

3–4 Nov 2026



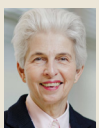
**Vienna House
Andel's Berlin**

Europe and NATO: Together strong against Multipolar Threats

Partner Nation 2026:
Lithuania



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Organized by the **Behörden Spiegel** – Germany's leading independent Newspaper for the Civil and Military Services

Congress language: English

Planning status

30 July 2026

Tuesday, 3 November 2026

08.00	Opening of the Exhibition / Registration
08.30	Announcements, National Anthems
08.45	Welcome to the Congress » Dr Eva-Charlotte Proll , Editor-in-Chief and Publisher Behörden Spiegel » Dr Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann , Member of the European Parliament and Congress President BSC
09.00	OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE Opening Ceremony » Gitanas Nausėda , President of the Republic of Lithuania
09.45	INTERVIEW / Q+A BY THE AUDITORIUM European NATO pillar towards safe Europe and safer world" <i>Chair:</i> Dr Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann , Member of the European Parliament and Congress President BSC » Kęstutis Budrys , Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lithuania » Dr Johann Wadephul* , Minister of Foreign Affairs, Germany
10.30	Keynote » N.N. , PwC
10.50	Coffee Break
11.15	Keynote » N.N. , Bechtle
11.35	Keynote / Q+A <i>Chair:</i> Ms. Kaja Kallas* , Vice President and High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy EU Commission
12.00	HIGH-LEVEL DEBATE Deterrence through Vigilance: How to contain the Russian interference <i>Chair:</i> Dr Eva-Charlotte Proll , Editor-in-Chief and Publisher Behörden Spiegel » Elina Valtonen* , Minister of Foreign Affairs, Finland » Baiba Braže , Minister of Foreign Affairs, Latvia » Jean-Noël Barrot* , Minister of Foreign Affairs, France » H.E. Ambassador Dr Detlef Wächter , German Permanent Representative to NATO » Andrij Sybiha* , Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ukraine » Lieutenant General Remigijus Baltrėnas , Director General of the International Military Staff, NATO » General Ingo Gerhartz , Commander JFC Brunssum
12.45	Lunchtime
14.15	PANELS SESSIONS A1 – A9 and SIDE EVENT: "The Future of the Military Reserve"
15.45	Coffee Break
16.15	Balancing Immediate Needs with Long-Term Sovereignty: Hard Choices for European Defence » Dr Michael Schoellhorn , CEO, Airbus Defence and Space
16.35	Keynote & Q+A » General Alexus G. Grynkeiwich* , Supreme Allied Commander Europe
17.00	LEADERS' TALK OF CHIEFS OF DEFENCE "The Central Region as the litmus test for a credible Defence" <i>Chair:</i> Admiral (ret.) Rob Bauer , former Chairman, NATO Military Committee » General Raimundas Vaikšnoras , Chief of Defence, Lithuania » General Wiesław Kukula* , Chief of the General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces » General Carsten Breuer , Chief of Defence, Germany » Air Chief Marshal Sir Rich Knighton* , Chief of Defence Staff, United Kingdom » Lieutenant General Kevin D. Admiral , Incoming Commanding General US Army Europe and Africa » Lieutenant General Miroslav Hlaváč* , Chief of the General Staff, Czech Republic » General Jennie Carignan* , Chief of Defence Canada
17.45	Keynote » Boris Hecker , Managing Director and Head of Public Sector & Defense, Atos Germany
18.05	HIGH-LEVEL DEBATE Credible engagement in the South <i>Chair:</i> Javier Colomina , NATO Special Representative for South, Spain » Antonio Tajani* , Minister of Foreign Affairs, Italy » José Manuel Albares Bueno* , Minister of Foreign Affairs, Spain » Paulo Rangel , Minister of State and Foreign Affairs, Portugal » Admiral George M. Wikoff* , Commander, Joint Force Command Naples » Admiral Emil Eftimov , Chief of Defence, Bulgaria » General Gheorghita Vlad* , Chief of Defence, Romania
18.50	Buffet and Networking

