EU Now

Twice a month, EU Now takes you beyond the international headlines to focus on a different facet of the European Union. We explore a wide range of topics such as counterterrorism and security, the economy, trade, public health, gender equality, history, culture and more.

A podcast series produced by the Delegation of the European Union to the United States

Tune in for interviews with commissioners, historians, social movement and civil society leaders, ambassadors, economists, Delegation staff, and regular citizens. Each episode, we’ll explore not only the topic at hand, but also how it impacts the EU-U.S. relationship. Join us on this transatlantic deep dive, and give us your feedback!

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Senior Media Advisor Kasper Zeuthen sat down with Jacob Funk Kirkegaard from the Peterson Institute for International Economics to get his take on the latest European Commission economic forecast, why protectionist trade policies harm the economy, record-level employment figures in Europe, the readiness to deal with a major economic slowdown, innovative ideas for funding Europe’s ambitious climate agenda, and the view from the United States.

Senior EU official overseeing space policy at the European Commission, Pierre Delsaux, talks about the EU's efforts to boost space activities beyond 2020 in the margins of the 70th International Astronautical Congress. He also speaks about the transatlantic and international dimension under the five components of the EU Space Program.

Senior Communications Officer Martin Caudron speaks to Vicki and Sylvester Schieber, the parents of murder victim Shannon Schieber, following the screening of the film documentary "In the Executioner's Shadow" at American University on the occasion of the 2019 European and World Day against the Death Penalty. Vicki and Sylvester explain why they opposed the death penalty for the murderer and the reasons behind their civic engagement against capital punishment.

Sir Julian King, European Commissioner for the Security Union, talks about EU actions to address the state of un-peace (unrest, unease, uncertainty) at a Wilson Center event hosted by its President and CEO, the Honorable Jane Harman. Commissioner King lays out how the EU tackles terrorism, cyber and hybrid threats - including concerns about the security of 5G networks.

Estonian Minister of Defense Jüri Luik stresses that neither Europe nor the U.S. "has the luxury to question the transatlantic bond". He adds that "Europe’s aim to be stronger and more vocal in global affairs is absolutely normal." But “for the EU to be strategically more autonomous, a credible capability to conduct military operations is of paramount importance. Cultivating the culture of readiness should be part of Europe’s agenda.”

The EU Delegation was in Nashville, Tennessee in early August to engage with hundreds of legislators and staff from all 50 US states at the annual Legislators Summit organized by the National Council of State Legislatures. EU Delegation Programs Officer Tim Rivera spoke with legislators from Hawaii, Wisconsin, Colorado, Washington, and Germany about what issues are most important to them in the EU-US relationship and where they would welcome further transatlantic cooperation.

Victoria Marum (former House Congressional Liaison Officer for the Navy; Vice President, Cornerstone Government Affairs) talks about transatlantic counterterrorism on the battlefield, with a particular focus on tracking foreign fighters in Iraq and Syria, with John Demers (Assistant Attorney General for National Security, U.S. Department of Justice), Ambassador Nathan A. Sales (Coordinator for
Lara Seligman (Pentagon Correspondent, Foreign Policy magazine) discusses progress made in fostering EU-NATO cooperation in recent years and the way ahead with Major General William B. Hickman (Director, Strategic Plans and Policy, NATO Allied Command Transformation), Diego de Ojeda (European Commission Representative to the Political and Security Committee of the European Union), Johann Schmid (Director for Strategy and Defence at the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats), and Andrew Winternitz (Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for European and NATO Policy, U.S. Department of Defense).

Senior Media Advisor Kasper Zeuthen sat down with Marie-Anne Coninsx, the EU's Ambassador Large for the Arctic, during her recent visit to Washington, D.C. for a wide-ranging discussion about the EU's role in the region, Arctic transatlantic cooperation, rapidly melting ice, the threat of militarization, and what that Arctic spirit is all about.

Senior Media Advisor Kasper Zeuthen sat down with Sabine Weyand, EU's new Director-general for Trade, to get an update on EU-US trade on the one year anniversary of the joint statement by President Trump and President Juncker, and get her insights on why the EU has been so busy striking new trade agreements, how the tech war is the new trade war, addressing Chinese market distortions, and what lessons learned as a Brexit negotiator she can apply in her new position.

