

Berlin Security Conference

25th Congress on European Security and Defence, 03-04 November, 2026

Aims and Outcomes

General Remarks

In 2026, the security and defence of the values-based international order continue to face significant and complex challenges. The war in Ukraine, ongoing since 2022, remains a central test of international law, sovereignty, and collective security. Any sustainable peace can only be achieved through diplomacy and negotiation grounded in strength and unity and must fully respect Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity. While hostilities may have ceased at the time of the Conference, the risk of renewed escalation cannot be excluded.

Russia's evolving approach, including the use of hybrid and increasingly overt and kinetic hostile measures against Western societies and infrastructure, underlines the importance of unity, vigilance and resilience among NATO and EU members. Close coordination within and between both organisations is essential to protect democratic societies, deter further aggression, and uphold international norms.

Beyond Europe's immediate neighbourhood, the Indo-Pacific region remains of growing strategic importance for global stability, freedom of navigation, and international trade. Rising tensions, particularly those linked to China's expanding military posture, reinforce the need for dialogue, partnerships, and a rules-based international order.

Purpose of the Berlin Security Conference 2026

The Berlin Security Conference aims to provide a high-level political forum bringing together senior decision-makers from Europe, the United States, Canada, and other transatlantic partners. The Conference will facilitate open dialogue on current geopolitical developments, emerging risks, and the political choices required to safeguard peace, security, and democratic values.

Key objectives include:

- Promoting a shared understanding of the increasingly interconnected and multidirectional security challenges facing NATO and the EU.
- Strengthening political cohesion and strategic alignment within the Euro-Atlantic community.
- Identifying coordinated, credible, and proportionate policy responses to challenges within NATO's and the EU's respective areas of interest.
- Demonstrating political resolve, solidarity, and commitment to collective security.
- Introducing the field of security and defence to students, young leaders and officer candidates.

Partners and Supporters

- Partner nations play a key role in shaping the Conference, contributing to its agenda, participating with senior-level delegations, and hosting the traditional pre-conference reception. **In 2026, the Berlin Security Conference is highly honoured to welcome the Republic of Lithuania as its partner nation.**
 - The Conference is further supported by partners from industry and business, whose engagement reflects the growing importance of public-private cooperation in addressing modern security challenges.
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Strategic-Level Discussions

Recognizing the extensive scope of strategic issues, the conference will address the following priority areas:

- Containment or fight-back of the Russian constant political intrusion into free Europe,
- The progress of a credible Defence build-up in the Central Region,
- The Southern neighbourhood, with particular attention to the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions as spaces of strategic competition and cooperation, as well as military mobility,
- The essential synergetic synchronization of effort between EU and NATO in deterrence and defence,
- The progress of the EU “ReArm Europe” initiative and further capability development.
- The “Reach-out” – Perspective to the Indo-Pacific area as a lifeline for Europe.

Operational Perspectives

Discussions will also address the operational dimensions of implementation, including:

- Enhancing coordination and interoperability across domains—land, air, maritime, cyberspace, and space—drawing on lessons identified from the war in Ukraine and NATO high-level exercises.
- Introducing the Alliance’s new maritime strategy.
- Advancing comprehensive approaches to resilience and “Total Defence,” integrating civil preparedness with security policy.
- Strengthening frameworks for host-nation support, military mobility, and civil–military cooperation, including healthcare and crisis response.
- Improving defence procurement processes, fostering innovation, and deepening cooperation with industry.
- Assessing the opportunities and governance challenges associated with artificial intelligence and software-defined defence and UxS.

Expected Outcomes

- A strengthened political consensus on a coherent, sustainable, and credible European security and defence policy, anchored in a strong transatlantic partnership and increased European responsibility.
- Policy-oriented recommendations to support accelerated and coordinated capability development and force planning, aligned with NATO’s Strategic Concept, the EU’s Strategic Compass and follow-on documents, and national comprehensive security approaches.
- Enhanced public communication and media engagement to convey the Conference’s key messages and reinforce public support for democratic security and international cooperation.