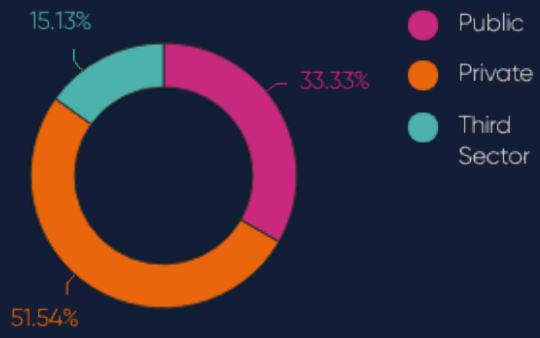
CONCORDIA

EUROPE

2025 Concordia Europe Summit Report

The 2025 Europe Summit in numbers

Sector Representation



Countries Represented

Number of countries represented: 38

Number of Europe government officials: 28
Number of US government officials: 7
Number of non-Europe, non-US government officials: 20

Number of Programming Partners: 5
Number of Programming Sponsors: 5

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A message from Concordia's Co-Founders

This June, Concordia proudly convened a distinguished assembly of leaders from across government, business, civil society and academia in the historic city of London. Set at the iconic Church House, where the first United Nations Security Council meeting was held, we gathered to address the defining issues shaping the future of Europe and beyond.

Throughout the Summit, we engaged in dynamic conversations surrounding three central programming themes: Regional Cooperation, Economic Growth & Competitiveness, and Environmental Sustainability & the Energy Transition. We explored the shifting geopolitical landscape, the evolving role of multilateral cooperation, and the structural changes required to bolster European resilience. We also explored how U.S. and global policy trends will influence the region's strategic direction in the months and years ahead.

Our Concordia Concilium format - which featured a combination of closed-door morning sessions, interactive afternoon programming across dynamic venues, and thematic dinners - fostered transparent, solutions-oriented dialogue. We are deeply grateful to all participants for contributing their insights and expertise.

Thanks to our 2025 Europe Summit Co-Chairs, The Rt Hon the Baroness May of Maidenhead and Cherie Blair CBE, KC and to the Mayor of London, Sir Sadiq Khan for their support and warm welcome.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to our Host and Steering Committee Members, along with our Partners, Sponsors, Members, Advisors, and Board of Directors, whose continued support makes Concordia's mission possible.

We eagerly anticipate continuing these conversations during our upcoming 2025 Concordia Annual Summit in New York City.

Matthew A. Swift
Co-Founder, President & CEO
Concordia

Nicholas M. Logothetis
Co-Founder & Chairman of the Board
Concordia

Regional Cooperation

This theme examines the vital role of cooperation in Europe, particularly within urban contexts, highlighting how cities like London serve as hubs for dialogue, diplomacy, and collaboration. It addresses the intersection of human rights and security, exploring how urban policies can uphold individual freedoms while ensuring public safety. Conversations within this pillar will also consider the influence of NATO in promoting collective security among European nations and their allies, with a focus on how cities and multilateral organisations contribute to these broader efforts.

Key Takeaways & Policy Recommendations

Responding to security pressures and meeting strategic targets:

- Europe is undergoing a security reawakening as proximity to conflict, terrorism and the war in Ukraine exposes the limits of post-WWII peace assumptions.
- Fragmented defense procurement and dependency on U.S. support undermine Europe's credibility and readiness. Strategic autonomy must be a top priority.
- Defense is no longer just military, it includes cyber resilience, energy security, and demographic stability.
- Launch a European Defence Innovation Council to accelerate dual-use R&D, including AI and space technologies.
- Bridge the civil-military divide through public engagement and transparency to maintain legitimacy and sustain long-term investment.

Transitioning transatlantic security towards mutual resilience:

- NATO remains central to European security, but the Ukraine war highlighted both its strengths and structural limits.
- Ukraine’s wartime innovation in defense manufacturing sets a precedent for resilient, adaptive military ecosystems and more resources must go to relevant defense capabilities like drones, digital systems, and AI to support modern conflict environments.
- The future of NATO may require a continued U.S. engagement alongside growing EU autonomy.

- Europe must lead in its own security, especially during what experts view as a five-year window in which NATO may be most vulnerable to Russian aggression.
- Prioritize interoperability, transparency, and joint production. Finland's rapid integration into NATO shows the impact of smaller states with clear strategic value.

Gulf States and the rise of middle powers:

- Gulf nations are no longer just energy suppliers—they are digital investors, global mediators, and strategic innovators.
- Countries like Qatar and the UAE exemplify a model of "neutral but engaged" diplomacy, enabling them to mediate conflicts like Gaza and Ukraine.
- The EU must move beyond outdated hierarchies and treat Gulf partners as equal co-investors in a shared security framework.
- Expand strategic cooperation beyond energy to AI, cyber defense, and infrastructure. Institutionalize summits and build joint long-term platforms for coordination.
- Recognize the Gulf's rising influence in a multipolar world, where effective diplomacy must be pragmatic, inclusive, and forward-looking.

Economic Growth & Competitiveness

This theme explores the multifaceted nature of growth across various sectors, focusing on creative industries and their potential to drive innovation and cultural development. London is a prime example of how to make this succeed. It examines the pivotal role of financial institutions in fostering entrepreneurship, providing the necessary capital and resources to turn ideas into viable businesses. Additionally, the theme emphasizes the importance of inclusive economic growth, ensuring that opportunities are accessible to all, thereby promoting diverse participation in the economy. Strengthening trade and commercial activity with strategic partners is critical, as are investments in R&D, re-industrialization, and productivity growth. Boosting digitalization and innovation will require cross-sector coordination and support as Europe looks to strengthen its resilience to future disruptions.

Key Takeaways & Policy Recommendations

Positioning AI as a strategic economic driver:

- AI is not only reshaping business processes but is also projected to add £400 billion to the UK economy by 2030. By reducing administrative workload by up to 40%, AI enables a shift toward high-value, creative, and interpersonal work.
- AI should not be siloed as a technology issue, it must be treated as a horizontal pillar of the national economic strategy, alongside infrastructure and energy.
- Investments in foundational AI infrastructure, such as compute capacity, secure data-sharing systems, and localized models is essential for UK competitiveness.
- There is growing recognition that AI must be governed with the same seriousness as nuclear or bioethics frameworks, ensuring ethical boundaries and strategic resilience.
- In need of developing a National AI Resilience Framework that integrates infrastructure, energy strategy, and AI governance to ensure long-term scalability.

Building long-term infrastructure and energy readiness:

- The UK government plans to launch a national AI campus within 6-12 months and expand broader AI infrastructure over the next 3-5 years.
- The UK AI Safety Institute is already assessing advanced model risks, with the goal of embedding trust and security into the innovation pipeline from the outset.

- Industrial energy prices remain a major constraint. Without affordable and reliable energy, AI infrastructure cannot be scaled to meet national ambitions.
- A coordinated AI–energy policy is required to ensure that innovation is not outpaced by logistical or economic constraints.
- Align national energy strategy with AI deployment plans. Introduce incentives for industrial-scale energy efficiency tied to tech infrastructure investment.

Balancing innovation with long-term regulation and diplomacy:

- UK leaders emphasise that AI should support institutional resilience—not just speed. The focus must be on adaptability, continuity, and strategic value creation.
- There is a narrow window (2-3 years) for the UK to help shape international standards on AI governance, fairness, and risk mitigation.
- The UK is building new partnerships with France, India, and African countries to co-develop responsible AI standards aligned with democratic values.
- Launch a UK-led Global Forum on AI Governance and Standards to support international cooperation, fairness, and democratic norms in AI deployment.

Platform economies, digital trust and economic spillovers:

- Platform economies are reshaping the UK's digital landscape, from powering innovation, employment, and entrepreneurial ecosystems across regions and sectors. As these platforms take on critical economic and social functions, ensuring transparency, user safety, and public trust becomes important.
- TikTok's UK presence highlights the transformative impact of platform economies, supporting 5,000 jobs directly, 500 new jobs annually, and contributing £1.5 billion through over 1.5 million small businesses and 32,000 secondary jobs.
- The platform's AI-powered moderation model, combining algorithmic filtering, human oversight, and user tools like Community Notes, demonstrates a best-practice approach to tech governance.
- Despite user trust, non-user skepticism remains. Broader public understanding of platform

moderation, data use, and AI transparency is essential to build long-term trust.

- There is a growing need to develop best-practice frameworks for digital safety which embed transparency and safety tools into all digital platforms operating within sensitive sectors or receiving public funding.

Rebuilding UK-EU economic and strategic alignment:

- The UK is recalibrating post-Brexit relationships, particularly with the EU, in areas like tech, finance, and defense cooperation.
- London remains a global finance hub, but UK-specific regulatory caution is slowing deal flow and innovation adoption.
- Mutual interests in fintech, cyber, and defense, including AI, are driving renewed calls for bespoke UK–EU financial and innovation agreements.
- Create a UK–EU Innovation & Defense Pact focused on dual-use AI, fintech, and cyber-resilience. Streamline cross-border data protocols to support aligned regulation and joint R&D.

