EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium

Promoting the European network of independent non-proliferation and disarmament think tanks

2026 EU NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

AGENDA

09|10 November 2026

Online Participation

Funded by the European Union

EUNPDC Mission Statement

The **EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium (EUNPDC)** forms the core of a wider network of European non-proliferation and disarmament think tanks and research centres, which today brings together over 100 institutions across Europe. It is managed jointly by the *Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)*, the *Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique in Paris (FRS)*, the *Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) in Rome*, the *International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in London*, the *Peace Research Institute (HSFK/ PRIF) in Frankfurt*, and the *Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP)*, in close cooperation with the *European External Action Service (EEAS)* and the *Foreign Policy Instrument (FPI) of the European Commission*.

The **Consortium and the Network** aim to support the EU action to advance non-proliferation and disarmament. The mandate of the Consortium and the Network covers issues relating to weapons of mass destruction (WMD) but also to conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons (SALW).

The **Consortium** works through the organization of expert meetings, a major annual international conference, ad hoc seminars, the development of a dedicated website and various types of publications. It provides the EU with ad-hoc expertise and offers educational tools such as e-learning courses and internships. It also conducts various next generation activities, including a mentorship programme for young women. Finally, it is responsible for the organization of proliferation awareness trainings for specialists in natural sciences and other relevant fields and the arrangement of annual study visits to Brussels for participants in the UN Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament.

Six Leading Think Tanks

The Foundation for Strategic Research (FRS) was founded in 1998. It is an independent research centre and the leading French think tank on defense and security issues. Its team of experts in a variety of fields contributes to the strategic debate in France and abroad, and provides unique expertise across the board of defense and security studies. In the aera of international security, its specific focuses are security doctrines, arms control, proliferation/dissemination issues and challenges, non-proliferation regimes and policies (small arms, conventional weapons, biological and chemical weapons, nuclear weapons, and their delivery systems). The FRS maintains an active presence in the strategic debate through its publications, its website, and the events it regularly organizes. It takes part in a network of European and international research.

The Peace Research Institute in Frankfurt (PRIF), member of the Leibniz Association, is the largest as well as the oldest peace research institute in Germany. Founded in 1970, PRIF´s work is directed towards carrying out research on peace and conflict, with a special emphasis on issues of arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament. With a total staff of approximately 80, PRIF researchers have a long-standing experience in political advice and consulting, having served, inter alia, in German delegations to NPT, CTBT, CWC, BWC, Ottawa Convention and SALW gatherings, in the UN Advisory Council on Disarmament Matters and in IAEA Expert Groups. Today, PRIF's arms control division covers chemical, biological, nuclear and radiological weapons, small and light weapons, conventional weapons, drones, autonomous weapons, emerging technologies as well as mines and cluster ammunition.

The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), founded in 1958, is an independent centre for research, information and debate on global security, political risk, and military conflict. It aims to provide, through publications and discussion forums, the best possible analysis on strategic trends, and to facilitate contacts that would lead to the development of better public policy in the fields of military power and international relations and security. Headquartered in London, the IISS has offices in Germany, the US, Singapore and Bahrain. The IISS Strategy, Technology, and Arms Control Program is based in the IISS-Europe office in Berlin and seeks to provide objective analysis of trends in global conflicts, the strategies and technology employed to achieve security policy aims, and how arms control can support achieving these aims.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute(SIPRI) is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament. Established in 1966, SIPRI provides data, analysis and recommendations, based on open sources, to policymakers, researchers, media and the interested public. Located in Stockholm, Sweden, SIPRI offers a unique platform for researchers from different countries to work in close cooperation. The Institute also hosts guest researchers and interns who work on issues related to the SIPRI research programmes. SIPRI maintains contacts with other research centres and individual researchers throughout the world. The Institute cooperates closely with several intergovernmental organizations and entities, including the United Nations, the European Union, the IAEA and the OPCW, and regularly provides support to parliamentary, scientific and government partners.

The Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) is an independent think tank, founded in 1965 on the initiative of Altiero Spinelli. IAI aims to promote the understanding of international politics and international relations and to contribute to the advancement of European integration and multilateral cooperation through conferences, seminars, publications and training. It is the leading Italian study centre on defence and security but its scope also encompasses EU issues, international economics and global governance, energy, climate and Italian foreign policy as well as the dynamics of cooperation and conflict in the Mediterranean and Middle East, Asia, Africa and the Americas. The institute provides advice to governmental institutions and collaborates on a regular basis with the European Union, NATO and the OSCE. It takes part in several European, regional and global research networks.

The Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP) is an international non-governmental organisation. It was established on the initiative of the Austrian Foreign Ministry in 2010 and officially opened in 2011. The VCDNP promotes international peace and security by conducting research, facilitating dialogue, and building capacity on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. In order to fulfil its mission, the VCDNP conducts conferences, workshops, seminars and other forums to foster results-oriented dialogue and discussion among international organisations, national governments, non-governmental experts, scholars and civil society. Through both in-person courses and online resources on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, the Center trains diplomats and practitioners working in Vienna and around the world. In addition to reports and occasional papers, VCDNP experts publish succinct reference briefs and explainers on multilateral nuclear governance, organisations and regimes. The VCDNP offers outreach and other programmes to engage young women and the next generation in arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament field.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH

LINK: CLICK HERE

14:50 | WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

ETTORE GRECO

SPEAKER

Head, "Geoeconomics and global governance" Programme, Istituto Affari Internazionali

ROME

Ettore Greco is Head of the "Geoeconomics and global governance" programme at the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) and served as IAI Director from 2008 to 2017 and Deputy Director from 1997 to 2008. He previously directed the IAI programme on Central and Eastern Europe (1993–2000) and was Editor of The International Spectator (2000–2006). He was a Visiting Fellow at the Brookings Institution and taught at the universities of Parma and Bologna. He has authored numerous publications and worked as a freelance journalist since 1988.

