perspective" took much of our time.

At last, on January 7, 2023, the book was published by Springer Verlag.

Publications

In this book there is a contribution that touched the problem of the authority in the EU. As I indicated earlier there should be a way to combine the two: keep national identity and still have a supra-national decentralized government.

People do care about local items, not so much about international ones.

They do not care about whether defense or a European Diplomatic Corps is national or supranational.

In the book Dr. Reho worked out the principle of Subsidiarity as a solution to that problem.

The contributions of the other writers were extremely interesting, ranging from the history of Classical Liberalism in the US, Europe, and The Far East- Japan to economic issues, the Institutions of Europe and the future.

Events:

We organised several events, like the conference on “EU’s Role in South Caucasus Conflict” with Professor Cutler and Dr. von Lingen on April 26,2022, the celebration of the 20 years of existence of LVMI Europe on October 12 and a very successful event on “Building a EU defence?” a conference with MEP Hilde Vautmans, Professor Albrecht Ritschl, Professor in the History of warfare LSE , Kurt Engelen, Commander Counsellor to the Belgian PSC Ambassador and Deputy Military Representative to the EU Military Committee, Max Rangeley, Cobden Centre and Tamara Hendriksen, Informations Security Officer and Jort Kollerie, Strategic Advisor, Orange Cyberdefense.

This brings to the proposed initiative to start a workgroup and elaborate this theme: Now it is the time to consider an European Defense in coordination with NATO. As Henri Kissinger formulated this in an interview 1 “They (the European politicians and military staff) must strive for more autonomy in relations with America without jeopardizing the Atlantic unity. Finding this balance is extremely difficult”

The upcoming events are for the moment:

On September 27, 2023, a Dinner debate will be organised in Holland House with professor Rudy Aernoudt, University of Ghent in Holland House. Title of the speech: “Towards a new European Impetus Post-Brexit”

In October 2023 (postponed from April 25, 2023) tbc Launch of the book “The Austrian School of Economics in the 21 st Century” in Holland House, Rue d’ Arlon 20, 1050 **Brussels.**

November 21, 2023, Launch of the book “The Austrian School of Economics in the 21st Century” during a round-table sandwich lunch at the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) in **London.**

More initiatives are in the making: a conference on pensions, a breakfast event with “Cercle Economique) and more.

New co-operations

The American University in Brussels

New members of LVMI Europe

Lord Kamall of Edmonton, House of Lords, UK, formally member of the Advisory Board, has accepted to become a High patron of the Institute. He is leading the London School of Economics (UK) now.

Mr. Mart Laar and Lord Stockton left their position as High Patron.

We had also new members,

Krisitina Vi, from Vietnam, working in the UK

Some students: Rody Mens, of the University of Eindhoven and

Yumen Gao a student who studies in Warsaw and

Jean-Pierre Paelinck, president/ secretary general World Federation of Investors.

Thank you for your support and I wish you a good reading.

1 Wenn die Staatsmänner weise wären” in die Zeit dd 25-5-2023, p. 2-

2. ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

2.1. Aim and who we are

The Ludwig von Mises Institute-Europe was officially established on October 12th, 2002 as a nonpartisan think-tank fostering an open and free society. It bears the name of Ludwig von Mises, one of the most prominent liberal economists of the whole XX century, and one of the main representatives of the Austrian School of Economics.

The Ludwig von Mises Institute-Europe primarily **aims** at:

- **Exchanging and promoting** the principal ideas and merits of Classical Liberalism with a particular focus on the ideas of the Austrian School of Economics;
- **Acting** as an interface between top academics, senior business leaders, respected media commentators and leading politicians across the EU and in Brussels;
- **Teaching** young professionals and students from all over the world about classical liberalism in addition to the workings of the European Union;
- **Connecting** world-wide liberals and organizations at national and international levels.

Since its foundation, the LVMI-Europe has successfully organized a variety of conferences, symposia, discussions, targeted dinner debates and lunch debates, discussing topics such as the role of the EU, Banking and Monetary Policy, Artificial Intelligence, Transatlantic Relations, Tax Competition, better Regulation, Islam and the EU and the FTT and Disruptive innovation: Banks versus Cryptocurrencies.

The Ludwig Von Mises Institute - Europe is dedicated to bridging the gap between believers in the free market across artificial boundaries that often divide academic, business, and political circles.

Members include former Prime Ministers, MEPs, Commissioners, key politicians, senior academics, business leaders and prominent journalists.

The Ludwig Von Mises Institute - Europe has as the sole objective to create prosperity for every individual, while initiating new and unaccustomed ways of analysis and debate in order to ensure Europe's future prosperity and security in the global village.

