

## Essex Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence Event

# Is Europe still relevant in Asia? The impact of global crises on the EU – Asia ‘strategic relationship’

2 December 2022

14:00 – 16:30

Lakeview Room, Silberrad Centre

The European Union (EU) but also the UK have declared the Indo-Pacific region of key strategic and economic interest. The vast area, stretching from Eastern Africa to the island states in the Pacific, accounts for 62 per cent of the world’s GDP and contributes two thirds of global economic growth. It is also an area with increasing tensions and the focal point of geopolitical competition between China and the USA. The EU has unveiled a new ‘Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific’ and the region is also a central part of ‘Global Britain’. Regardless European countries are increasingly becoming minor players in the region. Especially in its relations with China, Europe has become a ‘taker’ rather than a ‘shaper’. This public event will take stock of recent trends in EU-Asia relations by showcasing recent publications stemming from the EU-Asia Security and Trade (EAST) project. Via two panels – one focused on security and the other on trade relations – the event will discuss the growing economic and security relevance of the Indo-Pacific to European interests, but also whether and how Europe can remain a relevant and equal partner in the region amidst Russia’s war in Ukraine, increased tensions in East Asia, the energy and food crises, and a looming recession.

### Programme

14:00 Welcome by Prof. Han Dorussen (Director JMC)

14:05 Keynote by Prof. Emil Kirchner

14:15 Recent developments in EU – Asia trade relations

Speakers: Dr Alexandra Hennessy, Dr. Johan Adriansen – Maastricht, Dr Evangelos Fanoulis – Galway, Arantza Gomez Arana – Northumbria

15:15 Break with tea, coffee, wine

15:30 Recent developments in EU – Asia security relations

Speakers: Prof. Han Dorussen, Bill Hayton Associate Fellow, Chatham House and editor of *Asian Affairs*; Prof. Christopher Bersick – Ruhr Universität Bochum; Stefan Kirchner, Head of Unit of Global Strategy, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

16:30 Closing remarks – Prof. Han Dorussen

18:00 Dinner in Wivenhoe House for invited guests.