March 2021

Annual Report 2020
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreword</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reach and Visibility</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People and Organization</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnerships</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finances</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Road to Munich 2021</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imprint</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear Friends,

Our shared memory of 2020 is inevitably linked to a once-in-a-century pandemic. The challenges faced by the world due to the Covid-19 outbreak and its multifaceted implications for international stability and security – what we have termed a “polypandemic” – will continue to shape our future. Yet, perhaps even more than in previous years, 2020 also inspired us to take stock, to reflect, and to look toward the future.

In February 2020, more than 500 high-ranking international decision-makers were still able to attend the Munich Security Conference (MSC) 2020. As the pandemic swept the world, making in-person events impossible and rapidly changing all of our lives, we moved quickly to hosting virtual events instead of physical gatherings, taking advantage of the new possibilities unfolded by remote collaboration. Our 38 digital events in 2020 brought together more than 2,000 participants from over 83 countries. Moreover, the MSC once again framed the debate on key topics in international security: Four prominent publications started discussions from “Westlessness” to German foreign and security policy and the long-term effects of the “polypandemic” and generated global media attention. As a whole, we are delighted about the positive response to our work through 2020 – among others, the University of Pennsylvania’s latest “Global Go To Think Tank Index Report” ranked the MSC the “Best Think Tank Conference” in the world for the fifth time.
Internally, we made use of the months during which no in-person events could take place to further develop our organization. This included moving our Munich headquarters to the Amerikahaus, an internal restructuring, a strengthening of our think-tank activities, as well as a revamp of the MSC’s corporate design.

Our annual report provides an overview of our many activities in 2020 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 2021 will provide us with new opportunities and with much to talk about. The MSC will host key conversations as part of our “Road to Munich 2021” campaign, which we kicked off on February 19 – the original opening day of the MSC 2021 – by bringing together world leaders, including the first sitting US president to ever attend an MSC event, in a live broadcast reaching millions of viewers worldwide. My team and I continue to work toward an in-person MSC 2021 to take place as soon as pandemic developments permit.

I look forward to continuing the conversation with you and to seeing you again soon.
1 Events
MSC Events in 2020 at a Glance
February - June

- **February 10**
  MSC Kick-Off and Presentation of the Munich Security Report 2020
  Berlin

- **February 14-16**
  Munich Security Conference 2020
  Munich

- **April 7**
  MSC Health Security Roundtable
  Together We Are Less Alone – Germany, Europe, and Covid-19 | Online

- **April 21**
  MSC Brainstorming on Women in Foreign Policy I
  Online

- **April 27**
  MSC Digital Conversation (in cooperation with Atlantik-Brücke and Eurasia Group)
  A Transatlantic Conversation on the Geopolitical and Business Effects of Covid-19 | Online

- **April 30**
  MSC Digital Conversation (in cooperation with the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development)
  Crisis Within a Crisis: International Development, Security and Covid-19 | Online

- **May 5**
  MSC Digital Conversation
  Waging the Info War – Disinformation and Strategic Communication in Times of Covid-19 | Online
MSC EVENTS IN 2020 AT A GLANCE

- **May 7**
  - MSC Food Security Roundtable (in cooperation with the World Food Programme)
  - A Perfect Storm? Food Security and Covid-19 | Online

- **May 18**
  - MSC Parliamentary Conversation Germany-Spain (in cooperation with Real Instituto Elcano)
  - Online

- **May 22**
  - MSC Parliamentary Conversation Germany-Italy II (in cooperation with the Istituto Affari Internazionali)
  - Online

- **June 11**
  - MSC Parliamentary Conversation Germany-United States (in cooperation with the Atlantic Council)
  - Online

- **June 12**
  - MSC Parliamentary Conversation Germany-Italy III (in cooperation with the Istituto Affari Internazionali)
  - Online

- **June 15**
  - MSC Digital Conversation Russian-Transatlantic Relations in the Covid-19 Pandemic and Beyond | Online

- **June 29**
  - MSC Arctic Security Roundtable (in cooperation with the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs)
  - Pandemic Meltdown? An Update on Arctic Security and Covid-19 | Online
June - October

- **June 30**
  - MSC Digital Conversation (in cooperation with ONS)
  - Never Waste a Crisis – An Update on European Energy Security | Online

- **July 2**
  - MSC Digital Conversation

- **July 10**
  - MSC Parliamentary Conversation Germany-Italy IV (in cooperation with the Istituto Affari Internazionali)
  - Online

- **July 16**
  - MSC Digital Conversation (in cooperation with the Royal United Services Institute & Institut Montaigne)
  - Keeping P(e)ace: Lessons from Ongoing European Military Operations | Online

- **July 30**
  - MSC Digital Conversation
  - An Update on the Nuclear Sharing Debate | Online

- **August 31**
  - Digital ONS Summit 2020 (co-hosted by MSC and ONS)
  - A Game Changer – How Will the Energy Transition Transform the Geopolitics of Energy Security? | Online

- **September 8**
  - MSC Brainstorming with the Berlin Foreign Policy Community
  - Berlin

- **September 17**
  - MYL Around the World I (in cooperation with the Körber-Stiftung)
  - Zoom in on Asia | Online
MSC EVENTS IN 2020 AT A GLANCE

**September 22**
- MSC Digital Conversation (in cooperation with the Berlin Climate and Security Conference)
  Great Expectations – “Climate-Proofing” Europe’s Foreign and Security Policy | Online

**September 25**
- MSC Workshop on Nuclear Sharing I (in cooperation with the Hertie School)
  Online

**September 30**
- Transatlantic Conference on China (in cooperation with the German Federal Foreign Office & MERICS)
  Online

**October 1**
- Launch of the MSR Special Edition on German Foreign and Security Policy “Zeitenwende | Wendezeiten”
  Berlin

**October 9**
- MSC Parliamentary Conversation Germany-Italy V (in cooperation with the Istituto Affari Internazionali)
  Online

**October 20**
- MSC Transnational Security Roundtable (in cooperation with the Tana Forum)
  The Other Pandemic – Illicit Financial Flows and Covid-19 | Online

**October 26**
- MYL Around the World II (in cooperation with the Körber-Stiftung)
  Zoom in on Europe | Online
November - December

- **November 3**
  - MSC Health Security Roundtable
  - Making (Vaccine) Multilateralism Work – An Update on the Joint Fight Against Covid-19 | Online

- **November 9**
  - NATO 2030: Youth Summit
  - Online

- **November 17**
  - MYL Around the World III (in cooperation with the Körber-Stiftung)
  - Zoom in on the United States | Online

- **November 19**

- **December 2**
  - MSC Technology Roundtable
  - Peer-to-Peer Connection – European Priorities for Transatlantic Cooperation in the Digital Sphere | Online

- **December 7**
  - Munich Strategy Forum 2020 (in cooperation with the Aspen Strategy Group)
  - Online

- **December 16**
  - MSC Brainstorming at the German Bundestag
  - Online

- **December 21**
  - MSC Workshop on Nuclear Sharing II (in cooperation with the Hertie School)
  - Online
At the Munich Security Conference (MSC) 2020, held from February 14 to 16, hundreds of senior leaders and thinkers from politics, international organizations, business, and civil society gathered to discuss preeminent crises and future security challenges around the world. A focal point at the conference was the role of the Western alliance, liberal values, and multilateralism in the current geopolitical landscape.

The MSC 2020 welcomed numerous high-ranking international decision-makers, including more than 30 heads of state and government, as well as nearly 100 cabinet ministers. Among the participants were German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Federal Minister of Defense Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Kristalina Georgieva, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs Josep Borrell, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Patricia Espinosa Cantellano, and Facebook Founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg.

Discussions About the State of the “West”

The state of the West and a widespread perception of “Westlessness” were at the heart of the 56th MSC. The term, coined by the Munich Security Report 2020, refers to a divided and in some parts increasingly illiberal West that seems to be retreating from the global stage. While the term pervaded debates in Munich, differences quickly emerged: most importantly, the state of the West and the extent of its crisis were assessed somewhat differently on both sides of the Atlantic. While US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo claimed that Western liberal values were “winning” and relegated transatlantic disagreements to the level of tactics, his European counterparts seemed much more concerned. They voiced disquiet about the state of Western unity and, like French President Emmanuel Macron, attested a growing inability of the West to shape the international order in line with its values. By contrast, the size of the Chinese threat to the Western community was perceived as much more pronounced by US representatives than their European peers.
Many participants also voiced a desire to define the West not as a geographic entity but as a normative project of values. According to them, the Western idea is alive when and where actors commit to individual freedoms, democracy, and the rule of law. Understood in these terms, the West extends well beyond North America and Europe, and countries beyond the traditional West become important guardians of the “Western” idea. This point was also stressed by the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Korea and India, Kang Kyung-wha and Subrahmanyam Jaishankar. With more people living in non-Western than in Western democracies, Europe and the United States need to heavily invest in alliances that stretch beyond the traditional West.

**Multilateral and European Answers to Global Challenges**

The debates in Munich were permeated by strong concern about rising nationalist forces in many parts of the world. Mounting nationalism, many speakers argued, was at the core of the growing inability of the international community to tackle the most urgent international threats. The dire consequence, MSC Chairman Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger argued in his welcome remarks, is “an unacceptable state of global insecurity.” Since challenges like transnational organized crime or global epidemics like the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) can only be addressed in cooperation, a retreat to narrowly defined national interests puts everyone’s future at risk. Against this background, the debates in Munich included the urging of global leaders like Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of the Netherlands, to step up the defense of the rules-based international order, re-empower multilateral institutions that are able to effectuate compromise, and bolster global policies that put human dignity first.

Strengthening Europe’s role in the world was at the core of these discussions. On the main stage, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier powerfully made the case for the European project. And in the main hall, representatives of European member states and the European Union vividly discussed how Europe could more effectively protect its citizens and values at home and better project stability and liberal-democratic principles abroad. In this regard, Berlin’s role is key.
Climate change was another key topic at the conference. Deemed the “defining issue of our time” by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, climate change surfaced in almost every discussion. With the harmful effects increasingly visible and palpable everywhere in the world, the discussion about climate change has firmly entered the security community. The threat perception was also reflected in participants’ language – most visibly in the words of Jennifer Morgan, Executive Director of Greenpeace International, who branded fossil fuels as “weapons of mass destruction.” Yet, to many participants, efforts to tackle climate change remained the prime example of a multilateralism that is not delivering on the kind of changes people demand.

In addition to its more traditional formats, the MSC 2020 also featured new formats like dinner conversations and conversations with experts conducted in intimate settings. It also continued its successful series of interactive townhall discussions on topics ranging from the role of women in peace and security to updates on Palestine and on the new coronavirus. Furthermore, the debates of the main program were accompanied by numerous side events featuring several confidential MSC roundtables on a variety of MSC focal topics, including Cyber Security, Health Security, and Transnational Security.

Even at a time when multilateral cooperation is being challenged to an unprecedented degree, the conference underscored the importance of fostering diplomacy and dialogue. A case in point was an exchange between Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, who took the stage together to openly discuss the persisting animosity between their countries. Moreover, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, the MSC awarded the UN the Ewald von Kleist Award, which annually honors outstanding contributions to international peace and conflict management. By doing so, this award recognized the work of the UN as a clear testimony of the importance of multilateral action.
Agenda
Saturday, February 15
MSC 2020
The MSC 2020 in Figures

Figure 1
Selected MSC 2020 participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heads of state and government</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>58</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministers of foreign affairs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministers of defense</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heads of international organizations</td>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leading CEOs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The MSC 2020 brought together hundreds of senior leaders and thinkers from politics, international organizations, business, and civil society.

Figure 2
Official side events at the MSC, 2018-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The MSC works to continually improve the quality of side events and has instituted an application process to ensure quality over quantity.

Figure 3
Official bilateral meetings at the MSC, 2018-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>&gt;2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Selected Speakers at the MSC 2020

Thursday, February 13 – #MSC2020 Event

Helga Maria Schmid  
Secretary General, European External Action Service

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

Ban Ki-moon  
Former UN Secretary General; Deputy Chairman, The Elders Foundation, London

Jennifer Morgan  
Executive Director, Greenpeace International

Friday, February 14

Frank-Walter Steinmeier  
Federal President, Federal Republic of Germany

Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives, United States of America

Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister, Canada

Erna Solberg  
Prime Minister, Kingdom of Norway

Sebastian Kurz  
Federal Chancellor, Republic of Austria

Heiko Maas  
Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs, Federal Republic of Germany

Subrahmanyam Jaishankar  
Minister of External Affairs, Republic of India

Kang Kyung-Wha  
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea

Kristalina Georgieva  
Managing Director, International Monetary Fund

Margrethe Vestager  
Executive Vice President for a Europe Fit for the Digital Age, European Commission

Smail Chergui  
Commissioner for Peace and Security, African Union

Hossam Zaki  
Assistant Secretary General, League of Arab States
Saturday, February 15

Jens Stoltenberg
Secretary General,
North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Mike Pompeo
Secretary of State,
United States of America

Emmanuel Macron
President,
French Republic

Wang Yi
State Councilor and
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
People’s Republic of China

Mark Rutte
Prime Minister,
Kingdom of the Netherlands

Linda Reynolds
Minister for Defense,
Commonwealth of Australia

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director General,
World Health Organization

Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer
Federal Minister of Defense,
Federal Republic of Germany

Mohammad Javad Zarif
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Islamic Republic of Iran

Mark Zuckerberg
Founder and Chief Executive Officer,
Facebook

Motivechi Toshimitsu
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Japan

Sergey Lavrov
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Russian Federation

Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs,
State of Qatar

Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Republic of Turkey

Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Sultanate of Oman
Sunday, February 16

- Zuzana Čaputová, President, Slovak Republic
- Armin Laschet, Minister President, North Rhine-Westphalia
- Annalena Baerbock, Chairwoman, Alliance 90/The Greens Party; Member of the Committee on Economics and Energy, German Bundestag
- Jacek Czaputowicz, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Poland
- Luigi Di Maio, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italian Republic
- Věra Jourová, Vice President for Values and Transparency, European Commission
- Josep Borrell Fontelles, Vice President of the Commission and High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, European Union
- Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, French Republic
MSC Townhalls

**Townhall on Arms Control** hosted by the International Institute for Strategic Studies and the German Federal Foreign Office
The event, moderated by Bastian Giegerich (Director of Defense and Military Analysis, IISS), considered the potential impact of advanced guided weaponry and missile-related technologies and, ultimately, policy responses that could help sustain a more stable environment.

**Townhall on Women, Peace, and Security** hosted by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the German Federal Foreign Office
In this all-female discussion round moderated by Lyse Doucet (Chief International Correspondent, BBC), the audience heard from women with first-hand experience in countering violent extremism and discussed how this threat could best be tackled.

**Townhall on Food (In)Security** hosted by the MSC
Featuring David Beasley, Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), which was recently awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the townhall aimed to examine the dynamics behind the comeback of hunger in many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. The session focused on the interrelation between climate, food insecurity, and conflict and explored existing and emerging solutions.

**Townhall on the Future of Disinformation (off the record)** hosted by Google and Jigsaw
Jared Cohen (Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Jigsaw) and Kristie Cane-gallo (Vice President of Trust and Safety, Google) asked the audience about what could be on the agenda of the MSC 2021. Building on this, participants discussed the collaboration between technology companies and government authorities to tackle the spread of misleading and harmful information online, as well as ways to use information technologies for preventing crises.

**Townhall on the Coronavirus Outbreak** hosted by the MSC and the World Health Organization
This event discussed the – at the time even more so – great scientific unknowns of the coronavirus. Participants explored geopolitical implications of this dynamic globalized crisis that still dominates discussions worldwide today.
**Townhall on Ukraine** hosted by the MSC

Elected in 2019 with 73 percent of the vote, President Zelensky embarked on an ambitious reform program while also working to end the conflict in Eastern Ukraine. In a conversation with Christiane Amanpour (Anchor and Chief International Correspondent, CNN), President Zelensky explored Ukraine’s internal and external challenges, as well as his vision for his country’s future.