2.2. Patrons and honorary members

High Patrons



Fritz Bolkestein: former EU Commissioner, The Netherlands



Herman De Croo: Minister of State and Honorary Speaker of the House of Representatives, Belgium



Alexander Graff Lambsdorff: Deputy Chairman of the FDP Bundestag Group, Germany



Syed Kamall, Lord Kamall of Edmonton, House of Lords, UK

Honorary Members



H.S.H Prince Philipp von und zu Liechtenstein:
Chairman LGT Group Vaduz



Dr. Hans-Martin Bachmann:
former Director of the
Representation of Hessen to the
EU, Germany

2.3. The Boards

- Board of Directors

President: Annette Godart-van der Kroon, LL.M., Belgium

Secretary: Philip Close, Orange Business Services in an Account Associate, Belgium

Treasurer: Filip Smeets, Area Manager Seris Security, Belgium

Prof. Dr. Marc Cools, University of Ghent, Free University of Brussels, Belgium

Ulrike Haug, Director Sempre Avanti, Germany

Prof. Dr. Jesús Huerta de Soto, University Rey Juan Carlos, Spain

- Advisory Board

Prof. Dr. Hardy Bouillon, Professor of Philosophy and Economics at the Swiss Management Centre University, Germany

Heiko de Boer, Country Head Netherlands Pictet Asset Management

Max Rangeley, Editor and Manager at the Cobden Centre, UK

Luis Teixeira da Costa, former Head of Unit – Transport Policy, General Secretariat of the Council DG E IIA

- Editorial Board

Jure Otorepec, University Ljubljana, Slovenia

Dr. Brendan Brown, Economic Research, UK

Pawel Dziedziul, University of Bialystok, Poland

- Academic Board

Prof. Dr. Gerd Habermann, Secretary General of the Hayek Institute, Germany

Prof. Dr. Frank van Dun, emeritus Professor University of Maastricht, The Netherlands

Prof. Arturas Balkevicius, Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics and Business,
Mykolas Romeros University, Lithuania

Prof. Dr Christos Diamantopoulos, University of Athens – Greece, National
School of Public Administration, Greece

- Alumni Program

Victor Meij, Executive Co-ordinator Alumni Program

2.4. Educational Program

Internships at the LVMI – Europe are not only for European students, but also for students from **all over the world!**

Interning at the LVMI – Europe equips students with the essential skills needed in a competitive European Union. Such skills include data, research, website management and event coordination in addition to writing reports for the Newsletters and Annual Report. Partnerships with the Universities of Leiden, Bologna, Cagliari, Lille, Tampere, Brussels (VUB/Vesalius) and the American University enable both student engagement and education about legislative processes, policies, and improved knowledge about classical liberalism.

Intern Exchange Program

LVMI -Europe is launching its new Intern-Exchange Programme

Young employees (“potentielle Nachwuchskräfte”, “young talents”)

This would be realised in exchange for and (as a part of) a sponsorship, with the option to become a corporate member and participate in the LVMI network across Europe.

- The opportunity to provide their interns with additional valuable experience in the EU environment through organising and participating in LVMI – Europe’s events.
- Increase the attractiveness of their intern positions and add value to their potential future employees.
- Provide the interns with exclusive access to events organised by other think-tanks, NGOs and both national and supranational institutions, while familiarising themselves with the Austrian School of Economics.

- Gain higher recruitment value and expand LVMI-Europe's corporate network.
- Increase attractiveness to companies and create valuable synergies.

Based on this cooperation between LVMI - Europe and your organisation you can

- Develop long-term and sustainable cooperation programmes to meet the strategical, operational and financial targets of your company
- Enhance the attractiveness of the talent management programmes - Lay the foundation for an improved pan-European understanding & thinking within the German and European SME's.
- Get close to and more involved in the activities and potentials of the European Governance

Package

- Individual Mentoring program for each participant organised by the LVMI.
- Accommodation organised by the LVMI-Europe.
- Direct access to numerous conferences, debates, training programmes, organised by and paid for by the LVMI- Europe.
- Full integration in current LVMI activities and programmes – Introduction to individual stake holders in the European Parliament
- *Costs & benefits:* 1.000 € net per month per participant and months (min. 1, max. 3 months) Free Annual Corporate membership per participation of a young talent.
- Internship program

a) Internship period

- A minimum of one to three months

b) Intern responsibilities for Candidates:

- To assist and network while organizing conferences and dinner debates to be held by LVMI Europe
- Participate in other important think tanks' conferences in Brussels • To establish links with the civil society, media, business, politicians, the EU institutions as well as the European Parliament that will enable LVMI Europe to influence future policy initiatives
- To communicate with LVMI Europe's Patrons, Sponsors and Board of Directors
- Liaising with the EU institutions and especially EU Parliament which the intern will also be expected to attend.

