PROGRAMME

SCHUMAN SECURITY & DEFENCE FORUM 2026

RELIABLE SECURITY & DEFENCE PARTNERSHIPS IN TIMES OF GROWING THREATS & UNCERTAINTY

17 - 18 NOVEMBER BRUSSELS

17 NOV
CONCERT NOBLE

CLOSED DOOR MINISTERIAL DINNER

18:00–19:00 **COCKTAIL**

19:00–21:30 **MINISTERIAL DINNER**

WELCOME

Kaja KALLAS | High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission

DISCUSSION

In a world of geopolitical competition, with increasingly interconnected security environments, localised crises and conflicts can affect countries across the globe. The EU and its partners need to be better prepared to face both conventional security threats like conflicts, as well as emerging challenges and the weaponisation of non-security domains. In this uncertain and troubled context, reliable partnerships are more needed than ever.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- What security threats are common to the EU and its partners? How do threats and challenges affect partners across different regions?
- What are the EU and its partners already doing to respond to these threats and challenges? What is working well and what areas require more attention?
- How can the EU and its partners strengthen cooperation in response to common security threats and challenges?

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AMONG PARTICIPANTS

MASTER OF CEREMONY

Steven EVERTS | Director, EU Institute for Security Studies

1 **A side event** for think-tankers and academia will take place on 17 November in the afternoon, followed by a **cocktail/dinner** for **think-tankers**, **academia** and accompanying **members of the official delegations**.

18 NOV
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

SCHUMAN SECURITY & DEFENCE FORUM

08:00–09:00 **WELCOME COFFEE**

09:00-09:05 **WELCOMING REMARKS**

Roberta METSOLA | President of the European Parliament

09:05–09:20 **KEYNOTE SPEECH**

Kaja KALLAS | High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission

09:20–10:40 **PLENARY SESSION**

GLOBAL SECURITY IN FLUX: RELIABLE PARTNERSHIPS FOR A MORE SECURE FUTURE

The geopolitical landscape is rapidly evolving, with conventional and emerging threats testing global stability. From cyber threats to maritime security, these challenges demand coordinated responses. The European Security Strategy will provide a framework for addressing the current security environment, but its success also hinges on strong partnerships. As the European Union seeks to reinforce its role as a capable, predictable and reliable partner, the ability to forge and sustain partnerships remains crucial. The strength of these partnerships and their capacity to deliver tangible benefits for our respective citizens will determine whether collective preparedness, resilience and action can outpace the threats we face.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- How can the EU and its partners build and sustain reliable, mutually beneficial security and defence partnerships in an increasingly fragmented and unpredictable geopolitical environment?
- What makes a security and defence partnership truly effective - and how can this translate political commitments into tangible capabilities, resilience and security outcomes for citizens?
- How can the EU and its partners strengthen cooperation, trust and collective preparedness to respond more effectively to current and emerging security threats?

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AMONG PANELLISTS

Ermal NUFI | Minister of Defence, Albania

Kiyoshi ODAWARA | State Minister of Defence, Japan

Tore Onshuus SANDVIK | Minister of Defence, Norway

Hon Roselinda Soipan TUYA | Cabinet Secretary of Defence, Kenya

MODERATOR

David CVACH | Deputy Secretary-General for Peace, Security and Defence, European External Action Service

INTERVENTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Vijavat ISARABHAKDI | Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Thailand

Sanjay SETH | Minister of State for Defence, India

INTERVENTIONS BY

David MCALLISTER | Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs

Marie-Agnes STRACK-ZIMMERMANN | Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the Committee on Security and Defence

10:40–11:10 **COFFEE BREAK**

11:10–12:30 **BREAKOUT ROUNDTABLES**

ROUNDTABLE 1: FROM CONFLICT TO TERROR: UNDERSTANDING AN EVOLVING SECURITY NEXUS

The proliferation of armed conflicts, geopolitical fragmentation and growing instability are reshaping the global terrorist threat. Armed groups are not only using terrorist means, but have also been assuming the identity and adopting the narratives, tactics and organisational models of international terrorist groups in protracted wars. Furthermore, the lines between terrorism, insurgency, organised crime are becoming increasingly blurred, complicating efforts to assess and address such evolving threats.

In this context, counter-terrorism responses are increasingly intertwined with broader conflict prevention, crisis management and resilience efforts, requiring greater coordination between security, humanitarian, development and governance actors. The persistence of unresolved conflicts and grievances often further enable extremist groups to exploit local instability while projecting their influence beyond national borders. Strengthening institutional resilience, addressing the underlying drivers of instability and improving international cooperation therefore remain essential to preventing terrorist groups from exploiting fragile environments and emerging global vulnerabilities.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- How are conflicts transforming the terrorist threat and, vice-versa, how is terrorism transforming conflicts locally?
- How could counter-terrorism strategies better address the complex dynamics between conflict, instability and long-term security?