**Townhall on Artificial Intelligence** hosted by the US National Security Commission on AI

This townhall, moderated by Kersti Kaljulaid (President, Republic of Estonia), aimed to break down the current state of AI which represents both promise and peril. The townhall thus not only addressed the wide scope for positive action that comes along with AI-enabled technology, but also the high degree of concern about its consequences, particularly for national security purposes.

**Townhall on the Future of Diplomacy** hosted by the MSC and the Harvard Kennedy School

In light of the rise in transnational threats – from terrorism to pandemics, nuclear proliferation, and the detrimental impact of cyber aggression – this townhall discussed the promise of diplomacy and its reach with invited guests. Participants agreed that diplomacy needs to be faster, more responsive, and anticipatory.

**Townhall on Palestine** hosted by the MSC

While President Trump’s plan for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was summarily rejected by Palestinians, the Arab League, and the Organization for Islamic Cooperation, the ensuing discussion raised fundamental questions about the future of the Palestinian territories and its people. Daniel Levy (President, US/Middle East Project) discussed this with Mohammad Shtayyeh (Prime Minister, Palestinian Authority) and other distinguished participants who tried to identify possible next steps.
Selected Side Events

Outreach Events

#MSC2020 event “Apocalypse Now? – Climate and Security”
hosted by the MSC and Junge DGAP
The #MSC2020 event explored how climate change threatens human security across the world and what can be done to counter climate change and its fallout. From wildfires in Australia to disappearing islands and the melting Arctic, the changing climate is causing devastating environmental degradation across the world. What once seemed like a scenario for a far-away future has now become an existential threat as climate change is causing irreversible harm to the environment and the people that live in it. Climate change thus dramatically underlines that nowadays, security is about much more than just preventing war: rising sea levels, heat waves, and storms threaten the livelihoods of millions of people, with many calling climate change the biggest threat to mankind. Answers to climate change will have to be as diverse as the threats that it causes. A broad alliance of actors – from students to civil society organizations to military officials – is hence advocating for decisive climate action on mitigation and adaption.

MSC Innovation Night
The MSC Innovation Night brought together decision-makers and innovative thinkers from around the world in order to foster networks and help overcome systemic hurdles to modernization and adaptation in key security environments. The objective is to learn from each other, promote understanding for context-specific challenges and approaches, and transfer proven best practices and expertise from the private to the public sector. Taking advantage of the concentrated presence of senior decision-makers, experts, and start-ups on the eve of the MSC 2020, the idea is to establish an active and equal dialogue with institutional innovators and the broader start-up ecosystem. The event is hosted by the MSC, the Cyber Innovation Hub of the Bundeswehr, and Siemens AG.
MSC Concert
The MSC and the Munich Chamber Orchestra traditionally invite members of the Munich public to join them for a concert on the eve of the opening of the annual conference. In 2020, the concert was held in the Prinzregenten-theater with over 1,000 guests and included a discussion on climate change with John F. Kerry and Greenpeace Executive Director Jennifer Morgan.

Security and Literature Series
The Security and Literature Series, inaugurated at the MSC 2017, focuses on the relationship shared by literature and politics, examining the means by which literature can gauge security and stability in society. The series spanned three evenings, commencing on the eve of the MSC, and ending on the Saturday of the conference. Speakers included Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, writer Kim Thúy, and Major General Joseph Nzabamwi-ta, Secretary General of the National Intelligence and Security Services of the Republic of Rwanda.

MSC Side Events

CEO Lunch
As part of a long-standing MSC tradition in the run-up to the annual flagship conference, MSC Chairman Wolfgang Ischinger assembles an exclusive group of private sector leaders to discuss current security challenges in an intimate, off-the-record setting. Traditionally, high-ranking speakers and personalities from politics and academia join the luncheon to share their insights with the assembled industry leaders. At the MSC 2020, the CEO Lunch, hosted in cooperation with the Federation of German Industries and supported by Vontobel, addressed the US election and the transatlantic relationship and played host to high-ranking representatives from the US Congressional Delegation.
MSC Thematic Dinners
True to its ambition to provide its guests with the richest possible conference experience, the MSC introduced a new event format for the opening dinners on Friday evening. Hosted by world-leading institutions, more than 30 MSC Thematic Dinners were dedicated to creating an intimate space for discussions on today’s most pressing security challenges and took place at various exclusive locations across Munich. Topics covered included climate and health security, democratic resilience, the future of the transatlantic partnership, and traditional questions of security and defense policy.

Defending Democracy in the Digital Age
hosted by Microsoft and the Alliance for Securing Democracy
High-ranking representatives from government, industry, and civil society came together to discuss the threat of cyberattacks on democratic elections and to launch the novel Paris Call Community on Countering Election Interference. As part of the Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace, the initiative, co-funded by Microsoft, the Alliance for Securing Democracy, and the German Marshall Fund, unites and connects relevant stakeholders across sectors to protect elections from interference.

From Ebola to Coronavirus: How Can World Leaders Boost Global Health Security?
hosted by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation hosted a private high-level dinner to discuss the response of the international community to global health security threats. The spread of the novel coronavirus and the ongoing fight against Ebola provide a stark reminder to world leaders and citizens that deadly diseases do not respect borders. Guests at the dinner discussed the possibilities for collective action to prevent the next health crisis.

NATO Policy Planners’ Dinner: Future Geopolitical Challenges, the Transatlantic Community and NATO’s Political and Strategic Role
hosted by the Policy Planning Staff of the German Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs and NATO’s Policy Planners Unit at the Office of the Secretary General
At this exclusive dinner policy experts and select practitioners from NATO Allies shared their thoughts on the future of the Transatlantic Alliance in light of a rapidly changing security environment as well as on emerging challenges and opportunities of the Alliance in 2030 and beyond.
**Munich Security Cup**
The Munich Security Cup takes place annually on Saturday night during the conference, providing another opportunity for MSC participants to interact in an informal setting. In keeping with the MSC’s mission of promoting peace, understanding, and exchange, teams from various countries participating in the MSC face off against each other in a peaceful contest of skill and wit – ping pong diplomacy at its very best.

**MSC Conversations**
For the first time, the MSC set aside a space at the main conference dedicated to MSC Conversations, an informal discussion format where eminent intellectuals, elder leaders, and experts could interact with MSC participants in a relaxed setting. Speakers included, among others, German Federal Defense Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, President of Microsoft Brad Smith, President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian, former CIA Director General David Petraeus, Nobel Prize laureate Joseph E. Stiglitz as well as eminent academics and thinkers such as Francis Fukuyama, Stephen Greenblatt, Ivan Krastev, Thomas Kleine-Brockhoff, Graham Allison, David E. Sanger, and Joseph S. Nye. The MSC also hosted a Breakfast with *The New York Times* as part of its Conversations series.

**Chairman’s Dinner**
On the final evening of the main conference, Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger traditionally hosts the MSC’s Chairman’s Dinner to discuss key takeaways from the conference weekend.
Partner Events

Each year, the MSC offers the unique opportunity for leading institutions to host an official side event at the MSC in February. Many renowned think tanks, government institutions, civil society organizations, and partners from the private sector have made use of this platform, enjoying direct access to the MSC’s attendees of decision-makers and key experts. From traditional defense and security policy topics to cyber security, technology, and human and health security, the MSC is committed to tackling today’s most prominent challenges. The MSC welcomes side events as enriching elements of the conference program and actively supports their organization and implementation through a dedicated team. A comprehensive list of side events at the MSC 2020 is available on the MSC website.

Report Launches

The MSC serves as the ideal platform for launching reports in an interactive setting within the framework of the annual conference. As in previous years, many trusted partner organizations made use of this opportunity at the MSC 2020. Bringing together high-ranking experts from all sectors of international security and foreign policy, it provides a unique format to present and discuss new findings with decision-makers and stakeholders from around the world.

Transatlantic Challenges and Public Opinion

hosted by the Körber-Stiftung and the Pew Research Center

This event contributed to a better understanding of the road ahead for transatlantic relations. As governments grapple with a new political era, how are the challenges ahead reflected in public opinion? The discussion was informed by data gathered for the latest edition of The Berlin Pulse and Pew data on public opinion in Europe and the US towards NATO, which was released with the Munich Security Report 2020.

Allied Military Presence in the Baltics: Deterrent or Provocation?

hosted by the International Centre for Defence and Security (ICDS)

The ICDS launched its latest publication, “Capability and Resolve: Defence, Security and Stability in the Baltic Region,” which focuses on the implications of the present Allied force posture for deterrence and defense.
The World Climate and Security Report 2020 hosted by the International Military Council on Climate & Security (IMCCS)
The IMCCS is a group of senior military leaders, security experts, and security institutions across the globe dedicated to anticipating, analyzing, and addressing the security risks of a changing climate. It consists of The Center for Climate and Security (CCS), the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs (IRIS), the Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS) and the Netherlands Institute of International Relations (Clingendael). This special event introduced the inaugural World Climate and Security Report 2020, the first report of its kind intended to inform future climate and security policy and analysis. The report is an international call to action, a clarion call to prepare for and prevent the security risks of climate change in a spirit of collective international cooperation.

Integrating European Defence: EU-NATO-UK and the Potential of Central Europe hosted by GLOBSEC
GLOBSEC is a global think tank based in Bratislava committed to enhancing security, prosperity and sustainability in Europe and throughout the world. The session launched the GLOBSEC European Security Initiative Report, which lays out a pathway toward achieving a new level of European defense competence and Europeanization of NATO that will strengthen the Atlantic Alliance. It addressed questions such as: What is a feasible and desired level of ambition for European defense integration? What measures can be taken to deliver tangible results?

Russia Beyond 2024: A Scenario Exercise hosted by the Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS) and the Regional Office for Cooperation and Peace in Europe of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (ROCPE)
“Russia Beyond 2024” discussed the results of a scenario exercise co-organized by ZOiS and ROCPE. The results of the exercise were presented for the first time at this breakfast meeting.
The Military Balance 2020
hosted by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)
The Military Balance is the annual assessment of the military capabilities and defense economics of 171 countries worldwide. It is an essential resource for those involved in security policymaking, analysis, and research.

hosted by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime
At this roundtable discussion, the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime introduced its multi-dimensional Organized Crime Index. Based on two years of data collection and analysis, it measures the scope and scale of criminal markets, the influence of criminal actors as well as resilience to organized crime threats, providing a tool to develop strategies to effectively counter organized crime.

Regional Security

The Evolution of Violence Across North and West Africa
hosted by the OECD Sahel and West Africa Club (SWAC)
This event mapped the evolution of violence across North and West Africa, with a particular focus on Mali, Lake Chad, and Libya. Participants discussed a new OECD/SWAC study that identifies which regions have experienced the highest levels of political insecurity and whether conflicts tend to cluster or spread, potentially across national borders, based on a new spatial indicator of political violence assessing the long-term evolution of conflicts.

Lost in Globalization? Europe’s Place in an Asian Century
hosted by the Zeit-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius
This lunch traditionally singles out a key challenge for the coming year. While Europe and America shaped the 19th and 20th centuries, the 21st century has often been termed the Asian century. Guests discussed how Europe can deal with increasing confrontation between China and the US and how major Asian actors assess the cooperation with Europe as well as the opportunities and risks presented by the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative.
Bridging Troubled Waters: Alleviating Conflict Potential in the South China Sea hosted by the NATO Centre of Excellence for Operations in Confined and Shallow Waters and the Center for China and Globalization. Bringing together the Center for China and Globalization and NATO representatives, this event combined two perspectives on the South China Sea situation in order to better understand each actor’s motivation and explore the possibilities for cooperation and conflict prevention.

Cyber Security

Tabletop Exercise – From Bytes to Bombs: A Live Cyber Wargame of an Unfolding Geopolitical Crisis hosted by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, CrowdStrike, and the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. This Cyber Crisis Simulation side event simulated an attack against the Western financial sector from an aggressor nation state. Participants played the role of senior leaders in Western countries responding to this threat, with a focus on attribution, deterrence, and holding states accountable through consequences for aggressive behavior through offensive cyber activity and active measures, as reiterated in the September 2019 commitment of 27 states including the US, most European countries, Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, and South Korea.

Human Security

The Rise of Hatred and Extremism: Is Democracy at Risk? hosted by the American Jewish Committee. Joined by key experts, the American Jewish Committee as the leading Jewish advocacy organization discussed the rise of extremism and antisemitism in Europe and the United States which threaten the resilience of liberal democracies and pluralistic norms. The session focused on developing common responses to these antidemocratic developments to protect the values shared across the Atlantic.

Women’s Empowerment

No Peace Without Feminism. Why Every State Needs a Feminist Foreign Policy hosted by the Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy (CFFP). This panel discussion, featuring opening remarks from MSC Vice-Chairman Ambassador Boris Ruge and State Minister Niels Annen, discussed...
the impact of the UNSCR 1325 and the role of women and their expertise in foreign and security policy. In an effort to increase the representation of women in a still male-dominated field, the CFFP officially launched their women experts database “WoX” as a first step toward a more feminist and equal foreign policy.

Climate Security

**Global Security in a Warming World** hosted by the UN Foundation
Featuring John F. Kerry, this event explored the ways in which climate change will exacerbate security challenges confronting the US, the EU, and the world. The discussion focused on the Climate in Foreign Policy Project (CFPP), a nonpartisan effort that seeks to integrate climate change into broader discussions of foreign policy and to preserve and expand diplomatic engagement on climate change at the highest levels.

Arms Control

**Virtual Reality Exercise** hosted by Global Zero
Global Zero introduced its “Crisis Decision-Making: A Virtual Reality Experience” at the MSC 2020. In this experience, participants were briefed on a nuclear weapons crisis, had the opportunity to interact with advisors, and determined how to respond. This highly immersive and interactive VR program offered a revealing, credible, first-hand experience in how a decision to launch nuclear weapons might unfold in a fast-paced crisis under current US strategy and protocol.

**America’s Allies and Nuclear Proliferation**
hosted by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs
This off-the-record breakfast discussion provided an opportunity to discuss the renewed threat of nuclear proliferation. Amidst rising questions about the US nuclear and security guarantee to America’s allies in Europe and Asia, the event addressed the future of allied security arrangements. The Chicago Council on Global Affairs has created a high-level task force of former senior officials from the US, Europe, and Asia to examine this new challenge and develop policy options to forestall further proliferation. This session brought together task force members for an introductory meeting.
The Ewald von Kleist Award

About 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 2020
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.

The United Nations (UN) was awarded the Ewald von Kleist Award at the 56th Munich Security Conference. The UN was honored for its outstanding contribution to international peace and security for 75 years, the second time the Kleist Award was presented to an organization rather than an individual. In addition to Ambassador Jean-Pierre Lacroix, UN Under Secretary General for Peace Operations, who accepted the prize on behalf of the UN, several high-ranking representatives of different parts of the UN family came together, including Michèle Coninsx, Assistant Secretary General and Executive Director of the UN Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, Hanna Serwaa Tetteh, Special Representative of the Secretary General to the African Union, Renata Dwan, Director of the Institute for Disarmament Research, and Geir Pedersen, Special Envoy of the Secretary General on Syria.
Ewald von Kleist Award recipients, 2009-2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Angela Merkel</td>
<td>Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
<td>accepted by Ambassador Jean-Pierre Lacroix, UN Under Secretary General for Peace Operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Alexis Tsipras</td>
<td>Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zoran Zaev</td>
<td>Prime Minister of the Republic of North Macedonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>John McCain</td>
<td>US Senator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Joachim Gauck</td>
<td>Federal President of the Federal Republic of Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Laurent Fabius</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>Former Federal Chancellor 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</td>
<td>Former National Security Advisor of the United States of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Joseph Lieberman</td>
<td>Former US Senator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Javier Solana</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>Former US Secretary of State</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The John McCain Dissertation Award

About John McCain
Senator John McCain was a companion, partner, and friend of the MSC for more than four decades. After first attending the conference as a young Navy officer, he eventually came to lead the US Congressional Delegation to the MSC in his role as senator for more than 20 years. As such he played a key role in establishing the conference as an important forum for the transatlantic community. ”No one defended the transatlantic alliance at its best – nor confronted it at its worst – more vigorously than him,” commemorates MSC Chairman Wolfgang Ischinger.

The John McCain Dissertation Award
In times when the transatlantic bond can no longer be taken for granted, the MSC created the annual John McCain Dissertation Award for academic excellence. Together with our partners, the Hochschule für Politik München/ TUM School of Governance, the Geschwister-Scholl-Institute for Political Science at LMU Munich, the University of the Federal Armed Forces, as well as the McCain Institute, we strive to honor John McCain’s legacy. The John McCain Dissertation Award is awarded annually to up to two outstanding doctoral dissertations dealing with an aspect of transatlantic relations. It consists of several components, including participation in MSC events and activities, and a prize sum of up to 10,000 euros.

The John McCain Dissertation Award 2020 was awarded to two laureates: Balazs Martonffy is a fellow at the International Center for Security and Leadership and lecturer and assistant professor at the National University of Public Service in Budapest. His doctoral thesis “Analysis Paralysis: Threat Perception and Incohesion in NATO, 1960-1980” analyzes why alliances find it more difficult to cooperate in peacetime. Oscar Jonsson is director of the Stockholm Free World Forum. His doctoral thesis analytically dissects the Russian understanding of war.

“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
Cyber Security and Technology Series

About the Series
Technological change is continually transforming the way countries develop, interact, and pursue their security interests at home and abroad. Accordingly, cyber security in particular has become a critical item on the international security agenda in recent years. The growing attention this topic commands is reflected in discussions about norms in the cyber realm, concerns about Big Data and privacy, as well as the security of critical infrastructure. Simultaneously, technological developments, such as artificial intelligence and new types of weapons systems, are having untold security implications – in conventional warfare, the cyber realm, as well as outer space. A key aim of the Cyber Security & Technology Series is bridging the worlds of technology, politics, and the security sector by including in its events selected decision-makers at the highest levels of government, academia, militaries, the private sector, and civil society.

Activities in 2020

MSC Cyber Security Roundtable
Between 5G and G-Zero: The Age of Tech Geopolitics
Munich, February 14, 2020
During the Munich Security Conference 2020, the MSC hosted a Cyber Security Roundtable convening high-ranking government representatives and leading figures from the tech industry and academia to discuss the strategic significance and the risks of an increasingly politicized technology sector.

Participants unanimously identified Europe’s lagging behind the US and China in technological innovation as a challenge. However, they also warned against defeatism – Europe must make use of its own strengths. As participants stressed, this means affirming European values in the digital arena, such as data security and the protection of privacy, and making them assets in international competition. As a concrete measure to strengthen European competitiveness, fostering “European champions” based on the model of a “digital Airbus” was discussed. The growing influence of China and the danger that not only China but also other countries could “decouple” from the global technology market were other key topics.
MSC Technology Roundtable
Peer-to-Peer Connection – Priorities for Transatlantic Cooperation in the Digital Sphere | Online, December 2, 2020

On December 2, 2020, the MSC hosted a virtual roundtable titled “Peer-to-Peer Connection – Priorities for Transatlantic Cooperation in the Digital Sphere.” High-ranking decision-makers and experts from the European Commission, NATO, national governments, business, international organizations, NGOs, and think tanks discussed which priorities should guide the cooperation between the newly elected administration and the European Union in the digital space. Katrin Suder, Chair of the Digital Council of the German Federal Government, Robert O. Work, Vice Chair of the National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence and former US Deputy Secretary of Defense, spoke at the event, which was moderated by MSC Vice-Chairman Ambassador Boris Ruge.

The outcome of the US presidential election opens the opportunity for a common transatlantic technology agenda. After four years with little progress in transatlantic cooperation on technology and digital policy, common priorities exist in numerous areas: From the establishment of a transatlantic consultation mechanism to increased cooperation in research, development, and standardization, to joint training and exchange of technology talent. There is also agreement on the fundamental need for a value-based implementation of digitization. At the same time, the prerequisites for a technology partnership “on an equal footing” must be created – for the EU, this means in particular the creation of the European digital single market – and democratic partners beyond the transatlantic partnership must be involved.

During the Technology Roundtable, the foundation of the MSC Security Innovation Board, co-chaired by the CEO of Siemens Energy, Christian Bruch, was announced, which will further deepen the MSC’s commitment in this field.

MSC Digital Conversation
Disinformation and Strategic Communication in Times of Covid-19 | Online, May 5, 2020

On May 5, 2020, the MSC hosted a discussion event on disinformation and strategic communication. Around 25 European and US experts from politics, international organizations, and academia participated in the virtual debate. The MSC thereby continued its series of Digital Conversations on the Covid-19 pandemic and at the same time picked up on previous discussions on disinformation within its Cyber Security and Technology Series.
In view of rampant misinformation about the coronavirus and about the measures taken by governments worldwide, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs of the EU, Josep Borrell, declared in March that a “global battle of narratives” was unfolding. The challenge for Brussels and European capitals in this “battle” is “communicating EU action and the added value of the Union to a skeptical (and in parts hostile) audience,” said Wolfgang Ischinger and Boris Ruge in the run-up to the event. “What is needed is a truly strategic communications effort.”

The participants agreed on the grave threat posed by government-engineered disinformation during the pandemic. These operations, participants explained, pursue two main objectives: on the one hand, to portray their respective governments as more capable crisis managers than for instance the US or European states; on the other hand, to flood the information landscape with a large amount of dubious claims in order to sow doubts about the facts of the pandemic. It was noted with concern that authoritarian states are increasingly pursuing similar goals in their information policies and are ostensibly learning from each other’s tactics.
Defense and Security Policy Series

About the Series
Since the turn of the millennium, the global security environment has been in great flux. The increasingly multipolar world is characterized by the upsurge of state actors like Russia and China as well as by the alarming number of non-state armed groups and weak states around the globe. These developments have given rise to intense debates on the present and future global security architecture.

In this context, the MSC’s traditional focus on issues of European defense and transatlantic security cooperation remains as relevant as ever. Beyond advocating for discussions on deeper, more impactful defense and security cooperation in Europe, the MSC advances the international debate on a wide array of defense and security policy issues, including nuclear and conventional arms control, counterterrorism, transnational organized crime, intelligence cooperation, planning and procurement, and strategic foresight. Events in the context of the Defense and Security Policy Series are aimed at selected decision-makers at the highest levels of government, militaries, private sector, academia, and civil society. The future of European defense has traditionally been one of the MSC’s major topics. Since the launch of the MSC European Defence Series in 2013, the importance of the topic has been further emphasized. Facing times of greater insecurity, European countries are looking for ways to find better common responses. Thus far though, the magnitude and importance of the issues is not matched by the spending, commitment, and state of defense planning. The MSC regularly convenes summits and roundtables to reinvigorate and advance the discussion at critical junctures in the international calendar.

Activities in 2020

MSC European Defence Roundtable (co-hosted by IISS)
The Future Defence of Europe – Heavy Metal Meets New Technology
Munich, February 15, 2020

As the Atlantic Alliance enters its eighth decade, it faces mounting challenges on its eastern flank. Russia’s foreign policy has become increasingly assertive in the past years, paired with an ambitious military reform
program at home, which allowed the Kremlin to achieve considerable qualitative improvements in readiness and procurement. Moreover, beyond military hardware, Russia has proven to possess crucial gray zone capabilities, whether in the form of cyber, space or (dis)information operations. This portfolio of both military and non-military means indicates that Russia will likely pose a significant threat to Europe throughout the next decade. Accordingly, European defense planners are pondering how to address blatant capability gaps in their own military posture in order to muster a credible deterrent against possible Russian aggression in the future. In case of a NATO collective-defense contingency, some of these shortcomings would be covered presumably by contributions from the United States. But European decision-makers have expressed doubts about Washington’s future military commitment and are looking for ways to bolster European nations’ military posture. This is all the more important against the backdrop of a rapidly deteriorating global security environment, marked by rising great-power competition between the United States and China. This roundtable discussed what kind of capabilities are actually needed to build a continued and credible European deterrent against external threats.

MSC Digital Conversation

Russian-Transatlantic Relations in the Covid-19-Pandemic and Beyond | Online, June 15, 2020

On June 15, 2020, the MSC hosted a Digital Conversation between high-level political, economic, and academic experts from Europe, Russia, and the United States. In a small, confidential discussion, the participants exchanged their views on the Russian-transatlantic relationship in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond. Bob Zoellick, former President of the World Bank, Kirill Dmitriev, Chief Executive Officer of the Russian Direct Investment Fund, and Nathalie Tocci, Director of the Istituto Affari Internazionali, delivered short introductory remarks.

The event focused on key challenges as well as opportunities for deepening cooperation. As a starting point for improving trust and fostering mutual understanding, the value of people-to-people dialogue was highlighted. Additionally, the discussion touched upon the broader strategic implications of an increasingly bipolar world order – for Europe, Russia, and the United States, as well as their relations among each other.
Together with Institut Montaigne and the Royal United Services Institute, the MSC brought together senior decision-makers and experts from France, Germany, and the United Kingdom to discuss ongoing joint European military operations. With this high-level event, the three institutions continued their series of joint roundtables that seeks to foster dialogue on European defense and security challenges, particularly focusing on the evolving roles of France, Germany, and the United Kingdom. This virtual roundtable followed the inaugural event at the MSC 2019 and the European Defence Roundtable 2019 in London. Designed as a small, confidential format, the event brought together a distinguished group of representatives from governments and parliaments, the military, and academia. Tobias Ellwood, Chairman of the Select Committee on Defense of the House of Commons, and Wolfgang Hellmich, Chairman of the Defense Committee of the German Bundestag, opened the discussion with brief remarks on the challenges and prospects for European military operations and their implications for defense and security cooperation.

Against the backdrop of a deteriorating global security environment and multifold crises in the European neighborhood, participants stressed the need to further strengthen cooperation in European defense capabilities as well as in joint peacekeeping missions and crisis response operations. In this context, the importance of close ties between the UK and the EU post-Brexit was highlighted, as was the crucial role of further fostering NATO-EU cooperation. While some participants argued that important steps of progress were achieved, for example regarding deeper defense cooperation between France and Germany, the majority addressed persisting deficits in European security and defense cooperation. The discussion acknowledged shared European security interests and an increasing willingness in politics and the military to collaborate more deeply – but also addressed the lack of a common strategic outlook and a joint European threat assessment as well as deficits at the operational level. Given rising security risks, for instance in the Sahel region, and quickly evolving regional and international security dynamics, the need for a more united European response, particularly in the field of peace operations, was a key takeaway of the event.
MSC Digital Conversation
An Update on the Nuclear Sharing Debate | Online, July 30, 2020

On July 30, 2020, the MSC hosted a small, confidential discussion, during which senior policy-makers, business leaders, and analysts exchanged views on the debate about Germany’s future participation in the nuclear sharing arrangement of NATO. Michèle Flournoy, Co-Founder and Managing Partner of WestExec Advisors and former US Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, and Katja Keul, Member of the Defense Committee of the German Bundestag for the Alliance 90/The Greens Parliamentary Group, started the event with introductory remarks. The conversation was moderated by MSC Chairman Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger.

Against the backdrop of the upcoming acquisition of new dual-capable aircraft systems for the German Bundeswehr, a controversial debate about Germany’s future participation in NATO’s nuclear sharing arrangement resurfaced this spring. At the digital event, many participants agreed that a potential German opt-out would have far-reaching consequences not only for German but also for European security. Participants discussed possible implications for NATO and the transatlantic partnership. While there were conflicting views whether the status quo of the nuclear sharing arrangement in Europe was still adequate, many participants highlighted the cascading effects of a potential unilateral German withdrawal on other NATO allies. Further, it was pointed out that the German debate should take into account concerns and views of Germany’s neighbors. Some participants underlined the need for NATO to critically reevaluate and update the alliance’s nuclear posture considering the rapidly evolving security environment as well as recent technological developments. Some participants voiced concern over the Russian nuclear posture and highlighted the need to engage in arms control negotiations as well as to develop ideas to further the European arms control agenda.
NATO 2030: Youth Summit | Online, November 9, 2020

In the framework of the NATO 2030 initiative, more than 900 young leaders from over 70 countries came together virtually in the first NATO Youth Summit, organized by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and the MSC, to discuss NATO’s future with the alliance’s leaders.

Seeking to chart a future vision for the transatlantic alliance in 2030, NATO, together with the MSC, invited emerging young leaders under 35. In a highly interactive format, they examined, together with heads of state and government and ministers from various NATO countries, the multitude of challenges that the alliance faces. The participants could choose and switch between three channels covering the parallel sessions and take part in the discussions through live polls.

Along the lines of the three pillars of the NATO 2030 initiative – keeping NATO strong militarily, making it stronger politically and taking a more global approach – the diverse set of participants engaged with NATO’s Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and Allied leaders such as the President of the Republic of Estonia, Kersti Kaljulaid, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau, and Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany Angela Merkel, among others.

During the discussions, the young leaders offered a concerned outlook of how the world would look like in 2030: fragmented, polarized, and divided. They pointed out that the alliance is facing a multitude of serious challenges ranging from climate change over disruptive technologies to geopolitical tensions and democratic backsliding. To address these polycrises, NATO will have to become – as one participant put it – a “creative super adopter.”

Echoing these observations, Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger, Chairman of the MSC, recalled that after the fall of the Berlin Wall – 31 years ago from the day of the summit – peace seemed at hand. World leaders thought they could move toward mutual security, but since then dramatic changes have created extreme turbulences in the world, as became clear during the summit. Today we are facing global challenges that often defy the traditional understanding of security and require inclusive solutions. Such non-traditional challenges – like non-state actors, disinformation, and climate change – became a major focus of the discussions. Asked what they think will be the biggest risks for NATO in 2030, 56 percent of the
participants answered in a live poll “cyberattacks, misinformation campaigns, and climate-related disruptions.”

Climate change in particular featured heavily throughout the event both as a threat to NATO’s operations and as a challenge the alliance has to address as a major climate actor itself. Participants suggested that NATO should encourage member states to adapt their climate policies and introduce joint standards for climate protection. Joint action like that could also serve to produce a “stronger political alliance” answered 48 percent of the participants in another live poll.

To develop solutions to these pressing problems, the Secretary General announced the establishment of the NATO 2030 Young Leaders, a group of 14 emerging leaders from across the Alliance who will provide input to inform his recommendations for NATO 2030. The participants were chosen from a diverse set of backgrounds, including politics, military, academia, private industry, and non-governmental organizations, to represent the diversity of the alliance and to address the multi-sectoral challenges that it faces.

With this summit, the MSC co-hosted its fourth high-level NATO event. Following previous “NATO Engages” events in Brussels in July 2018, Washington, DC in April 2019, and London in December 2019, this was the first ever NATO Youth Summit and part of the MSC’s commitment to provide young leaders a platform, including through the Munich Young Leaders Program, the Junior Ambassadors Program, and the John McCain Dissertation Award.
Economic and Resource Security Series

About the Series
In an increasingly interdependent world, state and non-state actors rely on stable flows of resources and a resilient global economy. Accordingly, competition and cooperation over the use of these resources as well as the provision of distribution networks and infrastructure constitute decisive security factors. Today, the demands of a growing world population make the sustainable and economical use of these resources an imperative security challenge for policy-makers around the world. Some regions, such as Central Asia or the Arctic, may well turn into new hot spots of energy security and thus pose new geostrategic challenges. The MSC contributes to these debates on economic and resource security through a series of events aimed at selected decision-makers at the highest levels of government, academia, militaries, the private sector, and civil society.

