Annual Report 2021
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Foreword by Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger, Chairman of the Munich Security Conference

Dear friends!

2021 was undoubtedly one of the most difficult years faced by our organization. At the same time, it was also quite successful, despite the pandemic and all its restrictions. We managed to pull-off 45 high-level events, publish several well-received reports and briefs, and launch exciting new projects such as our Munich Security Index and the Security Innovation Board to complement and enrich our existing activities. A particular highlight was our MSC Special Edition on February 19 which assembled many of the world’s top leaders in an innovative TV-format, including newly inaugurated US-President Joe Biden, Chancellor Angela Merkel, President Emanuel Macron, Prime Minister Boris Johnson and the heads of the European Council, European Commission, NATO, and the United Nations. The event was followed by millions around the globe and marked the beginning of our Road to Munich campaign.

Internally, we continued our work on institutional consolidation and transformation. Supported by specialized consultancies, we fine-tuned our staffing-structure and financial processes to become even more professional and resilient. We have also further increased our global visibility and reach by expanding our targeted media and outreach activities, signed a number of exciting partnership agreements, and prepared the stage for the next chapter in the MSC’s rich history: in December, 2021, the Foundation Council unanimously elected Christoph Heusgen as my successor in the role of conference chairman. In many ways we have thus come out of this difficult and eventful year even stronger than we went into it.

This annual report provides an overview of our activities in 2021 and insights into the organization behind them, as well as the partners we work with. I would like to thank them wholeheartedly – without their support, the MSC’s work as the world’s leading forum for international security policy would not be possible.

Looking ahead, I am convinced that 2022 will provide us with even more new opportunities. The MSC will continue to host key conversations and highlight critical issues no matter which way the pandemic will lead us. The MSC-Team has the creativity and skill to make the most out of each and every challenge. Hence, I remain most optimistic for this great organization which is more needed than ever in an increasingly hostile and antagonistic international security environment.

Thank you for your continued support!

Wolfgang Ischinger
1 Events
MSC Events in 2021 at a Glance
January - May

- **January 28**
  - Distinguished Reflection Group on Transatlantic China Policy Discussion Meeting I (in cooperation with MERICS)
  - Online

- **February 19**
  - MSC Special Edition 2021 Beyond Westlessness: Renewing Transatlantic Cooperation, Meeting Global Challenges | Online

- **March 15**
  - MSC Workshop on Nuclear Sharing III (in cooperation with the Hertie School)
  - Online

- **March 17**
  - Digital Tabletop Exercise on Pandemic Preparedness (in cooperation with Nuclear Threat Initiative)
  - Online

- **March 18**
  - Distinguished Reflection Group on Transatlantic China Policy: Discussion Meeting II (in cooperation with MERICS)
  - Online

- **March 21**
  - MSC Roundtable on Global Health Cooperation
  - A Fair Share: Leveling up Vaccine Cooperation
  - Online

- **March 31**
  - MSC Roundtable on Digital Trust & Presentation of the Munich Security Brief
  - Error 404 – Trust Not Found: A European Survey on Digital (Dis)trust | Online

- **April 8**
  - Distinguished Reflection Group on Transatlantic China Policy: Discussion Meeting III (in cooperation with MERICS)
  - Online

- **April 9**
  - MSC Roundtable on the Horn of Africa I (in cooperation with the German Institute for International and Security Affairs)
  - From Common Messaging to Joint Action | Online

- **April 19**
  - MSC Roundtable on the Horn of Africa II (in cooperation with the German Institute for International and Security Affairs)
  - From Common Messaging to Joint Action | Online

- **April 23**
  - MSC Security Innovation Board – Inaugural Meeting
  - (in cooperation with Siemens Energy)
  - Online

- **April 27**
  - MSC Workshop on Nuclear Sharing IV (in cooperation with the Hertie School)
  - Berlin

- **May 3**
  - MSC @ DFS 2021 (German Forum on Security Policy)
  - National Security Strategies: A Look over the Fence | Online

- **May 18**
  - MSC Roundtable on the Horn of Africa II (in cooperation with the German Institute for International and Security Affairs)
  - From Common Messaging to Joint Action | Online

- **May 20**
  - Launch of the Multilateralism Lab Report (in cooperation with Körber-Stiftung)
  - Making it Matter: Towards Meaningful Multilateralism | Online
May - October

- May 25
  MSC Conversation on Relations between China and the West (in cooperation with Atlantik-Brücke)
  Beyond Westlessness: A Perspective from Beijing | Online

- May 26
  MSC Conversation on Relations between Russia and the West
  Beyond Westlessness: A Perspective from Moscow | Online

- June 2
  MSC Workshop on Nuclear Sharing V (in cooperation with the Hertie School)
  Online

- June 9
  The Africa Roundtable (in cooperation with Global Perspectives Initiative)
  African-European Cooperation on Green Transition & COVID-19 Recovery | Online

- June 10
  MSC Workshop on Nuclear Sharing VI (in cooperation with the Hertie School and the Federal Ministry of Defence)
  Online

- June 26
  MSC Conversation on the Future of German Foreign & Security Policy
  (in cooperation with ARD)
  Beyond Westlessness: Germany’s Role in the World | Berlin

- June 29
  MSC Roundtable on the Horn of Africa III (in cooperation with the German Institute for International and Security Affairs and the EEAS Special Representative for the Horn of Africa)
  Online

- July 6
  MSC Roundtable on European Digital Sovereignty & Presentation of the MSB Update Required: European Digital Sovereignty and the Transatlantic Partnership | Strasbourg

- July 14
  Distinguished Reflection Group on Transatlantic China Policy: Presentation of the Final Report I (in cooperation with MERICS)
  Online

- August 4
  Distinguished Reflection Group on Transatlantic China Policy: Presentation of the Final Report @ Aspen Security Forum (in cooperation with MERICS)
  Online

- September 1
  MSC in Berlin with Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
  Berlin

- September 14
  Panel on Digital Governance (in cooperation with the European Parliament)
  Brussels

- September 21
  MSC Brainstorming in Berlin
  Berlin

- September 27
  MSC @ Berlin Climate and Security Conference (in cooperation with adelphi)
  Multilateral Momentum: An Agenda for Action on Climate, Peace, and Stability | Online

- September 29
  MYL 2021 – Digital Welcome Session (in cooperation with Körber-Stiftung)
  Online

- October 13
  Munich Strategy Retreat Heiligendamm (in cooperation with Robert Bosch Stiftung)
  Heiligendamm
October - December

- **October 16**
  MSC @ Arctic Circle Assembly (in cooperation with NUPI & Wilson Center) Are We Asking The Right Questions About Arctic Security? | Reykjavik

- **October 21**
  MSC in Berlin with Bill Gates Berlin

- **October 27**
  Working Meeting II – Security Innovation Board (in cooperation with Siemens Energy) Online

- **November 3**
  MSC Workshop on EU Foreign Policy I @ Conference on the Future of Europe Coherence and Unity Online

- **November 30**
  MYL Around the World IV (in cooperation with Körber-Stiftung) Zoom in on the Middle East Online

- **November 5-7**
  Munich Strategy Retreat Elm-au Elm-au

- **November 15**
  Charter of Trust Global Event Online

- **November 19**
  MSC in Berlin with General James Mattis Berlin

- **November 13**
  MSC Workshop on EU Foreign Policy II @ Conference on the Future of Europe Capabilities and Instruments | Online

- **November 25**
  MSC @ Tana Forum External (Distr-)Action? A Joint Approach to the Horn’s Conflicts | Online

- **December 14**
  MSC Roundtable on Global Health Security Beyond COVID-19: How to be Best Prepared for the Next Global Pandemic | Online
MSC Events (selection)

Events of the Munich Security Conference take place throughout the year. The MSC brings together decision-makers from politics, business, science and civil society in a wide variety of formats. While the main conference in February marks the annual highlight, the MSC also organizes various smaller formats with a more specific focus and target group.

MSC Special Edition 2021 – Beyond Westlessness: Renewing Transatlantic Cooperation, Meeting Global Challenges

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no regular Munich Security Conference could be held in 2021. Nevertheless, the MSC organized the MSC Special Edition 2021 at the traditional date of the conference in February and was once more at the center of international diplomacy.

On February 19, 2021, the MSC Special Edition assembled some of the world’s most senior decision-makers. Marking the 57th Munich Security Conference, they discussed in a live broadcast how to rebuild and renew the transatlantic alliance and highlight the areas in which transatlantic and international cooperation are most urgently needed:

- Priorities for Global Action
- Fighting the Pandemic
- A New Transatlantic Agenda
- Tackling the Climate Crisis

Angela Merkel, António Guterres, Bill Gates, Boris Johnson, Charles Michel, Emmanuel Macron, Jens Stoltenberg, Joe Biden, John F. Kerry, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and Ursula von der Leyen participated in the event titled “Beyond Westlessness: Renewing Transatlantic Cooperation, Meeting Global Challenges.”

The MSC Special Edition marked the beginning of the “Road to Munich”. Stops on this road included virtual high-level events and initiatives to prepare the ground for the 58th Munich Security Conference, taking place in February 2022.
Virtual Roundtable on Transatlantic Digital Cooperation

On the occasion of the publication of the Munich Security Brief "Error 404 - Trust Not Found: A European Survey on Digital (Dis)trust," the Munich Security Conference (MSC) hosted a virtual roundtable on transatlantic digital cooperation on March 31.

Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger, Chairman of the MSC, opened the event and presented the key findings of the publication: Most Europeans do not feel sufficiently protected by their governments in the digital space and are concerned that their personal data are not safe online, as well as that their countries are too dependent on foreign countries for digital technology. After Ambassador Ischinger's presentation, Věra Jourová, Vice President of the EU Commission and EU Commissioner for Values and Transparency, and Nick Clegg, former Deputy Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and Head of Corporate Communications at Facebook, gave brief statements on digital transatlantic cooperation and the importance of digital trust. In the ensuing discussion, moderated by Mark Scott, POLITICO's Chief Technology Correspondent, high-level representatives from governments, the military, business, international organizations and the think tank community exchanged views on ways to strengthen the transatlantic partnership and the cornerstones of a common digital agenda.

MSC Conversation on Relations between China and the West: A Perspective from Beijing

On May 25, 2021, the Munich Security Conference hosted a live event with Wang Yi, State Councilor and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, as part of the Road to Munich, organized in cooperation with Atlantik-Brücke e.V. The event highlighted key global challenges for relations between China and the West.

