

(English version)

Priority question for written answer P-000300/26
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Fabio De Masi (NI)
(27 January 2026)

Subject: Assessment of the Canadian Prime Minister's statements on the international order and implications for EU foreign policy

1. What is the position of the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy regarding the statements made by the Canadian Prime Minister at the World Economic Forum in Davos to the effect that the Western-dominated world order no longer existed, and, in particular, the assertions that it was known that international law was applied with varying rigour depending on the identity of the accused or the victim, that this fiction had been useful because of the advantages offered by the American hegemony, but that this bargain was no longer working ⁽¹⁾?
2. What conclusions does the VP/HR draw from this with regard to relations with China and other major geopolitical actors?

Submitted: 27.1.2026

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(24 February 2026)

Active conflicts and prevailing instability in Ukraine, Gaza, Venezuela and Iran; the erosion of multilateralism; and the weaponisation of trade and resources are redefining international relations.

In his speech in Davos, the Canadian Prime Minister acknowledged that, albeit imperfect and sometimes selective, the rules-based international order offered a frame of predictability to those pursuing values-based diplomacy and those seeking accountability under international law, benefiting small and middle powers.

He issued a call to resilience to 'power-first, norms-second' politics and a call to action to build a more just, balanced and inclusive world order.

The EU is now facing several challenges: in the first instance, a geo-political challenge by Russia's imperial ambitions that directly threaten Europe's security; but also a geo-economic challenge by China with the weaponisation of economic dependencies and its continued support to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

At the same time, the United States demands more European self-reliance in its defence and has put into doubt some of the defining characteristics of the transatlantic partnership.

The EU is responding through three parallel work tracks: the urgent strengthening of Europe's defence readiness by 2030; securing its neighbourhood through enlargement, investments and partnerships to the East and the South; and building global partnerships through deepened cooperation in trade, security and defence in the Americas, Africa and the Indo-Pacific.

The EU's approach is driven by principled pragmatism and safeguarding the EU interests without compromising its values.

¹ <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2026/01/davos-2026-special-address-by-mark-carney-prime-minister-of-canada/>.