

Karen D.: ... much, Karen, and to all of the panel. That was a fascinating discussion to close out Brussels Forum on. And I am thankful to everybody in the room who stayed with us until the end of our 14th Brussels Forum. I hope that means that you got as much out of all of these conversations as I did because I think it's been a pretty amazing couple of days here.

Karen D.: We've covered so many topics, and I'm not going to rehearse them all, but you think of going from a conversation about China's rise to a conversation about race and cultural identity, or a conversation about climate to the debate we had about, is the transatlantic relationship irreparably damaged? And there's an incredible amount of food for thought in all of this.

Karen D.: One of the ideas that has come up several times that I've been wrestling with over these past couple of days is this idea of whether competition from authoritarianism is good for liberal democracy, and that's been said by... I don't know if others have picked up on it... but it's come up in several of the conversations we've had, and the argument there was it's forcing us out of our complacency. It came up yesterday in the debate. [Constanza 00:01:23], at one point, said, "Is President Trump holding a mirror up to us and, in so doing, is he actually doing us a favor?"

Karen D.: I'm highlighting that one thought of the many we've had because I've been pondering it, and I think we all should ponder it, and it ties so directly to this topic of a world disrupted and the two sides of that coin of disruption. There are some things that we would say are being disrupted, and they're bad. And there are other things that are being disrupted that are good, and that exact dichotomy came up in this conversation about tech.

Karen D.: What we've sought to do here, at Brussels Forum, is engage all of you with some new voices, maybe even some disruptive voices, to try to help us grapple with this enormous set of complex challenges that's facing the United States, that are facing Europe, and that are also challenging us to think about the way that the US and Europe interact and cooperate, and does that need a refresh?

Karen D.: So, my hope for all of us is that we walk away today, maybe with a concrete solution or two to some of the seemingly intractable problems we've been talking about, but that we also will continue to wrestle with these problems, and that you've been motivated by ideas you've heard here to spark fresh thinking on all of our parts, because I think the bottom line here is that only if we act and work to shake off our own complacency may we potentially find a silver lining in terms of meeting the challenges that we're facing.

Karen D.: So, that's really at the heart of Brussels Forum. Our hope is that the talking and the listening that takes place here inspires all of us to be positive forces of disruption and that those positive forces will help us shape and transform transatlantic cooperation in a new way so that we are in a better place going forward.

Karen D.: So, that is my hope for all of us. I want to say, again, how grateful we are to all of our partners who helped us do this, and they do deserve my final words of thanks.

Karen D.: So, I want to remind us of our founding partners who've been with us for the 14-year journey we've been on, and that's Daimler, it's the Federal Authorities of Belgium. Our strategic partner is Deloitte. Our forum partners as well as our associate partners, our dinner partners, our debate and media partners... It takes a village to make Brussels Forum a success.

Karen D.: I also want to say, again, how grateful I am to the three US ambassadors who are based here in Brussels because they've been unfailingly supportive to this Brussels Forum.

Karen D.: I also want to say thank you to my board of trustees. You just saw one of them up here, but they've been with us throughout this edition of Brussels Forum, which has been great.

Karen D.: But, as always, my most important thanks goes to my amazing colleagues. You don't know how many of us there are who contributed to Brussels Forum, and I cannot invite them all up to the stage, but I do want to invite two of them, and those two are Nicola Lightner and Louise Langeby. Please come and join me.

Karen D.: So, with that, we send you all out into the world. The 14th Brussels Forum is called to a close. Thank you all for being here.

Participants: [crosstalk 00:05:54]