MSC Conversation with Deputy Speaker of the Russian Federation Council Konstantin Kosachev

Titled "Relations between Russia and the West: A Perspective from Moscow", the Munich Security Conference (MSC) hosted a high-level digital conversation on May 26, 2021. The discussion was part of the series "Beyond Westlessness: Road to Munich" that prepared the ground for the next Munich Security Conference in 2022 with several events and formats. The series wants to examine how the state of "Westlessness", which was at the center of the discussion at the Munich Security Conference 2020, can be overcome. The opening event of the series, the MSC Special Edition, illustrated that there is a strong new transatlantic momentum. The MSC seeks to contribute to translating this momentum into concrete initiatives. This also includes developing joint transatlantic approaches towards China and Russia. The MSC Event with the Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on May 25, which dealt with the Sino-Western relations, was followed by a confidential discussion with the Deputy Speaker of the Russian Federation Council, Konstantin Kosachev, which addressed the status and prospects of the relationship between Russia and the West.

Konstantin Kosachev opened the panel with a statement, in which he presented the Russian view of the relations with the West. His input was then followed by a confidential discussion between high-ranking representatives from governments and international organizations, as well as from business and science from Europe, Russia, and the United States. The conversation was moderated by Wolfgang Ischinger, Chairman of the MSC. While the perception of the participants significantly differed with regard to the reasons for the tensions between Russia and the West, there was a strong agreement on the need for continuing dialogue.
MSC Conversation on the Future of German Foreign and Security Policy

Exactly three months ahead of the German Federal elections, on June 26, 2021, the Munich Security Conference (MSC) hosted the MSC Conversation on the Future of German Foreign and Security Policy as a live TV broadcast together with the German television channel ARD. Under the title “Beyond Westlessness: Germany’s Role in the World”, the event provided a platform for the three Chancellor candidates, Annalena Baerbock (Bündnis 90/Die Grünen), Armin Laschet (CDU/CSU) and Olaf Scholz (SPD), to share their visions for Germany’s future foreign and security policy in the transatlantic relationship and beyond. The 90-minute discussion was moderated by ARD Editor-in-Chief and Head of the Capital Studio, Tina Hassel, and Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger, Chairman of the Munich Security Conference. The event was made available as a TV broadcast and online livestream, reaching millions of viewers in Germany and across the globe.

In light of the inauguration of a new US administration and the end of the Merkel era, significant shifts took place on both sides of the Atlantic in 2021. With its first ever TV debate, the MSC aimed to shift the domestic and international focus to a German foreign policy in transition and to the international challenges for Germany at a global political turning point. In particular, the three candidates took a stance on key issues for Germany’s foreign and security policy, such as the future of transatlantic relations and the European Union, relations with Russia and China, the climate crisis, as well as current geopolitical challenges. The moderated discussion was complemented by video questions of senior decision-makers and experts, offering international perspectives on and expectations towards Germany, including President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky, French Minister of State for European Affairs Clément Beaune, former Foreign Minister of Israel Tzipi Livni, and former Director of the CIA David Petraeus.

From the announcement to the event itself, the TV debate enjoyed a high level of media attention. Especially the German national media appreciated the opportunity to evaluate the candidates and their positions with regard to their foreign policy goals. The questions brought forward by the above-named senior decision-makers and experts were also a special highlight of the program and was favorably evaluated and picked up in the reporting.

Watch the recording of the event on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bc3mUdKDxi0
MSC in Berlin with Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

On September 1, 2021, MSC Chairman Wolfgang Ischinger welcomed the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, to an MSC in Berlin background discussion.

On the occasion of the inauguration of the WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence in Berlin, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus alongside a small group of decision-makers and experts exchanged views on the current states and challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants also discussed which lessons the international community should draw in order to increase global pandemic preparedness in the future.

Munich Strategy Retreat Heiligendamm

At the Munich Strategy Retreat Heiligendamm on October 14–15, 2021, the Munich Security Conference, in cooperation with the Robert Bosch Stiftung, brought together an exclusive group of decision-makers and experts to promote the development of strategic priorities for Germany. The non-public setting of the event allowed for a lively exchange on the latest security policy challenges in the Federal Republic of Germany.

MSC Brainstorming

On September 29, 2021, the MSC welcomed selected members of the Berlin foreign policy community, including representatives of the German government, Berlin-based think tanks, and other partner organizations, for a brainstorming session. In preparation for the Munich Security Conference 2022, the participants provided input and exchanged views on the most important current trends and topics in the area of foreign and security policy.

Transatlantic Conference and Reflection Group on China

The MSC recognizes that the rise of China and how Europe and the United States define their relationship with Beijing is a key strategic challenge of our time. Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, relations between the United States and China deteriorated to a new low. The ripple effects of US-China tensions have been felt acutely by the EU and its member states, who are reassessing China’s potential as a partner, competitor, and systemic rival. Regarding the challenges posed by China, both sides...
of the Atlantic have been widely in agreement – but less so regarding the appropriate tactics and policies for addressing them. Approaches toward China threaten to drift further apart if no decisive transatlantic action is taken to formulate and implement a common positive agenda.

Against this backdrop and within the framework of Germany’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the MSC, and the Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS) – with the support of the German Federal Foreign Office – convened a Transatlantic Conference on China to help create new momentum for coordination among partners on both sides of the Atlantic. The virtual event on September 30 brought together around 50 senior policy-makers and experts from the US, Canada, the UK, and various EU countries.

Looking back to 2021, the MSC and MERICS are continuing their cooperation and additionally partnering with the Aspen Strategy Group to follow up on the success of the Transatlantic Conference on China. With the continued support of the German Federal Foreign Office, the three organizations will convene a Distinguished Reflection Group on Transatlantic China Policy. The Group will be co-chaired by MSC Chairman Wolfgang Ischinger and Aspen Strategy Group Executive Director Nicholas Burns. Its goal for the first half of 2021, as part of the “Road to Munich 2021” campaign, will be to develop policy recommendations on how Europe and the United States can work together concerning all aspects of their relationship with China.

MSC in Berlin with Bill Gates

On October 21, 2021, the Munich Security Conference welcomed Bill Gates, co-chair and trustee of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to an MSC in Berlin breakfast discussion. In light of Germany’s upcoming G7 presidency in 2022 and the negotiations on a new federal government, Bill Gates together with Health Minister Jens Spahn and other experts and decision-makers discussed views on Germany’s role in the COVID-19 response, the future foreign, development and global health policy of the incoming federal government as well as on initiatives for the German G7 presidency. In this context, they also addressed the lessons learned from the COVID-19 response and which mechanisms would need to be strengthened to overcome Covid-19 and to be better prepared for future pandemics.

MSC at COP26: Climate, Peace, and Stability: Weathering Risk Through COP and Beyond

On November 2, 2021, the Munich Security Conference co-hosted a hybrid side event at COP26, together with the German Federal Foreign Office and adelphi, titled “Climate, Peace, and Stability: Weathering Risk Through COP and Beyond”. Wolfgang Ischinger, Chairman of the MSC, moderated the conversation between 13 high-level speakers from around the world, including some physically present in the German pavilion: Raychelle Omamo, Kenyan Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Jens Stoltenberg, Secretary General of NATO, and Ben Wallace, UK Secretary of State for Defense.

The session highlighted the climate-security nexus in the context of COP26. All 13 speakers in the discussion underlined how crucial it is to recognize and act on the interlinkages between climate, peace and stability, as well as the need to incorporate these concerns in all action to combat climate change. For this particular reason, the Munich Security Conference decided to emphasize the issue at COP26 as part of its Sustainability Program activities and as another milestone on “The Road to Munich”.

In total, the MSC hosted four side events at the margins of COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland. The other events were a Climate Security Reflection Dinner, co-hosted with the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom and with Secretary Wallace as the main speaker, a policy pitch session, co-hosted with Siemens Energy and The New York Times, and a lunch, co-hosted with EY. All sessions brought together representatives of politics, business, media and civil society, allowing for a diversity of debates under the headline “From Pledges to Progress: Joining Forces for Climate Security”.

MSC in Berlin with General James N. Mattis

On November 19, 2021, the Munich Security Conference welcomed the former US Secretary of Defense General Mattis for a discussion as part of the event series MSC in Berlin. Together with a small group of senior representatives from the Berlin foreign policy community, General James N. Mattis and Wolfgang Ischinger, exchanged views on the strategic challenges for NATO, the international role of Germany, and the foreign and security policy tasks for the future German government.
Munich Strategy Retreat Elmau

At the Munich Strategy Retreat Elmau, the Munich Security Conference annually gathers a select group of experts to develop recommendations on pressing international security challenges. Taking place once a year at Schloss Elmau in Southern Germany, the meeting is limited to about 50 participants and held entirely off the record.

From December 1-3, 2021, the MSC gathered a select group of experts to develop recommendations on pressing international security challenges. The group resumed security policy discussions, right around the inauguration of the new German government: From the role that the new government in Berlin will envisage for Germany in Europe, to the requirements for European security under conditions of changing US priorities.
The Ewald von Kleist Award

Ewald von Kleist

Ewald von Kleist was the founder and defining personality of the MSC. As its patron for over 30 years, Kleist was instrumental in advancing the transatlantic security dialogue and introducing post-war Germany into NATO and the broader Cold War security order. Kleist, a prolific author, jurist, and publisher, founded the “Internationale Wehrkunde” conference in 1963 to overcome what he viewed as a lack of expertise on nuclear matters as well as to enhance German lawmakers’ understanding of American security policy. Kleist was noted for his expertise on the role of nuclear weapons in NATO’s defense posture and Europe’s role in the transatlantic partnership, issues that confronted NATO and “Wehrkunde” throughout and after the Cold War. Until his death in 2013, Kleist remained active in security affairs and a regular participant of the MSC, a reflection of his devotion to “Wehrkunde” and the issues to which he had dedicated his life. His legacy will continue to inspire leaders and practitioners from around the world.

The Ewald von Kleist Award

Aiming to recognize leading figures in security policy who have made an outstanding contribution to international peace and conflict management, the MSC inaugurated the Ewald von Kleist Award in 2009. The MSC is honored that outstanding leaders and practitioners of security policy, most of which have been conference speakers and participants for many years, have accepted the award.