Global models of applied AI: lessons from Abu Dhabi:

- Abu Dhabi has emerged as a model of AI-powered, sustainability-oriented growth and was ranked the safest city globally for nine years, with robust zero-waste policies and long-term investment in innovation.
- Abu Dhabi emphasizes AI powered development in sectors such as healthcare, logistics, and energy. This ensures alignment between technological innovation and public value.
- While AI is automating low-value tasks, Abu Dhabi's approach is people-first, investing heavily in creativity, adaptability, and lifelong learning. Education and cultural programming are used to cultivate digital readiness across generations.
- UK policy planners should examine the Abu Dhabi model to develop an AI + Sustainability Index, measuring not just output but equity, efficiency, and ecosystem health. Public-private partnerships should align around these metrics.

Environmental Sustainability & The Energy Transition

This theme explores the critical pathways toward sustainable urban development. It emphasizes the concept of net-zero cities, showcasing strategies and innovations in city climate technology and highlighting London's 2030 net-zero goal. This theme focuses on sustainable infrastructure, highlighting the importance of building resilient systems that support both environmental and community needs. Additionally, it examines the energy transition, addressing the shift toward renewable energy sources and energy-efficient practices that are essential for fostering a sustainable future.

Key Takeaways & Policy Recommendations

Aligning UK–US Strategic Energy Collaboration:

- Energy policy is increasingly intertwined with national security and global partnerships, particularly in the UK-US context.
- The UK's shift away from fossil fuels is viewed by some US actors as a potential risk to industrial and defence resilience.
- Strategic collaboration opportunities exist in nuclear energy, hydrogen, and AI-powered grid management.
- Unlocking US investment requires faster commercialisation pathways and regulatory simplification in the UK.
- Launch a US-UK Clean Energy Accelerator focused on nuclear, hydrogen, and grid technologies with aligned regulatory and financial frameworks.

Designing cities through inclusive urban innovation::

- Cities are at the frontline of the climate crisis, with housing, transport, and waste systems in urgent need of redesign.
- The shift to green cities must be inclusive, avoiding "green gentrification" and prioritising upgrades in social housing and mass transit.
- AI can accelerate decarbonisation through applications in mobility, energy efficiency, and waste management. But digital access, training, and transparency are critical.

- Every UK resident generates over 200 kg of plastic waste annually, highlighting the need for stronger product design standards and circular economy models.
- Cities in Latin America, facing compounding economic and climate vulnerabilities are pioneering nature-based solutions and AI-powered logistics models that could inform global best practice.
- Launch a National Regenerative Cities Programme connecting mayors, universities, and climate-tech firms to support localised, nature-based planning.
- Enact a Plastic Reform Bill with extended producer responsibility, product redesign requirements, and AI-enabled waste tracking systems.

Securing energy affordability and equity through a just transition:

- The energy transition must not come at the expense of low-income or frontline communities. Justice, affordability, and resilience must be integrated from the outset.
- Rising energy costs hit racially marginalised and state-housed communities hardest, undermining trust in the net zero transition.
- Green investment must deliver real social and economic benefits, especially for those least able to shoulder the cost of change. Urban policy must avoid displacement and job loss as a by-product of decarbonisation.
- Develop a UK Just Energy Transition Framework that guarantees affordability and workforce protection alongside emissions targets.
- Scale programmes such as House Warming London to retrofit public housing and ensure energy savings reach the most vulnerable.

Energy Infrastructure Reform and UK–EU grid Integration:

- While renewable generation is expanding, outdated grid systems and price imbalances are slowing progress and eroding public support.
- The UK reached 50% renewable electricity, but consumers are not seeing cost savings due to grid constraints and fossil fuel-linked pricing.

- Invest in grid modernisation, floating offshore wind, and cross-border energy partnerships that are critical to unlock the next phase of the transition.
- Models in Norway and Iberia show the benefits of cross-national grid and storage systems, including carbon capture and floating wind farms.
- Establish a UK–Norway–EU Grid Futures Alliance to drive infrastructure upgrades, pricing reform, and offshore wind investment.

Speakers

Cherie Blair CBE, KC, *Co-Founder & Chair Omnia Strategy LLP*

Rt. Hon. Baroness May of Maidenhead, *Former Prime Minister, United Kingdom*

Doug Evans, *President and CEO, Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce*

The Hon. Henrietta Fore, *Chairman & CEO, Holsman International*

H.E. Kolinda Grabar Kitarovic, *Former President, Republic of Croatia*

Lord Dr. Michael Hastings CBE, *Chairman, University of London, School for Oriental and African Studies*

Dr. Majed Al-Ansari, *Advisor to the Prime Minister and Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qatar*

H.E. Ahmed Jasim Al Zaabi, *Chairman, ADGM*

Ali Aslan, *International Presenter, Moderator, and Journalist*

Monika Bickert, *Vice President for Global Policy Management, Meta*

H.E. Sheikh Abdulla Bin Mohammed Saud Al-Thani, *Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Court of St James's, Embassy of the State of Qatar*

Captain Chris Cassidy, *CEO & President, National Medal of Honor Museum*

Varun Chandra, *PM's Special Adviser on Business & Investment, 10 Downing Street*

David Choldin, Cadet, *United States Military Academy West Point*

Mete Coban MBE, *Deputy Mayor of London for Environment and Energy, Greater London Authority*

The Hon. Hélène Conway-Mouret, *Senator, France; Vice-President of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces Committee, Senate, France*

Sophia Corona, *Cadet, United States Military Academy*

H.E. Luigi Di Maio, *EU Special Representative for the Gulf region, European Union*

H.E. Tore Hattrem, *Ambassador of Norway to the United Kingdom, Kingdom of Norway*

Sir Sadiq Khan, *Mayor of London*

H.E. Dmytro Kuleba, *Senior Fellow, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School*

Professor Gina Neff, *Executive Director of MCTD, University of Cambridge*

Geraldine O'Callaghan, *Director, World Food Programme*

H.E. Fuat Oktay, *Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the GNAT & Former Vice President, Republic of Türkiye*

Dame Karen Pierce, *UK Special Envoy for the Western Balkans, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office*

Zachary Swierz, *Cadet, United States Military Academy*

Rt Hon. Tom Tugendhat MP, *Member of Parliament for Tonbridge, United Kingdom*

Nick Allan, *Chief Executive Officer, Control Risks*

Lady Dentaa Amoateng MBE, *President and CEO, GUBA Group holdings*

Francesca Carlesi, *UK CEO, Revolut*

Amb. Paula Dobriansky, Ph.D, *Former Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs; Vice Chair, Atlantic Council Scowcroft Center for Strategy & Security; Senior Fellow, Harvard University Belfer Center*

Tania Bryer OBE, *Broadcaster and CNBC Anchor, CNBC*

Jay Collins, *Vice Chairman, Banking and Public Sector, Citi*

Juliet Davenport, *NED and Advisor, Juliet Davenport Consulting*

Chris Fitzgerald, *Director for International Affairs, Octopus Energy*

Tina Fordham, *Co-Founder & Geopolitical Strategist, Fordham Global Foresight*

Anna Freeman, *Director, Programming, Concordia*

Jane Goodland, *Group Head of Sustainability, London Stock Exchange Group*

Sian Hawkins, *Founder and Director, Hawkins Laxton and Co*

Rt Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, *Speaker, House of Commons*

Dr. Gillian Joseph, *Presenter, Sky News*

Matthew Kaminski, *Editor-at-Large, POLITICO*

Anup Kaphle, *Editor-in-Chief, Rest of World Media*

Alderman Vincent Keaveny CBE, *Former Lord Mayor, City of London (2021-2022)*

Hanne LeCount, *Executive Director, Concordia*

Gianpiero Leoncini, *Executive Vice President, CAF - Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean*

Brad Liski, *CEO, Tru Earth Environmental Products Inc.*

Nicholas Logothetis, *Co-Founder & Chairman, Concordia; Vice-Chairman, Libra Group*

Dr. Frank Luntz, *President, FIL, Inc.*

Benedict Macon-Cooney, *Chief Policy Strategist, Tony Blair Institute*

Shaila Manyam, *COO and Executive Director, World Federation of Direct Selling Associations (WFDSA)*

Cathy Mauzaize, *EMEA President, ServiceNow*

The Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt, *Chair, Coalition for Global Prosperity*

Adam Presser, *Head of Operations and Trust & Safety, TikTok*

Eliza Reid, *Author, Former First Lady of Iceland*

Caroline Scullin, *Vice Chair of the Board, Concordia*

Lord Mark Sedwill, *Chair Geopolitical Advisory, Rothschild & Co*

Ambassador Warren Stephens, *United States Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, U.S. State Department*

Matt Swift, *Co-Founder, President & CEO, Concordia*

Sean West, *Co-Founder, Hence AI*

Hala Zeine, *Chief Strategy Officer, ServiceNow*

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