



FONDAZIONE  
DE GASPERI



*International Conference*

## **SECURITY AND DEFENCE DAYS 2023**

**17-18 October, Rome**

in cooperation with  
NATO Public Diplomacy Division



The third edition of the "Security and Defense Days", the annual conference promoted by the De Gasperi Foundation, will take place in Rome on 17-18 October 2023, at the Palace of the Lombardy Region (via del Gesù 57).

The event is co-organized with the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, in cooperation with the NATO Public Diplomacy Division, and comes at a particularly delicate time for the international scenario, with the Russian aggression against Ukraine threatening the security of the entire West, an increasingly assertive China, and a strongly evolving Indo-Pacific region.

The proceedings will develop over two days and will consist of four thematic sessions, bringing together personalities from institutions and the political world, diplomats and military officers, experts and media representatives, who will share their insights and reflections on the following issues:

- NATO's role and strategic perspectives after the Vilnius Summit;
- The importance of developing the European defense industry, and the complementarity between NATO and the EU in the field of security and defense;
- The growing challenges for the EU in the fields of technology and energy;
- The impact of the Russian aggression against Ukraine on the countries of the EU's eastern neighborhood.

Institutional Partner



Media Partner



*\* The Conference receives financial support from the European Parliament.  
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## ***First Day***

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**Date** 17 October 2023, 14:30-18:00

**Venue** Palace of the Lombardy Region  
Via del Gesù 57, Rome

**14:30** Welcome Remarks  
**Region of Lombardy**

**14:40** Introduction  
**Hon. Angelino Alfano**  
President, De Gasperi Foundation

**15:00** **Session 1**

**NATO's strategic prospects after the Vilnius Summit: new balances between eastern flank, southern flank, and the global geo-strategic framework**

The session aims to examine the decisions taken by the Atlantic Alliance at the Summit held last July in Vilnius. On this occasion, the Heads of State and Government broadly reaffirmed the directions outlined in the Strategic Concept approved in Madrid in 2022, amidst persistent and serious instability on the eastern flank, coupled with increasingly significant interconnections with the Russian and Chinese presence in the southern flank and Africa.

*Speakers*

**Mr. Nicola de Santis**  
Head Engagements Section, NATO Public Diplomacy Division

**Sen. Marco Dreosto**  
Member of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Commission, Senate of the Republic

**Sen. Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata**  
President of the Commission for European Union Policies, Senate of the Republic

*Moderator*

**Ms. Flavia Giacobbe**  
Editor-in-chief, Airpress

16:15

**Session 2**

**The new conventional and hybrid threats to global security and the role of the Italian and the European defense industry**

The session looks into the evolution of the new conventional and hybrid risks that the Russian aggression against Ukraine and the repeated conflicts in the wider Mediterranean region and Africa are bringing about, with their potential impact on global security. In this context, the Italian and the European defense industry hold a renewed and increasingly strategic role, while the complementarity between NATO and the EU needs to be strengthened.

*Speakers*

**Amb. Marco Peronaci**

Permanent Representative of Italy to NATO

**Gen. Claudio Graziano**

President, Fincantieri

**C.A. Pietro Alighieri**

Senior Advisor, Secretariat General of Defense  
National Armaments Directorate

**Mr. Walter Renna**

CEO, Fastweb

*Moderator*

TBD

17:30

Remarks

**H.E. Hon. Guido Crosetto (TBC)**

Italian Minister of Defense

## ***Second Day***

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**Date** 18 October 2023, 9:30-13:00  
**Venue** Palace of the Lombardy Region  
Via del Gesù 57, Rome

**09:30**      **Session 3**

**The European Union as a global player: a strategic compass to navigate the needs of common defense, technological competition, and energy challenges**

The session intends to analyze the current role of the European Union in the international scenario, starting with the presentation of a report elaborated by the De Gasperi Foundation for the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The goal is to expand the reflection beyond the continental borders, identifying critical issues for the EU institutions as well as their potentialities, both in terms of internal and transatlantic security, the relationship with the main geopolitical players, and the posture held in strategic dossiers: the Mediterranean and the Middle East, Africa, the Indo-Pacific region, Russia and China. A specific focus will be placed on technological and energy issues.

*Speakers*

**Ms. Sissi Bellomo**

Journalist, Il Sole 24ore

**Adm. Gianfranco Annunziata**

Head of the Military Policy Division, Defense General Staff

**Dr. Sergio Jesi**

Vice President, ELT Group

*Moderator*

**Mr. Mattia Caniglia**

Responsible for the Geopolitical Desk, De Gasperi Foundation

**10:30**

**Session 4**

**Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova: interconnections, criticalities, and future prospects**

The session aims to draw an overall picture of the Eastern neighborhood of the European Union, including its current relations with the conflict provoked by the Russian aggression against Ukraine, the Euro-Atlantic integration aspirations of some countries, and the critical issues in the relationship with Russia and China.

*Speakers*

**H.E. Amb. Teimuraz Janjalia**

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Georgia

**H.E. Valeriu Mija**

Secretary of State for Defense, Moldova

**H.E. Mykola Tochytskyi**

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ukraine

*Moderator*

**Hon. Paolo Alli**

Secretary General, De Gasperi Foundation

**12:00**

Remarks

**The Complementarity between NATO and the EU: Challenges and Perspectives**

**Mr. Klaus Welle (TBC)**

Chairman of the Academic Council, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

Former Secretary General, European Parliament

**12:30**

**Closing Remarks**

**H.E. Hon. Antonio Tajani**

Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation