The emergence of new powers fundamentally questions the traditional views on international relations, multilateralism or security as a range of countries now competes for regional and global leadership - economically, politically, technologically and militarily. As the focus of international attention shifts from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the European states in particular are seen to lose influence relative to the emerging economic powerhouses of China, Russia, India and Brazil. European nations find themselves too small to engage meaningfully with these continent-sized powers and, in an increasingly multipolar world are concerned their influence can only continue to decline.

In a recently released book, now officially presented in Brussels, leading European contributors analyse the shifts in the structure of global power and examine the threats and opportunities they bring to Europe. They reflect on how the EU can use its collective strength to engage and compete with rapidly developing nations. They examine perceptions of the EU among the emerging powers and the true meaning and nature of strategic partnership. Finally they explore the shape and structure of the international system in the 21st century and how the EU can contribute to and shape it.

15.00-15.05: Welcome remarks
Marc Trenteseau, Director General, Egmont Institute

Conference chair: Anton de la Guardia, The Economist (Charlemagne)

15.05-16.45: Panel 1: The Coming Order
Thomas Renard, Research Fellow, Egmont Institute
Tanguy Struye, Professor, Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL)
Respondent: Jan Techau, Director, Carnegie Europe

16.45-17.15: Coffee break

17.00-18.30: Panel 2: The EU’s Future Role
Janis Emmanouilidis, Senior Researcher, European Policy Center
Jolyon Howorth, Professor, Yale University
Richard Gowan, Associate Director, NYU Center on International Cooperation
Respondent: Alfredo Conte, Head of Strategic Planning, European External Action Service

18.30: Concluding remarks
Sven Biscop, Programme Director, Egmont Institute

18.45: End of proceedings