Activities in 2020

MSC Energy Security Roundtable
Staring Down the Barrel – Energy Security, Geopolitics, and Transatlantic Cohesion | Munich, February 14, 2020
This Roundtable was co-hosted by the ONS Foundation, a world-leading organization facilitating discussion and collaboration on energy, technology, and innovation. In the Middle East, tensions around the Strait of Hormuz and attacks on Saudi Arabian oil facilities are only the tip of the iceberg of a volatile energy security situation. Against this background, European ambitions to diversify the continent’s energy supply are an important part of the equation. European initiatives are exploring new alternatives in the Eastern Mediterranean and Central Asia. In addition, the US is making efforts to market its shale gas to Europe. Combined with the new “geopolitical” European Commission’s focus on renewables, the continent’s energy strategy seems at a crossroads. How will new projects affect Europe’s energy ties to existing partners, especially in the Middle East? Speculation already abounds about the future of the United States’ role as a security actor in the Middle East, not least because of its increasing domestic energy production. Could a decline in demand for energy supplies from the Middle East also negatively impact the overall stability of the region – with repercussions for Europe?
MSC Digital Conversation (in cooperation with Atlantik-Brücke and Eurasia Group) | A Transatlantic Conversation on the Geopolitical and Business Effects of Covid-19 | Online, April 27, 2020

On 27 April, 2020, the MSC, in collaboration with Atlantik-Brücke and Eurasia Group, hosted a virtual event titled “A Transatlantic Conversation on the Geopolitical and Business Effects of Covid-19.” Sigmar Gabriel, Chairman ofAtlantik-Brücke, as well as Ian Bremmer, President of Eurasia Group, and Wolfgang Ischinger, Chairman of the MSC, discussed the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic on global trade and the international order. Selected participants from politics, think tanks, business, and the media participated in this exclusive exchange. The discussion evolved around the immediate responses to the pandemic and the current measures of crisis management in Europe and the United States. Referring to the title of the Munich Security Report 2020, Ian Bremmer observed that “you could not have a better example of ‘Westlessness’ than the response we are not seeing globally, from the US and Europe, to the largest crisis we have had since World War II.”

The role of Europe was a recurring theme throughout the discussion as participants assessed how the continent was addressing the pandemic. Expressing cautious optimism, Wolfgang Ischinger reasoned that if done right, “this crisis can be a wake-up call and help create a European Union that will be more capable of being a credible international actor” – provided that member states managed to overcome their current urge to address the pandemic first and foremost at the national level.

MSC Arctic Security Roundtable (in cooperation with the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs)

Pandemic Meltdown? An Update on Arctic Security and Covid-19 | Online, June 29, 2020

In cooperation with the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, the MSC brought together senior decision-makers and experts to discuss the direct and indirect consequences of the coronavirus crisis for security, continuing the MSC’s Digital Conversations on the Covid-19 pandemic and picking up on its Arctic Security Series. As part of these activities, the MSC has organized four Arctic Security Roundtables on the sidelines of the main conference, as well as roundtables in Washington, DC (2017), Reykjavik (2017), Stavanger (2018), and Helsinki (2019). Speakers at the small and confidential roundtable included Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway Ine Eriksen Søreide, who discussed the geopolitical and econom-
Participants stressed the many areas of highly successful cooperation between the actors active in the Arctic, continuing also during the coronavirus crisis. At the same time, they pointed to the increasing risk of a spill-over of the currently rising global geopolitical tensions to the region. Thus, it becomes even more important to keep various channels for dialogue open and to deepen them further. Countries that are not represented in the Arctic Council, but active in the region, should be closely integrated. Beyond the geopolitical and economic consequences of Covid-19, several participants highlighted the risk that the current focus on the immediate effects of the coronavirus crisis may distract attention from the threat resulting from climate change that had massive implications for the Arctic and beyond. In this context, the crisis can serve as a “golden opportunity” to combine the economic recovery with sustainable, “green” policies.

MSC Digital Conversation (in cooperation with ONS)
Never Waste a Crisis – An Update on European Energy Security | Online, June 30, 2020

On June 30, 2020, the MSC continued its Digital Conversations on the Covid-19 pandemic and at the same time picked up on previous discussions within its dedicated Energy Security Series. In a small, confidential discussion, senior policy-makers, business leaders, civil society representatives, and analysts exchanged views on the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic for the energy transition in Europe, green recovery options, and the future of fossil fuels. Francesco La Camera, Director General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), delivered a keynote statement at the beginning of the event. MSC Vice-Chairman Ambassador Boris Ruge moderated the event. Participants emphasized the need to seize the opportunities arising from the current crisis to push ahead with transition, and some highlighted the importance of developments in other parts of the world, Asia among others. The geopolitical implications of the effort to shift the global energy mix toward renewables were discussed, as some participants drew attention to the risks for Europe arising from the possible destabilization of states dependent on the export of fossil fuels. Furthermore, the centrality of investments in technologies and infrastructure was highlighted. Some participants pointed to
the crucial role of hydrogen for the decarbonization of the energy system in Europe and noted the need to develop a hydrogen economy in Europe and beyond. The issue of “stranded assets” in fossil fuel industries was also touched upon.

Digital ONS Summit 2020 (co-hosted by the MSC and ONS)
A Game Changer – How Will the Energy Transition Transform the Geopolitics of Energy Security? | Online, August 31, 2020

On August 31, 2020, the MSC, in cooperation with the Offshore Northern Seas Foundation (ONS), hosted a high-level digital event. Set up as a confidential format, a distinguished and diverse group of representatives from governments, international and nongovernmental organizations, academia, and industry discussed the European energy transition and potential geopolitical shifts accompanying the changing global energy mix.

Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency, Francesco La Camera, Director General of the International Renewable Energy Agency, Jennifer Morgan, Executive Director of Greenpeace International, Meghan O’Sullivan, Director of the Geopolitics of Energy Project at the Harvard Kennedy School, and Christian Rynning-Tønnesen, President and Chief Executive Officer of Statkraft AS, gave introductory statements. The event was moderated by Ambassador Boris Ruge, Vice-Chairman of the MSC, and Amos Hochstein, Executive Vice President of Tellurian Inc.

While participants acknowledged the substantial steps Europe was taking toward a green energy system, they differed in their assessment concerning the prospects for a global energy transition. Some highlighted the differences in political priorities as well as in financial and technological capabilities of countries in different regions of the world. There were also diverging views on whether policy-makers and markets were moving fast enough toward green energy systems. There was agreement that, regardless of the great value of being a forerunner on the path toward decarbonized energy systems, Europe alone would only have a limited impact on mitigating climate change, unless other countries and industries changed the course as well.

Concerning geopolitics, two aspects were discussed: the potential implications of the shift toward green energy resources and the impact of geopolitics on the pace and path of a global energy transition. On the first dimension, some experts argued that new geopolitical tensions would arise as the producers’ shares in the global oil markets change substantially.
However, participants agreed that conflicts around new technologies in the energy sector would become more relevant. On the second dimension, participants pointed to the implications of the further weakening of multilateralism and rising protectionism in the wake of Covid-19 that could also affect climate change approaches.

**MSC Digital Conversation (in cooperation with the Berlin Climate and Security Conference)**

**Great Expectations – “Climate-Proofing” Europe’s Foreign and Security Policy | Online, September 22, 2020**

As a part of the Berlin Climate and Security Conference, the MSC brought together key decision-makers and experts for a virtual discussion on “climate-proofing” Europe’s foreign and security policy. On September 22, 2020, the MSC hosted a Digital Conversation at the Berlin Climate and Security Conference. John F. Kerry, former US Secretary of State, and German Minister of State Niels Annen were among the participants along with other senior decision-makers and experts from government, business, international organizations, NGOs, and the think-tank community. The group explored how climate security can be mainstreamed into European foreign and security policy and what other countries – close partners as well as particularly affected regions – expect from the European Union, and Germany in particular, as climate security actors.

During the discussion, the importance of leadership on climate action was emphasized. It was argued that the US had abandoned its leadership role in this area. Instead, Europe had taken the lead, which was welcomed by participants. However, it was also stressed that Europe could not go it alone. Bringing the US and other key actors in the G20 to the table was considered necessary for comprehensive action on climate and security. Other participants further highlighted the need to include trade and economic policies in a comprehensive approach to climate security. They also stressed that the private sector was undergoing a paradigm shift as it recognized an increasing economic and social need to change towards greener and more sustainable business models.

The discussion underlined that access and trust issues during the Covid-19 crisis had shown the need for inclusive approaches to security. Including local governance actors, in particular women and youth leadership, was considered essential to tackle non-traditional security risks like climate change.

---

Niels Annen, Minister of State, German Federal Foreign Office, Berlin Climate and Security Conference, September 22, 2020

“Nothing we are doing today matches the level of the threat that we all face and the challenge that we are currently having.”

John F. Kerry, Distinguished Fellow for Global Affairs at the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs at Yale University; former Secretary of State of the United States of America, Berlin Climate and Security Conference, September 22, 2020

“Focusing merely on the security dimension of climate will not meet the challenge. The EU Foreign and Security Policy must also contribute to accelerated implementation of the Paris Agreement.”

---

ECONOMIC AND RESOURCE SECURITY SERIES
Human Security Series

About the Series
Over the past decades, security threats have become ever more complex. Accordingly, the traditional notion of national and international security had to be broadened to reflect the multitude of threats to human livelihood. The Human Security Series brings together decision-makers to advance discussions and help develop strategies on how to mitigate threats to human livelihood posed by non-traditional challenges, such as climate change, infectious diseases, or human rights violations. As these challenges become more pronounced, the strategic community needs to ready itself for a rise in conflicts. After all, human hardship caused by non-traditional threats is not only significant in and of itself, but also often at the core of violent conflict.

Effective responses to these challenges must build on a cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach. To that end, the MSC promotes discussions and collaboration between the strategic community and development officials and experts, NGO leaders, international organizations, the research community, as well as the private sector.

Placing an emphasis on issues of global security, the MSC’s Human Security Series focuses on three areas: Sustaining Peace, Environmental Security, and Health Security. The relevance of the latter has become particularly apparent in 2020. Against the background of a global pandemic, the MSC held a number of digital events concerning the security implications of Covid-19 and a range of related topical issues. In this regard, the MSC built on its long tradition of activities on health security challenges. From the high-level discussions at its main conference and events conducted as part of its Human Security Series to regular coverage in the annual Munich Security Report: The MSC’s activities over the past several years have been centrally concerned with the multitude of threats to human lives and livelihoods posed by non-traditional challenges such as highly infectious diseases. Aimed at promoting international dialogue and collaboration in response to the current polyvandemic, these discussions addressed a variety of immediate and secondary security challenges in relation to the coronavirus.
Activities in 2020

MSC Health Security Roundtable
Yes, a Problem From Hell: Managing Dangerous Outbreaks Amid Geopolitical Disorder | Munich, February 14, 2020
Violent insecurity – along with community resistance and lack of trust, weak health systems, malgovernance, and disinformation – obstructs the response to the DRC Ebola outbreak. That story – the “new normal” – is part of a widening disorder across many geopolitically complex conflicts prone to dangerous infectious outbreaks: e.g., Congo, Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria, Venezuela, and South Sudan. This roundtable examined concrete innovations and identified new ways for health, security, and other sectors to work together to achieve safe access for delivery of services, deter violence against the health sector, protect providers and the community, bring forward real-time granular intelligence, build local trust and confidence, improve communications, and permit clinical trials of essential vaccines and therapies. Solutions require expertise in public health, diplomacy, security, private industry, anthropology, and media technology.

MSC Health Security Roundtable
Together We Are Less Alone – Germany, Europe, and Covid-19 | Online, April 7, 2020
On 7 April, the MSC, in collaboration with the Wellcome Trust, hosted a virtual Health Security Roundtable, the first in a series of MSC events on the Covid-19 pandemic and its geopolitical implications. Lothar Wieler, President of the Robert Koch Institute, discussed perspectives for crisis management with high-ranking representatives from the German government, NGOs, and research institutions as well as leading pharmaceutical and digital companies such as Merck, Johnson & Johnson, and Palantir. In an intimate atmosphere, under Chatham House Rule, the discussion included, among other topics, the roles Germany and the European Union could play in further containing the Covid-19 pandemic.

“The need the best possible and transparent coordination. The more high-quality information we trustfully share worldwide, the faster medication can be approved. This crisis must lead to thinking and acting more globally.”

Lothar Wieler, President of the Robert Koch Institute, MSC Health Security Roundtable, April 7, 2020

On 7 April, the MSC, in collaboration with the Wellcome Trust, hosted a virtual Health Security Roundtable, the first in a series of MSC events on the Covid-19 pandemic and its geopolitical implications. Lothar Wieler, President of the Robert Koch Institute, discussed perspectives for crisis management with high-ranking representatives from the German government, NGOs, and research institutions as well as leading pharmaceutical and digital companies such as Merck, Johnson & Johnson, and Palantir. In an intimate atmosphere, under Chatham House Rule, the discussion included, among other topics, the roles Germany and the European Union could play in further containing the Covid-19 pandemic.

The roundtable discussion focused in particular on how to improve international cooperation in the development and distribution of a Covid-19 vaccine and other drugs. There was agreement among the participants that information from studies should be shared quickly and in a spirit of trust. At the same time, the capacities for the mass production of vaccines had to be established and the effective distribution of vaccines had to be
ensured. One participant warned that without coordination on the international level, there would be comparable competition for vaccines as was the case for masks and other medical products earlier in the pandemic. The discussion emphasized that besides maintaining the free movement of goods, an agreement on the future distribution of vaccines was necessary. This should be done based on identifying at-risk groups – such as medical staff – rather than countries. However, participants also warned against placing too much hope in vaccines alone. Instead, the public health care systems were considered crucial for containing the pandemic and should receive support.

MSC Digital Conversation (in cooperation with the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development)
Crisis Within a Crisis: International Development, Security and Covid-19 | Online, April 30, 2020

On April 30, 2020, the MSC, in collaboration with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, hosted a Digital Conversation titled “Crisis Within a Crisis: International Development, Security and Covid-19.” Gerd Müller, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, discussed the effects of Covid-19 on the European neighborhood with high-ranking representatives from international organizations, the media, NGOs, and research institutions.

During the discussion, it was emphasized that because of Covid-19 Germany and Europe are currently looking inwards, but that the pandemic could cause even more devastating damage outside the European Union. The southern European neighborhood was at particular risk. Without sufficient medical equipment and social security, most states in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Sahel were hardly in a position to cope with a pandemic and its consequences. This would also have an impact on Europe. A central element of the debate was the concern of many participants about sufficient financial support for developing and emerging economies to overcome the crisis in both the short and long term. Many of the countries affected were already in a precarious economic, political, and social situation before the pandemic, and this situation is now worsening in a cascade-mode. The discussion emphasized that many regions already felt the global economic effects of the pandemic ahead of the virus itself. At the same time, participants stressed the importance of harvesting the transformative potential of the crisis and shaping the responses to the pandemic and its economic consequences in an ecological and social way.

“In the face of Covid-19, solidarity with the European neighborhood is an imperative of humanity as well as it is in our very own interest. The consequences of further destabilization of these regions will also be felt in Europe.”

Europe has a leading role to play in such a transformation – also to compensate for the increasing withdrawal of the US from its global leadership role. The discussion also underlined the need to deal proactively with the impending debt crisis in developing countries. Participants stressed that it was crucial that the public in Germany and Europe be made aware of the transnational effects of Covid-19 and the need for a response based on solidarity.

**MSC Food Security Roundtable**

**A Perfect Storm? Food Security and Covid-19 | Online, May 7, 2020**

On May 7, 2020, the MSC, in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), hosted an MSC Digital Conversation titled “A Perfect Storm? – Food Security and Covid-19.” David Beasley, Executive Director of the WFP, set out the dramatic effects of Covid-19 on food security worldwide as well as priorities for action, with high-ranking representatives from governments, international organizations, the private sector, media, NGOs, and academia.

