



Dr Benedikta von Seher-Thoß
Branch Chief EU/CSDP, German Federal
Ministry of Defence

Panel A1

PESCO – a major step of the EU Defence Strategy

Tuesday, 26th November 2019, 14:30 – 16:00 h

Benedikta von Seher-Thoß is Head of the EU Directorate in the Department for Security Policy and in that capacity EU representative of the German Ministry of Defence. She is responsible for a broad range of topics regarding the EU's Common Security & Defence Policy and has the ministerial lead on preparing Germany's EU Council Presidency in 2-2020. Prior to that, she was Advisor to Minister of Defence Ursula von der Leyen for two years. From 2013-15, she was the first defence civilian to participate in the General Staff Officers' Course of the Bundeswehr. Previously, she spent more than two years working as Political Advisor and Deputy Director to the NATO Senior Civilian Representative at the ISAF Headquarter in Afghanistan. From 2007-11 she functioned as Desk Officer in the Policy Planning & Advisory Staff to the Minister of Defence, focusing on NATO and transatlantic issues. She started her career at NATO Headquarter in 2004, where she worked as Desk Officer in the Political Affairs & Security Policy Division. Benedikta studied Modern History at the University of Oxford, from where she graduated with a Masters and a PhD.