



🛡️ Vilnius Security Forum 2024 🛡️

Topic: Deterrence, Coercion, and the Future of Total Defense

Date: 23 February 2024

Venue: Lithuanian Parliament, Conference Hall, Gedimino 53, Vilnius / Microsoft Teams

Importance of the Topics:

In an ever-changing security landscape marked by geopolitical volatility, the issues surrounding national and international defense have reached unprecedented levels of significance. Recent conflicts involving Russia and Ukraine not only pose threats to Eastern Europe but also carry broad implications for European security, NATO's pivotal role, and the stability of NATO's eastern flank. Since 2022, Russia has intensified its preparations for a prolonged conflict with the West. Beyond the ongoing war in Ukraine, Russia is strategically enhancing its Western military district (Leningrad district) to exert pressure along the Eastern border of the NATO alliance. Allocating 17% of its GDP to defense, Russia has undergone a comprehensive overhaul of its defense industry, implemented societal repression measures, and geared its entire nation towards sustaining a protracted war, with no apparent prospect of reversal.

The Vilnius Security Forum 2024 aspires to serve as a platform for intellectual dialogue among decision-makers, policy advisors, academicians, and security professionals. This event stands as an urgent call to collectively shape policies, fortify alliances, and strengthen international cooperation. The objective is to ensure a stable, secure, and resilient future in the face of these critical developments.

AGENDA:

08:00 - 09:00 | **Registration and Welcome Coffee**

09:00 - 09:30 | **Welcoming Remarks**

Mrs. Viktorija ČMILYTĖ – NIELSEN, Speaker of the Seimas (LTU)

Mr. Laurynas KASČIŪNAS, Member of the Seimas, Chairman of the Committee on National Security and Defence (LTU)

Lieutenant Colonel Linas IDZELIS, Commander of Lithuanian Riflemen's Union (LTU)

Moderator: Ms. Emile BALODYTĖ, Project Manager, Gynybos paramos fondas/National Defence Foundation (LTU)

09:40 - 11:00 | **Panel I: Lessons Learned from Russia's War Against Ukraine**

Moderator: Colonel (ret) Stephen OLEJASZ, Friends of Kosciuszko at West Point, (USA)

Panelists:

Brigadier General (ret.) Rainer Meyer zum FELDE, Institute for Security Police at the University of Kiel (DE)

Mrs. Julija KAZDOBINA, Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Council "Ukrainian Prism" (UKR)

Colonel Radu CISLEANU, Director, Military Intelligence (MDA)

Lieutenant Colonel (ret) Daniel RAKOV, Senior Fellow at the Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security (JISS) (ISR)

Topics: Assessing the Tactics and Strategies, Psychological Warfare and Information Dissemination, The Role of International Partners and Alliances

11:10 - 12:30 | Panel II: Lessons Learned from Russia's War Against the West

Moderator: Mrs. Molly **McKEW**, information warfare expert. Foreign Policy and Strategy Consultant (USA)

Panelists:

Brigade General (ret) Jaroslav **KRASZEWSKI**, PhD, CEO Grupa Niewiadów S.A. (POL)

Mr. Marshall **BILLINGSLEA**, former Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing at the United States Department of the Treasury and Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Affairs (USA)

Mr. Keir **GILES**, a senior consulting fellow with the Russia and Eurasia Programme at Chatham House (UK)

Mr. Kaimo **KUUSK**, Ambassador, Estonian embassy (EST)

Topics: Examining Cyber Attacks and Disinformation Campaigns, NATO's Stance and Preparedness, Economic Sanctions: Effectiveness and Consequences

12:30 - 13:30 | Lunch

13:40 - 15:00 | Panel III: Total Defence, Future

Moderator: Dr. Sheu **JYH-SHYANG**, assistant research fellow, Institute for National Defense and Security Research (TW)

Panelists:

Lieutenant General (ret) Ben **HODGES**, the former Commanding General of US Army Europe (2014-2017), currently serves as NATO Senior Mentor for Logistics, he consults for several companies on Europe, NATO, and the European Union (USA)

Dr. Giedrius **ČESNAKAS**, professor Security Research Group, General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy (LTU)



Mr. James **TOWNSEND** is a senior fellow for Transatlantic Security Program at Center for a New American Security (USA)

Mr. Michael **MALM** Swedish Armed Forces Defence Staff, Department of Total Defence (SWE)

Topics: Resilience Building: Social, Economic, and Psychological Aspects, Technology in Defense: Risks and Rewards, Future Policy Recommendations for Sustainable Security

15:00-16:20 | Panel IV: NATO/EU Eastern Frontier and Total Defence

Moderator: Dr. Mantas **ADOMĖNAS**, Senior research fellow, Institute of the Baltic Advanced Technologies (LTU)

Panelists:

Mrs. Dovilė **ŠAKALIENĖ**, member of Lithuanian Parliament, National Security and Defence Committee (LTU)

Lieutenant Colonel Janne **PUKKILA**, Finnish National Defence University, Russian/Belarus Research group expert (FIN)

Mr. Toomas **UNT**, crisis manager at the Estonian Ministry of Regional Affairs and Agriculture (EST)

Mr. Yan **AVSEYUSHKIN**, Analyst, International Strategic Action Network for Security (iSANS) (POL/BEL)

Lieutenant Colonel Linas **IDZELIS**, Commander of Lithuanian Riflemen's Union

UKR representative

Summary of the Panels, The Way Forward, Acknowledgments

Contact Information:

For more information and registration, please visit our website: www.fondas.eu or contact info@fondas.eu

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 Supporters:

