



DELIVERING TOGETHER ON PEACE, SECURITY AND DEFENCE

Brussels, 28-29 May 2024

DAY 1 – 28 MAY 2024

CLOSED DOOR MINISTERIAL DINNER ¹

(Concert Noble)

18:00 – 19:00

Cocktail

19:00 – 21:30

Closed Door Ministerial Dinner

Welcome words by Josep Borrell Fontelles
High Representative for the Union's Foreign and Security Policy
Vice President of the European Commission (HR/VP)

Discussion

In our interconnected world, geographical silos do not exist anymore. Local crises and conflicts can quickly become global, with more far-reaching and complex consequences than ever before. At the same time, security threats are increasingly multidimensional and complex, with new strategic domains and the weaponisation of non-traditional security areas coexisting with conventional threats. Geopolitical rivalries lead to shifting alliances, making the world more unpredictable and less secure. We face increasing uncertainties - what some describe as a permanent polycrisis.

Guiding questions: What are the main security challenges and opportunities in today's volatile world? In the complex security environment, fostering partnerships is more needed than ever. When acting together, we effectively deliver on peace, security and defence matters, to the benefit of our citizens. How can we improve our collective response by strengthening our cooperation?

¹ A **side event** for think-tankers and academia will take place on 28 May in the afternoon.

It will be followed by a **cocktail/ dinner** for **think-tankers, academia** and accompanying **members of the official delegations**.

DAY 2 – 29 MAY 2024

Schuman Security and Defence Forum
(European Parliament)

08:00 – 09:00	Doorstep and Welcome Coffee
09:00 - 9:15	Keynote speech by the HR/VP Josep Borrell Fontelles
09:15 – 09:20	Welcome words by the European Parliament
09:20 – 10:50	Plenary session

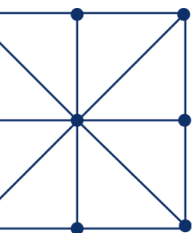
High-level panel: One theatre - partnerships in a security continuum

The world today is one single theatre of operations. International security is at stake in the Indo-Pacific, in Africa and in Latin America. Threats overlap and take many shapes and traditional and hybrid warfare is waged simultaneously. While future conflicts were predicted to have predominantly economic dimensions or be fought in cyberspace, the international community still faces conventional high intensity warfare. Hence, we witness both new and old warfare, resulting in increased fragility. Responding to common challenges also offers more opportunities for partnerships.

Guiding questions: Taking into account today's threats and security environment, how should we reassess our security and defence strategies and policies? How can enhanced partnerships and exchanges of best practices be factored into these new realities?

10:50 – 11:20	Coffee Break
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11:20 – 12:50	Breakout Roundtables
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Roundtable 1: Hybrid and cyber threats
The weaponization of everything

Over recent years, we have been witnessing a growing array of hybrid threats, often based on the use of new technologies and marked by a high degree of deniability – from cyber-attacks to foreign interference and manipulation of information. Compounded with emerging disruptive technologies, open societies and economies are increasingly vulnerable with blurred lines between war and peace. In this light, the EU and many other actors are developing instruments to prevent, deter and respond to these threats. Cooperation and coordination among partners is key to ensure an effective collective response.

Guiding questions: How to ensure that we leverage the full-spectrum of our tools to address malign behaviour, and that their use will have the desired outcome? How to promote international cooperation in bilateral and multilateral frameworks to counter hybrid threats? What could be done to better engage with public and private sectors?

Roundtable 2: Human Security explored Integrating Youth, Women & Children in Peace, Security & Defence Policies

The intersection of human security with peace, security and defence policies spotlights the indispensable role of women and youth in fostering sustainable peace and resilience in conflict. Embedding the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agendas within the broader peace, security and defence needs a holistic approach that values the contributions and addresses the specific needs and interests of these groups. This is crucial to safeguard the protection of human rights and enhance the effectiveness of our peace and security efforts. For this, it is essential to bridge the gap between traditional security and defence policies and the proactive promotion of peace through inclusive security strategies that acknowledge the needs and potential of women, youth, and children as agents of change in peace processes.