Senior Media Advisor Kasper Zeuthen sat down with EU Special Representative for Human Rights Eamon Gilmore to discuss EU efforts to consolidate peace, protect religious freedom, and strengthen democracy and the rule of law in a number of hot spots around the world - and why the EU is uniquely equipped to lead these efforts.

Rachel Ellehuus (Deputy Director and Senior Fellow with the Europe Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies) moderates a panel on "Developing a more Capable EU: Transatlantic Burden Sharing, PESCO and the Future of European Defense" at the EU-Foreign Policy Defense Forum, with Jorge Domecq (Chief Executive of the European Defence Agency), Ambassador Tina Kaidanow (Senior Advisor, International Cooperation, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment), Pierre Delsaux (Deputy Director General, DG GROW, European Commission), Brigadier General Heinz Krieb (Director of Concepts & Capability Directorate of the European Union Military Staff of the European External Action Service), and Elbridge Colby (Director of the Defense Program, Center for a New American Security).
Derek Chollet (Executive VP for Security and Defense Policy at the German Marshall Fund of the United States) talks about trends, threats and opportunities related to European security with Pedro Serrano (Deputy Secretary General for Common Security and Defense Policy and Crisis Response at the European External Action Service), Julie Fisher (Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Western Europe and the EU), and Edward Randall Royce (former U.S. Representative and Chair of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs) during the EU-Foreign Policy Defense Forum.

Senior Communications Officer Martin Caudron sits down with Peter Wagner, Head of the European Commission's Support Group for Ukraine, to discuss about the EU's support to political and economic reform in Ukraine and new opportunities for Ukrainians ahead of the EU-Ukraine Summit (July 8, 2019).

Senior Media Advisor Kasper Zeuthen sat down with Wil van Gemert, Deputy Executive Director of Europol, during his recent visit to Washington, D.C. to discuss a significant increase in transatlantic cooperation in the fight against terrorism and crime, how Europol supports law enforcement officers across the European Union, how technology is changing the nature of crimes, dealing with the return of foreign fighters and online radicalization, taking down darknet rings, and how ordinary citizens help Europol track down offenders in child abuse cases.

During the 2019 EU & Foreign Policy Magazine Defense Forum in Washington D.C., Senior Media Advisor Kasper Zeuthen sat down with Pedro Serrano, Deputy Secretary General for CSDP and Crisis Response at the European External Action Service, to discuss the EU's evolving security and defense presence, engagement with partners, the transatlantic security alliance, the interplay between soft and hard power, and the biggest threats to Europe's security.

Cities emit 70 percent of the world's carbon dioxide, and by the year 2050, more than two-thirds of the world's population will live in cities. Although they represent a significant part of the climate crisis, cities also have the opportunity to be a critical part of the climate change solution. In the context of the Climate Diplomacy Week, we gathered climate frontrunners from across the Atlantic at the House of Sweden, who showcased how they shape the sustainable and smart cities of the future.

Programs Officer Tim Rivera discussed protecting LGBT rights in the workplace with Drew Keller, the Global Program Director at Open for Business, a coalition of global companies making the economic and business case for LGBT+ inclusion.
Senior Media Advisor Kasper Zeuthen spoke with Estonia’s first Ambassador at Large for Cybersecurity Heli Tiirmaa-Klaar about global challenges to responsible state behavior in cyberspace, worries about election interference, Estonia’s lessons learned from the 2007 cyberattack against them, and transatlantic cybersecurity cooperation.

Senior Communications Officer Martin Caudron sat down with Antoine Ripoll, head of the European Parliament Liaison Office (EPLO) to the U.S. Congress, to discuss what's at stake during the European elections (23-26 May 2019).

How to Prevent the Syrian Conflict from Becoming a Forgotten War? The EU Delegation to the US kicked off its 2019 #EUatSpringMeetings campaign with a policy talk on the future of Syria, featuring EU Ambassador Stavros Lambrinidis, Kevin Baron (Defense One), Michael Koehler (European Commission), Mona Yacoubian (US Institute of Peace) and Jennifer Cafarella (Institute for the Study of War).