»»»» BSC STARTUP CHALLENGE, 3 November 2026

16:00	Introduction
16:05	Setting the Scene
16:15	Pitch & Evaluation

Wednesday, 4 November 2026

08.00	Opening of the Exhibition
08.30	OPENING OF THE 2ND CONFERENCE DAY WITH DISCUSSION/Q+A/MOU » Boris Pistorius , Minister of Defence, Germany » Robertas Kaunas , Minister of Defence, Lithuania
09.20	Keynote » N.N. , Siemens
09.50	Keynote and Q+A by Auditorium » Mark Rutte* , NATO Secretary General
10.15	HIGH-LEVEL DEBATE “Europe and NATO: Together Strong” <i>Chair:</i> Dr Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann , Member of the European Parliament and Congress President BSC » H.E. Matthew G. Whitaker , U.S. Ambassador to NATO » The Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP* , Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, United Kingdom » Admiral Giuseppe Cavo Dragone , Chairman, NATO Military Committee » General Seán Clancy* , Chairman EU Military Committee » Éric Béranger , Chief Executive Officer, MBDA » N.N. , MoD/MoFA Canada » Nuno Melo , Minister of Defence, Portugal » Airis Rikveilis , State Secretary Ministry of Defence, Latvia
11:00	Coffee Break
11.30	AI Didn't Just Change Security it Changes the Enemy » Dr Morton Swimmer , Trend AI
11.50	Keynote » Roberta Metsola* , President of the European Parliament
12.10	TAKING STOCK DISCUSSION European Capability Development <i>Chair:</i> Michael Gahler , MEP » Andrius Kubilius , EU Commissioner for Defence and Space » Lieutenant General André Erich Denk , Chief Executive Director EDA » Jean-David Malo , Director for the European Research Area and Innovation at DG RTD, European Commission » Tarja Jaakkola* , NATO's Assistant Secretary General for Defence Industry, Innovation and Armaments » Dr Christoph Erdmann , Managing Director, Secusmart » N.N. , Ukraine
13.00	Lunch time
14.00	PANELS SESSIONS B1 – B8 and SIDE EVENT: “Drones”, “EPIS Thinktank”
15.30	INTERVIEW / Q+A BY THE AUDITORIUM <i>Chair:</i> Reinhard Wolski , Major General (ret) and Chairman BSC » H.E. Ambassador Francois ChiChung Wu , Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Taiwan » H.E. Ambassador Hsu Szu-chien , Deputy Minister of Defence, Taiwan
16.00	Keynote » N.N. , ELT Group
16.20	WINNER-PITCH – START-UP CHALLENGE PRESENTATION
16.30	HIGH-LEVEL DEBATE Harmonizing Europe and Indo-Pacific Priorities <i>Chair:</i> Dr Tobias Lindner , Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (ret.) » N.N. , State Secretary or Political Director, Japan » N.N. , State Secretary or Political Director, Republic of Korea » N.N. , State Secretary or Political Director, Australia » Erik Kurzweil , Managing Director for Asia and Pacific, EEAS, Brussels » Robert Peters , Senior Research Fellow, US Heritage Foundation
17.00	Handover Ceremony to the next Partner Nation
17.10	Closing Session and Farewell » Chairman BSC » Congress President
18.00	End of Congress

»»»» BSC STARTUP CHALLENGE, 4 November 2026

11:15	Introduction
11:20	Setting the Scene
11:30	Pitch & Evaluation
16:20	Winner Pitch on the main stage

PANEL A1

Land Forces

Chair: **N.N.**, Army Command, Germany

Introduction: **N.N.**, GDELS

Panellists:

- » **Lieutenant General Dr Christian Freuding**, Chief of the German Army
- » **Brigadier General Stankevičius**, Chief Lithuanian Land Forces
- » **N.N.**, Italy
- » **N.N.**, PwC
- » **Axel Manok**, UVEX
- » **N.N.**, Patria

