



**Janis Garisons**

State Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Latvia

**Panel B1**

**Arms Control – how to prevent a new arms race in Europe?**

Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019, 11:45 – 13:15 h

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Jānis Garisons is the State Secretary of the Ministry of Defense of Latvia since August 2015 (No. 2 in the Ministry of Defense). In this capacity Mr. Garisons is overseeing rapid defense budget and capabilities increase, to prepare country for the challenges it faces. In his previous position, as the Undersecretary of State – Policy Director in the Latvia’s Ministry of Defense, he has been an architect and organizer of Latvia’s defense policy, defense planning and international operations’ policy, both nationally as well as representing Latvia within the NATO, the EU, and other international foras. He joined the Ministry of Defense after established career at the Latvia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he served as the Director of the Security Policy Department. In his 9 years of foreign service he was also dealing with arms control issues, Russia and CIS, and was posted as the First Secretary at the Embassy of Latvia in Oslo, Norway. In 2014 he received a MA in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. Earlier he received a MA in History from the University of Latvia. In 2007 he has received a State Award.