Senior Media Advisor Kasper Zeuthen sat down with Filip Cornelis, Director for Aviation in the European Commission, to talk about drones in all shapes and sizes at this year’s South by Southwest Festival. Learn how this new technology will come to dominate our future, help us be greener, how the EU regulates drone-filled skies, and what happened to the concept of flying cars.

Artificial intelligence was one of the hottest topics at this year’s South by Southwest festival in Austin, Texas. To get the big perspective on what our artificial intelligence future will look like, Senior Media Advisor Kasper Zeuthen sat down with Professor Aleksandra Przegalinska at the EU's SXSW House to discuss the ethics of AI, how to create trust, and the EU's approach to this novel world.

Recorded at SXSW's official celebration for International Women's Day hosted by the EU and UN Women, Cultural Affairs Officer Christine Vest speaks with Alexander De Croo, Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium and Minister of Finance and Development Cooperation. The two discuss women's economic empowerment, current issues in feminism, and how men can play a key role in achieving gender equality.
At an event hosted by The Brookings Institution, the Secretary-General of the European Commission Martin Selmayr gave a speech on "Europe, Multilateralism and Great Power Competition" on 6 March 2019. The event was organized in the context of the Brookings - Robert Bosch Foundation Transatlantic Initiative. Following his opening remarks, Martin Selmayr was joined on stage by Thomas Wright (senior fellow and director, Center on the United States and Europe, The Brookings Institution) and then took questions from the audience.

During his U.S. tour to promote his latest book titled "The Empire and the Five Kings: America's Abdication and the Fate of the World", French philosopher Bernard-Henri Lévy sat down with Senior Communications Officer Martin Caudron for a conversation on his new book, the manifesto on the need for European patriotism to preserve the EU which he cosigned with 29 other European writers end of January, and his play "Looking for Europe" which he will be performing across Europe from 5 March to 20 May.

Why is only 30% of plastic waste recycled in the EU and less than 10% of plastic waste recycled in the US? How is the EU addressing the problem of plastic pollution, including the issue of microplastics in food and water? Why is transatlantic leadership necessary to address the challenges facing our environment? Publication Officer Michele Bendall sits down with Daniel Calleja, Director General for the Environment at the European Commission, to talk about what the EU is doing to tackle plastic pollution at the source and how we as citizens can reduce waste and protect in the environment.

Europe and the United States are two major powerhouses when it comes to research and innovation. Discover the scope of our cooperation and the role of the EU in science in this conversation between Jean-Eric Paquet, Director-General for Research and Innovation at the European Commission, and Senior Communications Officer Martin Caudron. This episode was recorded in the margins of the Annual Meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in Washington, DC (14-17 February 2019).

On the first day of his last month as Ambassador of the EU to the U.S., David O'Sullivan gives a keynote speech at Georgetown's Transatlantic Policy Symposium on "Liberalism in Peril? The Future of the Transatlantic Partnership". He's introduced by professor Joel Hellman, the Dean of Georgetown Walsh School of Foreign Service, who talks about the centennial of the school (the oldest school of international relations in America) and how the transatlantic partnership has played a central role in supporting peace and prosperity around the world over the last decades. Ambassador O'Sullivan then engages in a conversation with professor Anna von der Goltz and takes questions from the audience on a wide range of issues related to EU-US relations.

Ahead of the 91st Academy Awards on 24 February, Cultural Affairs Officer Christine Vest sits down
with Todd Hitchcock, Abbie Algar, and Ben Delgado from the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center to discuss the European films nominated for Oscars this year, EU funding for the audiovisual sector through the Creative Europe program, and their Oscar Best Picture award predictions.

Two weeks after the inauguration of the 116th US Congress and a day after the reception celebrating the relaunch of the bipartisan Congressional European Union Caucus, senior communications officer Martin Caudron sat down with Congressman Gregory Meeks (D-NY) to talk about the state of the EU-US relationship, the priorities of the EU Caucus, and the nature of his dialogue with EU counterparts.

