

The Foreign Policy Association
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Western Europe in a Time of Upheaval

**Scribed by Huntre C. Keip
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Western Europe is facing serious challenges, but still remains a vital ally to the United States, both economically and militarily, says Heather A. Conley of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).

Ms. Conley opened the 2017-2018 program year of the Foreign Policy Association, speaking before a gathering of 150 members and guests at the Radisson Hotel Harrisburg.

She noted:

- the weakness of some European economies, particularly Greece, and the British decision to withdraw from the European Union.
- Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014, its engagement in the Syrian civil war in 2015, and its continuing threat against former satellite states now members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.
- And finally, the wave of war refugees from the Middle East, causing wide dissension among Europeans over what to do with them.

However, the U.S. has too much invested in and cannot turn its back on Europe, Ms. Conley said. Americans helped to liberate Europe in World War II and instituted the Marshall Plan to lift it from the ruins.

Ms. Conley cited creation of the EU and the reunification of Germany as major positive developments occurring in post-war Europe, and today America is the EU's number one trading partner.

For all of these reasons and more, she said, we should continue to view Europe as an vital ally whose overall welfare is very much linked to that of the U.S.

Ms. Conley, formerly with the U.S. Department of State, is CSIS' senior vice president for Europe, Eurasia and the Arctic, and director of the Europe Program. She often is featured as a policy analyst on such major media outlets as CNN, MSNBC, BBC, NPR and PBS.

She is the daughter of FPA members Herb and Melba Bomberger.

2017-18 Program Topics / Schedule

- Oct. 26** 41st Annual International Fellows Reception
Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle
(Note location change from previous years.)
ADVANCED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
- Nov. 30** **PRESIDENT'S SPEAKERS SERIES**
Ambassador Alexander Vershbow
East - West Relations in the 21st Century
ADVANCED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
- Dec. 13** Addressing Foreign Policy
Through the Private Sector
Overseas Private Investment Corp. (OPIC)
(Note date change, program on Wednesday.)
- Jan. 25** The Sunni / Shia Divide
- Feb. 22** India - Pakistan Relations
- March 22** Defense Strategy in the 21st Century
- April 26** Foreign Policy Challenges and Opportunities
- May 17** The Koreas
- May ??** Embassy Trip to be Determined

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