

War in Ukraine: a watershed moment for European defense policy and transatlantic security?

June 9/Brussels

Russia's war in Ukraine has fundamentally shaken Europe's sense of its own security. European governments are urgently reviewing their defense plans and ramping up military spending. And the EU itself wants to get much more serious about defense.

After years when European defense policy was seen as low priority and politically polarizing, shock at the war in Ukraine has prompted governments to blow the dust off of this file and give it new impetus. Could this be the time when Europe seizes the moment to craft a common, modern defense policy?

Questions to be addressed include:

- Has Russia's invasion of Ukraine triggered a fundamental shift in European policymakers' attitudes to defense?
- Does Europe need a new policy to protect itself from nuclear attack?
- Does the EU's Strategic Compass point the way to a bold new path in security policy or leave Europe standing still?
- How will plans to ramp up military spending in Germany and other EU countries affect the bloc's defense capabilities as a whole?
- Will the crisis prompt Europe to move toward strategic autonomy or bond more closely with the United States and NATO?
- How far can Europe go in revamping energy, technology and trade policy to make the Continent more secure and more resistant to external shocks?

This POLITICO Live event will deep dive into Europe's new defense debate, looking at the implications for the Continent's defense sector, nuclear policy, strategic autonomy and much more.

Format: Virtual event with four speakers

AGENDA

10:40 AM Speakers and moderator connect to the virtual event platform

11:00 AM Welcome remarks by POLITICO's moderator

- **Suzanne Lynch**, Brussels Playbook writer, POLITICO

11:05 AM Introductory remarks by our partner, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies (either live, or pre-recorded)

- **Mikuláš Dzurinda**, president, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

11.10 AM Panel discussion including Q&A

- **Mircea Geoana**, deputy secretary general, NATO – confirmed
- **Eerik Kross**, member of the Estonian Parliament – confirmed
- **Janne Kuusela**, director general, defense policy, ministry of defense, Finland – confirmed
- **Stefano Sannino**, secretary general, EEAS – confirmed

12.00 PM Closing remarks