Senior Media Officer Kasper Zeuthen speaks with EU Ambassador David O'Sullivan on latest trade insights, why we shouldn't fear GDPR, how the Iran deal delivers, and his lifelong love affair with the U.S.—all in our special edition New Year's podcast.

Senior Media Advisor Kasper Zeuthen speaks with EU Ambassador to the U.S. David O'Sullivan and Janis Searles Jones, CEO of Ocean Conservancy. The three discuss the impact of plastic and climate change on our world’s oceans, how the EU is working on several different policies to mitigate sea pollution and plastic, and the opportunities for the public to lessen the impact by cutting back on single-use plastic use and volunteering in coastal clean ups to reduce marine litter.

In the margins of our EU-Americas Miami conference (15-16 November 2018), Senior Communications Officer Martin Caudron talked to decision-makers and officials from across the American continent and Europe on the potential for increased cooperation on issues ranging from disaster preparedness, emergency response, climate adaptation, human rights, democracy, business and investment. Guests in the order of appearance: Pierre Delsaux, Deputy Director-General for Space Policy at the European Commission; Carmelo Ríos Santiago, President, National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators and Majority Leader, Puerto Rico Senate; Jacqueline Charles, reporter at the Miami Herald; Margarita Wells, Environment & Sustainability Assistant Director at City of Miami Beach; Clément Leclerc, Consul General of France in Miami; David Kramer, Florida International University, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor; David O'Sullivan, Ambassador of the European Union to the U.S.; Caroline Vicini, Deputy Head of the EU Head of Delegation to the U.S.

Catherine De Bolle, Executive Director of Europol, sat down with Senior Communications Officer Martin Caudron during her first visit to the U.S. in this capacity, ahead of her participation to the EU-U.S. Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial (8-9 November 2018)
Senior Communications Officer Martin Caudron discusses Europe’s move to make open access to publicly-funded scientific publications a reality by 2020, with Mary Kavanagh (Minister-Counselor for Science and Innovation at the EU Delegation to the U.S.), Robert-Jan Smits (European Commission’s Envoy for Open Access), Marc Schiltz (President of Science Europe and Chief Executive of Luxembourg National Research Fund), and David Sweeney (Executive Chair, Research England, UK Research and Innovation Agency).

Senior Media Advisor Kasper Zeuthen sits down with EU Ambassador to the UN, João Vale de Almeida, on the eve of the 73rd United Nations General Assembly to discuss the EU’s role at the UN, main EU objectives, UN reform, and the importance of defending the UN and multilateralism.

Spokesperson James Barbour speaks to EU Ambassador to the U.S. David O’Sullivan on the outcome of the White House meeting between European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and U.S. President Donald J. Trump. As we end season 1 of EU NOW, Ambassador O’Sullivan also reflects on the state of EU-U.S. relations.

Senior Communications Officer Martin Caudron hosts Jorge Domecq, Chief Executive of the European Defence Agency, for a conversation on defense funding and capabilities in the EU and implications for NATO.

Senior Communications Officer Martin Caudron speaks to the Portuguese Minister of Defense, José Alberto de Azeredo Lopes, on EU Defense and EU-NATO cooperation.

Senior Communications Officer Martin Caudron sat down with Jürgen Salay, EU climate negotiator who spent a year doing research on climate action at the subnational level in the U.S. during his fellowship at the University of Washington in Seattle.

EU Ambassador to the United States David O’Sullivan explains why the US makes more money doing business with the EU than anywhere else, the crucial importance of the EU-US trade and investment relationship for jobs and growth on both sides of the Atlantic, what drives deficits, and much more.

Senior Communications Officer Martin Caudron spoke to Terry Schaefer of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) & Sigi Gruber of the European Commission on transatlantic ocean research and how it contributes to the protection and understanding of our ocean.
Senior Media Adviser Kasper Zeuthen discusses how traveling to Europe is now faster and easier than ever with European travel expert Steve Smith from Rick Steves.

Senior Communications Officer Martin Caudron talks EU-Defense and EU-NATO cooperation with Heather Conley, Senior Vice president for Europe, Eurasia, and the Arctic and director of the Europe Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), ahead of the 2018 edition of the EU's Security and Defense Washington Symposium (13 June).

