

SECURITY AND DEFENCE DAYS

6th Edition

1st CONFERENCE - 28th APRIL 2026

EUROPE AND THE NEW INTERNATIONAL SCENARIO

Rome - European Parliament Liaison Office in Italy

SECURITY AND DEFENCE DAYS

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28th APRIL 2026
9:00 – 13:00

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Rome - European Parliament Liaison Office in Italy
Europe Hall - Piazza Venezia 11

The **Security and Defence Days** are the annual initiative on European and Transatlantic security promoted by the **De Gasperi Foundation**, in partnership with the **Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies**. After five editions, the event stands as an authoritative platform for high-level debate on the main geopolitical issues facing the **European Union** and **NATO**.

In light of the evolving global landscape, the 6th edition will feature a series of thematic conferences throughout 2026, bringing together government authorities, decision-makers, officials, experts, and opinion leaders to discuss the key priorities shaping Europe's security and defence agenda.

The first conference – “Europe and the New International Scenario” – will examine **Europe's relations with the United States, China, and Russia**, with a particular focus on **U.S. foreign policy** and its implications for the **Transatlantic bond**. The role of the **EU economic diplomacy** will also be explored, alongside the ongoing challenges and threats from the **Middle East** and emerging theatres such as the **Arctic**.

The proceedings will provide a comprehensive and integrated assessment of these strategic issues facing Europe, contributing to the identification of actionable policies and recommendations.

AGENDA

09:00-09:30

Arrival of participants

09:30-09:40

Welcome Remarks

Fabrizio Spada

Responsible for Institutional Relations,
European Parliament Liaison Office in Italy

09:40-10:00

Introduction

Angelino Alfano

President, De Gasperi Foundation

Mikuláš Dzurinda

President, Wilfried Martens Centre
for European Studies

10:00-11:00

Session 1

**GREAT POWER COMPETITION:
WHERE DOES EUROPE STAND?**

Klaus Welle

Academic Council Chairman,
Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

Valbona Zeneli

Nonresident Senior Fellow, Europe Center
and Transatlantic Security Initiative,
Atlantic Council of the United States

Antonio Polito

Columnist, Corriere della Sera

Moderator

Paolo Alli

Secretary General, De Gasperi Foundation

11:00-11:50

Session 2

**FROM INDIA TO MERCOSUR: EU GEOPOLITICS
THROUGH TRADE AGREEMENTS**

Francesco Talò

Special Envoy for the India-Middle East-Europe
Economic Corridor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation - Italy

Jorge Jraissati

President, Economic Inclusion Group

Moderator

Flavia Giacobbe

Editor-in-Chief, Airpress

11:50-12:50

Session 3

**MIDDLE EAST AND THE ARCTIC:
EUROPE FACING NEW CHALLENGES AND THREATS**

Kostas Ifantis

Professor of International Relations,
Panteion University of Athens

Matthew Robinson

Director, Euro-Gulf Information Centre

Agostino Pinna

Special Envoy for the Arctic,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation - Italy

12:50-13:00

Concluding Remarks





Wilfried
Martens Centre
for European Studies