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AMONG PANELLISTS

Assad Hassan AL-SHAIBANI | Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Syria

Gen Walaa Adel BIBERS | Assistant Minister of Defence for Foreign Affairs, Egypt

Natalia GHERMAN | Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, United Nations

Gen (Ret) Christopher Gwabin MUSA | Minister of Defence, Nigeria

Mukhtar TILEUBERDI | Foreign Minister, Kazakhstan

MODERATOR

Anna STRZASKA | Special Envoy for Counter-Terrorism, European External Action Service

INTERVENTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Maj Gen Mohamed Salah BENBICHA | Secretary General of the Ministry of National Defense, Algeria

Kiryowa KIWANUKA | Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs, Uganda

Bartjan WEGTER | EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, European Union

ROUNDTABLE 2: BUILDING MUTUAL RESILIENCE AGAINST EMERGING SECURITY THREATS

Countries are facing an increasingly complex and sophisticated spectrum of hybrid threats. State and non-state actors are employing coordinated campaigns combining political, cyber, economic, informational, technological and covert instruments to undermine national security, weaken democratic institutions and erode public trust. Cyber operations and Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI) have become central elements of these campaigns, with emerging technologies, particularly generative artificial intelligence (AI), further increasing their scale, speed and sophistication.

Against the backdrop of this evolving threat landscape, strengthening national and collective resilience and deterring and responding to these threats has become a key foreign and security policy priority. Over recent years, the EU has reinforced its toolbox and gained operational experience in addressing hybrid threats, as many other partners had to, particularly those on the frontline. States have developed a stronger understanding of the efforts needed to prevent, detect, and respond to hybrid threats and cooperation has expanded across governments, industry, and international partners.

Given the interconnected nature of our security, closer international cooperation is essential to strengthen situational awareness, information sharing and coordinated responses, linking immediate crisis management with long-term resilience building. Governments and partners need to adapt their approaches to address this evolving threat landscape. Collective responses should be strengthened while safeguarding democratic values, fundamental rights and public trust. And emerging technologies, particularly AI, should be harnessed to strengthen resilience while mitigating the risks they pose to international security.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- How are hybrid threats evolving, particularly through the convergence of cyber operations, foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI), and emerging technologies such as AI? What are the main vulnerabilities and strategic challenges governments should prioritise?
- How can governments adapt their national security and foreign policy approaches to strengthen their resilience, deterrence, and response against hybrid threats, while safeguarding democratic values, fundamental rights, social cohesion and public trust?
- How can international partnerships strengthen collective resilience and response through improved information sharing, situational awareness, coordinated crisis response and the exchange of expertise? How can we better connect short-term responses with long-term resilience building and incentivise more effective collective action?

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AMONG PANELLISTS

Max BERGMANN | Center for Strategic and International Studies, USA

HE Angus CAMPBELL AO | Australian Ambassador to the EU, NATO, Belgium and Luxembourg

Manon LE BLANC | Coordinator for Cyber Issues, European External Action Service

Anatolie NOSATÎI | Minister of Defence, Moldova

MODERATOR

Per OLSSON FRIDH | Director, Folke Bernadotte Akademin

INTERVENTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Tapio PYSLOO | Hybrid Center of Excellence, Finland

12:30–14:00 **LUNCHEON**

14:00–15:20 **BREAKOUT ROUNDTABLES**

ROUNDTABLE 3: DEFENCE SUPPLY CHAINS - LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS TO ADDRESS DISRUPTIONS, CRITICAL DEPENDENCIES AND GLOBAL CRISIS

Geopolitical tensions, technological competition, and growing demand for defence capabilities are exposing vulnerabilities across global defence supply chains. From critical raw materials and advanced semiconductors to munitions production and logistics networks, countries face increasing risks from disruptions, bottlenecks and strategic dependencies. This affects the supply of technologies, and key components that underpin strategic and critical sectors such as the defence industry. At the same time, energy crises, such as oil supply shocks caused by wars, strain global economies and defence capabilities, manifesting vulnerable dependencies. In this context, the climate crisis further spurs conflicts over critical assets and undermines supply chain stability. In this context, no single nation can address critical supply chain dependencies alone; networks of partnerships can contribute to enhancing supply chain resilience, diversification, and responsiveness.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- What are the main challenges and opportunities for defence supply chains, notably with regard to operability?
- How can we build more agile, diversified, and interoperable supply chains that can meet the security challenges of today and tomorrow? Also considering the need for 'energy on the battle field'.
- How can partnerships be leveraged to mitigate disruptions in critical defence supply chains?