c) Selection criteria for Candidates:

- Have a degree or comparable education in an industrial/business environment.
- Being proactive and interested in communicating with a wide range of people
- Having good analysing, marketing, and networking skills • Having a good knowledge of English. Second languages like German or French in particular are an advantage.
- Willing to gain experience of working in an office environment • Being an organised and independent individual

The LVMI - Europe has a longstanding international experience with such programmes through our co-operations with well-known universities, like:

- A continuous contract with Vesalius College, Brussels
- The American University, Brussels

- The Free University of Brussels, and Partners 4 Value: UNDP Lithuania. •
University of Tampere (Finland)
- University of Bologna, University of Cagliari and the University
of Padua (It)

2.5. Our Past, Present, and Future Partners

The Ludwig von Mises Institute-Europe has co-operated and is co-operating with the following Institutions:

- University of Leuven, Belgium, (2002)
- Institute for Economic Growth, (2003)
- Egmont Institute (former IRRI-KIIB), (2004)
- SME Union, in cooperation with Euro Commerce, European Enterprise Institute, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, SME Global and Loyens, (2005)
- Microsoft, (2005 and 2012)
- Stockholm Networks, (2006)
- EU-Russia Centre, (2007)
- Hayek Institute, Belgium (2007-2008)
- Turgot Institute, France (2007-2009)
- Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung << Für die Freiheit>> (2003 -)
- University of Bologna, Italy (2006 -)
- University of Leiden, The Netherlands (2008 -)
- JTI, (2008)
- Novartis, (2008, 2010)
- University of Cagliari, Italy (2009)
- University of Tampere, Finland (2009 – 2011)
- The Institute for Economic Studies, the Foundation for Human Education, and the Mises Youth Club, (2009)
- Itinera, (2010)
- Hayek Institute Vienna, (2010)
- Taxpayers Association Europe (2008, 2010)

- Schuman Associates (2010)
- The University of Lille France, (2011)
- Vesalius College (VUB), (2011 -)
- The Institute for Urban History for East Central Europe + The Lviv Regional Institute of Public Administration Ukraine, (2011, 2013)
- Instytut Misesa, Poland (2012 -)
- UNDP, Lithuania (2012 -)
- UBI, United Business Institute (2012 -2014)
- GoldMoney Foundation, (2012, 2019)
- New Direction, (2014)
- EPICENTER, (2015)
- YES, (2015)
- BVMW, Bundesverband Mittelständische Wirtschaft (2015, 2019-)
- Austrian Economic Center (2016 , 2017, 2018-2020, 2021)
- Mitsubishi, (2015 - 2018)
- Swiss Mises Institute (2016-2018)
- Open Europe, (2016 - 2017)
- Cobden Center (2018-)
- Atlas (2020-)
- The American University (2021-)
- The Jean Monet Association (2022-)

2.6. Ludwig Von Mises Institutes in Europe and Beyond

Ludwig von Mises Institute Barcelona

Ludwig von Mises Institute Brazil

Ludwig von Mises Institute Czech
Republic and Slovakia

Ludwig von Mises Institute Estonia

Ludwig von Mises Institute Finland

Ludwig von Mises Institute Germany

Ludwig von Mises Institute Greece

Ludwig von Mises Institute Italy

Ludwig von Mises Institute

Netherlands

Ludwig von Mises Institute Poland

Ludwig von Mises Institute Portugal

Ludwig von Mises Institute Romania

Ludwig von Mises Institute Russia

Ludwig von Mises Institute Spain

Ludwig von Mises Institute Sweden

Ludwig von Mises Institute Switzerland

Ludwig von Mises Institute Turkey

Ludwig von Mises Institute Ukraine



3. EVENTS ORGANIZED BY THE LUDWIG VON MISES INSTITUTE - EUROPE

3.1. “EU’s Role in South Caucasus Conflict – Termination”

Conference Report

Organized by: Ludwig von Mises Institute – Europe

Date: April 26, 2022, 5.00-7.00 pm

Venue: Holland House Rue d’Arlon 20, Brussels

Moderator:

Mrs. Annette Godart-van der Kroon, Founder and President, Ludwig Von Mises Institute - Europe

Speakers:

Dr. Robert M. Cutler, Energy Geo-economics and International Security Specialist (Europe and Eurasia)

Alexander von Lingen, Chairman, EQUIPEUROPA

The EU has done a good deal so far to promote a peace settlement between Armenia and Azerbaijan. It has revised its Eastern Partnership policy so that the two countries are treated more equally, rather than favouring Armenia as it has done in the past.

Under the good office of Charles Michel, it organized the first one-on-one meeting between Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev and Armenia's Prime Minister Nicol Pashinyan. This is a good start, and the EU should go further.