Senior Media Advisor Kasper Zeuthen sits down with EU Ambassador to the U.S. David O'Sullivan to explain what General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is all about, and what it means for U.S. companies and consumers.

At the South by Southwest (SXSW) Festival in Austin, TX in March, Senior Media Advisor Kasper Zeuthen spoke with Brittan Heller, Director of Technology and Society at the Anti-Defamation League. The two spoke about the rise of hate speech online, cyberbullying that incites violence, and the rules and laws against defamation in Europe.

At the South by Southwest (SXSW) Festival in Austin, TX in March, Senior Media Advisor Kasper Zeuthen spoke with Elke König, Chair of the Single Resolution Board, on the EU's Single Resolution Mechanism that prevents bank failures from affecting the entire EU economy and taxpayers.

At the South by Southwest (SXSW) Festival in Austin, TX in March, Senior Media Advisor Kasper Zeuthen spoke with Rachel Sibley, VR/AR Faculty at Singularity University. The two spoke about how the virtual world is opening up new ways to innovate and tell stories, and what the future of virtual reality looks like.

At the South by Southwest (SXSW) Festival in Austin, TX in March, Senior Media Advisor Kasper Zeuthen spoke with Valentina Zarya from Fortune Magazine and Sarah Koch of the Case Foundation on the role of women in entrepreneurship, innovation, and business, and the benefits of investing in women.

Senior Media Advisor Kasper Zeuthen sat down with David O'Sullivan, the EU Ambassador to the U.S., to reflect on the EU's busy three days at the South by Southwest (SXSW) festival in Austin, TX in
March. The two discuss key topics the EU focused on during the festival, including the EU-U.S. relationship, free trade agreements, social inclusion and diversity, combating online hate speech, female entrepreneurship, European tech startups, antitrust rules in the digital age, and the EU's International Urban Cooperation.

Senior Media Advisor Kasper Zeuthen sat down with Katharina von Schnurbein, the European Commission’s Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism. They discussed the current state of antisemitism in Europe, safety concerns of Jewish people traveling in the area, and how education can be the best and strongest way to dismantle hatred and bias.

Senior Media Advisor Kasper Zeuthen spoke with Bau Graves, the executive director of the Old Town School of Music in Chicago. The school is a recent recipient of the European Union's “Getting to Know Europe” grant, which promotes greater knowledge and understanding of the EU in the U.S. In this episode, the two discuss the transatlantic movement of jazz, cultural exchange of music, and how the grant will showcase the musical diversity of the EU on an American stage. You can listen to the Old Town School's library of music here.

Senior Media Advisor Kasper Zeuthen sat down with Patricia O'Reilly, Deputy Head of Cabinet for Tibor Navracsics, the European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth, and Sport. They discussed the various opportunities for American students to study in the EU, what they can get out of the experience, and how it impacts transatlantic relations.

Senior Communications Officer Martin Caudron spoke to Xavier Prats Monné, the EU Director-General for Health and Food Safety. They discussed the overprescription of antibiotics, maternal mortality, the role of women in the healthcare field, and animal welfare.

Senior Communications Officer Martin Caudron spoke to Member of the European Parliament Marietje Schaake during her recent U.S. visit. They discussed the state of EU-US relations, the multilateral trading system, women in politics, net neutrality and the upcoming European elections.

EU's Senior Media Adviser Kasper Zeuthen sat down with Andrea Glorioso, who justed ended a 4-year term as a a Digital Counsellor at the EU Delegation to the U.S. They speak about EU's Digital Single Market and the implications for U.S. companies and customers.

Senior Communications Officer Martin Caudron sat down with the EU's Special Representative for Human Rights, Stavros Lambrinidis, to discuss EU's external action on human rights (cooperation with
the U.S., dialogues with countries like Cuba and Iran, freedom of the press, protection of migrants, death penalty).

Senior Media Advisor Kasper Zeuthen speaks with Eamon Gilmore, the European Union Special Envoy for the Colombian Peace Process, during his recent visit to Washington DC. They discuss the EU's current involvement in Colombia, and Gilmore's perspective on Brexit.

