

Think
new things
Make
new connections

Programme

Advancing EU–UK Cooperation: Charting a Path to the 2025 Summit and Beyond

28-29 March 2025

*Participants and observers are reminded of the private and confidential basis on which Ditchley Foundation discussions are held. All those participating do so in their personal capacities, not as spokespeople for any country or institution. All proceedings take place under the 'Ditchley Rule', whereby all contributions are unattributable and interventions are made in strict confidence; this also applies to exchanges that take place outside the formal sessions. Those present are free to draw afterwards on the substance of what has been said, but not under any circumstances to reveal to any person not participating in the conference who it was that said it. The Rule will be scrupulously observed in any Note later produced on the conference by Ditchley. The verbal discussions will **not** be recorded.*

A note about the programme:

A largely in-person/residential Ditchley conference, with Ditchley's bespoke 'Bridge' technology permitting the inclusion, via Zoom, of invited speakers.

Legend:

GMT Greenwich Mean Time
CET Central European Time

DITCHLEY

Day 1	Friday 28 March
1230 GMT	<p>Arrivals:</p> <p>Guests arriving by train will be collected from the 1053 service from London Paddington, arriving at Charlbury Station at 1205.</p>
1245 GMT	Lunch
1355 GMT	Participants take their seats in the Library .
PLENARY I	<p>The geopolitical context for EU and UK relations as liberal democratic allies</p> <p><i>Will the Trump Administration pursue strategic competition with everyone? How will allies respond and what will China do?</i></p>
1400 GMT	<p>Welcome</p> <p>The Director, James Arroyo, opens the conference and explains how proceedings will unfold.</p> <p>Introductions</p> <p>Director introduces the Speakers</p> <p>Speakers TBC</p>
	<p>After introductory remarks from the Speakers, interventions are invited from the participants.</p> <p>Please raise your nameplate to indicate that you would like to speak. Your active participation in the discussion is encouraged.</p>
1520 GMT	Closing remarks
1530 GMT	Tea and coffee in the Saloon and group photo outside (weather permitting).
1555 GMT	Participants take their seats in the Library .
PLENARY II	<p>Building European defence capability</p> <p><i>The prospects for multilateral cooperation on defence production, cyber defence and containment of Russian hybrid warfare.</i></p>
1600 GMT	<p>Introductions</p> <p>The Director introduces the Speakers</p> <p>Speakers TBC</p>
	<p>After introductory remarks from the Speakers, interventions are invited from the participants.</p> <p>Please raise your nameplate to indicate that you would like to speak. Your active participation in the discussion is encouraged.</p>
1720 GMT	Closing remarks

1730 GMT	Tea and coffee in the Saloon.
1755 GMT	Participants take their seats in the Library .
PLENARY III	Building a new economic partnership <i>Managing the Trade and Cooperation Agreement effectively; exploring opportunities for deeper cooperation on energy, climate and technology.</i>
1800 GMT	Introductions The Director introduces the Speakers Speakers TBC
	After introductory remarks from the Speakers, interventions are invited from the participants. Please raise your nameplate to indicate that you would like to speak. Your active participation in the discussion is encouraged.
1920 GMT	Closing remarks
1930 GMT	Close Drinks in the White Drawing Room
2015 GMT	Dinner <i>Seating plan displayed in the Hall</i>

Day 2	Saturday 29 March
0800-0900 GMT	Breakfast
0910 GMT	Participants take their seats in their breakout groups .
Small group discussions – session one	
<p>The participants will separate into two working groups for two sessions to be able to go into more detail in the discussion. Each group will address the same agenda.</p> <p><i>What is a minimal level of ambition for EU and UK relations over the next five years so as to avoid disenchantment, further disruption and damage to shared interests? Going beyond this, what would an ambitious but potentially practically and politically achievable road map for a deeper partnership? What can be done to increase our collective security? How can we promote shared prosperity? How do we build a coherent shared approach to major challenges and opportunities such as China and technology? How can the EU and the UK best respond to President Trump's radical agenda, avoiding unnecessary tension with the US and between the EU and UK?</i></p>	
0915 GMT	Small group discussion
1030 GMT	Small group discussions end.

1030 GMT	Tea and coffee in the Saloon or walk of the grounds.
1110 GMT	Participants return to their breakout groups .
Small group discussions – session two	
1115 GMT	Small group discussion
1230 GMT	Small group discussions end.
1245 GMT	Lunch
PLENARY IV	Report Back from Working Groups
1400 GMT	<p>Introductions</p> <p>The Director welcomes everyone back.</p> <p><i>The Chair of each small discussion group will provide the main points, as they see them, to have emerged from their discussion, before the remaining members of that group are invited to add their comments. Each session will last approximately 30 minutes, following which the discussion will open into plenary.</i></p>
1400 GMT	Presentations from the working groups
1430 GMT	Working group A
1430 GMT	Working group B
1500 GMT	Rapporteur's comments
1515 GMT	Reflections and next steps
1545 GMT	Discussion closes
1545 GMT	Tea and coffee in the Saloon
1645 GMT	<p>Departures:</p> <p>Transport leaves Ditchley for Charlbury station for the 1711 GMT service to London Paddington, arriving at 1824 GMT.</p>

Luggage

It is helpful if your luggage is labelled with your name, so that your luggage may more easily be directed on arrival and departure.

Please place your baggage (other than hats, coats and hand luggage) outside your bedroom **by 0900 GMT** on Saturday, so that it may be collected and brought to the Hall ready for departure. Individual arrangements will be made should anyone need to leave earlier.

Please note: Luggage will be arranged in the Hall according to whether you are travelling by train, to the airport or by car. Please check that your luggage is in the correct place prior to your departure and avoid placing belongings in the vicinity of luggage destined for the station or airport if that is not where you are travelling.