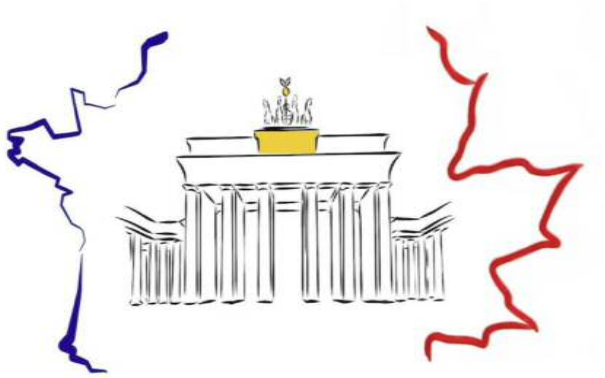
Berlin – 15.16 October 2026

Trilateral Seminar on the Transatlantic Security Architecture :

Transformationsof TransatlanticDefence: Partnerships, Procurement and Innovation in an Era of Global Competition



Trilateral Seminar on the Transatlantic Security Architecture



Transformations of Transatlantic Defence: Partnerships, Procurement and Innovation in an Era of Global Competition

FORUM DE DÉFENSE ET DE STRATÉGIE

Co-organiser

Embassy of Canada
Ambassade du Canada
Botschaft von Kanada

AMBASSADE
DE FRANCE
EN ALLEMAGNE
Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité

Strategic Institutional Partners

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MOBILIZING INSIGHTS IN DEFENCE AND SECURITY

Federal Foreign Office

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Dates: 15–16 October 2026
Location: Berlin, Germany – Embassy of Canada and Embassy of France
Venues:

- ***Embassy of Canada to Germany – Leipziger Platz 17, 10117 Berlin, Germany***
- ***Embassy of France in Germany – Pariser Platz 5, 10117 Berlin, Germany***

The seminar will take place primarily at the Embassy of Canada. Panel 3, the Special Address and the reception on Thursday evening will be hosted at the Embassy of France (Entrance: Wilhelmstraße 69, 10117 Berlin).

Format and Chatham House Rule
The seminar is designed to foster frank and substantive exchanges among policymakers, diplomats, military officials, industry representatives and experts. All sessions on Thursday, 15 October, as well as the Friday morning sessions, will be held under the Chatham House Rule. Participants are free to use the information received during these discussions, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speakers or any other participants may be revealed. On Friday morning, participants will be divided between two parallel Restricted Panels (RPs) during each time slot. The Friday afternoon programme (13:45–17:30) will be public and will not be held under the Chatham House Rule. Participants are kindly requested to respect the distinction between the restricted and public parts of the programme, particularly regarding attribution, photography, recording and the sharing of content on social media.

SPEAKERS & MODERATORS



Dr. Stella Adorf-Bélanger

Director, Economics and Security Committee, NATO Parliamentary Assembly

SESSION(S): RP4



Jean-Noël Bonnieu

Vice President, International Relations, Thales

SESSION(S): Panel 2



Prof. Jean-François Bélanger

Professor, Royal Danish Defence College

SESSION(S): RP2 (speaker); RP4 (moderator)



Prof. Anna Daun

Professor of Political Science, Berlin School of Economics and Law

SESSION(S): RP2 moderator



Vera Alexander

Ambassador of Canada to Germany

SESSION(S): Opening and closing remarks; Opening Fireside Talk



Dr. Laurent Borzillo

Secretary General, Forum de Défense et de Stratégie

SESSION(S): Opening and closing remarks



Franz Chapuis

Brigadier General; Defence Attaché, Embassy of France in Germany

SESSION(S): Panel 5



François Delattre

Ambassador of France to Germany

SESSION(S): Keynote Address



Wojciech Dzięgiel

Board Member & Director, Energy Security & Resilience, Casimir Pulaski Foundation

SESSION(S): RP1



Metin Hakverdi

Member of the Bundestag; Federal Government Coordinator for Transatlantic Cooperation

