

# One Year on from the Russian Invasion of Ukraine – Priorities for European Security and Defence



Thursday, 9 March 2023

Institute of International and European Affairs,  
8 North Great Georges Street, Dublin 1

**12.00p.m.**

Arrival and registration

**12.30p.m.**

**Lunch Buffet and Networking**

**1.30p.m.**

Welcome Address by

**Alex White**, Director General of the IIEA

**Matthias Barner**, Director KAS United Kingdom and Ireland

**1:45p.m.**

**Panel 1**

**Defending Europe: Adapting to a New Threat Landscape**

Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine has brought the kaleidoscopic threat landscape which Europe currently faces sharply into focus. The danger of conventional high-intensity warfare between peer-competitor states casts a looming spectre over the continent, while the use of nuclear armaments lurks beneath the surface.

Yet, the threat environment is more diffuse today than it was in the Cold War. Cyberwarfare, the use of private military companies, information and economic warfare and terrorism threaten Europeans. Adapting to these threats has required a shift in how European states approach Defence as states reverse decades of defence spending cuts.

Germany has announced a €100 billion special fund to improve the state of its armed forces and has committed to reach NATO's 2% target. The Irish government has agreed to the largest ever increase in the country's defence budget, increasing its annual defence spend by 50%. Nevertheless, important questions remain: Is there enough political will in Europe to meaningfully follow through on these changes in years to come? Will Europeans be able to collaborate on tackling unconventional threats of an economic, political and informational type? Can investment in the Union's Defence Industrial and Technological Base provide a means to support manufacturers while enhancing the ability of the Union to provide for its own defence requirements?

**Chair: Marie Cross**, Chair IIEA Security and Defence Group and IIEA Board Member

**Speakers:**

- **Charlie Flanagan TD**, Chair, Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence
- **Vice-Admiral (Ret) Mark Mellett**, Former Chief of Staff, Irish Defence Forces
- **Dr Jana Puglierin**, Senior Fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations
- **Colonel (Ret) Ralph Thiele**, CEO of StratByrd Consulting

**3.30 p.m.**     **Coffee Break**

**4.00 p.m.**     **Panel 2**

### **The Transatlantic Relationship: Current State and Future Challenges**

Russia's invasion of Ukraine revitalised the transatlantic relationship, highlighting existential threats to the Euro-Atlantic area. Over the past decade, the transatlantic relationship has been under increased strain, as priorities shifted and diverged following the end of the Cold War.

While the United States grew frustrated with European partners for not adequately funding their military commitments, Europeans increasingly questioned the US's commitment to European security as it pivoted towards Asia. However, as expansionist authoritarian states increasingly sought to aggressively pursue their goals at the expense of others, the transatlantic relationship built on a commitment to human rights and multilateralism became resurgent.

The invasion of Ukraine facilitated a convergence of once divergent security interests, revitalising the transatlantic partnership and enabling them to better address the new existential challenges facing them in the 21st century. What remains to be seen, is how the transatlantic alliance's deterrence posture will be impacted by the US's pivot to Asia and its attempt to contain China. Considering the uncertainty surrounding the transatlantic convictions of US political stakeholders in the future, what would be the implications should Europe fail to bolster its defensive capabilities? How can the alliance successfully strengthen its ties to other multilateral organisations? What is the role of bilateral cooperation with liberal democracies outside of the alliance, such as Japan?

**Chair: Dan O'Brien**, Chief Economist IIEA

#### **Speakers:**

- **Dr Karl-Heinz Kamp**, Special Envoy of the Political Director, German Ministry of Defence
- **Dr Aylin Matlé**, Research Fellow, Centre for Security and Defence, German Council on Foreign Relations
- **Larry Donnelly**, Law Lecturer at the University of Galway and political columnist with *TheJournal.ie*
- **Noel Fahey**, Former Ambassador of Ireland to the US and Germany

**5.30p.m.**     Closing remarks by **Ambassador Cord Meier-Klodd**,  
Ambassador of Germany to Ireland

**6.00 p.m.**     Symposium ends

*The Symposium is jointly hosted by the Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA) and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS).*

*Please note: The whole event is covered by the Chatham House Rule.*