But how? To answer this question, we should ask what are the preconditions for peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The answer is that there are two. The first is the continuing progress of the "peace party" (as against the "war party") in Armenian domestic politics. The second is continuing reduction of Russian military autonomy and revanchism in the Karabakh region, where certain elements, along with the (illegal) Armenian authority in Khankendi, seek to establish political ties with Russia. The model of the so-called "Donetsk People's Republic" and "Lugansk People's Republic" is not even excluded, although there is no common geographic border with Russia itself.

Concerning the domestic political situation in Armenia, the EU should continue its new even-handed approach in the face of radical extremist voices amongst the Armenian diaspora that seek to pressure European policy. It is the diaspora first of all who support the anti-Pashinyan, anti-peace political rallies now taking place in Armenia.

These rallies are designed by the politically bankrupt "Karabakh clan", led principally by former President Robert Kocharyan, to destabilize Pashinyan's government and, if possible, force his resignation. Kocharyan had experience of this in late 1997 and early 1998 when, as prime minister (with Serzh Sargsyan as interior minister) he was able to force the resignation of President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, who wanted a negotiated peace with Azerbaijan.

Today neither Kocharyan or Sargsyan has a post in Pashinyan's government, but they are relying upon their political clients, who still have posts throughout the state apparatus to make the country ungovernable. They also rely strongly upon funding from the radical irredentist diaspora as well as certain circles in

Moscow. The EU must continue to present the current government and its society with real incentives to continue the peace process already courageously undertaken.

In a speech on April 29, Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev mentioned that his country is constructing a railroad and highway to the border of southern Armenia. According to the November 2020 ceasefire and subsequent high-level statements and agreements, this should be connected to rail infrastructure in Armenia. That infrastructure should already be in the process of construction, but Armenia has halted this, slowing down the unblocking of transport links with Azerbaijan.

This development also is due to political opposition in Armenia to the resolution of the Karabakh conflict. Attempts by these circles in Yerevan to impede the execution of the said agreements with Azerbaijan since November 2020 will not bring prosperity to the Armenians who live in Armenia. Their impoverishment may be to the political advantage of political clans and cliques who are now out of power, but it does not favour the economic development of the region as a whole.

However, this economic development and prosperity in the South Caucasus will happen, with or without Armenia: just as has been the case for the last few decades. It is up to Armenia to choose to participate and to take the advantages that are offered to it.

The Zangezur corridor is a case in point. Following delays from the Armenian side, Azerbaijan, by agreeing the creation of a corridor to Nakhchevan with Iran, has demonstrated that regional development does not depend on Yerevan. But the creation of a parallel corridor, both road and rail, across southern Armenia would open up specific perspectives for the economic development of that impoverished region, including but not limited to the petrochemical sector.

Concerning the second precondition for peace mentioned above, viz. the limitation of malign Russian influence, it needs first to be observed that Russia has had interests in the South Caucasus for over two centuries. What varies is how Russia expresses its interests there. In particular, it necessarily adapts to the international situation in and outside the South Caucasus.

The success of Azerbaijani diplomacy, both in general and regarding Russia, over the last 15 years illustrates the point. Countries in and outside the South Caucasus can create conditions that modify Russian interests in the region. Russia is unlikely to relinquish totally its interests in the South Caucasus unless and until the Russian state changes its form again (as it did in 1721, 1917, and 1991). However, there is a medium-term possibility of Russian political collapse in the wake of the war against Ukraine, depending upon the Russian elite's response to the domestic social crisis.

So it is possible, but far from certain, that Russia will withdraw its interests from the South Caucasus in the next decade or two. Even then, the autonomous interests and capabilities of Russian military commanders in the region would still have to be considered, as these played a role, for example, in the early 1990s during the First Karabakh War, at a time when Moscow's control over the local ex-Soviet army was tenuous. The EU can promote this development by continuing and increasing its steadfast assistance to Ukraine.

Dr von Lingen commented on the speech.

Comment:

So far the speech of professor Cutler.

This conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan continues now for a while. But first of all I am inclined to defend the Armenian point of view: they are still reminding the genocide of 1915 by the Turks. Armenians are still afraid, that is why they protect the corridor and Karabakh region is still a sore point.

Further: It is a well-known fact that Russia always protects or helps (Orthodox) Christian countries, like Armenia, Bulgaria, Greece.

The Russian Tsar was really astonished when during the Crimean War France and the UK took sides of Turkey. That is why Armenia always turns to Russia, although in this ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, the first has more urgent worries on his mind.