SESSION(S): Panel 3



Dr. Siobhan Harty

Former Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Defence and Marine Procurement, PSPC

SESSION(S): Panels 1 and 4



Heidi Hulan

Permanent Representative of Canada to NATO

SESSION(S): Panel 3



Dr. Thomas Kauffmann

Vice President and Chief Sales Officer, GDELS; Managing Director, GDELS Germany

SESSION(S): Panel 1



Andrea Frahm

Co-Head, Strategic Unit for Security & Resilience Research, Helmholtz Association

SESSION(S): RP4, P4



John Hannaford

Prime Minister of Canada's Personal Representative to the European Union

SESSION(S): Opening Fireside Talk



Ben Hodges

Lieutenant General (Ret.); Former Commanding General, U.S. Army Europe

SESSION(S): Panels 1 and 5



Ieva Ilves

Cybersecurity and International Cooperation Advisor, Ukraine's Ministry of Digital Transformation

SESSION(S): Panel 4



Roderich Kiesewetter

Colonel (Ret.); Member of the German Bundestag

SESSION(S): RP1



Dr. Sarah Kirchberger

Director, Institute for Security Policy at Kiel University (ISPK)

SESSION(S): RP3 and Panel 5 moderator



Dr. Martin Larose

Director General, International Security, Policy and Strategic Affairs Bureau, Global Affairs Canada

SESSION(S): RP1 and Panel 5



Prof. Christian Leuprecht

Professor, Royal Military College of Canada

SESSION(S): Panels 2 and 3



Dr. Dominik Mutter

Political Director, German Federal Foreign Office

SESSION(S): Opening Fireside Talk; Panel 1



Brian Nissen

Major General; Deputy Commander, NATO Multinational Corps Northeast

SESSION(S): RP3



Christoph Kühn

Lieutenant Colonel; Deputy Director and Chief of Staff, NATO CCDCOE

SESSION(S): RP2



Prof. Chantal Lavallée

Professor, Royal Military College Saint-Jean

SESSION(S): Panel 2 and RP1 moderator



Ann Linde

Former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden

SESSION(S): Panel 3



Sara Nanni

Member of the German Bundestag

SESSION(S): RP2



Dr. Artis Pabriks

Former Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia

SESSION(S): Panels 4 and 5



Roch Pelletier

Major-General (Ret.); Regional Vice President, Calian Defence Europe/U.K.

SESSION(S): RP3



Prof. Maud Quessard

Researcher, IRSEM

SESSION(S): Panel 1 moderator



Rena Sasaki

PhD Candidate, Johns Hopkins University

SESSION(S): Panel 4 moderator



Prof. Olivier Schmitt

Professor, Royal Danish Defence College

SESSION(S): Panel 3 moderator



Laila Stenseng

Ambassador of Norway to Germany

SESSION(S): Panel 1



Paul Peyton

Major-General; Military Deputy Director for North America, NATO DIANA

SESSION(S): Panel 2



Peter Ruskin

Political Counsellor, British Embassy Berlin

SESSION(S): RP1



Dr. Nils Schmid

Parliamentary State Secretary to the German Federal Minister of Defence

SESSION(S): Morning Fireside Talk



Prof. Oana Secrieru

Professor, Royal Military College of Canada

SESSION(S): Panel 2 and RP3



Adriana-Loreta Stănescu

Ambassador of Romania to Germany

SESSION(S): Panel 5



Dr. Ben Tallis

Head of Policy & Analysis, Helsing

SESSION(S): RP3



Heli Tiirmaa-Klaar

Chair, IT Coalition Steering Group;
Distinguished Fellow, German Marshall Fund

SESSION(S): Panel 2 and RP2



Veronika Wand-Danielsson

Ambassador of Sweden to Germany

SESSION(S): Panel 1



Demetrios Xenos

Director General, Industrial and Technological Benefits, Defence Investment Agency

