

Second Nordic Association for European Studies Conference 2025

“The EU’s Turn from Geopolitics to Geoeconomics in a changing Global Order”

27-28 November 2025

**Hosted by the Department of Social Sciences and Business,
Roskilde University, Denmark**

Almost 15 years since the eurozone crisis, governments and citizens of Europe are still grappling with the ongoing polycrises—political, economic, and social—stemming from the crisis's consequences. The war in Ukraine, the Middle East crisis, and the rise of far-right populist parties across Europe, as well as the re-election of the Trump administration in the USA present new challenges to the EU's role as an international actor and to the effectiveness of international organizations in a shifting global order.

In response to these global shifts, EU institutions and member states are working to redefine their roles and identify key areas to address. How the EU can achieve strategic autonomy and effective geoeconomic statecraft remains uncertain. Under the concept of “open strategic autonomy,” the EU aims to engage in geoeconomic statecraft to defend its interests and values while managing interdependence in a more confrontational global environment. Although the newly appointed European Commission has signaled a shift from a geopolitical to a geoeconomic Europe, emphasizing the foreign policy-trade nexus in policy making, the EU governance system is faced with some serious internal challenges. While foreign policy remains intergovernmental, trade policy is supranational, representing divergent logics. Moreover, how can the EU’s environmental ambitions be incorporated within this new world order and the EU’s internal challenges?

With the newly elected President Trump no longer willing to defend EU borders, EU leaders and national governments are being compelled to increase military and defense spending, stretching national budgets and empowering far-right populist parties. The war in Ukraine has brought defense issues to the forefront, especially in previously neutral Nordic countries, which had long focused on their robust welfare state model. Finland's and Sweden's integration into NATO marked a significant shift, while Trump’s rhetoric about Greenland during his election campaign raised new concerns in Denmark. Greenland is now caught in-between US and Danish interests, while seeking support from the EU. Will new conflicts emerge in the Arctic, or will peaceful cooperation thrive?

The second biannual Nordic Association for European Studies conference aims to understand, theorise, and analyse these developments from various disciplinary perspectives—economics, politics, sociology, history, and law—and will address some of the following questions:

- How can existing EU institutional settings and governance system address the EU's geoeconomic and geopolitical roles?
- How can the EU integrate its economic policies into a geopolitical framework? Is the EU's anti-coercion instrument relevant?
- How can the EU ensure sustainability and environmental security while preserving European sovereignty?
- How can the relationship between foreign and trade policies evolve and be harmonized to enable the EU's geoeconomic actorness? How can the diverse EU status of the Nordic countries contribute to these developments?
- How do EU-Nordic relations address conflicts on the Arctic region under the Trump administration?

The NAES two-day conference welcomes both panels and stand-alone papers. The conference will be on campus only. As an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary association, we welcome a broad range of approaches and disciplinary approaches.

The NAES Conference will be hosted by Department of Social Sciences and Business, Roskilde University, Denmark.

- For more information, please contact:
- Local organiser and NAES President: Sevasti Chatzopoulou, + 45 46742180 / seva@ruc.dk
- **Deadline for paper and panel proposals: 15 June 2025.**
- **Authors will be notified of acceptance on: 31 July 2025.**
- **Paper proposal:**
A paper proposal should include the following: **Full name of author; affiliation; country; academic situation; paper title; paper abstract** (250 words maximum). Paper givers may be asked to serve as chair or discussant.
- **Panel proposal:**
A panel proposal must indicate: the **title of the panel**, **1 chair** (full name, affiliation and country), potentially also **4 to 5 papers** (for each paper: full names of paper-givers, affiliation, academic situation, paper title, paper abstract (max 250 words). A panel is submitted as one submission. Papers should be circulated within panel members at the latest two weeks before the conference
- **Venue:** Department of Social Sciences and Business, Roskilde University, Roskilde.
- **Registration for the conference open:** 15 October 2025
- Standard rate: 100 euros (incl. VAT)
- PhD candidates: 80 euros (incl. VAT)