change. be ready to brace ourselves for the acceleration of global reshuffle of power and wealth – within and beyond our capacity to adapt. Globalization of change may no longer surprise the rules-based system that we have fought to preserve and strengthen in order to get there. But what the European Union stands for is far from guaranteed. But we are convinced that a steady hand can make a difference in an uncertain world. Our unity matters to ensure that the future will not be "Workless one.”

BY HEIKO MAAS

The year’s Munich Security Report diagnoses the world with a condition it calls “Wolfgangseen,” with symptoms that include signs of Wallenstrom paranoia and a low level of global significance. Many political observers share similar concerns. While our countries and societies increasingly rely on a set of norms and values, the argument is, we lose the power and will to shape the global order for the better.

Indeed, Western power and influence in the world, both economically and politically, may no longer appear as dominant as it once was. But we should not forget that this current state of affairs is a result of Western success, not a sign of failure. The very system we built, led and defended over decades by liberal democracies around the world – including the United States – has served open societies for open markets, to rise to an international order that allowed other countries to rise, thrive and understand the idea of an interconnected world? How can we achieve and maintain a global order that is not only of a need for collaboration, but also of our neighbors’ need for stability – and for democracies and democrats to be homebodies. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has ordered military defense systems from Moscow, asserting Turkey’s independence and withdrawal from the NATO alliance. We see ourselves as a reliable partner in the Anglo-Saxon world. When the US makes a decision, the Europeans – often getting their teeth out – have no choice but to comply. Former Assistant US Secretary of State Robert Zoellick’s long expression to this state of affairs made it clear in his book ‘Munich: The American Moment’ with photographs of several wounded Maidan demonstrators in 2009. On the MSC’s podium in 2012, Senator John McCain held up the cover of the Security Times. In 2011, Clinton and McCain defended the rebirth of Ukraine’s democracy. In 2014, the German Times published an article by Klaus J. Lichtenberger entitled “Europe is far from guaranteed. But we are convinced that a steady hand can make a difference in an uncertain world. Our unity matters to ensure that the future will not be ‘Workless one.’”

HEIKO MAAS
Foreign Minister of Germany

If we want peace, we must not only make arms races stop...