**Ewald von Kleist Award recipients, 2009-2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Angela Merkel, Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>United Nations, accepted by Ambassador Jean-Pierre Lacroix, UN Under Secretary General for Peace Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Alexis Tsipras, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic, Zoran Zaev, Prime Minister of the Republic of North Macedonia</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>John McCain, US Senator</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Joachim Gauck, Federal President of the Federal Republic of Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Laurent Fabius, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development of the French Republic; President COP 21 and Christiana Figueres, Secretary General of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Didier Burkhalter (Chairman in Office 2014), Ivica Dacic (Chairman in Office 2015), Frank-Walter Steinmeier (Chairman in Office 2016), Lamberto Zannier (Secretary General)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Helmut Schmidt, Former Federal Chancelller of the Federal Republic of Germany and Valéry Giscard d’Estaing, Former President of the French Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Brent Scowcroft, Former National Security Advisor of the United States of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Joseph Lieberman, Former US Senator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Javier Solana, Former Secretary General of NATO; former High Representative of the EU for Common Foreign and Security Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Henry Kissinger, Former US Secretary of State</td>
</tr>
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The John McCain Dissertation Award

About John McCain
Senator John McCain was a companion, partner, and friend of the Munich Security Conference for more than four decades. After first attending the conference as a young Navy officer, he eventually came to lead the United States Congressional delegation to the MSC for more than 20 years in his role as senator. As such, he played a key role in establishing the conference as an important forum for the transatlantic community.

John McCain was known for his courageous actions as a prisoner of war in Vietnam, and his subsequent long and successful political career. He consistently stood up for what he believed in, both domestically and internationally, up until his death in August 2018. The causes he lent his voice to included strengthening the transatlantic relationship, the moral responsibility of the West, and democratic control of the armed forces. Over the course of his political career, Senator McCain often looked beyond party lines and was an example of extraordinary leadership. His voice of reason will be missed dearly.

Senator McCain was a staunch transatlanticist who defended the alliance at its best and confronted it with its worst. In times when the transatlantic bond can no longer be taken for granted, we are keen to honor him at the MSC.

The Award
The Munich Security Conference has launched the John McCain Dissertation Award in cooperation with the Hochschule für Politik München / TUM School of Governance, the Geschwister-Scholl-Institute for Political Science at LMU Munich, the Bundeswehr University Munich, and the McCain Institute for International Leadership. Together we strive to establish the McCain Award as the most coveted prize of its kind.

“I am counting on you to be brave. I am counting on you to be useful. I am counting on you to keep the faith, and never give up […] Never, ever stop fighting for all that is good, and just, and decent about our world and each other.”

John McCain, US Senator for Arizona, Munich Security Conference, February 18, 2018
The John McCain Dissertation Award is awarded annually to up to two outstanding doctoral dissertations for exceptional academic contributions in the field of political science, history or policy analysis with an emphasis on transatlantic relations — including its security, technological, political, trade and financial, social and cultural dimensions. The award has several components, including participation in Munich Security Conference events and a first prize grant of 10,000 Euros.

The selection process is led by Eugénia da Conceição-Heldt (Hochschule für Politik München/TUM School of Governance), Carlo Masala (University of the Federal Armed Forces), Berthold Rittberger (Geschwister-Scholl-Institute for Political Science, LMU Munich), Trine Flockhart (University of Southern Denmark), Stephanie Hofmann (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies), Andrew Moravcsik (Princeton University) and Mark Green (McCain Institute).

The John McCain Dissertation Award recipients, 2019-2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Recipients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Due to the pandemic, the MSC Special Edition 2021 took place as a live broadcast event. Consequently, no awardee was honored.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2020 | Balázs Martonffy  
American University, Washington, DC  
Oscar Jonsson  
King’s College London |
| 2019 | Abigail Post  
Anderson University and  
Ulrike Esther Franke  
University of Oxford |
The Munich Young Leaders

About the Munich Young Leaders

In 2019, the Munich Security Conference (MSC) and Körber-Stiftung celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Munich Young Leaders (MYL) - a joint project aiming to bring together decision-makers of tomorrow and to support them in strengthening their international networks. To date, approximately 300 talented minds from over 60 countries and a wide range of professional backgrounds have become part of this distinguished group. Among them are ministers, members of parliament, senior civil servants, commanders, and leading political experts from some of the world’s most prestigious institutions. Every year, a new cohort of 25 outstanding talents becomes part of the MYL network. They are nominated by the Körber-Stiftung in coordination with the Chairman of the MSC, based on proposed candidates identified by German Embassies in selected countries.

Each year, a new cohort of MYL gathers at the annual Munich Security Conference to discuss current foreign and security policy issues with high-ranking personalities and key decision-makers. In addition to the annual gathering of the new cohort in Munich, the MSC and Körber-Stiftung regularly invite all MYL to come together at Annual Meetings organized in cooperation with a small alumni group from a host country. Previous gatherings have been held in Washington, DC, Moscow, Berlin, Kyiv, Warsaw, Rabat, Madrid, and New York. At Annual Meetings, MYL alumni meet with senior experts and decision-makers, who share their insights and debate current foreign and security policy challenges with the MYL alumni.

Throughout the year, MYL are also invited to selected additional events organized by the MSC and Körber-Stiftung.

Activities in 2021

Digital Welcome Session
Online, September 29, 2021

Every year, a new cohort of outstanding talents joins the Munich Young Leaders program. On September 29, 2021, the MSC and Körber-Stiftung welcomed the new cohort of Munich Young Leaders during a digital welcome session. Against the backdrop of the ongoing pandemic, the MSC and Körber-Stiftung did not want to miss the opportunity to welcome the new Munich Young Leaders and therefore gathered for a digital opening of this year’s program. The selected candidates will have the opportunity to attend next year’s Munich Security Conference 2022. The MYL were greeted by Thomas Paulsen from Körber-Stiftung and Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger, as well as keynote speaker Obiageli Ezekwesili, former Vice President of the World Bank and Senior Economic Adviser at the Africa Economic Development Policy Initiative (AEDPI). Following an informal networking session among the MYL in breakout rooms, participants had the opportunity to engage in a moderated discussion with keynote speaker Obiageli Ezekwesili. The discussion focused on the state of multilateralism in the wake of the pandemic.

MYL Around the World IV
Zoom in on the Middle East | Online, November 30, 2021

On November 30, 2021, the MSC and Körber-Stiftung hosted the fourth virtual discussion event with members of this year’s cohort and alumni of their joint Munich Young Leaders program. The event was part of the series “MYL Around the World” that the MSC and Körber-Stiftung initiated in the wake of the pandemic, inviting the MYL to virtually travel the world and explore challenges and opportunities for multilateralism in different regions. Together with guest speaker Barham Salih, President of the Republic of Iraq, participants discussed the current situation in Iraq following the parliamentary elections, as well as Iraq’s regional role and multilateral challenges for the Middle East. During the second part of the event, participants joined breakout rooms to discuss one of two topics in more detail: the humanitarian and political situation in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of international troops or the current state of negotiations on the JCPOA in light of the new presidency in Iran.

“There is no doubt that digitization has taken root at the center of geopolitics. It is now clear that in a world increasingly defined by great power competition, the race for technological supremacy will only accelerate.”

Margrethe Vestager, Executive Vice President of the European Commission for A Europe Fit for the Digital Age, Munich Young Leaders Around the World, October 26, 2020
The Art of Diplomacy: 75+ Views Behind the Scenes of World Politics

What is diplomacy? An art, a craft? Or something in between? Is there such a thing as a diplomatic secret recipe? What actually makes a good diplomat? What tips and tricks help to break the deadlock? When does humor help, when only bluffing? How do diplomatic cultures and styles differ in different countries? How undiplomatic can, and perhaps even must, a diplomat sometimes be? How does the work of today’s diplomats differ from that of their predecessors? And why do we need diplomats today, when half the world is just a click away from the next video conference?

In this book, renowned companions of Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger, on the occasion of his 75th birthday, reflect on fundamental questions of diplomacy. Taking the reader behind the scenes of diplomacy, the contributors – ranging from several sitting presidents, foreign ministers and heads of international organizations to Nobel Peace Prize laureates and public intellectuals – reveal their most astonishing experiences, successes, and failures on the diplomatic stage, or outline their ideas for the diplomatic handling of unresolved challenges. A book for anyone who wants to better understand what matters when negotiating war and peace.


Out on February 24, 2022
2 Publications
MSC Publications in 2021

In 2021, the MSC has continued to expand its publications portfolio. In addition to its annual flagship publication, the Munich Security Report (MSR), it has released five other publications, including four Munich Security Briefs (MSBs) and one report. By doing so, the MSC has not only further increased its output compared to 2020; it has also been able to successfully establish a new publication format: the Munich Security Brief. As a much more concise format than our reports, the briefs provide an overview of a pressing security issue or a readout of a particular MSC event.

Despite the fact that another year of the Covid-19 pandemic forced the MSC to do without the traditional comprehensive launch events for its publications – instead, most of the release events were forced to the digital realm or had to be conducted in front of a very reduced physical audience – all publications generated considerable public attention.

Special Munich Security Brief
In February, the MSC published “Beyond Westlessness: A Readout From the MSC Special Edition 2021.” In this special Munich Security Brief, Tobias Bunde summarizes the key takeaways from the MSC Special Edition that took place on February 19, 2021. Featuring world leaders, including the new US President Joe Biden, and broadcast live from Munich, the program took place on what was supposed to be the opening day of the Munich Security Conference 2021, which was postponed due to the pandemic. The MSB provides a readout of how global leaders seek to overcome what the Munich Security Report 2020 had coined “Westlessness” – a widespread feeling of uneasiness and restlessness in the face of increasing uncertainty about the enduring purpose of the West – and outlines what lies ahead for transatlantic relations. By providing this readout, the MSC established a new practice of offering its own in-depths summaries and interpretations of major MSC events.

The first half of 2021 saw the publication of two other Munich Security Briefs, both covering the MSC’s growing work on the link between technology and international security. In March, it published the Munich Security Brief titled “Error 404 – Trust Not Found: A European Survey on Digital Distrust.” In the brief, which was supported by the Landesamt für Sicherheit in der Informationstechnik, Simon Pfeiffer and Randolf Carr analyze levels of distrust in Europe around digital issues. The MSB is based on exclusive survey data collected in six European countries in early 2021. In the second Munich Security Brief, titled “Update Required: European Digital Sovereignty and the Transatlantic Partnership,” Simon Pfeiffer and Randolf Carr deliver a clear-eyed view on the type of digital capabilities that Europe needs to move towards its goal of digital sovereignty. A working draft of this MSB was discussed at the MSC Technology Roundtable on July 6, 2021, in Strasbourg at the European Parliamentary Association.

