



Vilnius Security Forum 2026

Theme:

Russia, Its Allies, and the New Age of Warfare — Strengthening Democratic Resilience Against AI-Driven Hybrid and Conventional Threats

Date: 26 February 2026

Venue: Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania (Lithuanian Parliament), Vilnius

Overview

Marking over a decade of strategic dialogue and transatlantic cooperation, the **Vilnius Security Forum 2026** will address the accelerating transformation of modern warfare and security competition.

As Russia and its authoritarian partners — including Belarus, Iran, North Korea, and increasingly China — integrate emerging technologies into their military, political, and economic strategies, the Forum will examine how democratic states must adapt, defend, and prevail in this new era of confrontation.

This year's discussions will focus on the convergence of **artificial intelligence, cyber capabilities, drones, and information warfare** into a unified ecosystem of aggression that transcends traditional battlefields. These tools increasingly target civilian infrastructure, democratic institutions, cognitive security, and social trust, aiming to erode resilience and allied cohesion from within.

Bringing together senior political and defence leaders, military commanders, strategists, technologists, and security analysts, the Forum seeks to generate **actionable insights** to strengthen deterrence, protect critical infrastructure, and safeguard democratic societies against AI-enabled hybrid and conventional threats.

Key Focus Areas

- AI, drones, and data warfare in Russia's evolving military doctrine
 - The authoritarian innovation nexus linking Moscow, Tehran, Pyongyang, and Beijing
 - Defending critical infrastructure and democratic institutions from hybrid interference
 - Building resilience through political leadership and public-private partnerships
 - Lessons from Ukraine for NATO and the wider Baltic–Black Sea security architecture
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Draft Agenda

Morning Session

08:15–09:00 — Registration & Coffee

09:00–09:05 — Opening of the Forum

Welcome and protocol remarks by the Host

09:05–09:35 — Opening Addresses

Keynote remarks by:

- **Mr. Juozas Olekas**, Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania (TBC)
- **Mr. Arvydas Pocius** National Defence and Security Committee, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania
- **General Raimundas Vaikšnoras**, Commander of the Lithuanian Armed Forces
- **Mr. Matti Sarasmaa**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Interior (Finland)

09:35–10:15 — Keynote Address

Mr. Andrius Kubilius, European Commissioner for Defence and Space

10:15–11:30 — Panel I: The Axis of Authoritarian Innovation

Focus:

Coordination among Russia, Iran, North Korea, and China — technology transfer, arms cooperation, and emerging joint doctrines.

Moderator:

- **Mrs. Molly McKew**, Information Warfare Expert, Foreign Policy and Strategy Consultant (USA)

Panelists:

- **LTG (Ret.) Ben Hodges**, Former Commanding General, U.S. Army Europe (USA)
 - **Dr. Patrick Keller**, Head of the Center for Security and Defense Studies (Germany)
 - **Dr. Robert Czulda**, Assistant Professor, University of Łódź (Poland)
 - **Mr. Saulius “Saul” Anuzis**, Managing Partner, Coast to Coast Strategies (USA)
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11:30–12:45 — Panel II: Hybrid Threats 3.0 — Infrastructure, Influence, and Insider Risk



Focus:

Protecting critical infrastructure, information systems, and institutions from coordinated hybrid interference.

Moderator:

- **Dr. Timo Hellenberg**, CEO, Hellenberg International (Finland)

Panelists:

- **Mr. Michael Malm**, Swedish Armed Forces, Department of Total Defence (Sweden)
 - **COL (Ret.) Jeffrey Jennette**, Former U.S. Defence Attaché to Lithuania (USA)
 - **Brigadier General (Ret.) Ephraim Sneh**, Former Deputy Minister of Defence (Israel)
 - **Ambassador Eitvydas Bajarūnas**, Representative of the Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists in Brussels
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12:45–14:00 — Lunch Break

Afternoon Session

14:00–15:15 — Panel III: AI, Drones, and Data — Russia’s New Offensive Tools

Focus:

Battlefield automation, ISR, AI-enabled targeting, data warfare, and counter-UAS capabilities.

Moderator:

- **Mrs. Indrė Makaraitytė**, Journalist, Head of Investigative Desk, LRT (Lithuania)

Panelists:

- **Mr. Stephen Blank**, Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Research Institute (USA) – online
 - **Col. (Ret.) Eitan Arad**, Israel Aerospace Industries, (IS)
 - **Mr. Anders Carp**, Deputy CEO Saab AB, (SWE)
 - **Mr. Ariel Yonatan**, Senior Marketing & Sales Manager, Omnisys (IS)
 - **Mr. Graham Shellenberger**, Head of Global Partnerships, Latent AI (USA)
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15:15–15:45 — Coffee Break

15:45–17:00 — Panel IV: Building Resilient Societies — Mobilizing for 21st-Century Conflict

Focus:

Total defence, public-private partnerships, industrial readiness, and societal resilience.

Moderator:

- **Mr. Aidas Petrošius**, Communication Expert in Societal Resilience

Panelists:

- **COL (Ret.) Ray Wojcik**, Former U.S. Army Attaché, U.S. Embassy Warsaw (Poland)
- **Dr. Andrzej Kozłowski**, Analyst, University of Lodz (Poland)
- **Prof. Dr. Giedrius Česnakas**, Senior Researcher, Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University
- **Major Yevhen Karas**, Commander, Unmanned Systems Forces Regiment (Ukraine)

17:00–17:15 — Closing Remarks

Summary of key insights and forward-looking reflections. (TBC)

Registration

Please register your participation here: [Vilnius Security Forum 2026 – Fill in form](#)

Note: The agenda is subject to change.

We look forward to your active participation in fostering a more secure and resilient future for **NATO, the European Union, and the broader international community.**

Partners and co-organizers:



**This program is made possible by funding from the Baltic-American Freedom Foundation (BAFF). For more information about BAFF scholarships and speaker support, visit www.balticamericanfreedomfoundation.org