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AMONG PANELLISTS

Maj Gen Salah ALAZEMI | Assistant Chief of General Staff for Supply and Logistics, Kuwait Army, Kuwait

Antonio ARMADA VÁZQUEZ | Director of Procurement, Support, Industry & Interoperability, European Defence Agency

Pål JONSON | Minister of Defence, Sweden

Rashid AL-MOHANADI | Centre for International Policy Research, Qatar

HE Hon Jonathan WILKINSON | Ambassador to the EU, Canada

MODERATOR

Dr Elena LAZAROU | Director General, Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy

INTERVENTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Benard Maambo HAAMAUNDU | Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Zambia

ROUNDTABLE 4: MARITIME SECURITY - UPHOLDING FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION, PROTECTING SUBMARINE INFRASTRUCTURE, AND TACKLING SHADOW FLEETS

The maritime domain is critical for our collective security and prosperity. Our global economy depends on sea lines of communication and on underwater data and energy connectivity for trade and for development; our oceans are a major source of income, particularly for coastal states, and of energy generation – essential for the green transition.

Yet this critical domain is increasingly contested, with geopolitical rivalries, regional conflict and competition for resources putting pressure on the internationally agreed rules in the maritime domain, principally the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), with freedom of navigation at its core. Shadow fleets, such as that supporting Russia's war economy, undermine international maritime governance and jeopardise safety of navigation and the marine environment. In this context, it remains critical to uphold UNCLOS and ensure freedom of navigation, effective maritime governance, and the sustainable development of the maritime domain. In this context, effective partnerships and support for regional maritime security architectures play a critical role in promoting security in the maritime domain.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- How can we work together to strengthen and uphold international maritime governance and freedom of navigation, in line with UNCLOS?
- How can we make best use of emerging technologies in the maritime domain as well as collectively respond to the challenges they pose?
- How can we deepen our ties to address the increasingly complex challenges to submarine infrastructure and promote norms of responsible state behaviour?
- How can states more effectively enforce maritime governance and tackle the operations of the shadow fleet, in line with UNCLOS?

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AMONG PANELLISTS

Bader Mousa AL-SAIF | Assistant professor Kuwait University, non-resident fellow at Chatham House

Joseph BETI ASSOMO | Minister Delegate to the Presidency in charge of Defense, Cameroon

RADM Marco CASAPIERI | Operation Commander EUNAVFOR IRINI, EU

Ștefan Radu OPREA | Minister of Defence, Romania

Gilberto Cojuangco TEODORO JR | Secretary of National Defense, Philippines (remote participation)

MODERATOR

Prof Christian BUEGER | University of Copenhagen

INTERVENTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

HE Abhimanu KUNDASAMY | Ambassador to Belgium and the EU, Mauritius

15:20–15:40 **COFFEE BREAK**

15:40–17:00

PLENARY SESSION

THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER - BETWEEN RECOMPOSITION AND REFORM, STRENGTHENING PEACEKEEPING AND HUMAN SECURITY

As the world has entered a period of significant recomposition, the international rules-based order is under unprecedented stress, with some calling for a necessary adaption or a major reshuffle, while others even advocate for its dismantlement. In today's era of rapid technological change and evolving threats, the need for a holistic approach to security has never been clearer. Yet, security is not just about borders or capabilities - it is about people. Strengthening human security is also essential to ensure that no one is left behind, fostering a more inclusive and sustainable international order. Multilateral peacekeeping and peacebuilding engagement plays a key role in this regard. At a moment when UN peacekeeping is reducing footprint in view of a sustained liquidity crisis, protection of civilians remains central. In accordance with the United Nations Charter, the strategic integration of humanitarian diplomacy is an avenue to place human priorities at the centre of peace and security for all.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- How can we ensure a better strategy and long-term vision on global peacekeeping efforts?
- How can we ensure that humanitarian priorities are fully taken into account during peacekeeping- and peacebuilding efforts? and to use them more strategically to support confidence-building measures, dialogue and more durable ceasefire and peace agreements?
- How can we strengthen the cooperation with multilateral institutions on humanitarian diplomacy in crisis response and conflict prevention?

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AMONG PANELLISTS

HE El Hadji Ibrahima DIENE | Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia & Head of AUSSOM, African Union

Rahman JALIL | EU Youth Peace and Security Network, Afghanistan

Itonde KAKOMA | President and CEO, Interpeace

Kajsa OLLONGREN | Secretary-General, European External Action Service

Martin KIMANI | Assistant Secretary-General for Africa, United Nations (remote participation)

MODERATOR

Richard ATWOOD | Executive Vice President, International Crisis Group

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CONCLUDING REMARKS

Kajsa OLLONGREN | Secretary-General of the European External Action Service

The Schuman Security and Defence Forum 2026 is organised by the European External Action Service (EEAS), with the financial support of the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI).