

CHINA CROSSROADS

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Challenges for Europe Today: An Insider's View of Right-Wing Populism, Security, and Defense

Klaus Welle

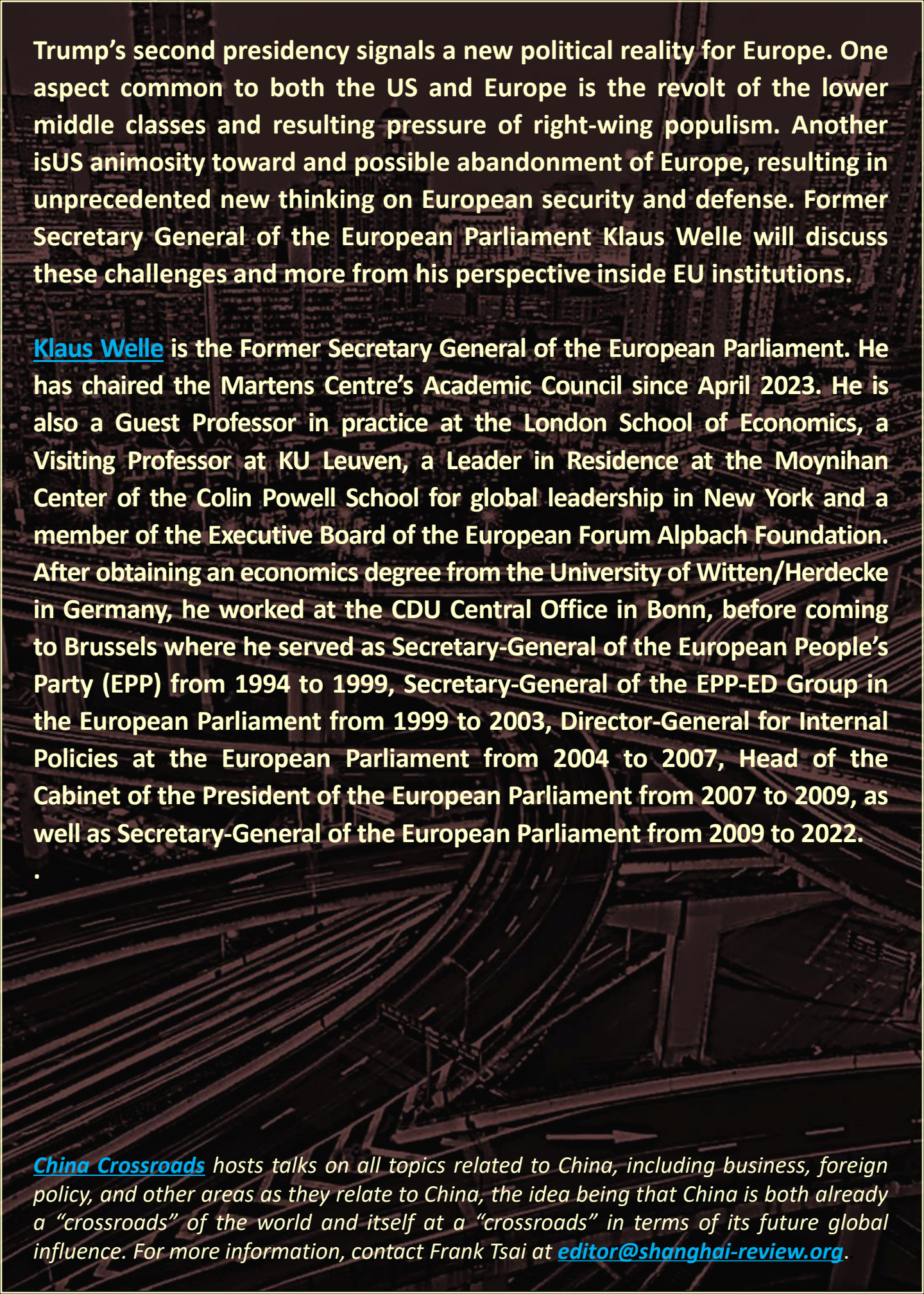
Former Secretary General of the European Parliament



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Trump's second presidency signals a new political reality for Europe. One aspect common to both the US and Europe is the revolt of the lower middle classes and resulting pressure of right-wing populism. Another is US animosity toward and possible abandonment of Europe, resulting in unprecedented new thinking on European security and defense. Former Secretary General of the European Parliament Klaus Welle will discuss these challenges and more from his perspective inside EU institutions.

[Klaus Welle](#) is the Former Secretary General of the European Parliament. He has chaired the Martens Centre's Academic Council since April 2023. He is also a Guest Professor in practice at the London School of Economics, a Visiting Professor at KU Leuven, a Leader in Residence at the Moynihan Center of the Colin Powell School for global leadership in New York and a member of the Executive Board of the European Forum Alpbach Foundation. After obtaining an economics degree from the University of Witten/Herdecke in Germany, he worked at the CDU Central Office in Bonn, before coming to Brussels where he served as Secretary-General of the European People's Party (EPP) from 1994 to 1999, Secretary-General of the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament from 1999 to 2003, Director-General for Internal Policies at the European Parliament from 2004 to 2007, Head of the Cabinet of the President of the European Parliament from 2007 to 2009, as well as Secretary-General of the European Parliament from 2009 to 2022.

[China Crossroads](#) hosts talks on all topics related to China, including business, foreign policy, and other areas as they relate to China, the idea being that China is both already a "crossroads" of the world and itself at a "crossroads" in terms of its future global influence. For more information, contact Frank Tsai at editor@shanghai-review.org.