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Foreword by Ambassador Christoph Heusgen, Chairman of the Munich Security Conference



Christoph Heusgen

Dear friends!

The past year was marked by aggressive revisionism, growing geopolitical frictions, and multifold conflicts and crises. Russia's ongoing war on Ukraine, the horrific terrorist attacks by Hamas on Israel, and the concomitant risk of a wider Middle East conflict are symptoms of a world in disarray. Our activities, events, and publications focused on countering revisionist trends and developing a positive and more inclusive vision of the rules-based international order, based on the principles of the UN Charter.

The 2023 Munich Security Report, titled "Re:vision," set the tone for our activities. A Ukraine that is "whole, free, and at peace" is at the heart of the struggle for a rules-based international order. Increasing and sustaining transatlantic support for Ukraine was thus a central theme of our main conference. Europe holds a particular responsibility when it comes to defending the rule of international law on its own continent. With our Special Edition of the Munich Security Report we called on European leaders to "come off the fence on defense" and raise their level of ambition. We discussed the findings at our European Defense Roundtable in Visby, Sweden, with leading decision-makers and thinkers, and looked ahead to the NATO Summit in Vilnius in July. The EU's broader geopolitical role also stood at the center of our Munich Strategy Retreat at Schloss Elmau.

To forge a broad coalition that stands ready to defend the rules-based international order, we must reach out beyond the transatlantic realm. As Chancellor Scholz put it at our main conference, "if the multipolar world of the 21st century is to have an order which is based on justice and penalizes injustices, then we need new forms of international solidarity and new ways of enabling countries to have their say." I am thus proud that we could significantly enhance the number of representatives and speakers from the Global South at our main conference and other events throughout the year. At our Munich Leaders Meeting in Tokyo in May, we discussed the Zeitenwende in the Indo-Pacific with a wide range of regional representatives. In October, we brought together leaders from twelve African countries with their European and international counterparts in Nairobi to discuss shared security challenges and promote deeper transcontinental partnerships. Aside from traditional security issues, we continued to address broader and emerging security challenges, ranging from energy, climate, and food security to cyber and economic security.

We also contributed to the debate at home. Building on the "Zeitenwende on tour" events in 2022, we hosted a broad range of discussions across Germany, engaging the public in an open dialogue on the country's changing foreign and security policy. I am very pleased that there has been so much interest in this!

I would like to warmly thank all our friends, sponsors, and partners without whom our work would not be possible. I am convinced that it has never been more important.

Christoph Heusgen

Foreword by Benedikt Franke, CEO & Vice-Chairman of the Munich Security Conference



Benedikt Franke

Dear friends!

The year 2023 was, unfortunately and tragically, no less eventful than 2022. The war in Ukraine has continued unabatedly, Central Africa has been rocked by coup after coup, civil strife has re-erupted in Sudan and Ethiopia, and Hamas has not only murdered 1.500 people in an unprecedented terrorist attack on October 7 but has also set the broader region (back) on fire. At the same time, high inflation, illegal immigration, and the resultant resurgence of populism have complicated politics on the home front.

All these (and many more) topics have played a role at our events over the last year, not least our main conference in February which was our most prominent and visible yet. We have once again tried to offer the best possible platforms for debates on them and the formulation of solutions for them. Building on our work of the previous year where we tried to focus on the revitalization of the transatlantic alliance, we broadened our focus beyond our traditional core in 2023 as it has become clear for all to see that we need to be much more inclusive if we want to succeed in defending (and developing) the rules-based international order. Our events in Tokyo (on the eve of the G7 Summit), Delhi (on the eve of the G20 Summit), Nairobi (in connection with the Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa), and Dubai (for COP 28) are testimony to our commitment to reach out to new audiences and expand our networks across the world. At the same time, we also tried to stay close to our roots with events in Visby (where we launched the

newest edition of our European Defense Report in cooperation with the Swedish EU-Council Presidency), Vilnius (where we once again co-hosted the Public Forum during the NATO Summit), Brussels (where we took stock of current cyber security issues), and Elmau (where we focused on the European Union and the German-French relationship). This is a balance we will need to continue to get right in the years to come.

