

DRAFT PROGRAMME

DISCLAIMER: Please note that the programme is provisional. The structure, content, and invited speakers are indicative. The definitive programme will be structured based on the availability of speakers and policy developments.

LAST UPDATE - 30/09/2025

Time	Europe Room
Welcome Addresses	
09:00 – 09:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrius Kubilius, Commissioner for Defence and Space, European Commission
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theo Francken, Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Belgium
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camille Grand, Secretary General, European Aerospace, Security and Defence Industries Association (ASD)
2030: A PREPARED, CREDIBLE AND CAPABLE EUROPE	
09:45 – 10:30	<p>Foundations of Strength: Defining the Pillars of European Industrial Sovereignty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timo Pesonen, Director-General, DG DEFIS, European Commission • Charles Fries, Deputy Secretary General for Peace, Security and Defence, European External Action Service • Eric Béranger, Chief Executive Officer, MBDA • Matteo Bisceglia, Senior Vice President, Naval Product Development and Partnering, Fincantieri <p>Moderator: Daniel Fiott, Head of the Defence and Statecraft Programme, Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy, Brussels School of Governance</p>
15-minute coffee break	
10:45 – 12:00	<p>Rearming Europe: Aligning Policy with Industrial and Military Capabilities</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>Panayiotis Hadjipavlis, Defence Director, Directorate of General Procurements and Defence Capabilities' Development, Ministry of Defence, Cyprus</p> <p>Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • André Denk, Chief Executive, European Defence Agency • Herald Ruijters, Deputy-Director General and Head of SAFE Task Force, DG DEFIS, European Commission • José Vicente de los Mozos, Chief Executive Officer, INDRA • Jean-Brice Dumont, Head of Air Power, Airbus Defence and Space • Stefan A. Hess, Member of the Executive Committee, Head of Group Sales, Hensoldt <p>Moderator: Daniel Fiott, Head of the Defence and Statecraft Programme, Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy, Brussels School of Governance</p>

BRIDGING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RESOURCES ACROSS EUROPE: FUNDING THE EUROPEAN DEFENCE AMBITION		
12:00 – 12:40	<p>Part I: Spending More and Better Together – From National to EU Budgets: Defence in the European Competitiveness Fund and the Multiannual Financial Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karolis Aleksa, Vice-minister of National Defence, Lithuania • Francois Arbault, Director for Defence Industrial Programmes / Director for Defence Policy, DG DEFIS, European Commission • Esa Rautalinko, President and Chief Executive Officer, Patria • KNDS <p><i>Moderator: Federico Santopinto, Senior Research Fellow and Head of the Europe, Strategy, and Security Programme, IRIS</i></p>	
Time	Europe Room	Sax Room
12:40 – 13:05	<p>Part II: Mobilising private capital to strengthen Europe's defence: Understanding the future of defence private investment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert de Groot, Vice-President, European Investment Bank • Guillaume de La Brosse, Head of Defence Policy Unit, DG DEFIS, European Commission • Faysal Rahman, Director, Deutsche Bank <p><i>Moderator: Federico Santopinto, Senior Research Fellow and Head of the Europe, Strategy, and Security Programme, IRIS</i></p>	<p>Integrated Air and Missile Defence: A Shield Against All Air Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gen. D.A. Davide RE, Air Force General Staff, Italy • Sylvia Kainz-Huber, Head of Unit for Defence Industrial Programming Coordination, DG DEFIS, European Commission • Vincent Thomassier, Group Strategic Cooperation and Marketing Director, MBDA <p><i>Moderator: Alessandro Marrone, Head of "Defence, security and space" programme, IAI</i></p>
13:05 - 13:15	<p><i>In conversation with</i> Minister of Defence</p>	
13:15 – 14:30	<p>Networking Lunch Break</p>	

Time	Europe Room	Sax Room
14:30 – 14:45	Keynote Address Member State Minister of Defence	
LEVERAGING EUROPEAN DEFENCE INDUSTRY EXPERTISE FOR COLLECTIVE SECURITY AND DEFENCE		
14:45 – 15:30	<p>A holistic approach to ground capabilities: Land Systems and the Dismounted Soldier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Milosz Momot, Head of Defence Systems, DG DEFIS, European Commission• Carlo Ferlito, Chief Executive Officer and General Manager, Beretta• Jussi Järvinen, Executive Vice President Protected Mobility, Patria <p><i>Moderator: Alessandro Marrone, Head of "Defence, security and space" programme, IAI</i></p>	<p>European Defence Readiness in and from Space: Operationalising and Enhancing Space-Based Intelligence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Real Admiral Louis Tillier, Director of the European Union Satellite Centre (EU SatCen)• Ekaterini Kavvada, Director for Secure and Connected Space, DG DEFIS, European Commission• Philippe Bertrand, Chair of the Security Accreditation Board of the EU Space Programme• Francisco Vilhena da Cunha, Chief Executive Officer, Geosat• Clément Galic, Chief Executive Officer, Unseenlabs• Adriano Baptista, Senior Advisor, EUSI <p><i>Moderator: Julien Bocquet, Associate Director, Business Bridge Europe - logos</i></p>
15-minute coffee break		
15:45 – 16:30	<p>From Strategy to Shipyards: Strengthening Europe's Naval Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rear Admiral Vasileios Gryparis, Operational Commander EUNAVFOR ASPIDES• Francisco Casaldueiro, Programme Manager - Defence Research and Development Programmes, DG DEFIS, European Commission• Pierre Eric Pommellet, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, NAVAL GROUP	<p>Europe's Defence Digital Capabilities: Harnessing Expertise, Building Capabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paraskevi Papantoniou, Head of Unit for Defence Single Market & Hybrid Threats, DG DEFIS, European Commission• DG CONNECT• Jouni Flyktman, Vice President for Defence and Security, IQM Quantum Computers• Joost Elstak, Vice President for Missions, ICEYE• Benoît Chatelain, Defence & Security Director, Sopra Steria

	Moderator: Mihai Sebastian Chihaiia , Policy Analyst, EPC	Moderator: Aurélie Pugnet , Chief Defence Correspondent, Euractiv
16:30 – 16:50	<p align="center">Civil aviation authorities facilitating European defence</p> <p align="center"><i>In conversation with</i></p> <p align="center">Florian Guillermet, Executive Director of the European Union Aviation Safety Agency & Christophe Robin, Head of Design, DAHER</p> <p>Moderator: Aurélie Pugnet, Chief Defence Correspondent, Euractiv</p>	

From Combat to Policy: Building on Frontline Experience		
16:50 – 17:20	<p align="center">Optimising Military Mobility: Infrastructure, Air, Roads, Rails, Sea and Connectivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petras Auštrevičius, Member of the European Parliament • Arunas Vinciunas, Acting Head of Unit for Ukraine Support & Military Mobility: Mission Overview, DG DEFIS, European Commission • Alain De Taeye, Member of the Management Board, TomTom <p>Moderator: Tímea Lapsánszki, Senior Consultant, Business Bridge Europe - logos</p>	
17:20 – 18:00	<p align="center">Innovation in the battlespace: Experience from Ukraine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benedikta von Seherr-Thoss, Managing Director for Peace, Security and Defence, EEAS • François Arbault, Acting Director for Defence Policy, DG DEFIS, European Commission • Max Wied, Co-Founder and CFO of Arx Robotics • Fedir Serdiuk, Founder, MOWA Defense Ukraine • Quantum Systems <p>Moderator: Lea Pavlovic, Defence, Space and Aviation Manager, Business Bridge Europe - logos</p>	
18:00 – 18:15	<p align="center">Closing Addresses</p> <p align="center">Sergiy Boyev, Deputy Minister of Defense of Ukraine (TBC)</p>	

18:15 – 20:00	Networking Cocktail
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