Also in June, ahead of the G7 and NATO summits, the MSC published the Munich Security Report 2021. Building on questions the MSC had raised throughout the past year – about the state of the West and the international order, about growing competition between democratic and autocratic systems, and about how the new transatlantic momentum can deliver concrete results –, the MSR 2021 scrutinizes the new geopolitical reality in which competition and cooperation not only coexist but increasingly condition one another and explores how the transatlantic partners and like-minded countries can best navigate between these two “states of matter.” For the first time, the MSR included the Munich Security Index (MSI), a joint project with Kekst CNC, based on public opinion polls in all G7 and BRICS countries.

The second half of the year saw the publication of the “Report of the Distinguished Reflection Group on Transatlantic China Policy,” titled “Mind the Gap: Priorities for Transatlantic China Policy,” which proposes a transatlantic agenda for a more joined-up approach to China. The Distinguished Reflection Group, which was convened by the Munich Security Conference in cooperation with the Mercator Institute for China Studies and the Aspen Strategy Group and was supported by the Federal Foreign Office, brought together 21 individuals with a wealth of expertise on China and transatlantic relations.

Munich Security Brief: Horn of Africa
In December, the MSC released its fourth Munich Security Brief, in which Luca Miehe looks at the crises erupting at the Horn of Africa and their knock-on effects for European and American interests. Titled “Horn of Dilemmas: Toward a Transatlantic To-Do List for the Horn of Africa,” the brief, which was supported by the Federal Foreign Office, also analyzes how the transatlantic partners could move forward in this region.
Meanwhile, reports published by the MSC the year before continued to be highly visible within the international security community in 2021. Many of the terms coined by MSC publications in 2020, among them “Westlessness,” “Zeitenwende,” and “Polypandemic,” and the debates they have inspired, continued to reverberate in the speeches of high-level decision-makers, in the media, and in the think tank community.

All MSC publications, which typically contain a range of exclusive and previously unpublished materials for which the MSC often collaborates with renowned partner institutions, are accompanied by a comprehensive launch, marketing, and distribution strategy in the run-up to, during, and beyond their initial release dates. Personalized, targeted offerings reach thousands of decision-makers and opinion leaders in policy, academia, and the private sector through the MSC’s network and via partners around the world – in addition to tens of thousands of downloads of the publications’ digital editions available on the MSC website. Content-driven communications – including press backgraders, interviews in key media outlets, and digital content across all relevant platforms – ensure global visibility, hundreds of thousands of views, and tens of thousands of interactions on social media.

About the Munich Security Report
Since its first edition in 2015, the Munich Security Report (MSR) compiles data, analyses, and maps to illustrate current security policy issues. The annual flagship report serves as a discussion starter for the Munich Security Conference and is targeted at an expert audience as well as the interested public. Special editions of the MSR offer deeper analyses of key actors, regions, or issues.

About the Munich Security Briefs
With its newly introduced Munich Security Briefs, the MSC aims at contributing to ongoing debates on a particular issue within the broad field of international security. A much more concise format than the Munich Security Report, the briefs are meant to provide an overview of an issue or a readout of a particular MSC event as well as a succinct analysis of its policy implications and strategic consequences. They generally express the opinion of their author(s) rather than any position of the MSC.

Munich Security Report 2021 – Between States of Matter: Competition and Cooperation

The Munich Security Report 2021, which was published ahead of the G7 and NATO summits, explores the challenge of navigating an international environment shaped by two “states of matter,” competition and cooperation. The world’s liberal democracies are facing renewed competition with autocratic systems of rule. While competition has become the defining feature of world politics, the most critical threats to humanity – including climate change, arms races, and the ongoing pandemic – require broad-based international cooperation. But competition and cooperation do not only coexist, they increasingly condition one another.

The report covers selected security issues that require concerted international action, such as arms control and the energy transition, as well as two regions that are at the center of growing geopolitical competition, the European neighborhood and the Indo-Pacific. Together with like-minded countries, the report argues, the transatlantic partners will have to seek the right balance between the two “states of matter”: competing against the illiberal tide where they must – to defend core values and interests – and cooperating with challengers where they can – to tackle shared risks and threats.

The 2021 edition of the Munich Security Report also comes with a few innovations. It features both the MSC’s revamped corporate design and the first edition of the Munich Security Index, an exclusive annual index of risk perceptions in 12 “states that matter”: the G7 and BRICS nations. Based on survey data collected by our partner Kekst CNC, the index allows the reader to zoom in on this set of countries that have decisive influence over the patterns of cooperation and competition in the international arena.

The report also features a range of exclusive and previously unpublished data from many other MSC partners. For the MSR 2021, the MSC once more cooperated with a number of institutions, including Allianz Research, the Centre for International Security at the Hertie School, the Frankfurt School – UNEP Centre, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of...
Hamburg (IFSH), ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, McKinsey & Company, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), and the US Geological Survey (USGS).

**Media Response**

Despite not being accompanied by a physical main conference, the publication of the Munich Security Report 2021 generated considerable attention and was referenced in leading German and international media outlets. In the days before the launch of the report on June 9 at the Bundespressekonferenz, two major newspapers, the German Süddeutsche Zeitung and the British The Times pre-released findings from the Munich Security Report 2021. Especially the Munich Security Index and the exclusive survey data it contains were frequently mentioned in the news in Germany and internationally. Süddeutsche Zeitung, Spiegel online, and Welt – leading German media outlets – published data from the index. Particularly frequently mentioned were the index’ findings about how respondents in the twelve countries surveyed view the risk posed by climate change.

The findings of the Munich Security Index 2021 also found mentioning among global decision-makers. Among others, it was referenced on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China. The website refers to a report by China Daily, which quotes Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian commenting the findings of the MSR.

Digital communication around the MSR 2021 achieved more than 525,914 impressions, including 386,091 of them on Twitter. While the numbers are lower than those reached with the MSR 2020, these are impressive numbers given this year’s need to decouple the report launch from our annual main conference. In addition to the presentation of the report at the Bundespressekonferenz, multiple interviews and background briefings conducted, and more than 6000 direct downloads of the report from the MSC website, the report was shared with thousands of stakeholders in the MSC network across the world and accompanied by further promotional activities in coordination with national and international partner organizations. Moreover, the report authors were invited to present the findings of the MSR 2021 in several virtual events, including in formats hosted by members of the Federal Foreign Office, by members of the European Parliament, as well as at the Hertie School and the Robert Bosch Stiftung.
Report of the Distinguished Reflection Group on Transatlantic China Policy

Today’s China presents fundamental challenges to the democracies of Europe and North America. At the Special Edition of the Munich Security Conference on February 19, 2021, President Biden spoke about the need “to prepare together for long-term strategic competition with China.” At the same event, Chancellor Merkel called on transatlantic partners to articulate a “joint agenda.” And yet, a gap remains between American and European views on China. This is due to different readings of China and differences in basic approaches to foreign, economic, and security policy. In part, the gap reflects differences in the level of economic and financial exposure. In part, it is due to different security interests and defense commitments.

Throughout the first half of 2021, the Distinguished Reflection Group on Transatlantic China Policy – 21 leading experts on China and transatlantic relations from the US and Europe – worked to advocate a more joined-up approach to China. The report “Mind the Gap: Priorities for Transatlantic China Policy” concludes the six-month work of the Reflection Group and represents an effort by the co-chairs, Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger and Professor Joseph S. Nye, Jr., to capture the prevailing opinion within the group. The report proposes a transatlantic agenda focused on achieving quick wins, with recommendations organized by seven issue areas, from economic issues to values and security. They range from levelling the economic playing field with China, to setting the agenda in international institutions, and to preserving a balance of power in the Indo-Pacific.

The report, which was supported by the Federal Foreign Office, was launched by the MSC in cooperation with the Mercator Institute for China Studies and the Aspen Strategy Group, the two co-convenors of the Distinguished Reflection Group on Transatlantic China Policy. Munich/Berlin/Washington, DC: Munich Security Conference, Mercator Institute for China Studies, Aspen Strategy Group, July 2021. https://doi.org/10.47342/GXWK1490.

Bibliographic data:

Munich Security Brief – Horn of Dilemmas: Toward a Transatlantic To-Do List for the Horn of Africa

The Horn of Africa is adrift. Turmoil in Ethiopia and Sudan is sending shockwaves through the broader region – with knock-on effects for European and American interests. While the African Union is in the lead to address these issues, transatlantic partners must coordinate and do their part to tackle the crises in Europe’s extended neighborhood.

At the MSC Special Edition in February 2021, world leaders met to open a new chapter of the transatlantic partnership and multilateral cooperation. In her speech, the then German Chancellor Angela Merkel noted: “The relationship with Africa is [...] of such strategic importance that it should also be an important topic in the transatlantic discussion.” Today, worrying developments in one of Africa’s regional conflict hotspots – the Horn of Africa – require transatlantic partners to heed this call.

In the Horn of Africa, hope and havoc are next-door neighbors. It is a place where a new, young generation is fighting for democracy. It is an arena where regional and global powers compete for influence. And it is also a region where conflicts are threatening the very essence of statehood. In Ethiopia and Sudan, after 30 years of authoritarian rule, two democratic transitions have first blossomed and then faced backlash within a matter of just three years. War in Ethiopia, a derailed democratic transition in Sudan, an escalating border dispute between these two neighbors, and a conflict over the Nile waters between Egypt, Ethiopia, and Sudan represent only a shortlist of the Horn’s complex conflict network. Europe and the United States must develop a deeper understanding of the Horn of Africa’s conflict landscape and come to terms with the region’s intricate dilemmas. In the Munich Security Brief, Luca Miehe scrutinizes the developments underway in the Horn of Africa, analyzes their repercussions for the transatlantic partners, and highlights some items for joint action in response to a deteriorating situation.

“The relationship with Africa is [...] of such strategic importance that it should also be an important topic in the transatlantic discussion.”
Angela Merkel, former German Chancellor, Munich Security Conference, February 19, 2021
The Munich Security Brief is part of the research project series "Geopolitics in the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea," funded by the Federal Foreign Office. The MSB is informed by the MSC’s Roundtable series on the Horn of Africa, which has been taking place since December 2020. Published online on December 15, 2021 – the week of both the third anniversary of the democratic uprising in Sudan, as well as a special session of the UN Human Rights Council on the situation in Ethiopia –, the publication received positive feedback by key stakeholders as well as on social media. In the first four weeks after the publication it received more than 25,000 impressions.

Latest MSC Publications

Luca Miehe “Horn of Dilemmas: Toward a Transatlantic To-Do List for the Horn of Africa”
The Horn of Africa is adrift. Turmoil in Ethiopia and Sudan is sending shockwaves through the broader region – with knock-on effects for European and American interests. While the African Union is in the lead to address these issues, transatlantic partners must coordinate and do their part to tackle the crises in Europe’s extended neighborhood.

China is at the top of the transatlantic agenda. Throughout the first half of 2021, the Distinguished Reflection Group on Transatlantic China Policy, comprised of 21 individuals with a wealth of expertise on China and transatlantic relations, worked to advocate for a more joined-up approach to China. Its report proposes a transatlantic agenda focused on achieving quick wins, with recommendations organized into seven issue areas, from economics to values to security.

Simon Pfeiffer and Randolf Carr, “Update Required: European Digital Sovereignty and the Transatlantic Partnership”
European policymakers have made explicit commitments to strengthening Europe’s digital sovereignty, especially where dependencies affect security. There is a need for decisive action to secure Europe’s core digital capabilities for the future. The third Munich Security Brief of 2021 showcases where Europe is still ahead, where it must catch up, and how its technological capabilities serve not only itself, but also the transatlantic partnership.

The world’s liberal democracies are facing renewed competition with autocratic systems of rule. The Munich Security Report 2021 explores the challenge of navigating an international environment shaped by two “states of matter,” competition and cooperation.

Simon Pfeiffer and Randolf Carr: “Error 404 – Trust Not Found: A European Survey on Digital (Dis)trust”
A joint tech agenda is one of the key priorities of a renewed transatlantic partnership. However, an exclusive survey on behalf of the MSC points to a potential obstacle: high levels of distrust in Europe around digital issues – among Europeans, but especially toward the United States. Our Munich Security Brief explains what digital distrust means and how to address it on the way to better transatlantic tech cooperation.

Tobias Bunde, “Beyond Westlessness: A Readout From the MSC Special Edition 2021”
World leaders, including new US President Joe Biden, used the MSC Special Edition, broadcast live from Munich on February 19, 2021, to send a strong signal of transatlantic renewal and to present their ideas on how to deal with some of the most pressing issues, including the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change. A special Munich Security Brief summarizes the event’s key takeaways and outlines what lies ahead for transatlantic relations.
3 Reach and Visibility
Reach and Visibility (selection)

MSC Special Edition February 19, 2021
Traditionally held in February, the MSC is the world’s leading forum for foreign and security policy. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the MSC has decided to host a Special Edition at the very time and place the 57th Munich Security Conference would have kicked-off normally.

On February 19, 2021, the MSC Special Edition "Beyond Westlessness: Renewing Transatlantic Cooperation, Meeting Global Challenges" assembled some of the world’s most senior decision-makers to discuss how to rebuild and renew the transatlantic alliance and highlight the areas in which transatlantic and international cooperation are most urgently needed.

The MSC Special Edition was produced at the Hotel Bayerischer Hof in Munich and broadcasted live on all MSC digital channels. Invited speakers joined the event virtually from their respective locations. The broadcast was divided into four thematic sessions, each of which featured short statements from selected senior leaders, a Q&A with MSC Chairman Ambassador Ischinger and pre-recorded contributions from selected participants of the Munich Young Leaders program.

In the run-up to February 19, the intended conference opening-day, there were numerous preliminary reports discussing the participation of various state-principals. The focus of the reporting took place on February 19, on which the MSC was mentioned not only in all German-language news programs, but also in some special broadcast-news. Thanks to the worldwide distribution of the TV signal via the European Broadcasting Union and the broadcast on German television via Bayerischer Rundfunk and Phoenix, the MSC was able to reach an audience of millions. An exact survey of the TV viewer numbers could not take place due to the worldwide offer of the TV signal. The range of German special broadcasts is shown on the following page:

Coverage of the MSC Special Edition at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TV and radio</th>
<th>Print media</th>
<th>News agencies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3,86 million viewers (ARD, extra)</td>
<td>&gt; 813 newspaper articles (Germany 270, English-speaking countries 449, French-speaking countries 44)</td>
<td>573 newswire reports (German-speaking countries 135, English-speaking countries 374, French-speaking countries 64)</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; 220,000 viewers (BR, extra)</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; 140,000 viewers (Phoenix)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Online</th>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; 4.3 million livestream-views, social media-channels other organizations and media</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Sample Coverage

Neue Zürcher Zeitung

Transatlantischer Honeymoon an der Münchner Sicherheitskonferenz: Joe Biden schlägt sanfte Töne an.

"Dieses Jahr ist vieles anders: Die eigentliche Konferenz hoffen die Veranstalter im Sommer nachholen zu können, doch am Freitag fand bereits ein virtuelles Treffen statt. (...) Amerikas Verbündete erinnerte er daran, dass diese sich im Angriffsfall auf die USA verlassen könnten; im Gegenzug deutete er aber auch an, wo Washington auf die Unterstützung der Europäer zählt: Der Wettstreit mit China werde intensiv werden, und Russland versuche weiterhin, den Zusammenhalt der Nato zu untergraben."

Hansjörg Friedrich Müller, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, February 19

MÜNCHNER SICHERHEITSKONFERENZ: Biden auf MSC: Demokratie muss Autokratie besiegen.


Deutsche Welle, February 19

The Washington Post

Biden pledges to reassert U.S. leadership in global diplomacy and welcome talks with Iran.

"I’m sending a clear message to the world: America is back. The transatlantic alliance is back," Biden said in video remarks to the Munich Security Conference, an annual gathering of world leaders to discuss matters of war and peace. "And we are not looking backward; we are looking forward, together."

Anne Gearan, The Washington Post, February 20
MSC Conversation on Relations between China and the West,
May 25, 2021
On May 25, 2021, the Munich Security Conference hosted a live event with Wang Yi, State Councillor and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, as part of the Road to Munich, organized in cooperation with Atlantik-Brücke e.V. The event highlighted key global challenges for relations between China and the West. The international media coverage clearly outweighed the German coverage, where the topic was only taken up by less popular online agencies. Here, as in the international arena, it was mainly the Chinese media that got involved, which was also evident in the content of their reporting. Twitter was by far the most frequently used information channel (7,300 live stream viewers). Numerous foreign Ambassadors of the PRC, the spokeswoman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, as well as Chinese magazines and television stations were mentioned there.

Coverage of the MSC Conversation on Relations between China and the West at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Print media</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>German newspaper articles</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Digital communication</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 123,000</td>
<td>impressions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 10,000</td>
<td>livestream views</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sample Coverage

**Chinese FM calls for expanded cooperation with Europe.**
**Ecns.cn**
"Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Tuesday addressed a session on China at the Munich Security Conference via video link. (...) "We are willing to maintain and expand comprehensive cooperation with Europe based on the principles of mutual respect, mutual benefit, and win-win results," Wang said. He added that China has always viewed China-EU relations from a strategic perspective, believed that cooperation is the general direction and keynote of bilateral relations, and regarded Europe as a partner rather than an opponent."
Li Yan, *Ecns.cn*, May 26

**China’s foreign minister says EU parliament is wrong to tie investment deal to Xinjiang.**
**South China Morning Post**
"China’s foreign minister criticised the European Union’s parliament on Tuesday for freezing the ratification of a bilateral investment treaty, adding that Beijing also felt blindsided by the EU’s decision to sanction Chinese officials over allegations of human rights abuse in the far-west region of Xinjiang. Speaking at a teleconference talk hosted by the Munich Security Conference, (...).”
Eduardo Baptista, *South China Morning Post*, May 26

**China tells Europe: You know what genocide looks like.**
**POLITICO**
"We do everything we can to promote democracy and human rights in China," Wang said at a webinar organized by Munich Security Conference, where he criticized the European Union for imposing sanctions and questioned their legality given that they were not rolled out through the United Nations.”
Stuart Lau, *Politico*, May 25
“Between States of Matter - Competition and Cooperation”:
Munich Security Report 2021, June 9, 2021
Observation period June 4 - 14, 2021

The Munich Security Report is the MSC’s annual flagship publication and was published in 2021 ahead of the G7 and NATO summits. The chairman of the MSC, Wolfgang Ischinger, and the MSC’s Director of Research & Publication, Dr. Tobias Bunde, presented the report at the Bundespresskonferenz. The MSR 2021 explores the challenge of navigating an international environment shaped by two “states of matter”, competition and cooperation. For the first time, the MSR contains the Munich Security Index, a new dataset built by the MSC and Kekst CNC which explores citizens’ risk perceptions in various parts of the world.

In addition to news and agency reports in German and English, articles in Russian, Portuguese and Hindi raised awareness for the publication of the MSR 2021. The MSC also announced the publication in an video which was distributed on the MSC’s social media channels.

Coverage of the Munich Security Report 2021 at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Print media</th>
<th>Digital communication</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 international articles</td>
<td>&gt; 354,000 impressions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 German articles</td>
<td>&gt; 1,000 livestream views</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 1,000 downloads</td>
<td>&gt; 5,000 engagements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49 social media posts</td>
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Coverage of the MSC Conversation on the Future of German Foreign & Security Policy (in cooperation with ARD), June 26, 2021

For the second time, the three candidates for chancellor from the Union, the Greens and the SPD met in a “TV Triell”. The Munich Security Conference and the ARD had invited to a tour d’Horizon primarily on foreign policy issues in their capital city studio. The head of the ARD capital studio Tina Hassel and the chairman of the Munich Security Conference Wolfgang Ischinger interviewed Armin Laschet (CDU), Annalena Baerbock (Greens) and Olaf Scholz (SPD) about transatlantic relations and dealing with Russia and China. They were also flanked by prominent guests, above all the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Selenskyj, who were each allowed to ask a question to the candidates in short introductions. In contrast to the first discussion in May, which focused on European policy, this time clear differences between the candidates were discernible. According to the Neue Zürcher Zeitung “The realpoliticians Armin Laschet and Olaf Scholz stood against the moralist Annalena Baerbock”. Ischinger read out a statement aimed at Ukraine that Putin had delivered at the St. Petersburg Economic Forum earlier this month. In this statement, the Russian president said Ukraine would have to show good will if it wants to remain a transit country for Russian gas in the long term.