SESSION(S): RP4



Teija Tiilikainen

Director, European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats

SESSION(S): RP4



Prof. Lora Anne Viola

Professor, Freie Universität Berlin

SESSION(S): Morning Fireside Talk discussant



Markus Woelke

Vice President, Federal Academy for Security Policy (BAKS)

SESSION(S): Closing remarks

Thursday, 15 October 2026

11:30 – **Arrival of participants**
12:10 – **Welcome remarks**

- Vera Alexander, Ambassador of Canada to Germany, Canadian
- Dr. Laurent Borzillo, Secretary General, Forum de Défense et de Stratégie, French

12:25–13:10 – **Opening Fireside Talk**
Moderator: Vera Alexander, Ambassador of Canada to Germany, Canadian

- John Hannaford, Prime Minister's Personal Representative to the European Union, Canadian
- Dr. Dominik Mutter, Political Director, Federal Foreign Office, German

13:15–14:45 – **Panel 1. Strategic partnerships and industrial sovereignty within the transatlantic community: avenues for cooperation between European countries and Canada**
Moderator: Prof. Maud Quessard, Institut de recherche stratégique de l'École militaire (IRSEM), French

1. Dr. Siobhan Harty, Former Senior Assistant Deputy Minister for Defence and Marine Procurement, Public Services and Procurement Canada, Canadian
2. Lieutenant General (Ret.) Ben Hodges, Former Commanding General, U.S. Army Europe, American
3. Dr. Thomas Kauffmann, Vice President and Chief Sales Officer of GDELS and Managing Director of GDELS in Germany, German
4. Dr. Dominik Mutter, Political Director, Federal Foreign Office, German
5. Laila Stenseng, Ambassador of Norway to Germany, Norwegian
6. Veronika Wand-Danielsson, Ambassador of Sweden to Germany, Swedish

14:45–15:15 – **Break**

15:15–16:45 – **Panel 2. Efficiency through centralisation? Lessons learned from allied procurement practices**
Moderator: Prof. Chantal Lavallée, Royal Military College Saint-Jean, Canadian

1. Jean-Noël Bonnieu, Vice President, International Relations, Thales, French
2. Prof. Christian Leuprecht, Royal Military College of Canada, German-Canadian
3. Major-General Paul Peyton, Military Deputy Director for North America, NATO DIANA (Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic), Canadian
4. Prof. Oana Secrieru, Royal Military College of Canada, Canadian
5. Heli Tiirmaa-Klaar, Chair of the IT Coalition Steering Group and Distinguished Fellow, German Marshall Fund (GMF), Estonian

16:45–17:30 – **Break**

17:30–18:45 – **Panel 3. Between continuity and adaptation: the evolution of allied cooperation frameworks within the transatlantic community and the future of defence cooperation with the United States**
Moderator: Prof. Olivier Schmitt, Royal Danish Defence College, French

1. Metin Hakverdi, Member of the German Bundestag and Coordinator for Transatlantic Cooperation of the German Federal Government, German
2. Heidi Hulan, Permanent Representative of Canada to NATO, Canadian
3. Prof. Christian Leuprecht, Royal Military College of Canada, German-Canadian

4. Ann Linde, Former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, Swedish

18:45 – **Keynote Address**
- François Delattre, Ambassador of France to Germany, French

19:15 – **End of Day 1**

19:30 – **Reception**

Friday, 16 October 2026

08:40–09:20 – **Morning Fireside Talk**
Speaker: Dr. Nils Schmid, Parliamentary State Secretary to the German Federal Minister of Defence, German
Discussant: Prof. Lora Anne Viola, Freie Universität Berlin, American

09:30–10:45 – **Restricted Panels (RP)**

RP1. Between continuity and change: the future of defence partnerships between Washington and its allies ahead of the U.S. midterm elections
Moderator: Prof. Chantal Lavallée, Royal Military College Saint-Jean, Canadian
1. Wojciech Dzięgiel, Board Member and Director of the Energy Security & Resilience Program, Casimir Pulaski Foundation, Polish
2. Roderich Kiesewetter, Member of the Bundestag, German
3. Dr. Martin Larose, Director General, International Security, Policy and Strategic Affairs Bureau, Global Affairs Canada, Canadian
4. Peter Ruskin, Political Counsellor, British Embassy Berlin, British

