

Seminar

Russia, the West, and the rest: Between influence and interference

5th March 2020

Madrid, Spain

Programme

09:45 - 10:00 **Welcome**

- **Emilio Lamo de Espinosa**, Chairman, Elcano Royal Institute
- **Manuel Muñiz**, Secretary of State, Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation

10:00 - 11:30 **First panel - Russia and the west: Between influence and interference**

In the age of global information commons, everyone in the world can influence everyone else. Russia, US and Europe certainly do, and will continue to influence each other by promoting views and ideas favorable to the influencer. However, mutual concerns over interference in domestic politics have long been a thorn in Russia-West relations. Russia has long argued that Western states are interfering in its domestic affairs by sponsoring non-governmental organizations critical of the Kremlin; meanwhile Russia's choice to weaponize internet technologies to influence other countries' domestic politics, contributed to the worsening relations between Russia and the West, already broken by the annexation of Crimea and the war in Ukraine.

The main aim of this panel is to address the questions: What are the prospects for improving dialogue between Russia and the West and reduce the risk of confrontation? What are the main problems for both sides to address? Could help the principle of "influence, but no interference" to start rebuilding trust between two sides? What pragmatic steps could be taken?

- **Adam Thomson**, Director of the European Leadership Network
- **Jeffrey Mankoff**, Deputy Director Russia and Eurasia Programme, CSIS
- **Alexey Gromyko**, Director of the Institute of Europe at the Russian Academy of Sciences; Member of the Russian International Affairs Council

Chair: **Charles Powell**, Director, Elcano Royal Institute

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11:30 - 12:00 Coffee break

12:00 - 13:30 **Second panel – Russia and the rest: Is Russia against the West and with the rest?**

In recent years, the international community has witnessed Russia's return as a major global player. Since Vladimir Putin took over the presidency of the Russian Federation in 2000, but especially since 2012, Russia has carried out a sophisticated, well-resourced and, until now, successful campaign to expand its global influence. The horizons of Russian foreign policy changed considerably, as the scale and scope of its activities expanded both geographically and operationally. The global reach of Russian foreign policy is now broader than is often appreciated. Moscow's attempts to compete globally with the US and China, and to create a network of presence and influence in Europe, Africa, Latin America, Central Asia, the Middle East and the Arctic are not a new element of Russian foreign policy, and have roots in the Soviet times.

The main aim of this panel is to address the questions: What are the Russia's main geopolitical and economic interests in Eurasia, Latin America, Middle East and China? Do Russia's interests clash with the Western's one in different regions? Is Russia here to stay or its internal vulnerabilities (economic situation, demographic decline) could limited their influence in abroad? Where and in what ways could Russia and the West cooperate?

- **Nicolás Pascual de la Parte**, Diplomat, former Spanish Ambassador to NATO
- **Sergey Lukonin**, Head of China Studies Section of the IMEMO Institute
- **Mira Milosevich-Juaristi**, Senior Analyst for Russia & Eurasia, Elcano Royal Institute

Chair: **Cristina Manzano**, Director, esglobal