Of course continuing the dialogue between the two countries is very important. More important is trying to diminish the fear of Armenian people for Turkey (and Azerbaijan)

3.2. LVMI Board Meeting Report

Date: 11th May 2022, 5:00 pm- 7:00 pm

Venue: Holland House, Rue d' Arlon 20, Brussels

Attending:

Mrs. Annette Godart- van der Kroon: President of LVMI-Europe

Mr. Philip Close: (via Zoom) Secretary of LVMI-Europe

Mr. Nuno Lebreiro: Treasurer of LVMI-Europe

Mrs. Ulrike Haug: (via Zoom) Board Member of LVMI-Europe

Mr. Filip Smeets: Board Member of LVMI-Europe

Professor Marc Cools sent his apologies not to be able to attend the meeting.

Meeting

The meeting started formally at 17. 26 pm on May 11, 2022.

The assembly firstly approved the minutes of the Board Meeting dd 7-5-2021.

Then the Annual Accounts of 2021 were examined.

The total income does not exceed the total expenses. The total income in 2021 was 1.301,00€ and the total expenses were 3.769,32€. The accounts 2021 were approved. The next point of the agenda was the prognosis for 2022. Mrs. Godart-van der Kroon warned the assembly that membership for 2022 is expected to decline. The expected income is 1.570,00€, while the expected costs of 2022 are 4.733,95€. Proof reading is cited as the largest expense but will be compensated by the contribution of Springer Verlag. Additionally, the Holland House will charge the institute for hiring meeting rooms (6X). However, more money is expected to be obtained due to the upcoming research project, as the connection between research into banking policy and pensioners is expected to yield some funding. In order to rectify the current deficit, it was suggested that a corporate sponsorship be procured, perhaps through a contact of Bruno Casquera. The following order of business was a discussion of the situation concerning Mr. Jahn. Mr. Jahn, BVMW (Bundesverband Mittelständische Wirtschaft, a large company) became a board member in 2021, succeeding Mr. Meinhardt in this position. Upon request that corporate membership dues be paid in the case where a membership is paid for via the member's company, Mr. Jahn paid for neither a private nor a corporate membership. Mrs. Ulrike Haug has since telephoned Mr. Jahn several times with no response. According to Mrs. Ulrike Haug, Mr. Jahn is not interested in LVMI. It was determined that Mrs. Ulrike Haug would be tasked with drafting a letter to Mr. Jahn informing him of the deprivation of LVMI membership and requesting his resignation from the board of directors on the grounds that he has never paid membership fees and will not do so in the future.

Mrs. Godart-van der Kroon then, presented the upcoming events of LVMI Europe. As the COVID 19 crisis wanes for the time being, the organization of events with larger audiences is expected in the coming months.

Upcoming events for 2022:

- May 18th, 2022: Meeting of the Research Group at Holland House, Rue d’Arlon 20, Brussels.
- June 15th, 2022: Free Market Roadshow Conference, “The Way Out of the Gridlock” A cooperation with Austrian Economic Centre and European Liberty Forum in the European Parliament. Host: Ilhan Kyuchyuk (MEP).
- June 22nd, 2022: General Assembly at Holland House, Rue d’Arlon 20, 1150 Brussels.
- October 12th, 2022: **Celebration of LVMI 20th Anniversary** LVMI Europe. Dinner Debate to celebrate the 20-year anniversary of LVMI-Europe in Club des Guides.
- November 2022: Regulating defense in Europe, a conference with MEP Hilde Vautmans in the European Parliament, (date tbc).

The next point discussed the possibility of certain future topics and events for the institute to focus on in the upcoming years. The proposed research project was briefly discussed surrounding the current financial system and recommendations for adjustment. In terms of possible future events, Mr. Smeets suggested inviting speakers representing the old and new generation of liberal thinking to a dinner debate as well as organizing events not only in Brussels, but also in Ghent or Antwerp with the help of local organizers. Additionally, it could be beneficial to invite heads of major political parties to these dinner debates.

An assembly of the Ludwig von Mises Institutes across Europe was also proposed for 2023. The already existing connections with the Polish, Dutch, and the Swiss Mises institutes, could according to Mr. Smeets be expanded to the BENELUX, but there is a question, whether in Luxembourg a Ludwig von Mises Institute exists at all.

Finally, in the wake of the conference on the EU’s role in terminating the “South Caucasus conflict” with Dr. Robert M. Cutler, the ambassador of Azerbaijan has approached the Institute to make an appointment to meet him.

Lastly the results of the research project are to be sent to the members of the board upon completion.

The accounts 2021 were signed by both Mrs. Godart-van der Kroon and Mr. Lebreiro.

The meeting closed at 6:19 pm.