PANEL A2

Future Air Combat Capabilities

Chair: **Lieutenant General Jason T. Hinds***, Commander Allied Air Command, NATO

Introduction: **N.N.**, KNDS*

Panellists:

- » **N.N.**, German Air Force
- » **Marco Gumbrecht**, Head of Sales Germany, Director Global Business Eurofighter, Airbus Defence and Space
- » **Dr Philipp Kerth**, Co-founder und Chief Executive Officer, Hypersonica
- » **Air Vice Marshal Ian Townsend CBE***, Assistant Chief of the Air Staff, U.K.
- » **General Jérôme BELLANGER***, Chief of Staff of the French Air and Space Force

PANEL A3

Naval Forces: "The new NATO Maritime Strategy"

Chair: **Vice Admiral Robert G. Pedre CB (RN)***, Commander Allied Maritime Command, NATO

Introduction: **Johannes Arlt**, Senior Vice President, STARK

Panellists:

- » **N.N.**, German Navy
- » **Captain Tadas Jablonskis**, Commander Lithuanian Navy
- » **Oren Guter**, Operational Advisor - IAI Naval programs & EEZ protection
- » **Sebastian Bauer**, Vice President Business Development & Marketing
- » **Rear Admiral Oliver Berdal***, Chief Norwegian Navy
- » **Vice-Admiral Dan Charlebois***, Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy

PANEL A4

Cyber- Information Forces

Chair: **Major General Dr Volker Pötzsch**, COS of Cyber and Information Force Command

Introduction: **N.N.**, secunet Security Networks AG*

Panellists:

- » **Vice Admiral Dr Thomas Daum**, Chief of the German Cyber- und Information Force
- » **Antanas Aleknavicius**, Director of National CyberSecurity Center, Lithuania
- » **N.N.**, INFODAS*
- » **N.N.**, Schwarz Digits
- » **N.N.**, Google

PANEL A5

Total Defence

Chair: **Lieutenant General (ret.) Martin Schelleis**, President of the Maltese Relief Service

Introduction: **N.N.**, elasticsearch

Panellists:

- » **Rear Admiral Giedrius Premeneckas**, Chief of Lithuanian Defence Staff
- » **Dirk Herber*** **State Secretary of the Interior**, Rhineland-Palatinate
- » **N.N.**, Bundeswehr Joint Force Command
- » **N.N.**, PwC
- » **Stefan Thomé**, CEO, Airbus Helicopters Germany and EVP Head of Programs Airbus Helicopters
- » **lic.iur. Jörg M. Haas**, Manager/Coordinator Civil defense, Internal and External Security, PD – Berater der öffentlichen Hand

PANEL A6

A resilient healthcare system for CBRN incidents

Chair: **Major General (MC) Dr Almut Nolte**, Deputy Surgeon General Commander of the Bundeswehr, Joint Medical Service, Director for Operations and Health Care Directorate

Introduction: **N.N.**, Sandoz*

Panellists:

- » **N.N.**, Congress Partner
- » **Sven Reichenwagen**, Product Developer Disinfection and Cleaning, Ziu
- » **Brigadier General (MC) Prof. Dr. Kai Kehe**, Commissioner for Research and Science, SanAkBw, Germany
- » **Colonel Stephan Saalow**, Commander ABCAbwKdoBw, Germany
- » **Ines Perea**, Head of Health Protection Division, Federal Ministry of Health, Germany
- » **Giulio Gullotta**, Head of the Civil Defense Division, Federal Office for Civil Protection, Germany
- » **Prof Dr Leif Erik Sander**, Director of the Department of Infectious Diseases and Critical Care Medicine, Germany

PANEL A7

Procurement

Chair: **Dr Hans-Christoph Atzpodien**, CEO German Security and Defence Industry Association