In addition to hosting classical events, we also continued our highly-successful Zeitenwende on Tour campaign with dozens of events throughout Germany, launched a wonderful Women Parliamentarians Program in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and introduced a new (shorter) publication format to meet the demand for quick debriefs and analyses. We have also signed new cooperation agreements and expanded our capacity to make the most of them. The aim of this report is to offer you an overview of all of our activities throughout 2023 and to provide insights into the organization behind them. It is also meant to highlight our many partnerships without which we could not have done any of the above and for which we are all enormously grateful.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to providing the best possible platforms for the debate of foreign and security policy. As I am sure that our wonderful team will continue to tackle any challenge head-on, I maintain my optimism and pride in our organization and look forward to 2024. I very much hope that you will continue to be at our side for what promises to be yet another eventful and consequential year.

Thank you for your continued support and interest!

Benedikt Franke



1 Events

MSC Events in 2023 at a Glance

January 31



MSC Zeitenwende on tour Leipzig

• March 5-6



MSC @ CERA Week 2023 Houston

• February 13



MSC Kick-Off Berlin

April 24



MSC in Berlin with Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya Berlin

• February 16



MSC Zeitenwende on tour Munich

April 26



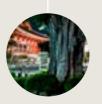
MSC Zeitenwende on tour Lutherstadt Wittenberg

• February 17–19



Munich Security Conference 2023 Munich

May 14–16



Munich Leaders Meeting Tokyo

May 15



MSC Roundtable on Nuclear Security Nuclear Anxieties in the Indo-Pacific

Tokyo

June 1



MSC Zeitenwende on tour Braunschweig

May 15



MSC Roundtable on Tech Competition & Cybersecurity Navigating Technological Competition and Security in the Digital Age

Tokyo

June 5



MSC Zeitenwende on tour Gütersloh

May 23



MSC @ Deutsches Forum Sicherheitspolitik 2023 (in cooperation with BAKS): Turning Point in the Indo-Pacific?

Online

• June 6–8



Women Parliamentarians Program (WPP) Study Trip Geneva

May 24



MSC in Berlin with Cindy McCain Berlin

June 9



MSC Zeitenwende on tour Bremerhaven

• June 21



WPP Background Discussion with Boris Pistorius Berlin

• July 11



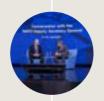
MSC Zeitenwende on tour Völklingen

• June 24



MSC Zeitenwende on tour Friedrichshafen

• July 11–12



MSC @ NATO Public Forum 2023 Vilnius

• June 27–28



MSC Roundtable on European Defense Visby

• July 13



MSC Zeitenwende on tour Berlin

June 30



MSC Zeitenwende on tour Cottbus

August 3



MSC Zeitenwende on tour Flensburg

August 21



MSC Zeitenwende on tour Erfurt

October 3



MSC @ Warsaw Security Forum 2023 Warsaw

• August 24–26



MYL Annual Meeting 2023 New Delhi

October 15–16



Munich Leaders Meeting Nairobi

August 31



MSC Zeitenwende on tour Rostock

October 16



MSC Roundtable on Climate & Energy Security Nairobi

September 6



MSC Roundtable on Cyber Security Brussels

October 16



MSC Roundtable on the Horn of Africa Nairobi



• December 1–2 MSC @ COP28 Dubai • December 3–5 Munich Strategy Retreat Elmau • December 10–11 MSC @ Doha Forum 2024 (msc Doha



MSC in Berlin on Iran with Masih Alinejad Berlin



MSC Events (selected)

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



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at the MSC 2023

The Munich Security Conference 2023

The 59th edition of the MSC, the first one under the chairmanship of Christoph Heusgen, was held from February 17 to 19, 2023, at its traditional venue in Munich, the Hotel Bayerischer Hof. This year's conference took place amid intensifying efforts by autocratic states to revise the international order: from Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine to China's tacit support thereof and own attempts to assert a sphere of influence in East Asia. Meanwhile, many states in the "Global South" have expressed their dissatisfaction with the status quo and have refused to speak up against Russia's fundamental violation of the UN Charter. Reflecting the Zeitenwende brought about by the Russian war against Ukraine, the conference hosted a record number of bilateral and multilateral meetings and the largest US Congressional Delegation ever.