LUDOVICA CASTELLI

SPEAKER

Research Fellow and Project Manager at EUNPDC, Istituto Affari Internazionali

ROME

Ludovica Castelli (Ph.D.) is Research Fellow and Project Manager of the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium at the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI). She is also an Associate with the Project on Managing the Atom at Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs and an Adjunct Professor at Roma Tre University. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Leicester. Her work focuses on Critical Security Studies, conceptual history, and nuclear politics, with a focus on the Middle East.

15:00 | OPENING REMARKS

KAJA KALLAS VIDEO

SPEAKER

High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, European External Action Service (EEAS)

BRUSSELS

Kaja Kallas is the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, a position she has held since December 2024. She served as Prime Minister of Estonia from 2021 to 2024 and was a Member of the European Parliament from 2014 to 2018. Before entering politics, she worked as a lawyer specialising in European and Estonian competition law. She graduated in law from the University of Tartu in 1999.

15:15 | KEYNOTE SESSION: THE CHEMICAL NON-PROLIFERATION REGIME: CHALLENGES, PRIORITIES, AND THE WAY FORWARD

HANNA HAKULINEN

CHAIR

Director, Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN)

HELSINKI

Hanna Hakulinen is the Director of the Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN), Finland's designated laboratory to the OPCW. Her research interests span chemical forensics, biological toxins, and sea-dumped munitions. Dr. Hakulinen coordinates the "Blue Book" – Recommended Operating Procedures for chemical disarmament verification analysis and contributes actively to global laboratory capacity-building. She is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board

of the OPCW and holds the title of Docent in Chemistry of Chemical Disarmament at the University of Helsinki.

SABRINA DALLAFIOR

SPEAKER
Director-General, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
NETHERLANDS

Sabrina Dallafior is the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and took office in July 2026 as the first woman to lead the Organisation. A Swiss career diplomat since 2000, she has extensive experience in multilateral diplomacy, security and defence policy, disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. She previously served as Switzerland's Ambassador to Finland and Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. She holds degrees in Russian Studies and History from the University of Basel.

16:00 | BREAK

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

16:30 | REIMAGINING ARMS CONTROL: PRIORITIES FOR A NEW AGENDA

STEPHAN KLEMENT

CHAIR
EU Special Envoy for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, European External Action Service (EEAS)
BRUSSELS

Ambassador Stephan Klement was appointed EU Special Envoy for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation in February 2024. From 2019 to 2023, he served as EU Head of Delegation to the International Organisations in Vienna. Since 2016, he has also been Special Advisor for the Iranian nuclear issue at the European External Action Service in Brussels. He has extensive experience in nuclear non-proliferation, Euratom coordination, security policy and nuclear inspections, and advised Austria's Permanent Mission during Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty negotiations.

CLAIRE RAULIN

Director for Strategic Affairs, Security and Disarmament, French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
PARIS

Claire Raulin is Director for Strategic Affairs, Security and Disarmament at the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. She previously served as Prefect of Lot, Permanent Representative to the EU Political and Security Committee, and Deputy Head of the French Embassy in Italy. She is a graduate of ENA, Sciences Po Paris and École Normale Supérieure de Fontenay-Saint-Cloud (France).

BEN FENDER

SPEAKER
Director for Defence and International Security, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)
LONDON

Ben Fender is Director for Defence and International Security, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). He served as His Majesty's Ambassador to Somalia from 2019 to 2021 and previously headed the FCDO's Security Policy Department from 2016 to 2019. His diplomatic experience includes postings as Chargé d'Affaires and Deputy Head of Mission in Tehran, Political Counsellor in Kabul, and Deputy Head of the UK's Ebola Response in Sierra Leone.

ZAHEER LAHER

Zaheer Laher is South Africa's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office at Geneva. Prior to his appointment, he served as Acting Chief State Law Advisor (International Law) and Chief Director for UN Political, Peace and Security at the

SPEAKER

Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organisations in Switzerland

GENEVA

Department of International Relations and Cooperation. With over 27 years of diplomatic experience, he previously served at South Africa's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York. He holds an LLM and LLB from the University of the Witwatersrand

---

SPEAKER to be announced

18:00 | CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL IN AN AGE OF REARMAMENT

KOLJA BROCKMANN

CHAIR

Independent Consultant; Senior Researcher, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

STOCKHOLM

Kolja Brockmann is a non-resident Senior Researcher with the Dual-use and Arms Trade Control programme at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), which he first joined in 2017. Mr. Brockmann is also an independent consultant and researcher based in Germany working on export control policy compliance and capacity building. His research focuses on arms control, non-proliferation, and technology governance. He specializes in export controls on emerging technologies and the multilateral export control regimes.

SIGURD SCHELSTRAETE

SPEAKER

Director of Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium

BRUSSELS

Sigurd Schelstraete is Director of Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation at the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he coordinates Belgium's arms control policy across the full spectrum of weapons of mass destruction, conventional weapons, and missile issues. His division also serves as Belgium's National Authority under the Chemical Weapons Convention. Previously, he held diplomatic postings in Washington DC, New York UNO, Kigali, and Brussels-EU.

JULIANA BUZI

SPEAKER

Regional Cooperation Specialist, Southeastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

BELGRADE

Juliana Buzi joined UNDP SEESAC in 2014 and has over two decades of experience in arms control, mine action and international security. She specialises in regional cooperation and small arms and light weapons (SALW) control, supporting multi-country processes and evidence-based policies in Southeast Europe. She leads SEESAC's coordination and monitoring support to the Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap. Previously, she worked on mine action programmes in Albania and at GICHD in Geneva.

ANDREA EDOARDO VARISCO

SPEAKER

ATT Monitor Project Lead; Associate Senior Researcher, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI); Independent Consultant

Andrea Edoardo Varisco works as ATT Monitor Project Lead. Andrea has over 15 years of experience in international security, arms control, and disarmament. He collaborated and worked with many organisations in the field, including working as director of the Arms Transfers Programme of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), acting director of the SIPRI dual-use and arms trade control programme, and head of analytics for Conflict Armament Research. Andrea has field research

GENEVA

experiences in conflict-affected countries in the Middle East, South Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa.

MARIA CAMELLO

SPEAKER

Trace Investigator, Conflict Armament Research (CAR)

LONDON

María Camello is a Trace Investigator at Conflict Armament Research (CAR), where she liaises with government and industry representatives to trace the supply chain of CAR-documented materiel. She has previously worked as a researcher on topics related to the control and regulation of conventional arms trade and dual-use goods, the fight against arms diversion, and their impact on international peace and stability.

19:30 | CONNECTING THE DOTS IN EU CBRN RISK MITIGATION

PAOLA TESSARI

CHAIR

Senior Fellow, "Defence, security and space" programme, Istituto Affari Internazionali

ROME

Paola Tessari is Senior Fellow in the "Defence, security and space" programme at IAI, where she leads EU projects on civil security and civil defence, with a focus on CBRN threats and critical infrastructures' protection. She is currently Advisor to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. In 2024 she worked for the Delegation of the Italian G7 Presidency on the same topics.

ANTONELLA CAVALLO

SPEAKER

Team Leader, EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Programme, Global Security Unit, Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI), European Commission

BRUSSELS

Antonella Cavallo leads the EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Programme in the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments. She specialises in systemic risk preparedness and unexpected threats. Previously, she led the implementation of the rescEU CBRN stockpiles and capabilities and supported CBRN deployments while serving under the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism. She landed back in Europe after working in Australian academia and civil protection, though her engineering career started in the European private sector.

20:00 | END OF FIRST DAY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH

PARALLEL SESSIONS

09:00 | EAST ASIA'S EVOLVING STRATEGIC LANDSCAPE: WHAT FUTURE FOR REGIONAL SECURITY? | LINK: CLICK HERE

JAEWOO SHIN

CHAIR

Analysis Manager, Open Nuclear Network (ONN)

VIENNA

Jaewoo Shin is an Analysis Manager at Open Nuclear Network (ONN), a programme of PAX sapiens, where he specializes in the analysis of nuclear and missile programs through the use of open-source information and remote sensing techniques. His research focuses on nuclear non-proliferation and arms control, monitoring and verification issues, and nuclear developments in Asia.

DINGLI SHEN

SPEAKER

Professor and former Executive Dean, Institute of International Studies, Fudan University

SHANGHAI

Dingli Shen is a professor and ex-Executive Dean of Fudan University's Institute of International Studies, and ex-Director of Center for American Studies. He is an Eisenhower Fellow and an honorary visiting professor at Washington University in St. Louis. He is currently Director of Center for American Studies, Grandview Institution, Beijing. He is on the Global Council of The Asia Society, and the Board of Asia Pacific Leadership Network.

KAZUKO HIKAWA

SPEAKER

Vice Director and Professor, Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (RECNA), Nagasaki University

NAGASAKI

Kazuko Hikawa is the Vice Director and professor of two research centers at Nagasaki University in Japan: The Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition and the Research Center for Global Risk. Prior to her academic career, Dr. Hikawa served as a diplomat with the Japanese Foreign Service for 24 years. From 2013 to 2019, Dr Hikawa fulfilled the role of Special Assistant for Arms Control, Disarmament, and Non-Proliferation Issues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

SU-HYUN LEE

SPEAKER

Senior Associate Fellow, Centre for Multilateralism Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University

SINGAPORE

Su-Hyun Lee is Senior Associate Fellow at the Centre for Multilateralism Studies and Deputy Head of Graduate Studies, RSIS, NTU. Her research explores international/comparative political economy and its security dynamics, with a focus on trade politics, economic security, economic statecraft, China's development finance, and ASEAN. Her work has appeared in peer-reviewed journals, notably World Development, Political Science Research and Methods, and Contemporary Southeast Asia. She holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and a Master's and a Bachelor's in Political Science and International Relations from Korea University.

CHING WEI SOOI

SPEAKER

Policy Fellow, British American Security Information Council,

Ching Wei Sooi is a Policy Fellow at The British American Security Information Council's (BASIC) Responsibilities and Global Governance Programme. With a background in space policy and governance, he has a particular focus on the intersection between space and nuclear weapons, covering cross-domain issues such as risk reduction, (de)escalation dynamics, deterrence, and the fostering of mutual understandings. Ching Wei holds an MA in

BASIC
LONDON

Peace, Security and International Law from King's College London, graduating with distinction.

09:00 | SPACE SECURITY AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE: MANAGING COMPETITION BEYOND EARTH | LINK: CLICK HERE

CHRIS SPEDDING

CHAIR
Research Associate, Leverhulme Centre for Humanity in Space, University of Leicester
LEICESTER

Chris Spedding is a Research Associate at the Leverhulme Centre for Humanity in Space, researching emerging technologies, security, and nuclear issues. He holds degrees in Mechanical Engineering (Sheffield Hallam University), Nuclear Energy (Imperial College London), and a PhD in the Governance of Outer Space (The Open University). Previously, he held programme and impact management roles at BASIC and worked as a civil servant. His research explores how emerging technologies shape nuclear competition and conflict.

MICHAEL GLEASON

SPEAKER
Senior Policy Analyst, Center for Space Policy and Strategy, The Aerospace Corporation
CHANTILLY (US)

Michael "Mick" Gleason is an expert on space security, space arms control, space traffic management, the value of space to society, and European Union space policy. He has extensive experience in satellite operations, and his career includes stints in academia, high-level space diplomacy, and across a range of national security space activities. Gleason has presented his research on critical space policy issues at conferences across Europe and the United States.

MARJOLIJN VAN DEELEN

SPEAKER
EU Special Envoy for Space, European External Action Service (EEAS)
BRUSSELS

Marjolijn van Deelen became EU Special Envoy for Space in February 2024, after serving for three and a half years as EU Special Envoy for Non-proliferation and Disarmament. She represents the EU in multilateral space forums promoting responsible behaviour, including through dialogue with third countries. Her responsibilities include responding to space threats to the EU and its Member States and contributing to the security aspects of the EU Space Programme. A Dutch career diplomat, she previously headed the Non-proliferation, Disarmament and Nuclear Affairs Division of the Dutch Foreign Ministry.

CHRISTOPHER NEWMAN

SPEAKER
Professor of Space Law and Policy, Northumbria University
NEWCASTLE

Christopher Newman is Professor of Space Law and Policy at Northumbria University, Newcastle, UK, publishing on the regulatory and liability aspects of space governance. He lectures internationally on space law and policy and has worked with the UK Space Agency on their consultation regarding regulatory reform. He has acted an observer on the UK delegation to COPUOS. He is also Associate Fellow at the Leverhulme Centre for Humanity and Space, University of Leicester, and an academic consultant to 3S Northumbria, a space situational awareness consultancy.

SARAH MCKEE

SPEAKER
Space Security Researcher, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF)
FRANKFURT

Sarah McKee is a space security researcher at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF). Trained initially as a Space Physicist in South Africa, her research spans space weather, radio-frequency interference, space technology and international security. Her doctoral research examined the effects of extreme solar activity on critical aviation systems. Her current work offers an understanding of the space environment, to important debates about space security and strategic competition.

9:00 | RETHINKING SECURITY IN THE NEW AI ERA | LINK: CLICK HERE

JIMENA SOFÍA VIVEROS ÁLVAREZ

CHAIR

President, The HumAIne Foundation; Founder and CEO of IQuilibriumAI

AMSTERDAM

Jimena Sofia Viveros Alvarez is an international lawyer and AI governance expert, Founder and CEO of IQuilibriumAI and President of The HumAIne Foundation. She served on the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Body on AI and as a GC-REAIM Commissioner, co-leading Peace and Security in both bodies. Formerly a senior Mexican government official, her work focuses on dual-use AI governance, international security, international humanitarian law, and inclusive multilateral frameworks, particularly in the Global South.

TOMAS JERMALAVIČIUS

SPEAKER

Head of Studies, International Center for Defence and Security (ICDS)

TALLINN

Tomas Jermalavičius is Head of Studies at the International Centre for Defence and Security (ICDS) in Estonia. He previously held positions at the Baltic Defence College (BALTDEFCOL) and the Lithuanian Ministry of National Defence. His research focuses on defence policy and strategy, defence innovation, and Baltic regional security. He holds a BA in political science from Vilnius University, an MA in war studies from King's College London, and an MBA from the University of Liverpool.

IAN STEWART

SPEAKER

Executive Director, Washington Office, James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS)

WASHINGTON D.C.

Ian J. Stewart is Executive Director of the Washington, DC office of the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS). He specializes in export controls, sanctions, nonproliferation, and emerging technologies, with a particular interest in the implications of artificial intelligence for international security and its applications in nonproliferation. Previously, he led a nonproliferation programme at King's College London and served as a nuclear engineer with the UK Ministry of Defence.

GUANGYU QIAO-FRANCO

SPEAKER

Assistant Professor, Radboud University; Advisory Board Member, Leiden Asia Center

LEIDEN

Guangyu Qiao-Franco is an Assistant Professor of International Relations at Radboud University in the Netherlands, an Advisory Board Member of Leiden Asia Centre, and the Principal Investigator of the Dutch government-funded Project on China's Export Control Strategy of Dual-Use Technologies under the China Knowledge Network. Her research focuses on international norms and policy development related to the military application of AI technologies, with particular attention to the contributions and influence of Global South initiatives.

NETTA GOUSSAC

SPEAKER

Associate Senior Researcher, Governance of Artificial Intelligence Programme, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

STOCKHOLM

Netta Goussac is Associate Senior Researcher in the Governance of Artificial Intelligence programme at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute and Associate Partner at Lexbridge. She has over fifteen years of experience as a legal and policy adviser, including with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Australian Government. Her work focuses on legal and governance frameworks for military technologies, particularly autonomous weapons and AI, and strengthening international rules and their national implementation.

10:30 | BREAK

11:00 | WAR IN THE PERSIAN GULF: NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL CHALLENGES FOR REGIONAL SECURITY | LINK: CLICK HERE

STEPHAN KLEMENT

CHAIR

EU Special Envoy for Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, European External Action Service (EEAS)

BRUSSELS

Ambassador Stephan Klement was appointed EU Special Envoy for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation in February 2024. From 2019 to 2023, he served as EU Head of Delegation to the International Organisations in Vienna. Since 2016, he has also been Special Advisor for the Iranian nuclear issue at the European External Action Service in Brussels. He has extensive experience in nuclear non-proliferation, Euratom coordination, security policy and nuclear inspections, and advised Austria's Permanent Mission during Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty negotiations.

KELSEY DAVENPORT

SPEAKER

Director for Nonproliferation Policy, Arms Control Association

WASHINGTON D.C.

Kelsey Davenport is the Director for Nonproliferation Policy at the Arms Control Association, where she focuses on efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism. She is a leading expert on Iran's nuclear program and U.S. diplomatic efforts to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran. She also tracks emerging proliferation risks in the Middle East and runs the Arms Control Association's project assessing the effectiveness of multilateral voluntary initiatives that contribute to nonproliferation efforts.

MEHRAN HAGHIRIAN

SPEAKER

Executive Director of Research and Programs, Bourse & Bazaar Foundation

LONDON

Mehran Haghirian is Executive Director of Research and Programs at the Bourse & Bazaar Foundation, specializing in conflict resolution and diplomacy in the Persian Gulf. He leads the Integrated Futures Initiative, promoting regional dialogue and economic cooperation, and the Rihla Initiative for Green Economic Growth, advancing collaboration on climate transition and socioeconomic development across the Gulf and the Global South. He holds a PhD in Gulf Studies from Qatar University and a Master's Degree in International Affairs from American University in Washington, DC.

BETÜL DOĞAN AKKAŞ

SPEAKER

Assistant Professor and Deputy Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Ankara University

ANKARA

Betul Dogan-Akkas is an Assistant Professor of International Relations and Deputy Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Ankara University, Türkiye, and a Senior Non-Resident Fellow at ORSAM. She holds a joint PhD in Gulf Studies from Durham University and Qatar University. Her research focuses on Gulf politics, foreign policy, regional security, the Yemen conflict, and Türkiye–GCC relations. She is the author of Saudi Arabia and Qatar: Hegemony, Power and Crisis in the Gulf, published by Manchester University Press.

NEIL BRENNAN

SPEAKER

Executive Director, Non-Proliferation, Disarmament and

Neil Brennan is Executive Director of Global Affairs Canada's Non-proliferation, Disarmament and Space Division. He previously served as Global Affairs' Director for Gulf States, Iran and Yemen relations, Head of Liaison to specialised US agencies in Washington, and Director of Foreign Policy Research. He also worked at the Privy Council Office as Chief of Staff to a Special

Space Division, Global Affairs Canada
OTTAWA

Adviser to the Prime Minister. His international experience includes OSCE missions, arms reduction, conflict resolution and minority rights protection. He holds degrees from Canadian and European universities.

11:00 | EVOLVING THREATS, ENDURING NORMS: CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS IN A CHANGING WORLD | LINK: CLICK HERE

TATYANA NOVOSSIOLOVA

CHAIR
Senior Analyst, Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD)
SOFIA

Tatyana Novossiolova, PhD is Senior Analyst at the Center for the Study of Democracy, Bulgaria. She has 15 years of progressive research and project management experience in the field of international security with a strong focus on CBRN threats, nonproliferation and technology governance (AI, biotechnology). Tatyana is an expert on the international legal CBW disarmament regimes with an established track record in designing and delivering education and training programmes on international security, ethics, and countering disinformation for both academic and professional audiences across diverse regions. She has published extensively in both academic and policy literature.

MATTEO GUIDOTTI

SPEAKER
Senior Researcher, Institute of Chemical Sciences and Technology Institute "Giulio Natta" (SCITEC), Italian National Research Council (CNR)
MILAN

Matteo Guidotti holds a degree in Chemistry and a PhD in Industrial Chemistry. He is a Senior Researcher at the Institute SCITEC of the Italian National Research Council, where he studies solid nanostructured catalysts for the degradation of hazardous chemical and biological agents. He is active in awareness raising, dissemination and training activities about protection, prevention, mitigation and defence against CBRNe warfare agents. He is currently Chairperson of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

GREGORY KOBLENTZ

SPEAKER
Associate Professor and Director of the Biodefense Graduate Program, George Mason University
FAIRFAX COUNTY (USA)

Gregory D. Koblentz is an Associate Professor and Director of the Biodefense Graduate Program at George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Government. He is co-director of the Global BioLabs Initiative and editor-in-chief of The Pandora Report. He is a member of the Scientists Working Group on Biological and Chemical Security at the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, the Security Working Group of the Engineering Biology Research Consortium, and the Biodefense Advisory Board of Elusys Therapeutics.

EMMA ROSS

SPEAKER
Director, Global Health Programme, Chatham House
LONDON

Emma Ross is Director of the Global Health Programme at Chatham House. She has researched and led expert dialogues on a broad range of issues, from global biosecurity and international cooperation against the spread of WMDs, to global health governance and the geopolitics of outbreaks. Prior to that, she had a career as the London-based medical correspondent for the Associated Press. She holds a master's degree in journalism from Northwestern University in the United States.

MARGARET E. KOSAL

SPEAKER
Professor, Georgia Institute of Technology; Director,

Margaret E. Kosal is Professor in the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at Georgia Institute of Technology, and Director of the Geopolitics of Emerging Science & Technologies Initiative. She earned a PhD in Chemistry from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is the co-founder of a CBRN and biomedical sensor company. She has served in multiple leadership

Geopolitics of Emerging Science & Technologies Initiative
ATLANTA (USA)

roles across the US Government and is an Honorary Lifetime Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

LEONARDO BENCINI

SPEAKER

Coordinator for Biological and Bacteriological Threats, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy
ROME

Leonardo Bencini is an Italian diplomat who served as Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva from 2022 through August 2026. In 2022 he was the President of the ninth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Conventions. From 2020 to 2022 he oversaw Italy's international response to the Covid-19 pandemic. He is now Coordinator for biological and bacteriological threats at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy. He has served in Rome, Rio de Janeiro, Oslo, Moscow, St. Petersburg and Geneva. He is Officer OMRI (Order of Merit of the Italian Republic).

11:00 | EMERGING MILITARY TECHNOLOGIES AND THE FUTURE OF WARFARE

LINK: CLICK HERE

RALUCA CSERNATONI

CHAIR

Professor, Vrije Universiteit Brussel; Research Fellow, Carnegie Europe
BRUSSELS

Raluca Csernatoni is a professor with the Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy (CSDS) of the Brussels School of Governance, at Vrije Universiteit Brussel. At CSDS, she is also a senior researcher for the 'Indo-Pacific-European Hub for Digital Partnerships' project and co-leads the Flemish Research Council Research Network 'Technology, Security and Conflict'. She is also currently a fellow at Carnegie Europe, specialising in European security and defence, and serving as a team leader and senior researcher on new technologies for the EU Cyber Diplomacy Initiative – EU Cyber Direct project.

MAURO GILLI

SPEAKER

Professor, Hertie School
BERLIN

Mauro Gilli is Professor of Military Strategy and Technology at the Hertie School in Berlin. His research has appeared in leading journals, including International Security and the Journal of Conflict Resolution, and has been featured by Nature, The Economist, and the New York Times. He has advised public and private organizations, including the U.S. Department of Defense's Office of Net Assessment, and is a regular commentator on international security for Italian and Swiss media.

DONGYOUN CHO

SPEAKER

Senior Fellow for Advanced Technologies, National Security and Defence, International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)
BERLIN

Dongyoun Cho is Senior Fellow for Advanced Technologies, National Security and Defence at IISS-Europe in Berlin. Her research covers quantum technologies, military AI and emerging-technology supply chains, with a focus on export controls, deterrence and alliance coordination. She was previously a Senior Researcher at UNIDIR in Geneva and served for sixteen years as an intelligence officer in the Republic of Korea Army. She holds an MPA from Harvard Kennedy School and was a Yale World Fellow.

JEAN-MARC RICKLI

SPEAKER

Head of Global and Emerging Risks; Founder and Director, Polymath Initiative, Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)
GENEVA

Jean-Marc Rickli is Head of Global and Emerging Risks and Founder and Director of the Polymath Initiative at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP). He co-chairs the NATO Partnership for Peace Consortium Emerging Security Challenges Working Group and represents the GCSP at the UN Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons. Previously, he was Assistant Professor at King's College London

and Khalifa University. He holds a PhD in International Relations from Oxford University and is the author of Surrogate Warfare.

PATRICIA JAWOREK

SPEAKER

Director, Global Nuclear Policy Program, Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI)

WASHINGTON D.C.

Patricia Jaworek is a Director in the Global Nuclear Policy Program at the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), where she works on nuclear risk reduction and nonproliferation, with a focus on multilateral processes and the intersection of nuclear weapons and emerging technologies, especially AI. She is currently a U.S. AI Policy Program Fellow at the Centre for the Governance of AI (GovAI) and a member of the Younger Generation Leaders Network on Euro-Atlantic Security (YGLN).

12:30 | BREAK

SECOND PLENARY SESSION | LINK: CLICK HERE

13:30 | REYKJAVÍK AT 40: A CONVERSATION BETWEEN GENERATIONS

FEDERICA DALL'ARCHE

CHAIR

Senior Research Associate, Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP)

VIENNA

Federica Dall'Arche is a Senior Research Associate with the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP). She also serves as an advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy. She is a former policy advisor to the Italian Presidency of The Council of Ministers (Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri). Ms. Dall'Arche's work focusses on arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament and on women empowerment in international security.

PIA HANSSON

SPEAKER

Director, Institute of International Affairs, University of Iceland

REYKJAVÍK

Pia Hansson is Director of the Institute of International Affairs and its three centres: the Centre for Small States Studies, the Centre for Arctic Studies and Höfði Reykjavík Peace Centre. She holds a B.A. in Communication from the University of Minnesota and an M.A. in International Relations from the University of Iceland. She previously worked as a broadcasting producer and director in Iceland and abroad, and as Media Specialist at the U.S. Embassy in Iceland (2000–2006). In 2007–2008, she served as Head Spokesperson for the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission on behalf of Iceland's Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

BIANCA VOICAN

SPEAKER

Trainee, Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs of Austria

VIENNA

Bianca Voican has worked on disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control issues at UNODA Vienna, the Austrian Foreign Ministry, and the European External Action Service. She was selected as a 2026 UNIDIR Women in AI Fellow and participated in the 2024–2025 Young Women in Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Mentorship Programme. She is a graduate of the Department of War Studies at King's College London, where she focused on WMD-related security, non-proliferation and disarmament issues.

TRINE ROSENGREN PEJSTRUP

SPEAKER

Ph.D. Fellow, Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS)
COPENHAGEN

Trine Rosengren Pejstrup's is a PhD fellow at the Danish Institute for International Studies, where she has worked on matters of rising defence budgets in Europe and increased global arms trade. Her interest in disarmament and arms control was sparked during an internship at UNODA in New York, later as a graduate professional at UNIDIR. Today, her PhD project focuses on ways of reimagining –perhaps remembering – peace and security in a rearming world, with a specific focus on the case of South Africa.

THOMAS COUNTRYMAN

SPEAKER

Chairman of the Board, Arms Control Association
WASHINGTON D.C.

Thomas Countryman has served since 2017 as Chairman of the Arms Control Association, a nonpartisan NGO, committed to analysis of key national security issues and reducing the risk that weapons of mass destruction will be used. He was a Foreign Service Officer for 35 years, and was acting Undersecretary for Arms Control 2016-17, and Assistant Secretary for Nonproliferation 2011-2017, leading the US effort to prevent the spread of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

NIKOLAI SOKOV

SPEAKER

Senior Research Associate, Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP)
VIENNA

Nikolai Sokov is Senior Fellow at the Vienna Centre for Disarmament and Non Proliferation. He is a former arms control negotiator for Soviet (later Russian) Foreign Ministry and has participated in INF, START I and START II negotiations as well as multiple ministerial and summit meetings. He worked at the Center for Nonproliferation Studies in Monterey, CA. Sokov holds a PhD from the University of Michigan as well as the Soviet equivalent of PhD. Research interests include: deterrence, international security regimes with emphasis on arms control and risk reduction, nuclear nonproliferation.

14:50 | WAR IN UKRAINE AND THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN SECURITY

JIM STOKES

CHAIR

Senior Fellow, GLOBSEC
BRUSSELS

Jim Stokes is a Senior Fellow at GLOBSEC. Most recently, he was the NATO Director of Nuclear Policy, responsible for NATO's nuclear deterrence as well as defense against chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threats. He had a 25-year career with the U.S. Department of Defense and has earned Master's degrees from the National War College and the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy.

CARMEN ROMERO

SPEAKER

Director of Security Policy, Political Affairs and Security Policy Division, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)
BRUSSELS

Carmen Romero was appointed NATO Director of Security Policy in the Political Affairs and Security Policy Division July 2024. She previously served as NATO Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy. Carmen joined NATO May 2004 as Deputy Spokesperson and Head of Press and Media. Prior, Carmen had a long, distinguished career in journalism, as she has a Master's degree in Journalism and Information Science from Universidad Complutense de Ciencias de la Informacion de Madrid.

PAVEL K. BAEV

SPEAKER

Research Professor, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)
OSLO

Pavel K. Baev is a Research Professor at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO). He is also a Senior Non-Resident Fellow at the Brookings Institution (Washington D.C.) and a Senior Associate Researcher at the French International Affairs Institute (IFRI, Paris). Russia's nuclear strategy and posture is one of his major research interests. He writes a weekly column for the Eurasia Daily Monitor.

LINDE DESMAELE

SPEAKER

Assistant Professor, Leiden University

LEIDEN

Linde Desmaele is an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Security and Global Affairs (ISGA), Leiden University. Her research examines nuclear politics and alliance politics, particularly in the European context. Before joining Leiden, she held fellowships at the MIT Security Studies Program and Columbia University. She holds a PhD from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, where her dissertation earned the 2022 Global Strategy PhD Prize.

POLINA SINOVETS

SPEAKER

Head, Odesa Center for Non-proliferation (OdCNP), Odesa I.I. Mechnikov National University

ODESA

Polina Sinovets is the Founder and Head of the Odesa Center for Nonproliferation (OdCNP) at Odesa I.I. Mechnikov National University (Ukraine). In this role, she leads OdCNP's education, training, research, and outreach activities. Since October 1, 2024, Dr. Sinovets has also been working as a visiting researcher at Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) in Rome, while continuing her work as ODCNP leader and a senior lecturer at the Department of Odesa I.I. Mechnikov National University.