Coverage of the MSC Conversation on the Future of German Foreign & Security Policy at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Print media</th>
<th>Digital communication</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>51 German newspaper articles</td>
<td>&gt; 620,000 impressions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 International newspaper articles</td>
<td>&gt; 220,000 livestream views</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&gt; 29,000 facebook reach</td>
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</table>
Mind the Gap: Priorities for Transatlantic China Policy – China Report, July 21

The Reflection Group was convened by the Munich Security Conference in cooperation with the Mercator Institute for China Studies and Aspen Strategy Group. Chaired by Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger and Professor Joseph S. Nye, Jr., it brought together 19 leading experts on China and transatlantic relations from the US and Europe. Throughout the first half of 2021, members worked in sub-groups as well as in plenary formats and engaged in outreach to transatlantic decision-makers, developing ideas on how to arrive at a more joined-up transatlantic approach to China.

The main focus of the MSC’s social media channels was Twitter, where 12 tweets were posted, 161,766 impressions and 2,386 engagements were counted.

Coverage of the Reflection Group for Transatlantic China Policy at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Print media</th>
<th>Digital communication</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 German newspaper articles</td>
<td>&gt; 2,800 engagements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 International newspaper articles</td>
<td>632 report downloads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>174,000 impressions</td>
<td>&gt; 2,800 engagements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 social media posts</td>
<td>&gt; 2,800 engagements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
About the MSC

Our Mission
The MSC’s objective is to build trust and contribute to the peaceful resolution of conflicts by sustaining a continuous, curated and informed dialogue debate within the international security community. Today, the MSC is the world’s leading forum for debating international security policy. The MSC conceives of its conferences as a type of “market place of ideas” where initiatives and solutions are developed and opinions are exchanged. It provides a venue for official and non-official diplomatic initiatives and ideas to address the world’s most pressing security concerns. The MSC also offers a protected space for informal meetings between officials and thus – as its original motto states – builds peace through dialogue. In addition to its annual flagship conference, the MSC regularly convenes high-profile events on particular topics and regions and publishes the Munich Security Report, an annual digest of relevant data, maps, and research on key security challenges.

Our Audience
During the MSC’s main conference in February, we assemble more than 500 high-profile and senior decision-makers as well as thought-leaders from around the world, including heads of state, ministers, leading personalities of international and non-governmental organizations, as well as high-ranking representatives of industry, media, academia, and civil society, to engage in an intensive debate. The MSC believes in the need for an informed and sustained public debate on security policy broadly defined and thus aims to involve the wider public in its debates. We broadcast most of our debates and disseminate the results of our events via reports, interviews, and social media.

Our Focus
The MSC has transatlantic and European roots but our activities reflect a globalized world. The MSC strives to increase its geographic diversity and reach to include all relevant stakeholders. The MSC aims at debating the world’s most relevant security challenges. The MSC does not only include the most urgent security challenges in its programs, but also draws attention to issues that might not yet be on the top of the security community’s agenda. The MSC embraces a comprehensive definition of security, which encompasses not only traditional national or military security, but also takes into account the economic, environmental, and human dimensions of security.

MSC Topics
To better reflect the rapidly evolving international security landscape, the Munich Security Conference (MSC) has refined its portfolio of formats and focus topics. Besides the annual Munich Security Conference, our main formats are the Munich Leaders Meetings (previously known as Core Group Meetings), Munich Strategy Retreats, as well as MSC Summits, Roundtables & Conversations. They are complemented by a number of other activities, including the Munich Young Leaders program or the Security Innovation Board, all of which aim at offering specific audiences the best possible platforms for debate. We have also divided our thematic focus into five new program areas to guide our work more systematically and coherently: Defense, Global Order, Human Security, Sustainability, and Technology. These programs address both conventional issues as well as emerging security concerns and offer the intellectual backbone to all our events and publications. For all five program areas, the MSC is working with renowned partners from around the world.
Defense

The global security landscape is changing fast – and not to the better. The risk of peer-to-peer conflict is becoming more acute as great power competition is heating up, crucial arms control and confidence-building regimes are eroding, and regional rivalries are increasingly left unchecked and unresolved.

The threat matrix is further complicated by the continued rise of non-state actors, the accelerating militarization of domains such as the Arctic, space and cyberspace, the return of hybrid and proxy tactics, and the race for new technologies with profound implications for warfare and arms control.

With its Defense Program, the Munich Security Conference seeks to contribute to and advance the debate around critical aspects of global defense and security policy, including European defense cooperation, the future of the transatlantic alliance, capability development and modernization, and the future of warfare and arms control. To that end, MSC events, publications, and initiatives like the Security Innovation Board’s workstream on defense, facilitate exchange between decision-makers and experts at the highest levels.
Human Security

A human security perspective places the individual at the center of global security policy. It focuses on non-traditional security challenges to people’s well-being and livelihoods such as their access to resources, including food, water, health services and education, their individual and collective rights, and their developmental prospects.

Neglecting these factors of human security can stall or even reverse progress, exacerbate state fragility and fuel conflict – with regional and global repercussions as social instability and political unrest spread across borders and figure in (great) power politics.

With its Human Security Program, the Munich Security Conference aims at advancing the debate around the protection of the world’s most vulnerable people and the nexus between individual and collective security. To that end, the MSC facilitates exchange between decision-makers and experts at the highest levels at its own events around the world and actively supports and promotes independent fora and initiatives focusing on human security.
Technology

Technology increasingly permeates every aspect of how states, societies, and individuals pursue their interests. The ability to gather and harness data, drive innovation, and adopt key technologies has not only become the conditio sine qua non of economic success, but also a decisive factor in the systemic competition between democracies and autocracies. The consequences for security policy are compounded by the sheer speed of change and disruptive potential of many new technologies.

From maintaining an open and trustworthy information environment to protecting increasingly digitized critical infrastructure, from ensuring military and intelligence interoperability to managing the use of ground-breaking innovations, from ensuring supply chain security to the diversification of strategic production capabilities, from preventing and managing new arms races to agreeing on joint standards, the list of challenges for policymakers is long and growing fast.

With its Technology Program, the Munich Security Conference aims at advancing the debate on the regulation, governance and use of technology to promote inclusive security and global cooperation. To that end, MSC events, publications, and initiatives like the Security Innovation Board or the Charter of Trust seek to bridge the worlds of technology, politics, and security by facilitating exchange between decision-makers and experts at the highest levels.
Sustainability

The ability of the international community and individual states to provide for the long-term future of humanity depends on their willingness and capacity to move towards a sustainable model of governance and development. Real sustainability does not only necessitate global efforts to limit, and ideally reverse, climate change and environmental degradation, but also a revitalization of rules and institutions working for the common good and ensuring a liberal international order in which all can prosper without endangering future generations.

Systemic challenges and weaponized interdependence, mainly driven by autocratic regimes and fueled by corruption, kleptocracy and conflict economies, stand in the way of real sustainability, both nationally and internationally. States and societies that will manage to lead by example, strengthen resilience and cohesion, harness the transformative potential of new technologies to power and finance themselves, end their dependency on finite resources and thereby overcome the inherent instability and structural weakness of unsustainable modes of governance and development will have a decisive advantage in a more competitive world.

With its Sustainability Program, the Munich Security Conference aims to advance the debate around the intersections of governance, the environment, security, and prosperity. To that end, MSC events and initiatives facilitate exchange between decision-makers and experts at the highest levels.
Global Order

The world is facing the turn of an era in global politics in which fundamental certainties are eroding. The new environment is characterized by a changing global distribution of power, the weakening of international institutions, and a return to power politics that defies international norms and multilateral cooperation. Not only are liberal and illiberal worldviews competing within societies, but so are democracies and autocracies on the international stage.

This systemic competition increasingly threatens the ability of the international system to tackle global challenges such as climate change, health emergencies or accelerating environmental degradation. At the same time, the capacity of the West to step in and lead coalitions of the willing and like-minded is challenged from within and without.

With its Global Order Program, the Munich Security Conference provides a platform for advancing the debate on how to move beyond “Westlessness,” strengthen the transatlantic core of global multilateralism, and reform and revitalize global governance mechanisms for the common good. In addition to the annual flagship conference in Munich, formats like the Munich Leaders Meetings, Strategy Retreats, and collaborations with distinguished partner institutions facilitate exchange between decision-makers and experts at the highest levels, including between competitors wherever possible.
People, Culture, and Organizational Development

2021 was an extremely challenging year for the organization due to the ongoing pandemic situation. Various events could not take place physically and, therefore, had to be postponed or were carried out virtually. Despite all circumstances, the MSC successfully organized 45 events (33 of them taking place virtually) and published the Munich Security Report 2021 and several Munich Security Briefs. With all these activities, the organization has once again demonstrated its ability to react with flexibility and agility to unforeseen situations – thanks to a highly motivated and creative team!

MSC core staffing levels continue to maintain the growth trend experienced over the last 6 years – up from 49 members in 2020 to 60 members in 2021 with a proportion of women over 60% and an average age of approximately 31 years. With 24 team members at our Berlin office and 36 at our Munich office, we extended our office space during 2021 in both cities. 52 temporary employees (including project assistants, working students and trainees) support the core team to prepare the Munich Security Conference 2022.

Following the reorganization of 2020, the first half of 2021 was used to review the new structure and processes and make adjustments where necessary. This review led to structural changes such as the consolidation of the Communications team and the merger of the Research and Publications teams under a newly created head role. Besides these structural changes, various initiatives were introduced to improve employee participation, foster internal communication and strengthen leadership capacities, teamwork and collaboration skills. The implementation of measures defined through the change process will be continued to further increase organizational efficiency and to provide a solid and sustainable foundation to continue the development of the organization and the continuation of the MSC’s success story.
The Munich Security Conference will soon be led by a new chairman

The Foundation Council of the Munich Security Conference has elected Ambassador Dr. Christoph Heusgen, long-time foreign policy advisor to Chancellor Angela Merkel and former German Ambassador to the United Nations, as the future chairman of the Munich Security Conference. The election took place unanimously and in line with the suggestion of the current chairman, Ambassador Prof. Dr. h.c. Wolfgang Ischinger.

