

KAS Nordic's Autumn Conference – “Nordic Security in a Changing European Context”

As Europe faces a rapidly evolving security environment – one that is shaped by renewed geopolitical tensions, hybrid threats, energy insecurity, and the ongoing repercussions of Russia's war in Ukraine, among others – there is an urgent need to strengthen collective responses and strategic resilience. In this context, the Nordic countries play a pivotal role in safeguarding Europe's Northern boundaries, including by contributing to NATO's deterrence in the North and by occupying a crucial role in the broader European defence architecture

*This **1st Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Nordic Countries' Autumn Conference** aims to inspire dialogue, foster new partnerships, and explore ways to strengthen European security. We will convene politicians, leading experts, policymakers and security analysts to examine Europe's most pressing security challenges. With a focus on the Nordic region, the conference will discuss how to improve regional cooperation, strengthen strategic foresight, and find effective ways to enhance security. The conference will also dive deeper into how Germany can contribute to shaping and supporting a comprehensive security strategy that integrates both Nordic and broader European perspectives.*

Wednesday 5th of November 2025

Location: **Grand Hotel**, Södra Blasieholmshamnen 8, 10327 Stockholm

09.30 – 10.00 Doors will open

10.00 - 10.15 **Welcome Remarks**

Christine Leuchtenmüller Head of office KAS Regional Programme
Nordic Countries

Ludger Siemes Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to
Sweden

Dr. Lars Hänsel Head of the KAS Department Europe and North America

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10.15 – 10.30

Keynote

Gunnar Hökmark, Chairman of Stockholm Freeworld Forum; Former MEP and vice president of the EPP-group

10.30 – 11.20

Panel I “Safeguarding Europe’s North: The Baltic Sea and Arctic”

This panel will explore the military aspects of Northern European security. With the prospects of the USA further decreasing their defense engagement and ever more uncertainty about the future of Ukraine as Russia continues to ramp up its aggression, European security needs a rethink. What are the most ideal ways to improve Northern European security at European level?

Moderator: **Dr. Magnus Christiansson**, Senior Lecturer, Swedish Defence University

Maria Martisiute Policy Analyst Defence, Security & Foreign Affairs, European Policy Centre Brussels

Dr. Barbara Kunz Director, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute’s European Security Programme

Tór Marni Weihe Doctoral Candidate in International Politics, University of the Faroe Islands

Minna Ålander Research Fellow, Center for European Policy Analysis

11.20 – 11.35

Q & A

11.40 – 12.30

Lunch and mingle

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12.30 – 13.30

Panel II “A Resilient Europe”

This panel discussion will explore means for the Nordic countries to contribute to a more resilient Europe and will also shed light on the role Germany might be able to play in their strategies. The panel's main aim is to discuss possible solutions to the current security situation at European level.

Moderator: **Anna Rennéus Guthrie**, Director of Stockholm Free World Forum

Chistian Danielsson, State Secretary to Minister for EU Affairs, Jessica Rosencrantz

Dr. Peter Neumann Professor of Security Studies at the Department of War Studies, King's College London

Dr. Göran von Sydow Director, Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies

Dr. Rikard Bengtsson Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Lund University

Joel Linnainmäki Researcher, The Finnish Institute of International Affairs

13:30 -13.45

Q & A

13.50 – 13.55

Closing Remarks

Christine Leuchtenmüller (Head of office KAS Regional Programme Nordic Countries)

14.00 – 15.30

Closing reception & Mingle