During the discussion, participants highlighted that while Covid-19 itself posed a grave and immediate threat to human lives, the secondary and tertiary effects of the pandemic might prove to be even more devastating. Food insecurity was one of the biggest concerns in this regard: Driven by a combination of factors – including conflict, climate change, and economic downturns – food insecurity was already on the rise pre-Covid-19. While approximately 821 million people worldwide go to bed hungry every night, 135 million people are currently facing severe levels of hunger. Unfortunately, this trend may accelerate rapidly unless immediate action is taken now: By the end of 2020, the number of acutely food insecure people was expected to double to 265 million due to the pandemic and its knock-on effects in some of the world’s most fragile countries. Participants stressed that due to economic deterioration, disrupted production and supply chains, price spikes, and loss of livelihood and remittances, the Covid-19 health pandemic could evolve to a severe hunger pandemic with the number of fatalities caused by starvation far higher than deaths by the virus itself. As of May 2020, 300,000 people worldwide had died of the virus. WFP supports 100 million people with food assistance, out of which 30 million depend solely on the organization for their survival. WFP estimated that 300,000 people could die every day from hunger if adequate funding was not received, or if supply chains for this severely endangered group were to break down for the length of three months.
As Covid-19 exposed pre-existing weaknesses of the international food system, conflict-torn regions were especially vulnerable to the resulting consequences: hunger, social instability, and political unrest. Further, participants discussed the informality of many affected countries' labor markets and underlined the importance of tailoring the crisis response accordingly – inter alia by involving actors invested in local communities. In this context, access to markets for small-holder farmers is also critical. Participants agreed that links between food insecurity and conflict must be kept in mind and urgent action taken to prevent an imminent hunger crisis from spinning out of control as the pandemic unfolded.

MSC Health Security Roundtable
Making (Vaccine) Multilateralism Work – An Update on the Joint Fight Against Covid-19 | Online, November 3, 2020

On November 3, 2020, the MSC hosted a virtual roundtable titled “Making (Vaccine) Multilateralism Work – An Update on the Joint Fight against Covid-19.” Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO) spoke at the event. He and other senior decision-makers and experts from government, business, international organizations, NGOs, and the think-tank community, explored how a fair and equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines can be ensured through multilateral means.

“There is no vaccine for poverty, hunger, inequality, or misguided nationalism. [...] This pandemic is a severe public health crisis, but it’s more than that. It’s a test of character. The pandemic is asking us profound questions about the kind of world we want.”

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director General, MSC Health Security Roundtable, November 3, 2020
Transnational Security Series

About the Series
The MSC’s Transnational Security Series seeks to examine threats – cross-border, generally non-military threats to national and international security – that have become a byproduct of the globalized world. Trafficking in drugs, arms, and people, nuclear proliferation, the spread of terrorism and piracy; and the associated illicit financial flows are only some of the issues that straddle international and domestic security policy. Unlike traditional “hard” security challenges, many transnational security threats have not yet elicited the same concerted international efforts to tackle them. Given the fact that transnational security threats know no borders, efforts to address them effectively require close exchange and cooperation between states and relevant non-state actors alike.

Activities in 2020

MSC Transnational Security Roundtable
Trading Violence: Conflict Economies in the Sahel and Beyond | Munich, February 15, 2020
Following previous editions in Minsk, Munich, Abuja, and Cairo, the Transnational Security Roundtable at the MSC 2020 placed particular emphasis on illicit flows in the Sahel region and beyond. Economic life often takes on an informal character during conflict. Although this can help civilians to cope with a diverse set of pressures, so-called conflict economies can also incentivize the continuation of conflict, creating spoilers to peace. Moderated by MSC Vice-Chairman Ambassador Boris Ruge, the off-the-record format brought together 30 high-ranking participants from policy, military, intelligence, and academia for a frank and action-oriented debate, reflecting the fact that effective efforts require close cooperation between states, international organizations, and relevant non-state actors alike.
MSC Transnational Security Roundtable
The Other Pandemic – Illicit Financial Flows and Covid-19
Online, October 20, 2020

On October 20, the MSC hosted a virtual roundtable in cooperation with PMI Impact at the 9th Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa. Ghada Fathi Waly, Executive Director of the UNODC, and Angel Gurría, Secretary-General of the OECD, were among the senior decision-makers and experts from government, business, international organizations, NGOs, and the think-tank community who examined the threats emanating from illicit flows in Africa amid the pandemic and explored possible solutions.

During the discussion, participants agreed that the Covid-19 pandemic both exacerbated the threat of illicit financial flows for Africa and underlined the urgency of taking action. As Covid-19 spread across the world, massive funds were being mobilized to meet urgent health security needs and to tackle economic, financial, and humanitarian crises ensuing from the pandemic, while oversight amid this crisis proved challenging. This opened up vast opportunities for fraud and corruption that threatened to divert vital resources from their intended goals and strengthen inter alia criminal actors, who took advantage of the situation, e.g. by distributing fraudulent personal protective equipment. A new report by the Economist Intelligence Unit on illicit trade and Covid-19 provided important details on the impact of illicit flows on the immediate crisis response and gave an urgent warning that, in the long term, the pandemic might further strengthen criminal structures.

Even before the crisis, many countries in Africa were already under immense fiscal strain due to illicit financial flows. Angel Gurría said in this context: “The amount of money lost through illicit financial flows is staggering. It is estimated to reach at least USD 40 billion annually on the African continent.” These illicit financial flows outstrip Foreign Direct Investment and Official Development Assistance combined, thereby undermining sustainable development and security on the continent that is already suffering from low domestic resources. One participant highlighted that the tax-to-GDP-ratio in 26 African countries was only 17 percent on average, compared to 34 percent in OECD countries.
Munich Young Leaders Around the World

About the Munich Young Leaders
The MSC and the Körber-Stiftung want to give promising young professionals and future decision-makers the opportunity to participate in important political debates, introduce innovative ideas on the international scene, and strengthen their personal and professional networks. To further this goal, the MSC and the Körber-Stiftung have been organizing the Munich Young Leaders (MYL) program since 2009, bringing together young leaders in the fields of foreign and security policy.

In addition to the annual gathering of the new MYL cohort at the Munich Security Conference, the MSC and the Körber-Stiftung invite all MYL to Annual Meetings, which are organized in cooperation with an alumni group from a host country. So far, these gatherings have been held in Washington, DC, Moscow, Berlin, Kyiv, Warsaw, Rabat, Madrid, and New York. At the Annual Meetings, alumni meet with senior decision-makers from the host country to discuss foreign and security policy in light of the specific regional context and to share experiences and recommendations.

Activities in 2020

MYL Around the World I
Zoom in on Asia | Online, September 17, 2020
On September 17, 2020, the MSC and the Körber-Stiftung hosted a virtual discussion event with alumni of their joint MYL program. Around 50 alumni from around the world discussed various security challenges and pathways toward enhancing multilateral cooperation in Asia. This first digital meeting of the MYL alumni was kicked off with a keynote address by Australian Minister of Defense Linda Reynolds, who explained the changing security situation in the Indo-Pacific and the prospects for regional cooperation in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis, rising US-Chinese tensions, and technological advances and then answered questions from participants. For the second half of the event, participants formed breakout sessions to discuss three key topics in more depth: US-China relations and their impact on the broader Asian security environment, the events surrounding the restriction of civil rights in Hong Kong and the European response, and the growing importance of India as a partner and driver of
regional cooperation. By way of conclusion, the event also gave the alumni the opportunity to talk in an informal and personal setting, thus cultivating long-standing relationships around the world.

**MYL Around the World II**  
*Zoom in on Europe | Online, October 26, 2020*

On October 26, 2020, the MSC and the Körber-Stiftung hosted the second virtual discussion event with alumni of their joint MYL program. More than 60 MYL alumni came together to discuss the various security challenges Europe is facing and which are accelerated by the current pandemic. Together with guest speaker Margrethe Vestager, Executive Vice President for A Europe Fit for the Digital Age, they discussed the role of Europe in the current, drastically changing world. The second part of the event was structured into three breakout sessions where participants could discuss one of three topics in more detail: seizing the (post-)pandemic moment for a stronger union, Europe’s stance on migration and the concept of “flexible solidarity,” and the role of the EU in neighboring conflicts.

**MYL Around the World III**  
*Zoom in on the United States | Online, November 17, 2020*

During the third virtual “MYL Around on the World” event, held on November 17, 2020, the MYL alumni joined guest speaker Chris Murphy, US Senator from Connecticut and Member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. The talk revolved around the post-election political situation in the US and the foreign policy challenges facing the incoming Biden administration. Accordingly, the dialogue between Senator Murphy and the alumni covered a wide range of issues from climate change to anti-corruption – as well as regional issues from the Balkans to the Middle East and Southeast Asia. With a view to the future of US foreign policy as a whole, the discussion revealed that the Biden administration will need to deal with domestic challenges in order to again take a credible leading role on the world stage – while also committing to strengthening international partnerships and alliances.

“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
Munich Strategy Forum

About the Munich Strategy Forum
The Munich Strategy Forum (MSF) – the most exclusive MSC format – traditionally takes place as in a private off-the-record setting in the Bavarian Alps. It recalls the spirit of the MSC’s founding years in the 1960s and 1970s, when a few dozen senior leaders came together for an informal exchange of ideas. Thus, it revives the spirit of the old “Wehrkundetagung,” which was founded as a discussion amongst equals.

In addition to helping to promote a strategic debate on foreign and security policy choices and the development of strategic priorities for Germany and Europe, the MSF also aims to provide input and guidance for all our activities and programs throughout the year. The MSF champions strategic debate on choices about the most pressing current and future foreign and security policy challenges, with a special focus on the transatlantic and Euro-Atlantic contexts. It brings together current and former decision-makers from politics and the private sector as well as high-level representatives and thought-leaders from academia and think tanks.

The Munich Strategy Forum 2020
Since 2015, the Munich Strategy Forum has taken place at Schloss Elmau in Bavaria. In light of the current Covid-19 situation, the MSF 2020 was held virtually. A selected group of experts, among them Arancha González Laya, Carl Bildt, Niels Annen, Nathalie Tocci, Nicholas Burns, Zanny Minton Beddoes, Kersti Kaljulaid, Timothy Garton Ash, Arnaud Danjean, and many more distinguished participants discussed in an off-the-record setting what the EU and the US should do to further foster the transatlantic relationship and adapt it to new circumstances.

The MSC is thankful to the Aspen Strategy Group for its support and partnership, helping to make the first virtual edition of the Munich Strategy Forum a success.
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.

With a view 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 a joint project. 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 Brainstormings

About MSC Brainstormings
With its brainstormings, the MSC aims to strengthen the strategic exchange with different parts of the foreign and security policy community, to gain thematic input for the main conference as well as other MSC formats, and to inform relevant stakeholders about planned activities. MSC Brainstormings take place in an informal and confidential setting. They bring together a small group of representatives from governments, parliaments, the military, international organizations, think tanks, the media, the private sector or civil society.

Activities in 2020

Following the MSC 2020, the MSC hosted two digital brainstorming sessions, on April 21 and May 7, with members of the German Bundestag and other relevant actors to discuss ways to strengthen female participation in MSC activities and other foreign and security policy conferences. Further increasing the number of female participants in its annual conference and other formats has been a key MSC priority for years. In the run-up to the MSC 2020, the MSC hosted a brainstorming session in cooperation with the Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy (CFFP), Women in International Security (WIIS), and other organizations to discuss ways to increase the diversity of foreign and security policy conferences.

Continuing this dialogue, the MSC hosted two additional events, on September 8 and December 16, with members of the German Bundestag and representatives from the NGO and think-tank community. Building on the comprehensive efforts made in the context of the MSC 2020, key focus areas included invitation management, assignment of speaker roles, thematic design of the agenda as well as logistical conditions.
2 Publications
MSC Publications in 2020

The year 2020 marked a turning point for the MSC’s publishing activities. Ever since the first Munich Security Report (MSR) was launched in 2015, the MSC’s publications portfolio has continued to evolve and has included a diverse range of cooperative formats with national and international partner organizations. Building on the success of past projects – in addition to its role as a conversation starter for the main conference, the MSR has become a go-to resource for security professionals and the interested public around the world – the MSC decided to further expand and deepen its offering in the realm of publications.

In the first half of 2020, the flagship MSR 2020, published in February under the title “Westlessness” and setting the tone for the MSC 2020, was followed by a special Munich Security Brief titled “The Enabling Power: Germany’s European Imperative,” published on the occasion of Germany’s EU Council Presidency and providing a new, concise format. Throughout the summer of 2020, the MSC used the months during which no events could take place due to the Covid-19 pandemic to further strengthen its think-tank activities, expand its publications portfolio, and comprehensively revamp its corporate design. The second half of the year saw the consecutive publication of two MSR special editions: “Zeitenwende | Wendezwischen,” published in October, offers a wide-ranging set of analyses and new ideas on German foreign and security policy. “Polypandemic,” published in November, takes a global view at the Covid-19 pandemic’s implications for development, stability, and conflict.

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 backgrounders, 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.
Refreshing the MSC’s Corporate Design

The MSC’s previous corporate design was developed 11 years ago. While it has since then been continuously updated, by 2020, the time had come to make more profound changes – including reflecting a more current and fitting image of the MSC and its overall vision. Following a call for tender and consultations with a jury of experts, a unanimous decision was made in favor of the design agency MetaDesign GmbH, based in Berlin. With work commencing in June 2020 and after three months of intensive strategizing, a wide-ranging creative process, and cross-platform implementation, the MSC first unveiled its new corporate design and logo at the launch of the Munich Security Report special edition “Zeitenwende | Wendezüge” on October 1, 2020. In addition to improved readability of our font types and greater clarity of our graphics, we have also slightly adapted our logo to emphasize the MSC’s core idea of dialogue, debate, and interaction even more strongly.

Evolution of the MSC Logo

Find out more:
Munich Security Report 2020: Westlessness

Is the world becoming less Western? Is the West itself becoming less Western, too? What does it mean for the world if the West leaves the stage to others? What could a joint Western strategy for an era of great power competition look like? The Munich Security Report (MSR) 2020 sheds light on the phenomenon that it refers to as “Westlessness” – a widespread feeling of uneasiness and restlessness in the face of increasing uncertainty about the enduring purpose of the West. A multitude of security challenges seem to have become inseparable from what some describe as the decay of the Western project. What is more, Western societies and governments appear to have lost a common understanding of what it even means to be part of the West. Perhaps the most important strategic challenge for transatlantic partners is whether the West can come up with a joint strategy for a new era of great-power competition.

The report analyzes current security policy developments in China, Europe, Russia, and the United States, and furthermore examines regional dynamics in the Mediterranean, the Middle East, and South Asia. In addition, it provides insights into the issues of space and climate security, as well as into the threats arising from new technologies and increasingly transnational right-wing extremism.

The report features insightful analyses, data, maps, and infographics, shedding light on some of the most critical challenges to international security. As has become a tradition for MSC publications, the MSR 2020 includes a range of exclusive and unpublished materials. For this edition, the MSC collaborated with renowned partner institutions, including the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), the Brookings Institution, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, the International Crisis Group, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), the Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS), McKinsey & Company, the Pew Research Center, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), and the Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS).
“[...] most important for us is to face the challenges, not ignore them, speak about them and look for solutions because we see this crisis as well in the Security Council, in NATO, and in Europe.”

Anne-Marie Descôtes, Ambassador of France to Germany, MSC Kick-off 2020, February 10, 2020

“I am absolutely convinced that the decline of the West is not only not going to happen but to the contrary, I think we will emerge from this period of time stronger, more united, and more capable than ever before.”

James L. Jones, General (ret.), former National Security Advisor to the President of the United States of America and former Supreme Allied Commander Europe, NATO, MSC Kick-off 2020, February 10, 2020

The MSC Kick-off 2020

“What does it mean for the world if the West leaves the stage to others?” With this overarching question, Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger, MSC Chairman, presented the MSR 2020 at the traditional MSC kick-off event on February 10 at the Bavarian State Representation in Berlin to more than 300 guests from Berlin’s political, diplomatic, business, media, and think-tank communities.