Senior Media Advisor Kasper Zeuthen speaks with Johannes Hahn, the European Commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, during his one-day visit to Washington DC on February 2, 2018. They discuss EU-U.S. support for peace, stability, democracy and prosperity in the Western Balkans, Ukraine and beyond.

Senior Communications Officer Martin Caudron speaks with Jonathan Margolis, U.S. Department of State Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Science, Space and Health, on the various ways the U.S. and the EU work together on space policy.

In our EU Now Podcast New Year's Edition Senior Media Advisor Kasper Zeuthen talks to Ambassador David O'Sullivan about EU-US relations, and key 2017 EU topics including Brexit, the EU Economy, the Paris Climate Agreement, the Iran Deal and where it's all headed in 2018.

EU Delegation's Martin Caudron speaks with Christian Leffler, EEAS Deputy Secretary-General for Economic and Global Issues, ahead of Human Rights Day to discuss EU partnership in Africa, the future of multilateralism, and diplomatic talks with Cuba.

Senior Media Advisor Kasper Zeuthen speaks with EU Director-General for Mobility and Transport Henrik Hololei during the 10th anniversary of the Open Skies Agreement to discuss aviation competition, increased security measures, and what makes flying what it is today.

Senior Media Advisor Kasper Zeuthen talks to Jacob Funk Kirkegaard from the Peterson Institute for International Economics about EU's improving economy, a big window of opportunity, and what Americans get wrong when trying to make sense of it.

Host Kasper Zeuthen discusses with EU Ambassador David O'Sullivan the latest on the Iran Nuclear Deal.
EU Delegation’s Martin Caudron interviews Elizabeth Zitrin, President of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, and Harold Wilson, a death row exoneree and cofounder of Witness to Innocence, a non-profit serving to empower exonerated death row survivors. Learn the facts behind the controversial capital punishment, how the EU has played a leadership role in abdicating the death penalty, and hear a chilling, first-hand account from a man who woke up every day on death row for more than 16 years.

At the end of her U.S. visit, Senior Media Advisor Kasper Zeuthen talked to Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager about what competition means to her, how to keep markets fair and open, and ongoing antitrust cases involving Apple and Google.

Svante Tidholm is a project manager of FATTA MAN, a Swedish group whose name translates to, "GET IT, MAN." Their mission is to change the societal and cultural norms that create an oppressive masculinity. In this interview, Svante shares how he became involved in this project, what the state of affairs is currently, how Sweden's "brave" laws have helped shape a better future, and how he has gathered momentum for this mission by involving rap musicians, creating short films, discussion materials and more, all around the theme, "It Starts with Me."

The EU Delegation's Senior Media Advisor, Kasper Zeuthen, catches up with the Head of Economic and Financial Affairs, Valerie Rouxel-Laxton, for a check-up on the EU's economy. Get an inside look on the successes and challenges as we face an increasingly interconnected global economy.

Professor Tammy Proctor, Department Head and Professor of History at Utah State University tells about a large-scale yet little known humanitarian effort led by Americans in Belgium during the First World War.

Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis, the EU's Chief for Health and Food Safety, a heart surgeon and historian who started his life in a Soviet Gulag, addresses issues such as food shortages and safety in a personal and unique manner. Perhaps a humanist above all else, hear him explain why the way forward is “...a global approach; we need global solutions to stop health threats.”

At the EU's 6th annual Common Security and Defense Policy Symposium in D.C., EU Delegation
Spokesperson James Barbour catches up with Manuel Navarrete, head of Europol's European Counter Terrorism Centre, to discuss European security and counterterrorism efforts in the EU, as well as the status of EU-U.S. cooperation on the strategic challenges ahead.

Kicking off the EU Now podcast series, EU Ambassador to the U.S., David O'Sullivan, discusses on Europe Day the 60th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration and 70th anniversary of the Marshall Plan, founding milestones of the European Union. We welcome your thoughts and feedback: If we're not already covering it, let us know what matters to you! Contact us at delegation-usa-press@eeas.europa.eu with "EU Now Podcast" in the subject line.

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