Introduction: **N.N.**, Accenture*

Panellists

- » **Vice Admiral Carsten Stawitzki***, Head of Armaments Department, Ministry of Defence, Germany
- » **Dorydas Palaima**, National Armament Director, Lithuania
- » **Helmut Rauch**, CEO, DIEHL Defence
- » **Dr Jörg Hennemann**, Head of Defence, Science & Technology, Schmidt & Bender
- » **N.N.**, Latvia
- » **Alexander Ziegler**, EVP Defense, Safran Electronics & Defense

PANEL A8

UAS and Counter-UAS

Chair: **Dr Matthias Schmuck**, Senior Expert Drones, Germany

Introduction: **N.N.**, WB Group*

Panellists

- » **N.N.**, Holland & Knight
- » **N.N.**, KPMG*
- » **Brigadier General Mirosław Bodnar***, Inspector of Unmanned Weapon Systems, General Command Polish Armed Forces
- » **N.N.**, Ukraine
- » **Tim Mak**, Arsenal, USA
- » **Colonel Alfredo Russo***, Commander 41st IMINT Regiment "Cordenons", Italy

PANEL A9 MBDA

Deep Precision Strike - A European Capability?

Chair: **Guido Brendler**, MBDA

Introduction: **N.N.**,

Panellists

- » **N.N.**,

Wednesday, 4 November 2026

PANEL B1

Support Command

Chair: **Lieutenant General Gerald Funke**, Commanding General, Bundeswehr Joint Force Command

Introduction: **N.N.**, Helsing*

Panellists:

- » **Colonel Arunas Dzidzevicius**, DCOS Support Lithuanian Defence Staff
- » **N.N.**, PwC
- » **Major General Michael B. Lalor**, Commander 21st Theater Sustainment Command, USA
- » **N.N.**, Bechtle

PANEL B2

Military Research and Development

Chair: **Prof Wolfgang Koch**, FKIE

Introduction: **N.N.**, PTC

Panellists:

- » **Prof Arturas Medeisis**, Dean of the Faculty of Electronics Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania
- » **N.N.**, University of the German Armed Forces Munich
- » **N.N.**, Consulteer
- » **N.N.**, Elbit Systems
- » **N.N.**, Taiwan
- » **Steen Soendergaard***, NATO Chief Scientist and Chair NATO Science & Technology Board
- » **Lieutenant General (ret.) Dr Ansgar Rieks**, former Vice Chief of the German Air Force

PANEL B3

The Use of AI in the Military

Chair: **Prof Dr Stefan Pickl**, UniBw-M

Introduction: **N.N.**, Google

Panellists:

- » **Alexander Schott***, Director at the Ministry of Defence, Germany
- » **Alexander Philipp**, Managing Director, Rohde & Schwarz
- » **N.N.**, CGI

PANEL B4

From Dependence to resilience: Europe and the future of critical raw materials

Chair: **Silvia Petig**, President Women in International Security (WIIS)

Introduction: **N.N.**, RTX*

Panellists:

- » **Marie von Hahn**, BDLI
- » **Vera Alexandrova**, Deputy Head of Unit for Defence Single Market&Hybrid Threats, Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space
- » **N.N.**, Der Mittelstand BVMW
- » **N.N.**, TDW
- » **N.N.**, BAE Systems*
- » **Anne Lauenroth***, Senior Expert Raw Materials, BDI
- » **Meike Schulze***, Senior Expert Raw Materials

PANEL B5 *Extended (13.30–15.30)*

Innovation of Armed Forces

Chair: **Lieutenant General Michael Vetter**, Chief CIS and Innovation, German MoD

Introduction: **N.N.**, Capgemini

Panellists:

- » **Andreas Reinecke**, Head of Defence Digital and Cyber (act.), Airbus Defence and Space
- » **Marc Wietfeld**, CEO, ARX Robotics
- » **Rear Admiral Christian Bock**, Head of the Innovationcentre of the Bundeswehr, Germany
- » **Brigadier General Zilvinas Gaubys**, Commander Training and Doctrine Command, Lithuania
- » **N.N.**, Congress Partner
- » **N.N.**, Congres Partner

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PANEL B6

Progress of the Military Use of Space

Chair: **Rear Admiral Louis Tillier**, Director EU Satellite Centre

Introduction: **N.N.**, Deloitte*

Panellists:

- » **N.N.**, Lithuanian Space Science and Technology Institute
- » **Major General Michael Traut***, Commander German Space Command
- » **N.N.**, MBS*
- » **Tom Segert**, CEO, Berlin Space Technologies
- » **Major General Jon-Cornel Plesa***, National Armaments Director, Romania
- » **Brigadier General Jacob Middleton***, U.S. Space Forces Europe and Africa
- » **N.N.**, German Air Force

PANEL B7

Hybrid Warfare Threats

Chair: **Brigadier General Thomas Nickel***, Military Vice President Federal Office for Military Counterintelligence

Introduction: **N.N.**, Northrop Grumman*

Panellists:

- » **N.N.**, Energy Security Centre of Excellence, Tallin
- » **Dr Teija Tiilikainen***, CEO CoE of Countering Hybrid Threats
- » **Jānis Sārts***, Director NATO CoE for Strategic Communications
- » **N.N.**, Holland & Knight
- » **Ingo Schubert**, Field CTO International, RSA Security
- » **N.N.**, Latvia
- » **Julius Katinas**, Deputy Director AOTD, Lithuania
- » **Colonel Sönke Marahrens***, Head of Department CDigBw, Germany

PANEL B8

Military Mobility

Chair: **Linas Kojala**, CEO, Geopolitics and Security Studies Center (GSSC), Lithuania

Introduction: **N.N.**, PwC*

Panellists:

- » **Brigadier General Christoph Huber***, Commander of the German Brigade in Lithuania
- » **Brigadier General Robert Wilhelm***, MoD Germany
- » **Michael König**, CTO, ISP Salzburg
- » **Eric Voss**, CEO DFNZ
- » **N.N.**, Bundeswehr Joint Force Command
- » **Dr Ieva Karpaviciute**, Defence Advisor at EU Permanent Representation, Lithuania
- » **Lieutenant General Remigijus Baltrenas**, Director General of the International Military Staff, NATO

Side Events

Tuesday, 3 November 2026

SIDE-EVENT 14:15 – 15:15

The Future of the Military Reserve System

Chair: **Bastian Ernst**, MdB and President of the German Reservists Association

Panellists

- » **Frank Weise**, Senior Advisor, Deloitte
- » **Emmanuel Jacob***, President Euromil
- » **N.N.**, Lithuania
- » **N.N.**, MoD Germany
- » **N.N.**, National Reserve Forces Committee*

Wednesday, 4 November 2026

SIDE EVENT 14.00 – 15.30

Drones: Lessons identified from Ukraine, Capabilities overview

Chair: **N.N.**,

Introduction: **N.N.**,

Panellists:

- » **Brigadier General Stu Nasse OBE***, Director of the Uncrewed Systems Centre and Head of Capability Coalition for the British Army
- » **Colonel Vadym Sukharevsky***, Deputy Commander Operational Command East
- » **N.N.**, Deutsche Telekom*
- » **N.N.**, Siemens*
- » **N.N.**, rola Security Solutions*

SIDE EVENT 14.00 – 15.30

Young Voices, Strategic Choices: How can the next generation revitalise the Wimar Triangle?

Chair: **Theodor Himmel**, Chairman of EPIS Thinktank e. V.

Panellists:

- » **Remi de Fritsch**, President of the Association des Jeunes de l'IHEDN
- » **Jan Norman**, Chairman of the Polish Forum of Young Diplomats
- » **Tom Körner**, Co-Chair of European Defence Network
- » **Francisco Nobre**, President of Youth Atlantic Treaty Association