Lead author Tobias Bunde, who presented the report at the kick-off event, described a West that is struck by fundamental uncertainty. As the liberal interpretation of the West meets growing resistance from an illiberal and nationalistic “anti-West,” the question of what precisely holds the West together has become a matter of fierce debate. As a result of growing disunity and uncertainty, Bunde argued, “the West seems to have lost its ambition to shape global politics.” The implications are felt in many regions of the world, among them the Middle East and the Southern Mediterranean, two regions that are also covered in the MSR 2020. The report presentation was followed by a high-level panel discussion on the crisis of the West and its future role in the world. The panel featured Christoph Heusgen, Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations and former National Security Advisor to Chancellor Angela Merkel; Anne-Marie Descôtes, French Ambassador to Germany; and James L. Jones, former National Security Advisor to US President Barack Obama, and was moderated by Anna Sauerbrey, member of the Editorial Board of Der Tagesspiegel. The audience was less pessimistic about Western states’ abilities to shape their own future. In a live poll taken during the event, 71 percent of respondents, asked whether the decline of the West was inevitable, said “no.” This optimistic view was also palpable among panelists, even though they agreed that for the West to emerge from this challenging period stronger and more united than before, it would have to do more than just analyze the paradigm shift in the strategic landscape. Western states – European ones in particular – have to start acting upon those challenges. The panel debate also reflected some disagreement about the utility of the idea of the West. Efforts to strengthen human rights, liberal freedoms, and the rules-based global order more generally did not need to be linked to the West, argued Christoph Heusgen. Yet, in order to reinvigorate liberal principles and the role of the West in the world, Western countries first have to defend and promote them at home. Growing populism, participants argued, cannot be confronted without a concerted effort to restore societal cohesion and fight inequality within the West itself.
The debate kicked off in Berlin continued a few days later in Munich: At the MSC 2020 which some observers describe as a “family meeting” of the Western community, discussions about the state and future of the West occupied a prominent role.

**Media Response, Reach, and Relevance: “Westlessness” as a Defining Term in the International Security Debate**

The MSR lead theme of “Westlessness” was widely picked up in national and international media, generating considerable attention and debate around the MSC 2020 and beyond. Some critics regarded the choice of “Westlessness” as a motto for an annual conference that has been referred to as a “family meeting of the West” as some sort of heresy. For others, however, the term adequately captured the zeitgeist of the West’s identity crisis: Not only was the world becoming less Western, the West itself was becoming less Western, too. Many commentators embraced the MSC term as it provided a fitting description of a broader phenomenon beyond the most recent transatlantic disagreements.

The *New Statesman* pointed to a shift in the global balance of power, calling “Westlessness” “a subject that looked set to define 2020 before the pandemic hit.” On its release date, the MSR 2020 was featured by *POLITICO* in its Brussels and London Playbooks. The questions posed by “Westlessness” formed the basis of MSC 2020 expectation previews from key media outlets.

Germany’s leading evening news format Tagesthemen opened its coverage of the MSC 2020 with “Westleness.” In statements and discussions on the main stage and beyond, the term quickly spawned diverging interpretations by leaders from the West and beyond. In his MSC 2020 keynote, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo declared that “the West is winning,” which was met with skepticism by many leaders. By contrast, French President Emmanuel Macron attested a growing inability of the West to shape the international order in line with its values.

Digital communication around the MSR 2020, with a focus on the overarching “Westleness” narrative, achieved more than 384,000 impressions on Twitter alone and counted thousands of engagements within the first few weeks of publication. In addition to the report’s presentation at the Bundespressekonferenz, multiple interviews and background briefings, distribution at the MSC 2020 and thousands of direct downloads from the MSC website, the report was shared with thousands of stakeholders in the MSC.
network across the world, with further promotional activities in coordina-
tion with national and international partner organizations.

“This year’s conference reflected the division and unease that have plagued
the NATO alliance in the era of Donald Trump and Brexit. The stated theme
was ‘Westlessness,’ a sense that close allies were unmoored and uncompeti-
tive in a world both more diverse and more autocratic.”25

“Last week was a reminder of a subject that looked set to define 2020 before
the pandemic hit: Westlessness.”26
Jeremy Cliffe, New Statesman, September 8, 2020

“The Munich Security Conference has developed a fine sense for the leit-
motif under which the annual meeting of global foreign and security poli-
cy experts is held. This year, the organizers coined the term ‘Westlessness’
to describe most conference participants’ unease with their world.”27
Süddeutsche Zeitung, February 12, 2020

“Provocative questions worth discussing [...] Even more important than the
analysis, however, is what we deduce from these questions. What do our
goals look like? And which path should we choose?”28
Peter Beyer, Die Welt, February 9, 2020

“As the West feels its values being contested both from within and from
without, and the global contest between economic and political systems
rages on, there will be plenty to talk about this February in Munich.”29
Simon Young, Deutsche Welle, February 14, 2020
Munich Security Brief – The Enabling Power: Germany’s European Imperative

The special Munich Security Brief, published on the occasion of Germany’s EU Council Presidency, calls for Germany to become Europe’s “enabling power” – a power that spurs and facilitates rather than slow-walks European progress. To this end, the Munich Security Brief argues, Germans need to embrace and implement the “European imperative”: Whatever Germany does in the months ahead, the publication argues, it should evaluate its actions according to two criteria. First, whether German actions enhance the EU’s ability to recover economically and politically; and second, whether they enable the EU to become a more credible international actor that can protect its values, interests, and sovereignty in an increasingly harsh security environment.

Published online the day before Germany’s EU Council Presidency kicked off and underlining the MSC’s role as a discussion starter on key topics, the special Munich Security Brief was met with significant public interest in Germany, Europe, and beyond. German press agency dpa featured the brief’s main message in a newswire. The publication received positive feedback by key stakeholders and on social media across the German and European policy and think-tank communities.

“According to a Munich Security Conference report published Tuesday, the coronavirus pandemic has made clear that Germany has to push for a more integrated approach within the EU.”

Leonig Kijewski and Rachel More, dpa, July 1, 2020

At the MSC 2014, then Federal President Joachim Gauck, Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs Frank-Walter Steinmeier, and Federal Minister of Defense Ursula von der Leyen articulated a message that was later called the “Munich consensus”: Germany was ready to bear “more responsibility” in international affairs and wanted to meet security policy challenges “earlier, more decisively, and more substantially.”

Six years later, we find ourselves amid a Zeitenwende, the turn of an era in world politics, in which almost every fundamental certainty of German foreign policy is dissolving. Characteristics of the new environment include the weakening of an international order built up over decades, the rise of China, and a return to power politics that defies international norms. Besides, climate change and rapid technological transition are having drastic consequences. These developments are exacerbated by a gradual reorientation of the United States, which goes back further than 2016. Thirty years after German unification, the Federal Republic is confronted with enormous challenges. Europe’s security is threatened, Europe’s democracies are on the defensive. Germany, which has settled down in the US-dominated order perhaps more than any other country, is even more affected by the erosion of the liberal international order than other states. Even though Germany has significantly increased its efforts in many areas of foreign and security policy in the aftermath of the “Munich consensus,” Germany’s engagement often falls short of both the expectations of its most valued partners and the demands of its strategic environment.

The special edition of the Munich Security Report “Zeitenwende | Wendezeiten” provides analyses and new ideas for a German foreign and security policy that is already changing – and is yet in danger of not being able to keep up with the speed of global change. Germany must continue to enhance its strategic culture and its decision-making structures in foreign policy to be prepared for these new challenges. This is a precondition for the
Deutschland in der Welt

Federal Republic to become the “Enabling Power” of the European Union, capable of empowering the EU to use its weight more effectively on the global stage. The report offers several exclusive and previously unpublished contributions, including the results of an exclusive survey conducted by forsa, on behalf of the MSC, on German public opinion on foreign and security policy. The MSC also once more cooperated with a number of institutions for data featured in this report, including the Bertelsmann Foundation, the Centre for International Security (Hertie School), eupinions, Gallup, the Goethe Institute, the ifo Institute, the Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW), the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

The MSC would like to thank the Press and Information Office of the Federal Government of Germany for generously funding part of this project, as well as the Federal Foreign Office, the Federal Ministry of Defense, and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development for sharing insights and providing data. In addition, about three dozen high-ranking decision-makers from Germany and abroad made a significant contribution to this report through confidential background discussions and insightful perceptions.

**Report Launch**

On October 1, 2020, the MSC launched “Zeitenwende | Wendezeiten” in front of more than 100 guests at the German Historical Museum in Berlin. The first physical MSC event in months, the report launch took place under strict hygiene regulations. Following the opening by Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger, Chairman of the MSC, and presentation of the report by Tobias Bunde, Director of Research & Policy at the MSC, Ambassador Boris Ruge, Vice-Chairman of the MSC, moderated a discussion with experts from important partner countries. Participants included Sławomir Dębski, Director of the Polish Institute of International Affairs, Kadri Liik, Senior Policy Fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR), Robin Niblett, Director at Chatham House, and Nathalie Tocci, Special Advisor to the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Director of the Istituto Affari Internazionali. During the discussion, panelists agreed that Germany had realized that it has to assume “more responsibility,” but they had different opinions on whether Germany was also prepared to do so in practice. All those present stressed the need for Europe to act in a united way and have the appropriate resources and means at its disposal to address the new realities in world politics.
“Germany has to contribute much more for building European strategic sovereignty and therefore has to take on a more European way of defining its own interests.”


Parliamentary Conversation

The fact that German foreign and security politics is at an inflection point also stood out during the debate between members of the German Bundestag on the media ship Pioneer One, which accompanied the report launch in the evening of October 1. During the debate, which was livestreamed, key topics of the report were discussed by four parliamentarians: Franziska Brantner, Spokesperson for European Policy of the Parliamentary Group Alliance 90/The Greens, Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, Deputy Chairman of the FDP Parliamentary Group, Katja Leikert, Deputy Chairman of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group, and Nils Schmid, Foreign Policy Spokesperson of the SPD Parliamentary Group. Gordon Repinski, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Media Pioneer, moderated the debate. The question was asked to what extent the promises of the “Munich consensus” of 2014 had been fulfilled, with the assessments ranging from the opinion that the consensus no longer existed to the assessment that there was “more light than shadow” in the implementation of the objectives.

Both events made it clear that there is an enormous need for discussion about the role of Germany and Europe in the midst of this dramatic turn of an era in world politics – and that “Zeitenwende | Wendezeiten” has helped pick up this discussion.
Media Response, Reach, and Relevance: “A Turning Point in Time”

The MSR special edition “Zeitenwende | Wendezeiten” achieved a strong media presence already in the run-up to its launch, notably in leading German-language media and with consistently positive reactions. The MSC’s traditional press backgridders and briefings for leading journalists generated extensive coverage. In many cases, key messages from the report were picked up – e.g., “German commitment still insufficient” (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung) – as well as direct quotes from the report or accompanying panel discussions at the launch events – e.g., “we are living in a turning point in time in which cherished certainties of German foreign policy no longer apply,” said MSC Chairman Wolfgang Ischinger in Berlin (Handelsblatt). In particular, media coverage frequently highlighted key results from the opinion poll conducted exclusively for the report, such as “75 percent of respondents expect more crises and conflicts in the coming years – a very realistic assessment” (Die Welt) or “Germans in favor of less restraint vis-à-vis the United States” (Süddeutsche Zeitung).

“Zeitenwende | Wendezeiten” also attracted broad interest across key social media channels. For example, a total of 48 MSC social media posts achieved more than 375,000 views and counted more than 21,000 engagements in the first four weeks following publication. Prominent tweets and re-tweets included posts by the Federal Ministry of Defense, Anne-Marie Slaughter, Katja Leikert, Nathalie Tocci, Javier Solana, Carl Bildt, and Melissa Chan. MSC partners provided accompanying coverage on their platforms to coincide with the report’s publication. Both the Federal Government landing page bundesregierung.de and the Federal Ministry of Defense website featured news stories and linked to the report. Podcast and briefing formats with MSC Chairman Wolfgang Ischinger in cooperation with Media Pioneer were widely shared.

Distribution of the report to thousands of stakeholders in the MSC network, as well as further promotion in coordination with national and international partner organizations, ensured a broad and long-lasting campaign. The report’s revised design proved to be a resounding success and the products accompanying it – including a pull-out map illustrating Germany’s role in the world and a concise executive summary – welcome additions to the MSC’s existing offering. “Zeitenwende | Wendezeiten” received positive, personal feedback both immediately after its release and over the past several months from decision-makers and organizations that continued to promote the report further via their networks.

In just a few short months, the coronavirus pandemic has become a polypandemic – a health crisis that is accompanied by various other pandemics, among them the pandemics of poverty and hunger, of nationalism and authoritarianism. By mutually reinforcing each other, these pandemics threaten to reverse decades of development progress, further exacerbate state fragility, and even become a catalyst for violent conflict.

The special edition of the Munich Security Report “Polypandemic” zooms in on the huge imbalance between, on the one hand, the human suffering and the threats to peace and security that the pandemic might provoke in various contexts and, on the other hand, the attention and assistance that Germany, Europe, and the international community have dedicated to them. In this regard, wealthier states’ pandemic responses are a continuation of a pre-pandemic behavior: one of underinvestment in the safety and well-being of the world’s most vulnerable places. Covid-19 has, in many ways, served as a magnifying glass for the mistakes of the past. However, moments of crisis always represent an opportunity, too: By relentlessly exposing the extent to which our well-being depends on the well-being of others, the pandemic could well serve as a wake-up call. For Germany, Europe, and the international community it offers a tremendous opportunity to support affected countries in their efforts to “build back better” and thereby decrease the global disparities that undermine international peace, stability, and resilience.

The report thus chimes in with a long tradition of MSC activities on human and health security. It seeks to fuel the debate on how to better protect the world’s most vulnerable people while also helping them invest in long-term crisis resilience. If the international community does not embrace a policy that understands solidarity as self-interest and the protection of the world’s most vulnerable populations as a strategic investment in the future, the post-Covid-19 world will be much more brittle than the world that entered the polypandemic. States also have to “build back
Polypandemic
November 2020
To build a crisis-resilient tomorrow, we need to increase investments in development, humanitarian aid, and peace today.”


“It is [...] an imperative of the heart to act in response to a global pandemic [...] but it is also a voice of reason that encourages us to do so.”

Agnieszka Brugger, Member of the German Bundestag, Launch of the MSR Special Edition "Polypandemic," November 19, 2020

better” at the international level. After years of policies that successively eroded multilateral institutions, countries need to strengthen the collaborative institutions and instruments that are crucial for effective global solidarity.

The MSC would like to thank the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development for generously funding part of this project.

For this special edition, the MSC also cooperated with organizations including the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Gallup, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Pew Research Center, Save the Children, the Wellcome Trust, the World Bank Group, and the World Health Organization (WHO) for a range of exclusive and previously unpublished data.

Report Launch

On November 19, the MSC presented “Polypandemic” to an audience of key stakeholders at a virtual launch event. Gerd Müller, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, opened the event and later examined the findings of the report in a panel discussion with three members of the German Bundestag – Agnieszka Brugger, Gyde Jensen, and Siemtje Möller. The discussion was moderated by Julia Steets, Director at the Global Public Policy Institute.

The coronavirus “confronts the world not only with one pandemic but with a multitude of pandemics,” warned Sophie Eisentraut, Senior Researcher at the MSC, in her presentation of the report’s key findings. In already vulnerable regions and countries, the direct and indirect effects of the pandemic threatened to be particularly severe. Federal Minister Müller stressed that Germany and the EU must respond to the challenge of the polypandemic in a holistic way, as peace, security, and development are interdependent. If the pandemic harmed development in Africa, this would have a direct and indirect impact on the security situation on the continent. During the discussion, panelists supported the call for a holistic approach to fighting the Covid-19 pandemic and its consequences. In this context, Gyde Jensen pleaded for the introduction of qualified majority voting at the European level when it comes to foreign and security policy, in order to increase Europe’s ability to act. Siemtje Möller emphasized...
that Germany and Europe should aim to re-strengthen international organizations and rules, which had come under even greater pressure during the pandemic than before.

**Media Response, Reach, and Relevance: A Call to Action**

Building on the success of previous MSC publications, “Polypandemic,” too, generated large-scale media attention and prominently framed the national and international debate on the security and development implications of the Covid-19 pandemic. The report’s findings and its call to action received considerable attention from its initial publication through background briefings to key media representatives and a joint opinion piece by Wolfgang Ischinger and Gerd Müller, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*.

Leading German print media, including *Focus* magazine and *Handelsblatt*, referenced or reprinted key data highlighted in the report, notably the number of people predicted to fall into extreme poverty due to the pandemic and other striking figures illustrating the multifaceted crisis presented by Covid-19.

In broadcasting, Deutschlandfunk picked up the report in its morning briefing and included a reference to the digital launch event (“Munich Security Conference warns of secondary effects of Covid-19”). Beyond news media, specialist publications also referenced the report, thus underlining the MSC’s broad definition of security and its role as a multidisciplinary platform for key topics.

“Polypandemic” also attracted significant interest across key social media channels. More than 30 MSC social media posts achieved more than 390,000 views and counted thousands of engagements within the first few weeks of the report’s publication. Prominent tweets and re-tweets by partner organizations and key decision-makers included posts by WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the World Food Programme, and Pulitzer Prize-winning science journalist Laurie Garrett.

In addition to several thousand downloads of the digital report, the MSC reached thousands of leaders in politics, media, and business directly, prompting positive feedback. The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development prominently featured “Polypandemic” on
its website. Member of Parliament Roderich Kiesewetter referenced the report launch event with Federal Minister Gerd Müller during a speech to the German Bundestag.

Since its initial release, “Polypandemic” continues to be referenced nationally and internationally. The report authors presented their findings in several virtual events, including in formats hosted by the Working Group on Peace and Development (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Frieden und Entwicklung, FriEnt) and the Anti-Corruption Advocacy Network (ACAN) at George Mason University. In sum, “Polypandemic” succeeded in its goal to start a global conversation – one which the MSC is committed to continue through its future activities.
Latest MSC Publications

**Wolfgang Ischinger, World in Danger: Germany and Europe in an Uncertain Time**
The world appears to be at another major turning point. Tensions between the United States and China threaten a resumption of great-power conflict. Global institutions are being tested as never before and hard-edged nationalism has resurfaced as a major force in both democracies and authoritarian states. From the European perspective, the United States appears to be abdicating its global leadership role, while Moscow and Beijing eagerly exploit every opportunity to pit European partners against one another. But a pivot point also offers the continent an opportunity to grow stronger: *World in Danger* sets out a vision of a European future of peace and stability.

**Tobias Bunde, Beyond Westlessness: A Readout From the MSC Special Edition 2021 (Munich Security Brief 1/2021, February 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.

**Simon Pfeiffer and Randolf Carr: Error 404 - Trust Not Found: A European Survey on Digital (Dis)trust (Munich Security Brief 2/2021, March 2021)**
A joint tech agenda is one of the key priorities of the transatlantic partnership. An exclusive survey across six European countries commissioned by the MSC finds that to deliver on this goal, European leaders need to address a high level of digital distrust in Europe – vis-à-vis the United States, but also amongst Europeans.
3 Reach and Visibility
Global Media Coverage of the Main Conference

The main conference in Munich has long been a focus of worldwide media attention. Every year, thousands of journalists gather in the Bavarian capital on the conference weekend to report on the debates at Hotel Bayerischer Hof.

Given the relevance of the topics and the prominence of the participants, it is no surprise that interest in and public awareness of our conference has never been higher. The MSC 2020 took place against the backdrop of great global uncertainty, unprecedented levels of conflict, and key political developments.

Respecting safety and hygiene measures in February 2020, more than 1,100 journalists from all over the world accredited to cover the proceedings, ensuring that the MSC featured prominently in virtually every global news outlet. The world’s leading outlets were present in Munich with their foreign and security policy correspondents.

Newspapers from around the world – ranging from top 50 global and top 20 German newspapers such as The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, The Guardian, Le Figaro, POLITICO, and China Daily to Der Tagesspiegel, Süddeutsche Zeitung, and Focus – reported from this year’s conference debates in more than 5,200 articles published right before, during or after the conference weekend.

More than 16,500 TV and radio reports were aired, continuing the trend of ever-increasing coverage since 2017. In addition, more than 5,100 newswire reports were issued by more than 75 news agencies, including key global players such as Reuters, AFP, Xinhua or ITAR TASS. Viewers from across the globe were able to follow some of the conference’s highlights on their national or regional TV channels, ranging from Al Jazeera International over BBC News to TV5 Monde and CNN.

In addition, a revamped social media strategy and public outreach program have helped to further increase numbers, reach new key audiences, and build momentum for future activities. This resulted in more than 470,000 visits to the MSC website, more than 16,000 followers on social media, and more than 10.1 million impressions across all social media platforms.
Coverage of the Main Conference 2020 at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General</th>
<th>Print media</th>
<th>News agencies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 1,100 accredited journalists</td>
<td>&gt; 5,200 newspaper articles</td>
<td>&gt; 5,100 newswire reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61 countries represented</td>
<td>&gt; 70 million circulation of top 50 global and top 20 German newspapers reporting on the MSC 2020</td>
<td>75 news agencies reporting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>360 different media outlets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TV and radio</th>
<th>Online</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 4,600 TV reports</td>
<td>&gt; 470,000 470,000 visits of the MSC website (February 14-16, 2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>143 TV channels</td>
<td>&gt; 10.1 million impressions of posts and videos across all social media platforms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 11,900 radio reports</td>
<td>&gt; 16,000 new fans and followers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>268 radio channels</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sample Coverage

**Trump Camp Finds no Appeasement at Munich**  
**POLITICO**

“For decades, the Munich Security Conference served as a powerful symbol of the strength of the Western alliance. The 2020 installment offered a testament to its accelerating decline. If the three-day event, which drew to a close on Sunday, illustrated anything, it was that the divergence between the U.S. and the dominant European powers — Germany and France (the U.K. was MIA) — is greater than ever. Those who thought last year’s tense gathering represented a low point in the relationship left Munich this year chastened.”  
Matthew Karnitschnig, *Politico*, February 16

**‘The West is Winning,’ Pompeo Said. The West Wasn’t Buying It.**  
**The New York Times**

“Secretary of State Mike Pompeo appeared at an annual gathering of Western diplomats and business leaders to declare on Saturday that ‘the West is winning,’ something that would be obvious to Trump administration critics, he said, if they were only willing to accept ‘reality.’ [...] This year’s conference reflected the division and unease that have plagued the NATO alliance in the era of Donald Trump and Brexit. The stated theme was ‘Westlessness,’ a sense that close allies were unmoored and uncompetitive in a world both more diverse and more autocratic.”  
David E. Sanger and Steven Erlanger, *The New York Times*, February 1

**My Take-aways from the 2020 Munich Security Conference**  
**China Daily**

“Originating amid the Cold War more than five decades ago, the MSC’s founding mission was to coordinate Western stances. After the Cold War, it broadened its horizons and began to pay attention to broader hot spot issues in international security, and its participants have hence expanded from just trans-Atlantic countries to the Middle East and Asia. In recent years, sensitive to the changing international power structure, the MSC has begun to consider how the West should adjust itself and cope with the new landscape. “Westlessness” as this year’s theme has taken the retrospection in the European strategic circles to a new height.”  
Fu Ying, *China Daily*, February 24
Steinmeier: Deutschland muss das geeinte Europa zusammenhalten

„Unabdingbarer Rahmen unserer Selbstbehauptung in der Welt“ / Sicherheitskonferenz


Special Issues

Internationale Politik

*Internationale Politik* (IP) is Germany’s leading foreign policy journal. The IP is published bimonthly by the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) with a print run of around 6,000 copies. It is aimed at those who are deeply interested in foreign and security policy as well as in its repercussions on politics, business, science, and the media. The issue’s main part, titled “Frenemies” (“Ziemlich beste Feinde”) was created in collaboration with the Munich Security Conference team. The cover stories were answering the central question of this issue: How to describe the tense state we live in? The magazine included DGAP’s Daniela Schwarzer with an analysis about geo-economics, Wolfgang Ischinger contributing “Three questions, three answers” and a rare interview with US Senator Tom Cotton.

*Internationale Politik*, January/February 2020

Süddeutsche Zeitung

*Süddeutsche Zeitung* (SZ) traditionally publishes a special insert on security issues ahead of the Munich Security Conference. The six-page journal included in the SZ was made available at the MSC. The edition provided in-depth background research and commentary on the primary themes around this year’s conference.

SZ is one of Germany’s leading daily newspapers with 394,000 readers per print issue, 74,000 digital subscriptions and an overall coverage of 1.2 million. *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, February 13, 2020

Security Times

The Security Times has been a media partner to the MSC for over ten years, acting as a sought-after international medium in the debate on strategic security issues. This year’s issue, bearing the title “Hardball,” is devoted to the challenges and threats facing the liberal world order and how it can position itself vis-à-vis China and Russia, among others. Further topics include the peace process in Libya, future security policy routes for the EU and NATO, and the ongoing crisis in the Middle East.

*Security Times*, February 2020
Süddeutsche Zeitung
GmbH, SZ Spezial
“Sicherheit 2020,”
February 13, 2020,
Illustration: Stefan Dimitrov
A global order in flux
We must re-address arms control.

Europe must "learn to speak the language of power."

Western abdication
Europe and the US have forsaken Europe.

The current state of affairs in Syria is as it always was, only worse.

REACH AND VISIBILITY
MSC 2020 Digital Communications

Throughout the Munich Security Conference 2020, the MSC was actively engaged with followers on all major social networks, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

With roughly 450 posts informing the public about the event, the MSC gained more than 6.4 million total impressions on all its’ channels. On Twitter, more than 80,000 uses of the hashtag #MSC2020 showed great interest in the event. This correlated with a significant increase of followers on all platforms. Follower numbers rose by more than 40% on LinkedIn and 240% on Instagram during the Munich Security Conference 2020. The MSC Twitter account was able to breach the number of 50,000 followers during the event.
For the first time, leading figures from politics, civil society, and the media “took over” the MSC’s Instagram story. These included Hadley Gamble (News Correspondent, CNBC), Grace Natalie (Munich Young Leader 2020, Founder and Chairwoman, Indonesian Solidarity Party) and Kristina Lunz (Co-Founder and Germany Director, Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy). They shared their impressions, interviews, and other exclusive insights from Munich with a young global audience.

Building up on the success of the yourMSC format at the MSC 2019, three well-known YouTube creators interviewed high-level MSC participants on the sidelines of the MSC 2020 with questions and topics emerging from their respective communities, thereby aiming to reach out to a young, global audience. In the studio, Ana Kasparian, Enrique Fonseca, and Leeroy Matata did one-on-one interviews with 14 MSC participants including MSC Chairman Wolfgang Ischinger and discussed a wide range of issues. Interviewees included Ian Bremmer, Beatrice Fihn, Francis Fukuyama, Jane Harman, Wolfgang Ischinger, David Miliband, Jennifer Morgan, Peter Neumann, Omid Nouripour, Cem Özdemir, Sir Stuart Peach, Javier Solana, Joseph Stiglitz, and Jens Stoltenberg.

The MSC YouTube Channel
The YouTube channel “Munich Security Conference” features highlight videos providing an overview of the debates and events during the MSC 2020.

Follow me.report by Funk
At the MSC 2020, project manager Paulina Zehle, who was responsible for coordinating the program in the main conference hall, was accompanied by Robin Blase (“RobBubble”) and his team for “follow me.reports,” a YouTube format by the German public service broadcasting platform “Funk.” The video offers insights into what it’s like to work at the world’s most important forum for international security policy and provides an extraordinary view behind the scenes of the conference.
### MSC 2020 Digital Communications

#### Online

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Posts by the MSC</td>
<td>485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tweets by the MSC</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New fans and followers / increase compared to 2019: +7%</td>
<td>&gt;16,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User interactions / increase compared to 2019: +64%</td>
<td>&gt;475,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total impressions</td>
<td>&gt;6.4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total visits of the MSC website</td>
<td>&gt;470,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total views of videos and live streams</td>
<td>&gt;3.7 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### App

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New downloads at MSC 2020</td>
<td>&gt;1,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impressions in the App Store and Google Play Store</td>
<td>&gt;8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sessions per device during MSC 2020</td>
<td>&gt;15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### YouTube Lounge #yourmsc

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YouTubers with a combined reach of 8 million subscribers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Videos on the yourMSC channel</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Views of the videos on all channels combined</td>
<td>&gt;3.1 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscribers to the yourMSC channel</td>
<td>&gt;11,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Newsletter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subscribers</td>
<td>&gt;4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New subscribers since February 2019: +18%</td>
<td>+600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletters per year</td>
<td>&gt;6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average opening rate</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
REACH AND VISIBILITY

Munich Security Conference 2020

The 56th Munich Security Conference took place at Hotel Bayerischer Hof in Munich from February 14 to 16. For three days, Munich was once again at the center of international diplomacy and welcomed world leaders from politics, academia, and civil society.

Agenda
An overview of the full agenda of the Munich Security Conference can be downloaded here.

Photos and Videos
See some of the most impressive moments from the Munich Security Conference 2020.

Participants
The Munich Security Conference 2020 welcomed an international audience of leaders and decision-makers.

“Like no other global forum, Munich connects European leaders and thinkers with their peers from across the world.”

Publication:

Is the world becoming an “Atlanticist’s inferior? Is it becoming an “Euro-ist”? The Munich Security Report 2020 takes a look at the phenomena that is referred to as “Westlessness.”
# The MSC over the Year

## Digital MSC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Posts by the MSC across all platforms</td>
<td>1,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tweets by the MSC</td>
<td>828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New fans and followers / increase compared to 2019</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Followers across platforms (23% increase compared to 2019)</td>
<td>122,475</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total user interactions</td>
<td>720,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total impressions</td>
<td>14 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total visits of the MSC website</td>
<td>&gt;1 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total views of videos and live streams</td>
<td>&gt;4 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## The MSC and its leadership in the media

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Media appearances* in 2020</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appearances in the national media</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appearances in the international media</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Print or online articles</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appearances in TV shows</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appearances in podcasts</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio interviews</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Media appearances include interviews, quotes, and op-eds.

## Media appearances in the context of the US-American Presidential election

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Media appearances in three different countries by MSC Chairman Wolfgang Ischinger</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media appearances in four different countries by MSC Vice-Chairman Boris Ruge</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4 People and Organization
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 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.
People, Culture, and Organizational Development

2020 was an extraordinary year for the MSC team. After a successful Munich Security Conference in February, the Covid-19 pandemic made us rethink our event planning for 2020 and forced the team to adjust to new remote work requirements. New technologies and collaboration tools were adopted almost overnight, enabling the team to organize 38 digital events and publish three reports throughout 2020, keeping informal international discourse alive.

With 29 permanent employees at our Munich office and 20 at our Berlin office at the end of 2020, MSC core staffing levels continue to maintain the growth trend experienced over the last five years – up from 40 staff members in 2019 to 49 in 2020, including secondees from various partner institutions from the public and private sector. In addition, around 60 temporary employees (including project assistants, interns, and working students) supported the preparations for the Munich Security Conference 2020. With 40% of leadership positions filled by women, who also make up the majority of permanent employees (with almost 60%), the MSC is at the forefront of advancing and embedding diversity and gender balance within the workforce and its organizational culture.