I am delighted to have found a successor in Christoph Heusgen, who, after many years as a foreign policy advisor in the Federal Chancellery and then as UN Ambassador in New York, has excellent networks worldwide and is highly regarded as an expert.”

Wolfgang Ischinger

I look forward to the exciting task at the top of the Munich Security Conference. It is a great honor for me to take over the legacy of Ewald von Kleist, the unforgettable founder of "Wehrkunde", Horst Teltschik, Helmut Kohl’s confidant, and Wolfgang Ischinger, who developed the MSC over the past 13 years into the world’s most important forum for debates on foreign, security and defense policy. As president of the Foundation Council, he will continue to contribute his unique experience to the Munich Security Conference, whose 60th founding anniversary we will celebrate in 2023.”

Christoph Heusgen

Our Berlin Office Grew in 2021

As our Berlin team grew this year, so did the office space. In 2021 we have expanded our office within the same building on Berlin’s Friedrichstraße in the heart of the capital, nested between the German Foreign Office, the German Federal Government offices, a large number of embassies and the offices of many of our friends and partners from the business sector and the think-tank community.

The Berlin office is now home to about 25 employees from our teams working on Research & Policy, Programs, and Communications as well as the (Vice-)Chairman’s Office. With the new and improved space came a new setup for more collaborative work and a fresh touch of our very own MSC colors.

As before, you can find our Berlin office at:

Munich Security Conference
Friedrichstraße 154
10117 Berlin
MSC Conferencing Platform

Summary

Due to the pandemic situation and in order to include and connect as many participants as we gathered in the past, the MSC is introducing the conferencing platform. The MSC Conferencing Platform is the digital event hub where participants, delegation members, and journalists can interactively take part in sessions, and follow conference content live via stream. And further session-related and general information about the MSC 2022 is also available on this platform.

All essential features for participants, such as a personalized agenda, guest services, arrangement of bilateral meetings, messaging with other participants, the MSC Help Desk and the ability to participate in surveys, can be found on the conferencing platform. With the support of satis&fy, a global market leader in digital conferencing solutions, the conferencing platform has been designed and developed to meet the MSC specifications over the last months.

For all future MSC events, the conferencing platform will be a valuable addition in the communication with our participants and with external actors. By utilizing this platform, the MSC is establishing standards in the rapidly evolving and increasingly digital world of conferencing.

The Conferencing Platform can be used on desktop PCs and mobile devices. On the Conferencing Platform, eligible participants can switch between up to ten simultaneous event web streams. The streams from the various venues are produced and made available by Bayerischer Rundfunk (host broadcaster) and Media Image (technical service provider), among others.
The MSC Archive

In 2020, we embarked on building our own MSC archive to categorize and evaluate the nearly 60-year history of the MSC. Building an archive has allowed us not only to make the evolution of the MSC and its achievements more tangible, but also to highlight the most defining MSC moments that still have a significant impact on international security policy today.

To that end, the team has created a photo archive, compiled lists of participants, collected publications, interviews, and press releases primarily from the pre-digital era, and combed through audio tapes and video recordings. In addition, we are constantly putting events, people and issues relevant today into the context of our history.

In 2021, we continued our archival work by initiating a series of document reviews at various archives of government departments and of our partners. These include the German Federal Foreign Office, the U.S. Library of Congress, as well as many other partners with whom we are working to gather pertinent information and materials for our MSC archive.

Looking ahead to the forthcoming milestone anniversary of MSC - 60 years of MSC in 2023 - we are in the process of planning a true behind-the-scenes look at MSC, featuring a series of events and publications that will shed light on the impact and reach of the MSC and commemorate key milestones and personalities in its history. It goes without saying that a proper archive will form the basis of our celebration in 2023 and the public’s overall understanding of what the MSC is and has been about - an annual, interactive dialogue format to promote peace.
The MSC Security Innovation Board

As part of its activities, the Munich Security Conference regularly addresses complex topics and challenges facing defense and security policy decision makers around the world. The MSC has hosted numerous events on the intersection of defense policy and cyber security and technology issues over the years. From its Cyber Security Summits that have taken place in technology hubs around the world – including, among others, Silicon Valley, Tallinn, Tel Aviv and Berlin – to the MSC Innovation Night that has taken place on the eve of the Munich Security Conference since 2018, the MSC has developed a track record as a forum of exchange between decision makers from the technology industry and defense and security policy alike. To stay ahead of the current technological trends, the MSC has formed the Security Innovation Board and conducted a multitude of workstreams with a group of distinguished experts from both the technology and defense policy sector to address the challenges faced in the departments of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Energy and Defense.

Board Meetings
In 2021, two board meetings took place. During the inaugural meeting, which took place in April, 2021, the board discussed the importance of translating the complex issues surrounding the topics of energy, defense, and ICT into concrete action. There was an overarching consensus on the value of using the Munich Security Conference as a stage to both draw attention to the gaps and seams in innovation, and to brainstorm possible remedies. The second board meeting took place in December 2021. During the session, members discussed the urgency for action, the importance of creating a digestible and understandable narrative for policy makers and the general population alike, the topic of the accelerating speed of digitalization, technological transformation and the importance of public and private partnerships. Each board meeting was accompanied by a multitude of Workstream sessions throughout the year.

Workstream Meetings
During the initial workstream sessions which took place in April 2021, the group discussed a wide plethora of relevant topics.

Throughout the Workstream on Energy and Security, the issue of decarbonizing the energy sector alongside the need to manage the significant increase in energy consumption stood at the forefront of the discussion. The importance of global cooperation, technological openness, and innovation, influencing decision makers and the appropriate investments and capital allocation was discussed in length.

The Workstream on Defense discussed the impact innovative technology could have on the defense and security sector and that it must be embraced to a greater extent than it is now. Considering the changing nature of conflict, the Workstream addressed the rise of dual-use technology such as AI, machine learning, and synthetic environments, as well as the importance of a rebalancing between traditional military and modern technology. The main takeaways from the discussion revolved around the importance of cooperation, the reimagining of the existing processes, as well as potential obstacles.

At the center of the Workstream on ICT stood the question of the global datasphere, particularly the increase in demand, alongside the rapid decentralization of data storage and processing capacities. Throughout the meeting, the Workstream discussed the geopolitical competition surrounding ICT, as well as the scarcity of critical resources, components, and talent as a trigger for increased industrial and intra-state rivalries. The main points addressed during the meeting were the challenges of novel technology, supply chain risks and technological decoupling, as well as identifying a path forward for the MSC and the Innovation Board in ICT.

The second set of workstream sessions took place throughout September 2021, in preparation for the second board meeting.

The main topics of conversation for the Workstream on Defense were the obstacles to a timely adoption of innovative technologies, the question of cooperation versus competition, the importance of collaboration between the EU and NATO, the obstacles in the technology procurement process, as well as the ever-present importance of the private sector. The Workstream developed the framework for a Defense Innovation Survey, which will look at the issue of blockages to innovation in public sector defense organizations and assess the innovation readiness of different countries.

During the Workstream on ICT, the main points of discussion revolved around cybersecurity, as well as the (inter)dependencies in and geopolitical risks to/from the semiconductor supply chain. The group also discussed the
potential of a “Technology Radar”, which could be used to assess the security and geopolitical implications of different technologies. The purpose of the Technology Radar would be to determine which technologies should be prioritized, which have the biggest geopolitical and societal impact, and to evaluate what the possible policy options as a consequence of these potential technological breakthroughs or emerging technologies are.

To further delve into the topics discussed during the second board meeting, the third set of workstream sessions took place throughout December 2021.

The Workstream on Energy and Security discussed the geopolitical components of the energy transition, the importance of prioritization, how to best build up a coalition of those willing to engage with the topic of energy and security and how to unite people to recognize the importance of the energy transition.

The Workstream on Defense mainly discussed the insufficient sense of urgency with regards to innovation, the importance of championing innovative solutions, as well as the early findings of the Defense Innovation Survey.

During the Workstream on ICT, the main points of discussion revolved around the process of de-risking of semiconductor supply chains, the importance of creating an awareness of the strong interlinkages between industrial, technological, and security policy, as well as a more in-depth discussion with regards to the previously mentioned “Technology Radar”.
The MSC Foundation

About the MSC Foundation
Since its foundation in 1963, the MSC has been constantly evolving. Originally established as “Wehrkunde,” a private initiative by the founder Ewald-Heinrich von Kleist, the conference has become the world’s leading independent forum for international security policy.

The MSC Foundation was established in 2018 to ensure the independence and long-term sustainability of the MSC and its growing activities in an era of geopolitical uncertainty. Over the past decade, the MSC has complemented the annual main conference in Munich with a growing variety of formats at the highest level over the entire year, and in major capitals around the world, covering a very broad spectrum of international security issues, including defense, cyber, and arms control as well as, inter alia, energy, climate, and human security. With the annual Munich Security Report and other papers and research reports, the MSC has also started to develop a growing think-tank capacity.

The MSC Foundation was established under German civil law by Ambassador Ischinger who donated all shares of the existing MSC gGmbH to the foundation. The gGmbH continues to carry out all operational activities of the MSC. The German Federal Government, the Bavarian State Government, the Robert Bosch Stiftung, and EnBW AG have already made significant financial contributions to the MSC Foundation. A range of other important organizations, companies, and private individuals have announced their intention to become donors.

Ambassador Ischinger chairs the Foundation Council (Stiftungsrat) which provides guidance to the Board (Vorstand), chaired by Benedikt Franke. Other foundation bodies include the Advisory Council and a Board of Trustees. If you want to know more, please check the MSC website.

The Foundation Council
The Foundation Council serves as the primary decision-making body of the Munich Security Conference Foundation. It is currently comprised of six members – including, ex officio, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees – and is chaired by a President, currently Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger, who also serves as Chairman of the Munich Security Conference. Helga Maria Schmid holds the position of Vice President of the Foundation Council.

President

Wolfgang Ischinger
Ambassador, Chairman of the Munich Security Conference, Munich

Members

Hans Albrecht
Chairman, Global Bridges e.V., Berlin

Nikolaus von Bomhard
President of the Council, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Munich

Christoph Heusgen
Ambassador, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, MSC Foundation, Berlin

Helga Maria Schmid
Secretary General, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Vienna

Christoph Walther
Founder, CNC Communications, Munich
The Executive Board
The Executive Board serves as the operational leadership of the MSC Foundation and is charged with the day-to-day operations of the organization. The Board is led by the Executive Director.