3.3. LVMI General Assembly Report 2022

Date: 22nd June 2022, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Venue: Holland House, rue d' Arlon 20, Brussels

Attending:

Mrs. Annette Godart- van der Kroon, President of the LVMI-Europe

Mr. Filip Smeets, Member of the Board of Directors

Mr. Philip Close, Secretary of the LVMI-Europe (via zoom)

William O. Purvis, assistant LVMI Europe

General Assembly 2022

The following items on the agenda were discussed:

1. The meeting started formally at 5:14 pm, with the opening of the General Assembly 2022 by the President, Mrs. Annette Godart-van der Kroon.
2. The minutes of the General Assembly of 30th June 2021 were analyzed and approved by the attending members.
3. After this approval, the participants analyzed the Annual Accounts of 2021 presented by the President. The year 2021 was not a good year as the expenses exceeded the income. The accounts were unanimously approved.
4. Also the prognosis for the accounts of 2022 was approved.
5. The Board of Directors was discharged and the management of the Board during the last year, was approved.

6. The challenge of finding a corporate membership was discussed in relation to finding a topic that may interest large corporations. Additionally, the possibility of a onetime corporate sponsoring of an event was discussed.
7. The email sent to Mr. Andreas Jahn, Member of the Federal Management for Politics and Foreign Trade at BVMW was relayed to the Board of Directors explaining why a corporate membership fee should be requested.
8. Two reservations regarding the invitation of the Azerbaijani Ambassador to cooperate with various research institutes of the Azerbaijan Republic, were addressed. Firstly, that the institute does not wish to be caught in the possibility of a conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia and secondly that the institute lacks the manpower needed to fully commit to such an invitation. The first point was countered by Mr. Filip Smeets who stated that the institute could simply end the partnership if a war were to breakout. The president questioned whether a pensioner may be able to help with the second point.
9. The schedule of the next upcoming activities in 2022 was discussed. They will be the following: - The publication of the new book by Springer Verlag “The Austrian School of Economics in the 21st Century” on September 8, the dinner debate to mark the 20-year existence of the Institute on October 12, and the event on EU defense on November 16, 2022.
10. As for the conference on Defense, Philip Close remarked that he might recommend a Danish speaker.
11. Closure General Assembly. The General Assembly was closed by the President at 6:06 pm

3.4. Celebration of LVMI 20th Anniversary

Organized by: Ludwig von Mises Institute – Europe

Date: October 12, 2022

Venue: Le Club Royal des Guides

Speakers:

Mrs. Annette Godart-van der Kroon, Founder and President, Ludwig Von Mises Institute - Europe

His Excellency, Prof. Dr. Herman de Croo, Minister of State, Honorary President of the Chamber of Representatives, Former Minister and Member of Parliament, High Patron of the Ludwig Von Mises Institute

Dr. Andreas Schwarz, Director of Revenue and Multiannual financial framework European Commission, Directorate-General for Budget

The dinner commenced with Mrs. Godart-van der Kroon giving a speech about how the organization was established and the accolades LVMI-Europe has claimed since its inception. The President also spoke about the organization's next publication called "The Austrian School of Economics in the 21st Century" that will be released at the end of this year.

This speech was followed by His Excellency, Prof. Dr. Herman de Croo, who discussed the necessity of refugees and immigrants' integration within EU society. He pointed to education being an important tool not only for integration into society, but to create a more unified community within the EU. Encouraging more integrated pedagogical practices at the primary level was introduced as an extremely important measure for securing children's inclusion into society. Dr. de Croo's speech echoed the drive and ability of the EU to move forward towards a more unified future. In the face of crisis and mass movement of immigrants, his sentiments were focused on maintaining the rights and human liberties of our society through community building at an early age. To conclude the speeches, Dr. Andreas Schwarz, Directorate-General for the Budget, explained how classical Liberalism and the Budget can co-exist and must not be a place for political division. He explained how liberal thinking can harmonize with European

integration. One example was the discussion around the amount delegated to the Common Agriculture Policy. While many argue that too much time and money is spent on this policy, Dr. Schwarz noted how the effort to maintain food prices and production has kept EU food security relatively stable since the start of the war in Ukraine. The discussion of building an EU defense, Common Agricultural Policy, Next GenerationEU, and how the Multi-Annual Financial Framework can be discussed as a way to strengthen the future of the EU in times of crisis. The dinner continued with pleasant conversation and discussion.

3.5. “Building an EU Defense?”