RP2. Credibility, resilience and adaptation: the foundations of effective deterrence in cyberspace
Moderator: Prof. Anna Daun, Professor of Political Science, Berlin School of Economics and Law (HWR Berlin), German
1. Prof. Jean-François Bélanger, Royal Danish Defence College, Canadian
2. Lieutenant Colonel Christoph Kühn, Deputy Director and Chief of Staff, NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE), German
3. Sara Nanni, Member of the Bundestag, German
4. Heli Tiirmaa-Klaar, Chair of the IT Coalition Steering Group and Distinguished Fellow, German Marshall Fund (GMF), Estonian

10:45–11:15 – **Break**

11:15–12:30 – **Restricted Panels (RP)**

RP3. Designing together: interoperability, data and innovation at the core of capability development – the case of Software-Defined Defence (e.g. Anduril)
Moderator: Dr. Sarah Kirchberger, Director, Institute for Security Policy at Kiel University (ISPK), Finnish-German
1. Major General Brian Nissen, Deputy Commander, NATO Multinational Corps Northeast (MNC NE), Danish
2. Prof. Oana Secrieru, Royal Military College of Canada, Canadian
3. Dr. Ben Tallis, Head of Policy & Analysis, Helsing, German

4. Major-General (Ret.) Roch Pelletier, Regional Vice President, Calian Defence Europe/U.K., Canadian

RP4. Strategic partnerships and investment: building credible cyber defence in times of crisis

Moderator: Prof. Jean-François Bélanger, Royal Danish Defence College, Canadian

1. Dr. Stella Adorf-Bélanger, Director of the Economics and Security Committee, NATO Parliamentary Assembly, German
2. Andrea Frahm, Co-Head, Strategic Unit for Security & Resilience Research, Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres, German
3. Prof. Teija Tiilikainen, Director, European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats (Hybrid CoE), Finnish
4. Demetrios Xenos, Director General, Industrial and Technological Benefits, Defence Investment Agency, Canadian

12:30–13:45 – **Lunch**

13:45–15:15 – **Panel 4. Governing defence innovation: procurement strategies and best practices for ethical and secure innovation (between statism and Software-Defined Defence)**

Moderator: Rena Sasaki, PhD Candidate, Johns Hopkins University, Japanese

1. Andrea Frahm, Co-Head, Strategic Unit for Security & Resilience Research, Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres, German
2. Dr. Siobhan Harty, Former Senior Assistant Deputy Minister for Defence and Marine Procurement, Public Services and Procurement Canada, Canadian
3. Ieva Ilves, Policy and Diplomatic Advisor on Cybersecurity and International Cooperation, Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine, Latvian
4. Dr. Artis Pabriks, Former Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, Latvian

15:15–15:45 – **Break**

15:45–17:15 – **Panel 5. Between continuity and adaptation: the future of defence cooperation with the United States and the development of alternative procurement formats within the transatlantic community**

Moderator: Dr. Sarah Kirchberger, Director, Institute for Security Policy at Kiel University (ISPK), Finnish-German

1. Brigadier General Franz Chapuis, Defence Attaché, Embassy of France in Germany, French
2. Lieutenant General (Ret.) Ben Hodges, Former Commanding General, U.S. Army Europe, American
3. Dr. Martin Larose, Director General, International Security, Policy and Strategic Affairs Bureau, Global Affairs Canada, Canadian
4. Dr. Artis Pabriks, Former Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, Latvian
5. Adriana-Loreta Stănescu, Ambassador of Romania to Germany, Romanian

17:15–17:30 – **Closing remarks**

- Vera Alexander, Ambassador of Canada to Germany, Canadian
- Dr. Laurent Borzillo, Forum de Défense et de Stratégie, French
- Markus Woelke, Vice President, Federal Academy for Security Policy (BAKS), German