After years of rapid growth of activities, staff, and budget, the MSC seized the opportunity presented by the slowed down first half of 2020 to adapt the organization’s internal structure and processes to new realities and future challenges. The structural transformation of the organization resulted in the consolidation of existing teams and the creation of new directorates, departments, and units (see Org Chart I) under a newly established Board of Directors led by Dr. Benedikt Franke (CEO/COO) and including Dr. Tobias Bunde (Director of Research & Policy), Lisa Marie Ullrich (Director of Programs), Johannes Schmid (Director of Communications), and Sara-Sumie Yang (CFO/CHRO). The new organizational structure and ongoing change process has strengthened the core of our professional work and increased organizational efficiency, while maintaining the MSC’s agile spirit. Moreover, it provides a solid and sustainable foundation for further development of the organization to continue the MSC’s success story.
Organizational Structure | Org Chart

- **Chairman/Vice-Chairman**
  - (Vice-)Chairman's Office
  - CEO Office
  - CEO
  - COO
  - Communications
  - Finance & HR
  - Strategic Projects
  - Strategic Partnerships

**Research & Policy**
- Policy
- Research
- Publications

**Programs**
- Program Management
- Engagement

**COO**
- Project Management
- Operations
- IT

**CEO Office**
- Media Relations
- Digital Communications

**Finance & HR**
- Management
- Finance, Accounting & Administration
- HR

**Special Advisors**
- Provide special advice on specific topics

**Chairman/Vice-Chairman**
- Represent MSC in public, develop MSC strategy, manage key partners/sponsors

**(Vice-)Chairman's Office**
- Provide administrative, logistical, and strategic support & advice to the (Vice-)Chairman

**Strategic Projects**
- Liaise with selected partners, lead on all outreach events, and manage special projects

**Strategic Partnerships**
- Manage fundraising and liaising with partners and sponsors (incl. initiation and planning of side events)

**CEO**
- Represent MSC in public, develop MSC strategy, challenge and lead staff, manage key partners/sponsors

**CEO Office**
- Provide administrative, logistical, and strategic support & advice to the CEO

**Research & Policy**
- Advise, analyze, and create contents

**Programs**
- Translate contents into programs

**COO**
- Lead on implementing all operational aspects of events and activities

**Communications**
- Promote a positive public perception (incl. marketing)

**Finance & HR**
- Manage financial accounts and provide general administration support (incl. office mgmt. Munich)

**Strategic Projects**
- Advise, analyze, and create contents

**Strategic Partnerships**
- Plan, coordinate and develop programs and series

**CEO**
- Lead on realizing events and activities and manage participation in the main conference

**Communications**
- Manage and develop media relations (print, radio, TV)

**Finance & HR**
- Manage financial accounts and provide general administration support (incl. office mgmt. Munich)

**HR**
- Recruit, manage and develop personnel

Status: December 1, 2020
* The MSC website always provides an up-to-date overview of the MSC team.
Our New Headquarters in Munich

We have moved! As the MSC continues to grow, it is a natural step of that growth that we needed a new space. Following several months of preparation and hard work, we moved to our new headquarters at the renovated Amerikahaus in Munich which became fully operational as of May 2020. We are delighted to be now based in this special building, which is a short walk from Hotel Bayerischer Hof and symbolizes our transatlantic roots and continued emphasis on the need for cooperation on transatlantic relations.

Our new state-of-the-art headquarters is now home to 29 permanent employees and provides a greatly improved working space. This milestone is part of our continuous development as one of the leading think-tank conferences in the world – we are ready for the future.

You can now find us at:
Munich Security Conference
Karolinenplatz 3
80333 Munich

All other contact information such as phone number and e-mail addresses will remain the same.

The renovated Amerikahaus was officially opened in June 2020 by Markus Söder, Minister President of the Free State of Bavaria.
The MSC Archive

In 2020, we started to build our very own MSC archive to categorize and process almost 60 years’ worth of our history and to document not only the MSC’s evolution and accomplishments, but also the most prominent and defining MSC moments that had a significant impact on security policy as we know it today.

With this in mind, we created a photo archive, compiled lists of participants, collected publications, interviews, and press releases, particularly from the pre-digital era, and combed through audio tapes and video recordings.

In addition, we are constantly in the process of placing events, people, and topics relevant today in the context of our history. The fact that we know that Joe Biden first participated in the MSC in 1980 is an example of our exciting and successful archive work in 2020.

We are excited to explore the unexplored and we look forward to your support! If you find something that could be of interest for the MSC Archive, please do not hesitate to contact us: archive@securityconference.org.
The MSC Security Innovation Board

As part of its activities, the MSC 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 to the annual MSC Innovation Night, 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. As innovation continues to accelerate, the MSC would like to use its convening power to recruit a group of distinguished experts from both the technology and defense policy sectors to:

• further develop its activities at the intersection of technology, innovation, and defense and security policy.

• foster a sustained exchange between critical players to support the formulation of common policies/approaches and the development of strategic innovation alliances.

• help identify promising technologies that could contribute to solutions to current and future challenges, particularly in the areas of cyber security, climate, health and energy security, safeguarding democracy, equitable development, and conflict prevention and resolution.

• educate the broader security community about advances in technology and their potentially disruptive geopolitical, strategic, and military consequences.

The Board, led by its chairman and the Chairman of the MSC, shall meet regularly. The Chairman of the Board is appointed by the Chairman of the MSC in agreement with the Foundation Council. The term of office is set at two years and can be renewed indefinitely. The Board shall include no more than 25 renowned experts, thought leaders, and private sector leaders. Membership is for two years and can be renewed once. To identify the most relevant areas of engagement, the membership will initially be divided into three work streams (information and communication technology, energy, and defense).
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, 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.

President

Wolfgang Ischinger
(President)
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 and Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations, New York

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 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 and Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations, New York

Members

Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr 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. Its 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
Chairman, King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies, Riyadh

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

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

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

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

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

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 Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and East African Community, Republic of Rwanda, Kigali

Wolfgang Reitzle
Chairman of the Board, Linde plc, Munich

Radosław Sikorski
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of National Defense of the Republic of Poland; Senior Fellow at Harvard University, Brussels
James G. Stavridis
Admiral (ret.); former NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Operating Executive, Carlyle Group, Washington D.C.

Alexander Soros
Deputy Chairman, Open Society Foundations, New York

Javier Solana
Former NATO Secretary General, former High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union, Madrid
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; Executive Director, Munich Security Conference Foundation, Munich
Members of the Board

R. Nicholas Burns
Professor of the Practice of Diplomacy and International Relations, Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University, Cambridge

Karen Donfried
President, The German Marshall Fund of the United States, Washington, DC

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 B. Heintz
President, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, New York

Paul Horvath
Group Chief Executive Officer, Orchard Global Capital Group, London

Robert M. Kimmitt
Ambassador, Senior International Counsel, WilmerHale; Chairman, Foreign Affairs Policy Board, Department of State, United States of America; former Deputy Secretary of the Treasury of the United States of America; Washington, DC

Fred H. Langhammer
Chairman and CEO Global Affairs, The Estée Lauder Companies Inc., New York
Joseph I. Lieberman
Senior Counsel, Kasowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman LLP, New York

John McLaughlin
Distinguished Practitioner-in-Residence, Philip Merrill Center for Strategic Studies, Johns Hopkins University; former Acting Director of the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States of America, Washington, DC

Cindy McCain
Chairwoman of the Board, McCain Institute for International Leadership, Arizona State University, Washington, DC

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
5 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

until June 2020

from September 2020

Associates

until June 2020

from September 2020
Main Sponsors

AIRBUS  ARTOC Group for Investment and Development  EnBW

EY Building a better working world  goetzpartners  Google

Johnson & Johnson  Lockheed Martin  Merck

Microsoft  Raytheon  Rheinmetall

SCHAEFFLER
Sponsors

aws, BAE Systems, Bayer, Dataminr, Diligent, e.on, ESG, Facebook, Goldman Sachs, Hubert Burda Media, HypoVereinsbank, infineon, INVEStCORP, KPMG, MBDA, NXP, Rohde & Schwarz, Saab, SOCAR, Vontobel
Knowledge Partner

McKinsey & Company

Mobility Partner

BMW
6 Finances
Facts and Figures

The fiscal year 2019/2020 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020) can be divided into two segments that need to be viewed separately: In the first three quarters, the MSC was more active than ever before in its almost 60-year history. Nearly 20 high-profile events, including two Core Group Meetings, the Munich Security Report 2020 “Westlessness,” and the main conference that attracted global attention helped to raise the organization’s visibility and political relevance once again. The widened range of activities throughout the year also contributed to a significant increase in revenues and helped the MSC to broaden and grow its financial base in the fiscal year 2019/2020. The last quarter of MSC’s fiscal year was affected by the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact. On the one hand, several events and activities had to be canceled; on the other hand, the pandemic-induced programmatic slowdown starting in March 2020 allowed the MSC to initiate important organizational processes (including the reorganization, relaunch of the corporate design, and relocation of the Munich office to the Amerikahaus). Compared to other organizations, the MSC has weathered the special situation extraordinarily well so far.

As part of the reorganization, the departments of Finance and Human Resources were combined under one roof in 2020. The creation of the CFO function, which Sara-Sumie Yang took up in August 2020, is intended to strengthen and further develop the MSC’s financial management. Since fall 2020, the structures and processes in the finance area have been optimized and modernized as part of the “Fit-for-Purpose” consulting project – which is supported by KPMG – to create a solid and future-proof foundation for the further development of the MSC. With the implementation of technical tools, accounting will be digitalized and automated to achieve more efficiency and transparency in finance. The establishment of a controlling system will enable better long-term and forward-looking financial planning, control, and management to improve the cost efficiency and cost recovery of MSC projects. Processes and workflows in the area of public funding and procurement will also be optimized to better meet and maintain the requirements and legal guidelines of grant-funded initiatives. Moreover, standards, instruments, and mechanisms in the context of risk management and compliance will be newly established.
In the future, the Finance, Accounting & Administration department will be able to better contribute to strategic planning by providing appropriate financial reporting and analyses and transparent planning and decision-making bases with the help of digital and automated processes, tools, and workflows, thus making a valuable contribution to the overall management of the MSC.

The pandemic and its short- and anticipated long-term effects have significantly increased the relevance of strategic financial planning, budget analysis, and effective cost controlling. Thus, the transformation and change process of the financial organization will ensure financial management best practice and discipline and make the MSC even more professional and fit for the future.

**Figure 4**
The MSC budget, 2018-2020*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018/2019</th>
<th>2019/2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues</strong></td>
<td>7,125,061 €</td>
<td>9,521,152 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditures</strong></td>
<td>7,863,699 €</td>
<td>9,761,118 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main conference</td>
<td>3,160,579 €</td>
<td>3,947,440 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other projects and events</td>
<td>1,063,211 €</td>
<td>1,107,843 €</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overhead</td>
<td>3,639,909 €</td>
<td>4,705,835 €</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Discrepancies between revenues and expenditures result from differences between the MSC fiscal years and the calendar years.
**Figure 5 | Composition of MSC income**

- Private sector partners: 71%
- Non-governmental partners: 11%
- Governmental partners: 14%
- Other (donations, reimbursements): 4%

**Figure 6 | Development of private sector contributions**

- Other: 55%
- Defense industry: 11%
- Energy industry: 11%
- Tech industry: 23%

**Figure 7 | Overhead**

- Staff & consultants: 57%
- Administration: 33%
- Other: 10%
THE MSC SPECIAL EDITION 2021 AND THE ROAD TO MUNICH 2021

On February 19, 2021, the MSC Special Edition assembled some of the world’s most senior decision-makers. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the MSC 2021 had to be postponed to a later date in 2021. However, in order to provide senior leaders with a globally visible platform at this critical time, the MSC decided to host a Special Edition. At the very time and place the MSC 2021 would have kicked off normally, they discussed in a live broadcast how to rebuild and renew the transatlantic alliance and highlighted areas in which transatlantic and international cooperation are most urgently needed. In cooperation with the host broadcaster Bayerischer Rundfunk, the MSC Special Edition was broadcast live on all MSC digital channels, the TV channel Phoenix, and member stations of the European Broadcasting Union, reaching millions of viewers around the world.

Joe Biden, Angela Merkel, Emmanuel Macron, Boris Johnson, António Guterres, Jens Stoltenberg, Ursula von der Leyen, Charles Michel, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, John F. Kerry, and Bill Gates participated in the event titled “Beyond Westlessness: Renewing Transatlantic Cooperation, Meeting Global Challenges.” Participants shared a hopeful outlook. While 2020 had confronted the world with unprecedented challenges, it had also boosted global cooperation, for example on Covid-19 vaccines, and saw countries making strong commitments towards net-zero climate goals. To include a variety of voices in the program, selected Munich Young Leaders had the opportunity to address world leaders at the event.

For the first time in its 58-year history, a sitting US President addressed the MSC. In 2019, Joe Biden promised: “We will be back.” He kept his promise and chose Munich for his very first message to Allies and partners around the world, making a passionate case for global engagement and democracy: “I’m sending a clear message to the world: America is back. And we are not looking backward, we are looking forward together.” In a more somber note, he warned that the world was now at a crossroads of democracy and autocracy.

The MSC Special Edition marks the beginning of the “Road to Munich 2021.” Stops on this road will include virtual high-level events and initiatives to prepare the ground for the MSC 2021, which will take place at a later date in 2021.
Endnotes


11 Ibid.

12 Ibid.


14 Ibid.


16 Ibid.


23 Ibid.
24 Ibid.
29 Simon Young, “What Can We Expect From This Year’s Munich Security Conference?” Deutsche Welle, February 14, 2021, https://perma.cc/K8JW-HZWL.
32 Ibid.
33 Ibid.
35 Ibid.
List of Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACLED</td>
<td>The Armed Conflict Location &amp; Event Data Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AI</td>
<td>Artificial Intelligence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFFP</td>
<td>Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEO</td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFO</td>
<td>Chief Financial Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COO</td>
<td>Chief Operating Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COP</td>
<td>Conference of the Parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVAX</td>
<td>Covid-19 Vaccines Global Access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covid-19</td>
<td>Coronavirus Disease 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DGAP</td>
<td>German Council on Foreign Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECFR</td>
<td>European Council on Foreign Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ifo</td>
<td>Institute for Economic Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFW</td>
<td>Kiel Institute for the World Economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IISS</td>
<td>International Institute for Strategic Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IP</td>
<td>Internationale Politik</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRENA</td>
<td>International Renewable Energy Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LMU</td>
<td>Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MERICS</td>
<td>Mercator Institute for China Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSB</td>
<td>Munich Security Brief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSC</td>
<td>Munich Security Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSF</td>
<td>Munich Strategy Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSR</td>
<td>Munich Security Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MYL</td>
<td>Munich Young Leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATO</td>
<td>North Atlantic Treaty Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-governmental organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONS</td>
<td>Offshore Northern Seas Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIPRI</td>
<td>Stockholm International Peace Research Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SZ</td>
<td>Süddeutsche Zeitung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUM</td>
<td>Technical University of Munich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNODC</td>
<td>United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNSCR</td>
<td>United Nations Security Council Resolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIIS</td>
<td>Women in International Security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WFP</td>
<td>World Food Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZOIS</td>
<td>Centre for East European and International Studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Image Sources

Allianz
P. 138
Andrea Schnartendorff
P. 62
Andrew Zinn
P. 143
Brembeck
P. 135
Brunswick Group
P. 144
Capital Group
P. 143
CSU
P. 137
Dentons
P. 142
Estée Lauder
P. 143
GMF
P. 143
Kasowitz Benson Torres LLP
P. 144
Kaveh Sardai
P. 142
Kekst CNC
P. 135
KNDS
P. 139
Letizia Mariotti
P. 135, 137
MSC/Balk
P. 34, 143
MSC/Barth-Tuttas
P. 26, 139
MSC/Becker
P. 28, 31, 33, 34, 36, 54, 66, 132
MSC/Gabsch
P. 12, 13, 14, 52, 69
MSC/Hecker
P. 143
MSC/Hennemuth
P. 22, 30, 41, 65
MSC/Hentschel
P. 22, 26, 29, 30, 32, 33, 35, 64
MSC/Hildenbrand
P. 30, 33
MSC/Karmann
P. 24, 46, 47, 51
MSC/Koch
P. 41
MSC/Koerner
P. 27, 29, 35, 43
MSC/Mirgeler
P. 35, 75
MSC/Mueller
P. 24, 31, 56, 140, 144
MSC/Niedermüller
P. 18, 22
MSC/Preiss
P. 22, 139
MSC/Schamberger
P. 30, 34
MSC/Schulze
P. 34, 42
MSC/Silz
P. 35
MSC/Warmuth
P. 23, 30
Nathalie Schuller
P. 140
Nordwind Capital
P. 135
Oguz Yilmaz
P. 53
Orchard Group
P. 143
Photothek.net/Schmitz
P. 98
Shutterstock
P. 14
Stefan Kaminski
P. 98

Stephan Goerlich
P. 143
All other images: MSC/Kuhlmann
Imprint

Report Team
Laura Hartmann, Steffen Gleisenberg

Responsible according to the German Press Law
Dr. Benedikt Franke

Layout Felix Kirner
Design MetaDesign
Printed by Königsdruck

Stiftung Münchner Sicherheitskonferenz gGmbH
Karolinenplatz 3
80333 Munich
www.securityconference.org
office@securityconference.org

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. The MSC publishes the annual Munich Security Report and other formats on specific security issues.