

# The EU and the South China Sea

ELF Presentation by Alva Finn

# Own The Future

The European Liberal Forum is the think tank of the ALDE Party- Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

# ELF's work to date on Indo-Pacific, ASEAN and China Policy

Publication with Paddy Ashdown Forum and LYMEC-European Liberal Youth

Chapters on:

- the importance of EU-ASEAN Relationship in the ‘Pacific Century’ and the South China Sea for EU commerce and regional security.
- EU-ASEAN Security & Defense cooperation



# Hans van Balen Scholarship



## Publication: A second tier partner? Taiwan in the EU's Indo-Pacific strategy

This publication is written by recent HvB Scholar Dr Laia Comerma and is a result of a partnership between the ALDE Party, the European Liberal Forum, Taipei Representative Office in the EU and Belgium, the Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy (CSDS) of the Brussels School of Governance (BSoG) at VUB, Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, and LYMEC-European Liberal Youth.

Publication details the role of Taiwan in the EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy including as a geopolitical partner to promote the stability of the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea.



# Opportunities for strengthened cooperation

EU's focus on strategic autonomy

- Trade links
- Strategic resources and sovereignty
- Security and defense
- Rules based order including in the South China Sea
- Derisking or even decoupling strategy towards China
- Role of the US in the region post-Trump.
- EU's outreach to ASEAN and member countries
- EU-Indo Pacific Strategy

# Threats/limitations to greater EU cooperation

EU has been internally focused with successive crises

Lack of EU consensus on issues like South China Sea conflicts, North Korea, and the rise of China

Differing approaches and interpretation by EU Member States of the Indo-Pacific Strategy, 'One China Policy'

Focus on economic relationships

Security/defense interest in the regions from few EU Member States

Lack of clarity from US as a partner in the region and in Europe



# Thank you



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