Guiding questions: How can the integration of WPS and YPS agendas into security and defence policies enhance human security, conflict prevention and resolution and peacebuilding? What role do defence ministries play in advancing the protection and participation of women and youth in peace and security? How can international partnerships enhance the implementation of gender-sensitive and youth-focused approaches to crisis management? What innovative strategies can be employed to ensure children, women, and youth security and involvement in peace processes?

Roundtable 3: Maritime security Making the sea a safer strategic domain

The sea is an essential strategic domain, with multiple political, security, defence, and economic implications. It is a source of multiple challenges, from geopolitical competition, piracy and transnational organised crime to vulnerabilities for international trade and critical maritime infrastructures. The Gulf of Guinea, the Red Sea, and the Indo-Pacific are some of the key areas for global maritime security.

Guiding questions: Which lessons can we draw to better address challenges to maritime security and freedom of navigation? How can we strengthen collaborative maritime domain awareness, rules-based cooperation in the maritime domain and respect of international law? How to work together in support of regional maritime security architectures? How to strengthen capacity building in the area of maritime security? How to better include the private sector?

14:20- 15:45

Breakout Roundtables

Roundtable 4: Critical infrastructures How to maximise resilience?

Natural and man-made disruptions to critical infrastructure may have widespread impact on us due to our increased interdependencies, complex systems and networks. Furthermore, there are malicious actors willing to exploit those vulnerabilities and amplify the impact of disasters for political reasons. Building resilience against all types of hazards requires a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach.

Guiding questions: What can we learn from the recent crises and incidents? What best practice could we draw from our respective approaches to the development of resilience pillar in our security and defence agendas? What kind of threats and risks can we foresee in the future? How can we reinforce our capacities and coordination on disaster preparedness and emergency response?



Roundtable 5: Defence cooperation Reducing vulnerabilities through partnerships

No State alone can achieve security on its own. The global economy, including the defence industry, remains integrated and interconnected with mutual interdependencies in security of supply, access and availability of raw materials, etc. While resilience is essential to address defence and internal security needs, cooperation among partners on defence and dual-use research, technology and innovation, defence capability development, or industrialisation is instrumental. Better understanding of the needs and challenges of the defence industry could identify areas for mutually beneficial cooperation with partners.

Guiding questions: How to mitigate the impact of strategic dependencies? How to enhance defence cooperation in a more coordinated manner to bring the most added value for the EU and its partners? What role for public-private partnerships? What concrete policies, platforms and measures are needed to ensure that defence cooperation fosters solutions based on a resilient economic playfield?

Roundtable 6: Counterterrorism A holistic approach

Terrorist groups pose a very serious threat to societies - not only through the violence they perpetrate, but also through pitting communities against another. As counterterrorism encompasses preventing, detecting and prosecuting suspects, strengthening the resilience of communities is crucial. Community engagement is also essential to ensure re-integration of released convicted offenders. A holistic approach, encompassing international cooperation, internal security efforts, law and justice, as well as social cohesion measures, is the cornerstone of any successful counterterrorism strategy.

Guiding questions: What measures should be taken to strengthen the resilience of communities and prevent radicalisation and recruitment efforts? What can be done to address more general but fundamental questions, such as justice to victims, gender dimension, stigmatisation, acceptance of host communities and cooperation among stakeholders at all levels?.

15:45 – 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:15 Plenary

High-Level Panel: Sustainable Peace Architectures – Multilateralism & Partnerships

The United Nations Charter, multilateralism and the rules-based international order remain the key principles underpinning our security and defence engagement. There is no better alternative to respond to the shared, collective aim of achieving, preserving and protecting peace. Nevertheless, the global security architecture needs to adapt to new challenges, in order to meet the expectations for security of our populations.

Guiding questions: With multilateralism as the overarching framework for sustainable peace, what more can be done to protect it from the perspectives of peace, security & defence? How can we draw on distinct perspectives from national structures, international and regional organisations, and civil society to make it fit for purpose in this complex world? How can we better shape multilateral institutions to strengthen the peace-security nexus?

Concluding remarks by HR/VP Josep Borrel Fontelles

