



# Defence Policy and the Armed Forces in Times of Pandemic

**Thursday, March 18, 2021**

**Baltic Countries 10.00 am (UTC+2)**

**Online Event (via Zoom)**

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We invite you to join us for a webinar with an expert panel to present the study, which aims to identify the implications of the COVID crisis for the defence sectors in several European countries, with its geographical focus being on the Baltic Sea region.

During the pandemic, the three primary aims of NATO and its member states were to retain readiness and credible deterrence, to limit the spread of the infection within the military, and to assist the civilian sector. Defence forces have largely succeeded in accomplishing these aims, albeit with a few exceptions. However, the way ahead for the countries included in this edited volume is less clear and is likely to be affected by a number of factors, such as the transformation of the defence sector prior to the pandemic, the assessment of the international security environment, and the economic consequences of the pandemic.

The study includes a separate chapter on the role of NATO during the pandemic, with subsequent individual chapters discussing developments in defence in the United Kingdom, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Latvia, Estonia, Finland, Sweden, and Norway.

## Opening

**Elisabeth Bauer**

*Director of the Baltic office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung*

**Jānis Bērziņš**

*Director at the Center for Security and Strategic Research, National Defence Academy of Latvia*

## Keynote speaker

**Dr. Artis Pabriks**

*Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Latvia*

**Panel 1:**

**Thierry Tardy (PhD)**

*Director, Research Division NATO Defense College, Italy*

**Piotr Szymański**

*Research Fellow, Regional Security Programme, Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW),  
Poland*

**Michael Jonsson**

*Deputy Research Director, Swedish Defence Research Agency, Sweden*

**Henri Vanhanen**

*Research Fellow, Finnish Institute of International Affairs, Finland*

**Moderator**

**Dr.sc.pol. Toms Rostoks**

*Senior Researcher, National Defence Academy of Latvia*

**Panel 2:**

**Robin Allers**

*Associate Professor, Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies (IFS) / Norwegian Defence University College (FHS), Norway*

**Kalev Stoicesku**

*Research Fellow, International Centre for Defence and Security, Estonia*

**Jeppe Plenge Trautner**

*External Lecturer at the University of Aalborg, Denmark*

**Guna Gavrilko**

*PhD student at the University of Latvia*

**Moderator**

**Pauls Raudseps**

*Deputy editor-in-chief, magazine "Ir", Latvia*