Conference Report

Organized by: Ludwig von Mises Institute – Europe

Date: November 16, 2022, 1.30-5.30 pm

Venue: Le Club Royal des Guides, Brussels

Speakers:

Mrs. Annette Godart-van der Kroon, Founder and President, Ludwig von Mises Institute - Europe

Hilde Vautmans, MEP, EU Foreign Affairs Committee

Commander s.g Kurt Engelen, Defense Counsellor to the Belgian PSC Ambassador and Deputy Military Representative to the EU Military Committee

Albrecht Ritschl, Professor of Economic History, London School of Economics

Max Rangeley, Manager, the Cobden Centre and Advisory Board Member, Ludwig

von Mises Institute – Europe

Tamara Hendriksen, Informations Security Office

Jort Kollerie, Strategic Advisor, Orange Cyberdefense

Mrs. Godart-van der Kroon welcomed the participants to the event and provided a brief introduction to the topics to be discussed. “Building an EU Defense?” discusses topics in light of Russia’s invasion and war against Ukraine. This conference includes discussions of the past, such as the lessons from previous European wars and how to rebuild a country after a conflict.

It also will look to the future, with new issues like cyberwarfare and the uses of Artificial intelligence. To fight these issues, future solutions will also be covered, specifically, the relationship between NATO and a potential European Army. The majority of EU citizens are in favor of a common EU defense. This defense is about creating a more efficient and cost-savvy military system that creates a stronger defense for Europe and throughout the world.

Hilde Vautmans began her speech by stating that for the past few decades, we have taken peace for granted, and few imagined another war on the European continent. The war in Ukraine has destroyed this naïve view, spurring more and more conversations about the EU’s strategic autonomy. Despite having a defense budget that is collectively much larger than Russia and China, Europe’s defense has proven to be less effective.

These capability gaps have been especially highlighted with the war in Ukraine. The US is currently giving twice as much support to Ukraine as the EU. The EU countries also only agreed to collectively provide a rapid reaction force of 5,000 soldiers, which will likely not be enough to significantly change the tide of the war.

Three weeks after the war in Ukraine started, EU leaders agreed to take more

responsibility for the continent's security with a focus on increasing defense spending. However, increases in defense spending will only lead to Europe as a reliable provider of security if efforts are made to collectivize defense in the EU. MEP Vautmans concludes her speech by emphasizing that if we wish to protect our interests and values tomorrow, we must act and work towards these goals today.

Commander s.g Kurt Engelen began his presentation on the military capacity of EU countries with a brief history of Europe's collective defense debate. In 1954, the proposed European Defense Community failed because the French parliament chose not to ratify the union. While there have been efforts since, such as NATO, to centralize defense capabilities in Europe, European defense policy remains intergovernmental, and the goals of the EU and NATO can differ. The EU is currently only capable of providing humanitarian aid and support to wars, rather than decisive military action.

Commander Engelen then explains the problems that occur because of this lack of coordination. The European community has not coordinated its ends, ways, and means.

Without these three elements, it is impossible to accomplish any military actions. This leads to delays in response to crises, as highlighted by the EU's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The EU may have the means, such as troops, to respond to a crisis, but it does not have the ways, such as how to deploy these troops. While the EU has relied on help from allies such as the US, it is in the interest of both the US and the EU for the EU's defense industrial base to become stronger. A European Army will not compete with the interests of NATO, but rather strengthen the effectiveness of the alliance, as new developed capacities in the EU will contribute to NATO's strengths.

Commander Engelen proposes that the EU should begin to make action plans for potential future conflicts, so that when a conflict occurs, the EU is able to deploy their resources quickly and communicate with organizations such as NATO. Mr. Engelen proposes de-fragmenting the European defense industry through a bottom-up

approach, which takes policies that have been successful in certain regions and industries and applying them to other areas.

He also identified the components that would be required for an integrated military structure. He compared an effective defense structure to a car. Fast political decision makers and a commander would provide the driving license. A standing structure with prior political endorsements of how to respond in different defense scenarios would allow the EU to act immediately to rapidly changing events. Commander Engelen believes that the EU has the institutions that it needs to establish a collective defense policy, and knowing how to use them correctly can make these institutions efficient in defense.

He concludes by discussing the European public's perspective on a stronger defense industry. While some may believe that a stronger defense industry will take away from other programs, policy makers must rephrase the proposed military programs, demonstrating how the defense industry will create jobs and boost the economy of member states.

Professor Albricht Ritschl's presentation focuses on the economic history perspective of war and peace, and how this should affect how one looks at the current defense situation. Typical economics would say that trade is more profitable than war. War can use valuable resources that are better devoted to civilian practices, and other countries can raise the cost of wars through policies such as sanctions.

Entangled in the discussion of war, especially in terms of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, is discussions of colonialism. Dr. Ritschl explains different doctrines of colonial wars, including neoclassic, Marxist, Malthusian, and social Darwinism. These doctrines can believe that colonialism has economic benefits, such as an expansion of markets and an expansion of comparative benefits from the economic skills of the colonies. However,

different theories also believe colonialism can lead to economic disadvantages, such as empire overreach and self-exploitation of the colonial power.

Since recovering from the financial crisis at the beginning of the 21st century, Ukraine's economy has stalled. Therefore, based on traditional economic reasoning, there is no significant economic benefit for Russia to invade Ukraine. Putin has his own doctrine, which includes that Ukrainians are part of the Russian people, and that due to supposed nuclear threats from the West, this war is a war of survival. Deeper within this doctrine is what Dr. Ritschl classifies as the Dugin doctrine, which is an adaptation of the Nazi ideology, centered around the belief that the Russians are a chosen people. Russia had two previous quests for expansion and more space in 1918 and 1940. Since then, Russia' territory has been reduced to 1918 levels, and they seek to begin expanding west again.

Dr. Ritschl concludes with emphasis that sanctions alone will not prevent war, as there are often gaps in their economic effectiveness. Russia is also not making decisions based on economic rationale, but rather on the Dugin doctrine of a preordained need for territorial expansion. Therefore, Russia will not accept Ukrainian independence without a fight.

Max Rangeley's speech on the economics of military artificial intelligence consists of three parts: how artificial intelligence has progressed, how new AI developments have changed military strategy, and how to safeguard the future against emerging AI threats.

Mr. Rangeley explains that it has been difficult to predict how artificial intelligence will develop. This is because the capabilities of AI improve in an exponential manner while we often perceive growth in a sequential manner. Common computers such as phones or laptops today are hundreds of times more powerful than advanced computers a few decades ago. While it may be difficult to comprehend how powerful AI will become, we

can still make predictions for its future based on recent developments. Mr. Rangeley explained how at this time, AI learns from multiple iterations of the same event, while in the future, AI may develop contextual adaptation, and be able to learn lessons on strategy based on one iteration.

Mr. Rangeley continued by explaining how AI will change military strategy and warfare. Military AI will likely be in the form of drones in the immediate future. This technology is hyper-rational unlike human beings, so there will likely be an increased use of game theory and algorithmic warfare. Due to the hyper-rationality, military decisions will need to be made quickly, and a lot of victories in the age of AI will be won through preemptive attacks.

Mr. Rangeley predicts that the coming generation of warfare will be unstable and offensive, involving constant skirmishes between superpowers that invade civilian life. Military algorithms may also create significant problems if they create feedback loops with each other. In order to prevent some of these problems, Mr. Rangeley suggests that countries change the way they write treaties in order to ensure that AI systems are not heavily entangled with other military systems.

As the finale for the event, Jort Kollerie and Tamara Hendriksen presented their paper on cyberwarfare. Mr. Kollerie began by explaining the 4 categories of enemies in cyberwarfare. The first is the opportunist, who leverages the political or economic situation to gain access to data. The second is the hacker, who uses ransomware for financial gain. The third is the insider, who hurts the organization that they are a part of through conscious or unconscious behavior. Finally, there is the advanced attacker, who is usually attached to a nation state, and is therefore highly advanced and can gain access to information systems easily.

Ms. Hendriksen explained that while there is no agreed upon definition of

cyberwarfare, it can be split into 5 categories of attacks. Disruption typically involves influencing financial markets to stop the flow of money. Espionage is when the attacker gains access to a network unnoticed to gain information. Propaganda influences the way that a country's citizens feel about current events in national security. Sabotage is an insider threat that involves the insider gaining information and selling it off. A surprise attack can take a number of forms, but usually has the goal of creating as much chaos as possible. Mr. Kollerie explained how cyberwarfare is different from other battle domains, as actors can be much more secretive with their capabilities and the timing of their attacks.

The West primarily has 4 countries that are considered malicious actors in cyberwarfare: North Korea, Iran, China, and Russia, each with their own strengths and motives. Ms. Hendrikson explains how currently, there is a mentality of "the West against the rest," and how the West is losing its arms race because it is held back by ethically protecting its citizens from surveillance. Mr. Kollerie emphasizes that cyberwarfare has no limits, and in order to protect ourselves from attack, the EU and its allies need an international gathering of information. Only then can we prepare for the weaponry and the military tactics of the future.

Announcements

4.1 The Publication of the Book: The Austrian School of Economics in the 21st Century

The Austrian School of Economics in the 21st Century Evolution and Impact

Editors A. Godart-van der Kroon, LLM and professor J. Salerno

- Provides an overview of the evolution and theories of the Austrian School of Economics

- Introduces fundamental ideas of the Austrian School
- Discusses the influence of the Austrian School on modern economic thought

This book provides an overview of the evolution and theories of the Austrian School of Economics and develops answers to current economic questions and the pressing problems of the 21st century from the Austrian perspective. Readers will learn about the fundamental ideas of the Austrian School, the current state of Austrian economics, and the intellectual figures and institutions that sustain it as a vibrant intellectual movement. International experts on Austrian economics cover topics such as the

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