



EXECUTIVE TRAINING SEMINAR

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME

EUROPEAN SECURITY: OLD TRENDS AND NEW REALITIES

Scientific Coordinators:

Ulrich Krotz | European University Institute

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■ INTRODUCTION

This Executive Training Seminar will examine the broad range of security risks and challenges currently facing the European Union (EU) and its member states. Europe's security environment is increasingly complex and uncertain. Some of the challenges that the EU encounters today are ones that it has faced for many decades, such as concern over Russia's power and intentions and the credibility of the U.S. security commitment to European defense. Others are of more recent vintage, such as Arctic security, spillover effects from the "arc of instability" that runs along the EU's southern and southeastern borders, and how best to deter potential Russian encroachment in Eastern Europe and the Baltics. Bringing together academic specialists, policymakers, and think tank experts, this three-day seminar offers an in-depth overview of the scale and scope of the security challenges facing Europe. It outlines possible measures that the EU and its member states could take to address these challenges. Topics include counter-terrorism, cyber security, EU initiatives to build independent security and defense capabilities, and appraisals of the various security risks and threats facing the EU's northern, southern, and eastern flanks, respectively. Through presentations, case studies, and simulations, attendees will gain a greater appreciation and understanding of how security risks in Europe could evolve, combine, and interact, and the policy responses that will be needed to manage the forces at play.

■ DRAFT PROGRAMME

22 OCTOBER

- 09.30 - 10.00 Opening
Ulrich Krotz | Professor, Chair in International Relations, EUI & Director, Europe in the World programme
- 10.00 - 11.30 EU security and defense policy: Is strategic autonomy an illusion? (part I)
Alexandra de Hoop Scheffer | Director, German Marshall Fund, Paris Office
- The debates around European security and defense run in cycles. Every decade has its “moment” when a convergence of strategic interests and political will creates a window of opportunity to deepen defense and security cooperation among European partners, and even further the integration of defense policies under the EU umbrella. These convergences have been mainly crisis-driven. The current political and strategic environment is undoubtedly such a crisis moment, and expectations are high that in the coming months concrete progress can be achieved. A number of key initiatives recently taken both at the EU level (e.g. European Defense Fund, PESCO, enhancement of EU-NATO cooperation) and outside the EU framework (e.g. the French-led European Intervention Initiative, increase in national defense budgets) are providing new instruments and guidance to develop European defense cooperation. Yet, despite the political optimism and the constructive material dynamics, we cannot overlook the obstacles on the way to European defense. European partners do not necessarily share a common strategic vision, nor do they prefer the same methods to achieve their goals. The concept of “European strategic autonomy” is a point of divergence as to what European defense cooperation is meant to achieve and how it should be articulated with NATO and the US. Indeed, a politically and strategically more autonomous Europe would contribute to better balance transatlantic burden-sharing and make the EU a more credible security actor. The question is whether this defense momentum will remain a temporary euphoria or a sustainable political willingness of EU member states to commit to a closer and more efficient defense and security union.
- 11.30 - 12.00 Coffee break
- 12.00 - 13.30 EU security and defense policy: Is strategic autonomy an illusion? (part II)
Alexandra de Hoop Scheffer | Director, German Marshall Fund, Paris Office
- 13.30 - 14.30 Lunch break
- 14.30 - 16.00 How Central Europe copes with Donald Trump (part I)
Tomáš Valášek | Director, Carnegie Europe
- With the U.S. commitment to the defense of Europe looking shaky, what fears and what options do the Central European countries have for their security? How do they feel about the strength of NATO guarantees, what alternatives are they contemplating, and what would be the impact of their pursuit of alternatives on the rest of the EU?

16.00 - 16.30 Coffee break
16.30 - 18.00 How Central Europe copes with Donald Trump (part II)
Tomáš Valášek | Director, Carnegie Europe

20.00 Dinner

23 OCTOBER

10.00 - 11.30 High North, low tension? The Arctic and European security (part I)
Prof. Page Wilson | Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Iceland

Historically, the Arctic region has been a location in which wider relationships between world powers have played out. As a consequence, more often than not, events in the Arctic have reflected – not defined – these underlying relations. Thus, the region’s traditional role has been as a barometer of the general state of international relations, not a bellwether. This session will examine how widespread changes in the Arctic are not just producing new security questions and issues, but, more fundamentally, are also altering our notions of what and how we understand the region to be. The session will focus particularly on Europe’s current and potential roles in and around the region.

11.30 - 12.00 Coffee break

12.00 - 13.30 High North, low tension? The Arctic and European security (part II)
Prof. Page Wilson | Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Iceland

13.30 - 14.30 Lunch break

14.30 - 16.00 **Film Documentary** (to be determined)

16.00 - 16.30 Coffee break

16.30 - 18.00 **Discussion of Film Documentary**

24 OCTOBER

10.00 - 11.30 Borderlands: Europe and the Middle East (part I)
Prof. Raffaella Del Sarto | Associate Professor of Middle East Studies at The Johns Hopkins University, SAIS Europe in Bologna, and Part-time Professor, Robert Schuman Centre of Advanced Studies

The session will first discuss relations between Europe – defined here the European Union and its member states—and the states of the Mediterranean Middle East and North Africa (MENA) in the realms of trade, migration, security cooperation, and democracy promotion. Against this background, we will then analyze the changing security environment in the Middle East post-Arab uprisings and discuss the implications and challenges for Europe.

11.30 - 12.00	Coffee break
12.00 - 13.30	Borderlands: Europe and the Middle East (part II) Prof. Raffaella Del Sarto Associate Professor of Middle East Studies at The Johns Hopkins University, SAIS Europe in Bologna, and Part-time Professor, Robert Schuman Centre of Advanced Studies
13.30 - 14.30	Lunch break
14.30 - 16.00	The EU's strategic communications efforts to address the challenge of Russian disinformation (part I) Dr. Jon Kyst diplomat and Russia expert at the East Strategic Communications (East Stratcom) Task Force in the European External Action Service In March 2015, the European Council tasked the EU's High Representative to set up a unit with a mandate "to address Russia's ongoing disinformation campaigns". The East Strategic Communications (East Stratcom) Task Force pursues three objectives: It strengthens the EU's strategic communications in its eastern neighbourhood, it supports independent media in the region, and it raises awareness of Russian disinformation, its narratives and methods with a range of public products under the brand "EUvsDisinfo". Based on three years of operations, East StratCom has developed a toolkit with recommendations how to support resilience against the disinformation challenge. At the same time, the team has developed a detailed analysis of the role disinformation plays in Russia's political landscape and the Russian media environment.
16.00 - 16.30	Coffee break
16.30 - 18.00	The EU's strategic communications efforts to address the challenge of Russian disinformation (part II) Dr. Jon Kyst diplomat and Russia expert at the East Strategic Communications (East Stratcom) Task Force in the European External Action Service
18.00	Distribution of attendance certificates

■ SPEAKERS

Alexandra de Hoop Scheffer	German Marshall Fund, France
Raffaella Del Sarto	SAIS Europe and European University Institute, Italy
Ulrich Krotz	European University Institute, Italy
Page Wilson	University of Iceland, Iceland
Jon Kyst	European External Action Service, Belgium
Tomáš Valášek	Carnegie Europe, Belgium