

Kiel Security Conference 2024

Critical Junctures – the Future of the North

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in cooperation with

The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) and Hermann-Ehlers-Stiftung (HES)

Saturday, 22 June 2024, 09:00-15:45

Maritim Hotel Bellevue Kiel, Bismarckallee 2, D-24105 Kiel, Germany

The Kiel Security Conference focuses on security policy issues in the Baltic region and the High North. Security dynamics in the Baltic have been profoundly affected by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, while political and military tensions – and increasing capabilities – are also sharpening focus on the High North. As a result, NATO's posture needs to be adjusted and littoral states need to modernise their military capabilities, across all domains. This conference will focus on the political, military and security implications for Baltic littoral states and the EU and NATO.

22 June 2024

08:00 – 09:00

Registration and Welcome Coffee

09:00 – 09:15

Conference Opening and Welcome Remarks

Dr. Gerhard Wahlers

Deputy Secretary General, Department Head
European and International Cooperation Department
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Dr. Bastian Giegerich

Director-General and Chief Executive
The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)

Dr. Johann Wadephul, MP

Deputy Chairman of the CDU/CSU-Parliamentary Group,
German Bundestag

09:15 – 09:30

High-level Keynote

Laurynas Kasčiūnas

Minister of Defence of the Republic of Lithuania

09:30 – 11:00

Panel I: Finland, Sweden and NATO - New Plans for the North

With Finland's and Sweden's accession to NATO, defence plans must incorporate two strong allied nations that reinforce the Alliance's presence in the Baltic and in the North. What are the challenges and opportunities that this presents, and how can Nordic and Baltic interoperability be enhanced, to best strengthen the defence of NATO's Northeastern flank, in light of Russia's ongoing aggression.



Speakers:

Vice Admiral Mike Utley CB OBE

Commander, Allied Maritime Command, Northwood, UK

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Admiral Stuart Munsch

Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe/Commander
U.S. Naval Forces, Africa/Commander,
Allied Joint Forces Command, Naples

Brigadier General Patrik Gardesten

Deputy Chief of the Royal Swedish Navy

Moderator:

James Hackett

Head of Defence and Military Analysis
The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee Break and Networking

11:30 – 13:00

Panel II: Going Critical - War, Society and Resilience

Pipelines, cables, platforms: recent years have seen an increase in incidents damaging or threatening vital infrastructure. Improvements are needed to levels of monitoring and protection in coordination between states and between military, civilian and commercial actors at a national level. Enhancing Maritime Situational Awareness is vital in this regard, but the challenges are broader. Malicious attacks on our social fabric have soared, including disinformation and other forms of hybrid attack,, exploiting the liberties of our democracies. This panel seeks to exchange views on current challenges and shortcomings, best practices, and the way ahead.

Speakers:

Vice Admiral Thomas E. Ishee

Commander 6th Fleet U.S. Navy; Commander Naval Striking and Support Forces, NATO

Michal Szczerba

President, NATO Parliamentary Assembly

HE Kai Sauer

Ambassador of Finland to Germany

Commodore Thomas Andersen

Head of Operations Department, Royal Norwegian Navy

Moderator:

Dr. Christina Krause

Head of Department International and Security Affairs,
(KAS)



13:00 – 14:00

Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:30

Panel III: Future War in the North and Lessons from Ukraine

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The war in Ukraine has underscored the critical need for NATO member states to reassess and enhance their military capabilities in light of evolving threats. Uncrewed platforms and systems have changed contemporary warfare and other emerging and disruptive technologies will affect how armed forces operate and interact in future. Geography matters too, and particular attention must be paid to the Arctic region, as it requires a delicate diplomatic approach, also balancing resource exploration with environmental conservation amidst rising geopolitical tensions.

Speakers:

Kusti Salm

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Republic of Estonia

Vice Admiral Jan Christian Kaack

Chief of the German Navy

Professor Caroline Kennedy-Pipe

Professor of War Studies, Loughborough University

Moderator:

Nick Childs, Senior Fellow for Naval Forces and Maritime Security, The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)

15:30 – 15:45

Closing Remarks