BENEDIKTA VON SEHERR-THOSS

SPEAKER

Director EU-Ukraine Defence Readiness, DG DEFIS, European Commission

BRUSSELS

Benedikta von Seherr-Thoß is Director for EU-Ukraine Defence Readiness at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space (DG DEFIS), from October 2026. Previously, she served as Managing Director for Peace, Security and Defence at the European External Action Service (EEAS). She has extensive experience in European and transatlantic security and defence policy, having held senior positions at Germany's Federal Ministry of Defence and at NATO headquarters in Brussels and Kabul.

16:10 | BREAK

16:40 | THE GLOBAL NON-PROLIFERATION REGIME AFTER THE 2026 NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE

FRANZISKA STÄRK

CHAIR

Researcher, Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy, University of Hamburg (IFSH)

HAMBURG

Franziska Stärk is a researcher at the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg (IFSH). Her research focuses on nuclear arms control, alliance politics, and nuclear ethics. She is an external PhD candidate at Erasmus University Rotterdam and previously worked as a Policy Advisor for the Munich Security Conference.

DO HUNG VIET ONLINE

SPEAKER

Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations; President of the 11th Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

NEW YORK

Ambassador Do Hung Viet is the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations in New York and served as President of the 2026 NPT Review Conference. Previously, he was Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, overseeing multilateral diplomacy, including Viet Nam's engagement with the UN and ASEAN, and bilateral relations with countries in Southeast Asia, South Asia and the South Pacific. He also served as Director-General of the Department of International Organizations, managing Viet Nam's participation in the UN Security Council (2020–2021) and the IAEA Board of Governors (2021–2023).

He graduated from the Diplomatic Academy of Viet Nam and holds a Master's degree in Public and International Law from the University of Melbourne.

ELIZA GHEORGHE

SPEAKER
Assistant Professor, Bilkent University
ANKARA

Eliza Gheorghe (D.Phil., Oxon) is an Assistant Professor in the International Relations Department at Bilkent University. She held fellowships at Yale, Harvard, Cornell, Johns Hopkins, and Sorbonne, among others. Her research focuses primarily on nuclear proliferation and nuclear alliances. Her work has been published, inter alia, in International Security, Journal of Politics, and Journal of Strategic Studies. She is the author of Market of Doom. Proliferation and the Logic of Nuclear Trade, forthcoming with Cornell University Press.

HUBERT FOY

SPEAKER
Executive Director, African Center for Science and International Security (AFRICSIS)
ACCRA

Hubert Foy is Executive Director of AFRICSIS and a leading African expert in nuclear security and nonproliferation. With 17+ years of experience working on Africa-focused nuclear issues, including the NPT Review Process, Nuclear Security Summit Process, and UNSCR 1540, he has worked with the IAEA, AFCONE, and major donor governments to strengthen nuclear threat reduction across 50+ African countries. His focus is to advance the African voice and perspectives in global nuclear policy discourse.

JACEK BYLICA-KOSMALSKI

SPEAKER
Chief of Cabinet for the Director General, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
VIENNA

Jacek Bylica-Kosmalski has served as Chief of Cabinet at IAEA since January 2020. Previously, he was EU Special Envoy for Non-proliferation and Disarmament (2013–2020), Head of NATO's WMD Non-Proliferation Centre (2008–2013), Poland's Representative to the UN Office, OSCE and other international organisations in Vienna (2004-2008). Born in Warsaw in 1963, he studied languages and diplomacy in Warsaw, Moscow, Beijing and Boston.

18:00 | KEYNOTE SESSION: NON-PROLIFERATION IN THE CURRENT GEOPOLITICAL CONTEXT

ELENA K. SOKOVA

CHAIR
Executive Director, Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP)
VIENNA

Elena K. Sokova is the Executive Director of the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. Her primary research areas are international organizations and regimes in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, fissile materials security and control, nuclear non-proliferation issues in Eurasia, non-proliferation and disarmament education and training. She authored numerous articles, book chapters, reports, and other publications on these issues and serves on Advisory Boards of several organisations and initiatives.

RAFAEL MARIANO GROSSI ONLINE

SPEAKER
Director General, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
VIENNA

Rafael Mariano Grossi has served as IAEA Director General since December 2019 and was unanimously elected to a second term. A career diplomat, he previously served as Argentina's Ambassador to Austria and Representative to the IAEA and other international organisations. He was President of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and President-designate of the 2020 NPT Review Conference. He also presided over the Diplomatic Conference of the Convention on Nuclear Safety and held senior positions in Argentina's Foreign Service and the OPCW. He is a strong proponent of gender balance in the nuclear field and holds a PhD in International Relations from the University of Geneva.

18:45 | CLOSING REMARKS

SIBYLLE BAUER

SPEAKER

Chair, EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium; Director of Studies, Armament and Disarmament, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)
STOCKHOLM

Sibylle Bauer is Director of Studies, Armament and Disarmament at SIPRI, with responsibility for SIPRI's work on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation for nuclear, biological and chemical weapons; dual-use and arms trade control; emerging technologies; and arms production, arms transfer and military expenditure. She is also the current Chair of the EU Nonproliferation and Disarmament Consortium. Previously, she managed SIPRI's Dual-use and Arms Trade Control Programme. In that capacity, she designed and implemented capacity-building activities in Europe and South East Asia. Dr Bauer joined SIPRI in 2003.

19:00| END OF CONFERENCE

Thank you
for participating

We wish you a pleasant conference

Participants are welcome to disclose ideas from EUNPD Annual Conference sessions.
An official photographer will be present throughout the conference and pictures will be displayed on the official webpage and social media sites.