

ATHENS SECURITY FORUM 2025

REDEFINING EUROPEAN SECURITY *The Challenges for NATO and EU*

November 11-12, 2025
The Hellenic Armed Forces Officers' Club

The 2025 edition of the Athens Security Forum convenes at a pivotal moment for the Euro-Atlantic security architecture, with a particular focus on the Eastern Mediterranean's Southern Flank. Situated at the crossroads of escalating tensions in the Middle East and the enduring conflict in Ukraine, the region is undergoing a profound recalibration of strategic priorities, alliances, and threat perceptions. This year's forum explores how regional actors—state and non-state alike—are repositioning themselves within a restructured geopolitical landscape. The agenda foregrounds questions of strategic posture, interdependence, and identity politics, examining how shifting power dynamics and normative frameworks are reshaping the Southern Flank's security landscape. To navigate these complexities, the forum brings together a high-trust cohort of thought leaders from Europe, the United States, India, and the Middle East. Participants include senior diplomats, security analysts, area studies scholars, and political decision-makers, fostering a multidisciplinary dialogue that bridges policy, intelligence, and academic insight.

DRAFT PROGRAM

Day I

- 11:30 Registration
- 12:00 **Welcome (IDIS & Partners)**
- 12:15-12:45 **Opening address:** *speaker tbd*
- 12:45-13:45 **Europe in the era of multi-crisis**

Speakers:

- Klaus Welle, Academic Council Chairman, Wilfried Martens Center
- Dimitri Keridis, MP, Vice-President, Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee, Hellenic Parliament
- Marilena Koppa, Professor and Provost, Panteion University, former MEP
- Kostas Lavdas, Professor & President, Department of International, European and Regional Studies, Panteion University

Chair: Ino Afentouli, Executive Director, IDIS



13:45-14:45 Break

14:45-16:15 **What future for Ukraine?**
In cooperation with The Harriman Institute, Columbia University

14:45-15:30 **Session I: The reconstruction effort**

Speakers:

- Haris Theoharis, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Alona Shkrum, First Deputy Minister for Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine (tbc)

15:30-16:15 **Session II: End of war scenarios**

Speakers:

- Alex Cooley, Claire Tow Professor of Political Science, Barnard College
- Michael Kimmage, Director of the Wilson Center's Kennan Institute
- Spyros Lambridis, Ambassador (ret.), Greece's Special Envoy for Ukraine

Chair: *tbd*

16:15-17:00 **Taking the pulse of US-Greek relations**

Speakers:

- Alexandra Papadopoulou, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
- In conversation with:*
tbd

17:00-17:30 Break

17:30-18:30 **A new division of labor between NATO and EU: a European defense identity**

Speakers:

- Laurence Auer, Ambassadrice de France en Grèce
- Thanos Dokos, National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of Greece
- Nikos Loutas, Director for Innovation, Hybrid and Cyber Division, NATO
- Dimitrios Kottas, CEO, Delian Alliance Industries

Chair: Konstantina Botsiou, Professor, University of Piraeus & Secretary General, The Council of Foreign Relations

18:30-19:15 A “grand strategy” for Europe**Speakers:**

- Dora Bakoyannis, MP, President, Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee, Hellenic Parliament
- Dr. Mark Speich, Secretary General of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Chair: Kostas Ifantis, Professor, Panteion University & President, IDIS

19:15-20:00 The Authoritarian Resurgence in World Politics

- Alex Cooley, Claire Tow Professor of Political Science, Barnard College
- In conversation with:* *tbd*

Day II**The China Challenge****10:00-10:40 Session I: Repivoting the Chinese Economy in an Age of World Disorder****Speaker:**

- Dr Sun Xin, Senior Lecturer in Political Economy, King’s College London

Discussant: *tbd*

10:40-11:40 Session II: China, Europe and technology leakages between military Ecosystems**Speakers:**

- Dr Rao Swasti, Associate Professor and associate Dean for Global Initiatives at O.P. Jindal Global University, India.
- Dr Ilya Roubanis, Senior Fellow, China Programme, Institute of International Relations

Chair: Konstantinos Tsimonis, Assistant Professor in Chinese Politics, Panteion University; Academic lead, IDIS China Program

11:40-12:00 Break

**12:00-12:40 Session III- Keynote speech:
Research Security in Europe-China Relations****Speaker:**

- Matej Šimalčík, Executive Director of the Central European Institute of Asian Studies



12:40-13:30 **Session IV: *The Dragon Caught in the Island of Calypso: Revisiting the interplay of investment and geopolitics in Piraeus***

Speakers:

- Plamen Tonchev, Head of Asia Unit, Institute of International Economic Relations
- Clark Banach, Program Director, Aletheia Research Institution; Teaching Professor, Canisius University, US
- Dr Ilya Roubanis, Senior Fellow, China Programme, Institute of International Relations

Chair: Dr Dimitrios Stroikos, IDIS China Program postdoctoral fellow, Head of the space policy project, LSE IDEAS, MSCA Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Bologna

13:30-14:30 Lunch Break

14:30-16:00 ***The Transformation of the Levant***

- Dr. Bisher H.Al-Khasawneh, Member of the Senate, Former PM & Minister of Defense, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

How Syria changes the Levant
In cooperation with RUSI

Speakers:

- Ambassador Jonathan R. Cohen, RUSI Distinguished Fellow, International Security
- Dr. Bisher H.Al-Khasawneh, Member of the Senate, Former PM & Minister of Defense, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- Dr. Burcu Ozcelik, Senior Research Fellow, Middle East Security

Chair: Antonia Dimou, Head of the Middle East Unit at the Institute for Security and Defense Analyses, Greece; and an Associate at the Center for Middle East Development, University of California

16:00-16:45 ***Energy Security in the Eastern Mediterranean***

- Stavros Papastavrou, Minister of Energy and the Environment (tbc)
In conversation with:

16:45-17:15 Break

17:15-18:30 *Exploring a new paradigm in foreign policy*

Speakers:

- Konstantinos Arvanitopoulos, Professor, Panteion University & Director, Karamanlis Foundation, former Minister of Education
- Athanassios Platias, Professor Emeritus, University of Piraeus
- Panayotis Tsakonas, Professor, Athens University
- Yannis Valinakis, former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair: Dimitri Triantafyllou, Professor of International Politics, Panteion University

18:30-19:30 *Exploring a new paradigm in security and defense policy*

Speakers:

- Evripidis Tsakiridis, Chief of Staff, Office of the Deputy Minister of National Defense
- Elena Lazarou, Director General, ELIAMEP
- Dr Dimitrios Stroikos, Head of the space policy project, LSE IDEAS

Chair: Harry Papasotiriou, Professor of International Relations, Panteion University

19:30 -20:15 *Closing address (speaker tbd)*