



Defending Europe – The military future of our continent

Brussels, Belgium, 17-19 March 2016

ABOUT THE EVENT

Increased instability within the European neighborhood has brought security concerns to the top of the European political agenda. As Europe finds itself vulnerable to both traditional and hybrid security threats, this workshop explores the future of EU defences. Topics to be covered will be:

- The operational capacity of European armies
- The future of EU-NATO relations
- The rising concern of cyber-threats
- Perspectives from the defence industry

Continued Russian aggression in the Ukrainian South-East coupled with prolonged violent upheaval throughout the Levant region has once again ushered security and defence to the forefront of the European political agenda. Although EU member states have succeeded in uniting as a single trading bloc, collective EU military capabilities are plagued by political and structural hindrances. With trends towards reduced military budgets, heightened internal political tensions, and a global paradigm shift towards multipolarity, the future of European defence remains unclear. In this event, we will give the European youth an opportunity to engage the challenges of European security with an insightful workshop leading to a subsequent book launch.

The workshop begins with a rundown of the operational capacity of the European armies, in light of recognized international security concerns. How does Europe jointly deal with immediate security threats and manage international security? How much do structural hindrances prevent greater operational capacity?

The second part explores the growing concern of cyber security. As day-to-day life becomes increasingly connected to the net, what dangers do cyber threats pose to European business and citizens alike and how is cybersecurity being tackled?

The third part of the workshop looks at the oscillation between a prospective European defence union and a deeper reliance on and cooperation with NATO. What lies in store for the future of European defence cooperation? At a time of rampant nationalism and political turmoil, is increased military cooperation a tangible expectation?

The workshop concludes with a look at the current state of the European defence industry, its challenges and its probable future. How does the EU defence industry deal with the growing competition from the military industries of newly industrialized countries such as China as well as internal challenges such as competing production? Is consolidation of the European defence industry necessary to ensure European technological leadership?

Working language(s): English

Venue: LYMEC/ALDE Party Office: Rue d'Idalie 11, 6th floor, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

Accommodation: Hotel Chambord, Rue de Namur 82, Brussels, 1000, Belgium



EVENT SCHEDULE

17 March 2016 - DAY ONE

- 16:00 Introduction and Presentations
Vedrana Gujic, President, LYMEC
Jeroen Dobber, Programme Officer, ELF
- 16:30 Presentation of the papers by each author and short discussion
Moderator: Vedrana Gujic, President, LYMEC
- 17:30 COFFEE BREAK
- 18:00 NATO-EU military cooperation
Peter Round, Capability Director, European Defence Agency
Alex Papaionannou, NATO
Moderator: Håvard D. Sandvik, European Affairs Manager, FNF
- 19:30 DINNER
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18 MARCH 2016 – DAY TWO

- 09:00 Cybersecurity: What is it and why do we need it?
Urmas Paet, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia, ALDE MEP, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Security and Defence
Neil Powell, Action Officer, Cyber Defence, European Union Military Staff (EUMS), European External Action Service (EEAS)
Moderator: Danica Vihinen, Treasurer, LYMEC
- 10:30 COFFEE BREAK
- 11:00 A European defence union or reinforced European pillar of NATO?
Jozo Radoš, former Minister of Defence of Croatia, ALDE MEP, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Security and Defence
Moderator: Danica Vihinen, Treasurer, LYMEC
- 12:30 LUNCH



14:00 Building our defences: the perspective of the Defence industry
Harriet Slager, Senior EU Advisor, Fokker
Bertil Hellström, Vice President & Group Senior Advisor, Saab
Moderator: Håvard D. Sandvik, European Affairs Manager, FNF

15:30 COFFEE BREAK

16:00 Final debate between participants
Moderator: Vedrana Gujic, President, LYMEC

17:30 Closing remarks
Vedrana Gujic, President, LYMEC

18:00 END OF THE SECOND DAY

20:30 DINNER
Restaurant *La Boule Rouge*, Rue des Pierres 52

19 MARCH 2016

10:00 CHECK-OUT AND DEPARTURE OF PARTICIPANTS

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