Benedikt Franke
Chief Executive Officer, Munich Security Conference, Munich

Tobias Bunde
Director of Research & Policy, Munich Security Conference, Munich

Sara-Sumie Yang
Chief Financial Officer and Chief Human Resources Officer, Munich Security Conference, Munich

The Executive Staff

Secretary General
Ulrike Strauss, Head of Strategic Projects, Munich Security Conference, Munich

Executive Officer
Max Schiel, Head of the CEO Office, Munich Security Conference, Munich

The Board of Trustees
The Board of Trustees, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Christoph Heusgen, offers strategic advice to the MSC Foundation Council and its President. The Board is composed of eminent donors and supporters of the Munich Security Conference Foundation. It meets at least once a year, usually on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference.

Chair

Christoph Heusgen
Ambassador, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, MSC Foundation, Berlin

Members

Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al-Thani
Former Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, Doha

Sandra Breka
Member of the Board of Management, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Berlin

Frank Mastiaux
Chief Executive Officer, EnBW Energie Baden-Württemberg AG, Karlsruhe

Edmund Stoiber
Former Minister-President of the Free State of Bavaria, Munich
The Advisory Council
The Advisory Council, led by its Chairman Joe Kaeser, serves as a sounding board for the President of the Foundation Council and advises the President on the general direction of work of the Munich Security Conference Foundation. It consists of distinguished friends and partners of the Munich Security Conference. Its members are appointed to a five-year term and meet at least once a year, usually on the sidelines of the annual Munich Security Conference.

Chair

Joe Kaeser
President and Chief Executive Officer, Siemens AG, Munich

Members

Paul Achleitner
Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Deutsche Bank AG, Frankfurt a.M.

Prince Turki Al Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud
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Oliver Bäte
Chief Executive Officer, Allianz SE, Munich

Carl Bildt
Former Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Sweden, Stockholm

Josep Borrell Fontelles
Vice President of the Commission and High Representative for Foreign Policy and Security Policy, European Union, Brussels

Thomas Enders
President, German Council on Foreign Relations, Berlin

Fu Ying
Chairperson, Center for International Strategy and Security, Tsinghua University; former Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China, Beijing

Herman Gref
Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Sberbank RF, Moscow

Jane Harman
Director, President and CEO, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, D.C.

Frank Haun
Chief Executive Officer, Krauss-Maffei Wegmann GmbH & Co. KG, Munich

Toomas Hendrik Ilves
Former President of the Republic of Estonia; Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University, Tallinn

John F. Kerry
Former Secretary of State of the United States of America, New Haven

Annette Kramp-Karrenbauer
Federal Minister of Defense, Federal Republic of Germany, Berlin

David Miliband
President and Chief Executive Officer, International Rescue Committee; former Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom, New York

Federica Mogherini
Former Vice President of the European Commission and High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, European Union, Brussels

Louise Mushikiwabo
Secretary General, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie; former Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and East African Community, Republic of Rwanda, Kigali

Wolfgang Reitzle
Chairman of the Board, Linde plc, Munich

Radoslaw Sikorski
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of National Defense of the Republic of Poland; Senior Fellow at Harvard University, Brussels
Javier Solana
Former NATO Secretary General, former High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union, Madrid

Alexander Soros
Deputy Chairman, Open Society Foundations, New York

James G. Stavridis
Admiral (ret.), former NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Operating Executive, Carlyle Group, Washington D.C.
American Friends of the MSC

The American Friends of the MSC aim to promote the activities of the Munich Security Conference in the United States of America. They serve as the MSC’s collaboration partner in activities in the United States and are incorporated as a 501(c)3 charitable organization. The American Friends are led, ad interim, by Fred Reinke as President and Jackson Janes as treasurer. They, like the other members of the board, are long-time friends and partners of the Munich Security Conference. The MSC’s CEO, Benedikt Franke, has been elected to serve as the Friends’ Secretary.

Officers of the Board

Fred W. Reinke (President)
Partner, Dentons, Washington DC

Jackson Janes (Treasurer)
President Emeritus, American Institute for Contemporary German Studies, Johns Hopkins University, Washington, DC

Benedikt Franke (Secretary)
Chief Executive Officer, Munich Security Conference Foundation, Munich

Members of the Board

John Emerson
Former Ambassador of the United States of America to the Federal Republic of Germany; Chairman, American Council on Germany, New York

Marc S. Firestone
Former President, External Affairs and General Counsel, Philip Morris International, Lausanne

Jane Harman
Director, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Wilson Center; Member of the Advisory Council, Munich Security Conference, Washington, DC

Stephen R. Heinz
President, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, New York

Paul Horvath
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Robert M. Kimmitt
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Fred H. Langhammer
Chairman and CEO Global Affairs, The Estee Lauder Companies Inc., New York

Joseph I. Lieberman
Senior Counsel, Kasowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman LLP, New York

Robert B. Zoellick
Former President of the World Bank; Senior Fellow, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University; Senior Counselor, Brunswick Group, Washington, DC

Julie Smith, Karen Donfried, Celeste Wallander, and Nick Burns had to step down after having been nominated to serve in the Joe Biden Administration.
Partnerships
Governmental Partners

Institutional Partners

The Munich Security Conference works with a number of institutional partners that support the MSC’s activities in the long term. A list of event and side event partners for individual activities is available on the MSC website.
Corporate Partners

Partner

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Associates

Allianz

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KMW

Siemens

T

Tennor

Main Sponsors

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goetzpartners

Google

Johnson & Johnson

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Merck

Microsoft

Open Society

Foundations

Raytheon Technologies

Rheinmetall Group
Facts and Figures

The fiscal year 2020/2021 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021) was a year of unprecedented challenges for the Munich Security Conference due to the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic and its implications. Like other organizations worldwide, MSC had to adjust event-related activities to the new situation and legal restrictions. Several events could not take place physically and had to be moved to the virtual space – often at short notice – or were postponed to the next year.

Despite the complex challenges posed by the pandemic, MSC hosted nearly 50 events (most of them being virtual formats), among them the globally acclaimed “Special Edition” of the Munich Security Conference, and published several reports. All these activities have underlined MSC’s political relevance and contributed to raise the organization’s global visibility and helped to strengthen the brand in the long term. Throughout the year 2021, MSC has once again demonstrated the organization’s capability to react to unforeseen circumstances in a flexible and agile manner and to deliver extraordinary results. Notwithstanding the challenging global environment, the Munich Security Conference continued to be extremely active and visible. Moreover, all public and private sector partners remained committed supporters of the Munich Security Conference in spite of the difficult global economic context. Nevertheless, the pandemic situation has affected MSC’s budget: Funding and contributions for events that had to be postponed were transferred to the next fiscal year resulting in a decline of revenues in 2021. MSC’s expenses for events, however, were also reduced in 2021. As the interest in MSC’s events and initiatives remains high, a significant increase in revenues is expected for 2022 once the Pandemic situation will allow physical events to take place again.

The pandemic and its effects have increased the relevance of strategic financial planning as well as effective cost management and controlling. Thus, MSC initiated an important organizational transformation process to strengthen and further develop the organization’s financial management. Supported by KPMG, the “Fit-for-Purpose” consulting project to optimize and modernize structures and processes in the finance area started in fall 2020 and was completed by summer 2021. Hence, important milestones for the further professionalization of the organization were reached, for instance by implementing technical tools to digitalize and automate accounting processes. Building up on digital tools and automated workflows, MSC will establish a controlling system to ensure better long-term and forward-looking financial planning, control, and management to improve the cost efficiency and cost recovery of MSC projects. Another key milestone was reached by setting up a separate public funding unit within the organization and by streamlining collaborative and cross-functional processes. These improvements will help MSC to better meet and maintain the requirements and legal guidelines of grant-funded initiatives. Moreover, they contribute to MSC’s aim to further broaden and grow its financial base with regard to public funding opportunities. Many of the developed improvements are still in the process of being implemented and will be continued throughout the following years. The transformation and change process launched in 2020 will further increase the organization’s efficiency and create a solid and future-proof foundation for the further development of the Munich Security Conference.

Figure 1
The MSC budget, 2020-2021*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019/2020</th>
<th>2020/2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenues</td>
<td>9,521,152 €</td>
<td>6,763,230 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures</td>
<td>9,761,118 €</td>
<td>6,891,535 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main conference, MSC Special Edition</td>
<td>3,947,440 €</td>
<td>532,872 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other projects and events</td>
<td>1,107,843 €</td>
<td>497,987 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overhead</td>
<td>4,705,835 €</td>
<td>5,860,676 €</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Discrepancies between revenues and expenditures result from differences between the MSC fiscal years and the calendar years.
Figure 2 | Composition of MSC income
- Private sector partners: 67%
- Non-governmental partners: 9%
- Governmental partners: 21%
- Other (donations, reimbursements): 4%

Figure 3 | Development of private sector contributions
- Other: 56%
- Defense industry: 9%
- Energy industry: 11%
- Tech industry: 24%

Figure 4 | Overhead
- Staff & consultants: 62%
- Administration: 28%
- Other: 10%
Notes
List of Abbreviations

CEO  Chief Executive Officer
CFO  Chief Financial Officer
COO  Chief Operating Officer
COP  Conference of the Parties
COVAX  Covid-19 Vaccines Global Access
COVID-19  Coronavirus Disease 2019
EU  European Union
ICT  Information and Communication Technology
IP  Internationale Politik
IRENA  International Renewable Energy Agency
MERICS  Mercator Institute for China Studies
MSB  Munich Security Brief
MSC  Munich Security Conference
MSR  Munich Security Report
MYL  Munich Young Leaders
NATO  North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO  Non-governmental organization
OECD  Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
SZ  Süddeutsche Zeitung
UK  United Kingdom
UN  United Nations
US  United States
WHO  World Health Organization

Image Sources

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Visit our app and social media channels
www.linktr.ee/MunSecConf
About the Munich Security Conference (MSC)
The Munich Security Conference is the world’s leading forum for debating international security policy. It operates under the roof of the independent MSC Foundation. In addition to its annual flagship conference, the MSC regularly convenes high-profile events around the world and publishes reports on specific security issues.

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