Following on from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's rousing speech, leaders from liberal democracies around the world from German Chancellor Olaf Scholz to French President Emmanuel Macron, and US Vice President Kamala D. Harris expressed their unwavering commitment to support Ukraine for "as long as it takes" and to hold the perpetrators of war crimes accountable. The conference also featured the manifold other, and often inter-related, global, and regional security challenges, including stability in the Indo-Pacific and the Sahel, climate and food crises, and risks of nuclear proliferation. In doing so, the MSC continued its mission to broaden debates and provide a platform for exchange on the most pressing international security issues.



Panel Discussion with Dmytro Kuleba, Antony Blinken, Annalena Baerbock (from left to right) at the MSC 2023

Munich Leaders Meeting Tokyo

From May 14 to 16, 2023, just days before the G7 Hiroshima Summit, the MSC hosted a Munich Leaders Meeting (MLM) in Tokyo. Approximately 60 highlevel decision-makers and experts gathered, including heads of state and government, ministers and parliamentarians from Germany and Europe, the United States, but also from countries of the Indo-Pacific region such as Japan, India, South Korea, the Philippines or the Maldives. The MLM served as a timely and informal platform to identify and discuss joint policy priorities, building on the Munich Security Conference in February. At the MLM, discussions focused on three key aspects: First, participants agreed that security in the Indo-Pacific and Atlantic regions cannot be addressed separately as the two theatres are increasingly connected. This led to discussions about how to strengthen deterrence in the Indo-Pacific. Second, participants agreed that the international order needs to become more attractive and appealing to non-Western countries. Discussions in this regard revolved around the motivations of so-called "fence-sitting" countries who wish to stay out of great power competition. Third, participants agreed that the proponents of the current order need to become better at forging a common, positive narrative that highlights its benefits and feels inclusive to those "on the fence" or even on the other side.





Panel Dicussion at the Tokyo MLM



MSC @ DFS 2023

On May 23, 2023, following the MLM in Tokyo, the MSC hosted a digital Fireside Chat as part of the Deutsches Forum Sicherheitspolitik 2023 (German Forum on Security Policy 2023) on the topic of "Turning Point in the Indo-Pacific?". Moderated by Dr. Tobias Bunde, Director of Research & Policy at the MSC, Nicola Beer, Vice-President of the European Parliament, Marja-Liisa Völlers, Member of the Defense Committee of the SPD Parliamentary Group in the German Bundestag, and Dr. Mikko Huotari, Director of the Mercator Institute for China Studies, discussed the global political upheaval that is on the horizon in the Indo-Pacific.

MSC Roundtable on European Defense Visby

On June 27 and 28, 2023, the MSC hosted a European Defense Roundtable in Visby, Sweden, on the sidelines of the Almedalen week. The roundtable assembled around 40 high-level decision-makers and experts from government and military, parliament, academia, the think tank community, and the private sector. At the very end of the Swedish EU Council Presidency and two weeks ahead of the NATO Summit in Vilnius, participants drew lessons from Russia's war against Ukraine and discussed options to deepen European defense cooperation and bolster NATO's European pillar. The MSC's European Defense Roundtable kicked off with an evening reception and panel discussion aboard the German corvette Erfurt, which focused on drawing "Battlefield Lessons from Ukraine". The following day started with the launch of the MSC's special edition of the Munich Security Report on European Defense, titled "Defense Sitters: Transforming European Militaries in Times of War." The report launch was followed by two roundtable discussions, one focusing on obstacles that Europe's defense industry and militaries face when developing, producing, and acquiring new capabilities, and the second roundtable addressing defense cooperation within NATO and expectations regarding the Vilnius summit. The MSC's public session as part of the Almedalen Week's official program was titled "War in Europe: Sweden's Role in Strengthening European Defense" and included a speech by Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson and a highranking panel discussion with Sweden's Defense and Foreign Ministers.





MSC @ NATO Public Forum Vilnius

On July 11 and 12, 2023, the MSC, together with the Eastern European Studies Centre, the Atlantic Council, the German Marshall Fund, and NATO's Public Diplomacy Division, organized a series of discussions at the NATO Public Forum, which took place on the sidelines of the 2023 NATO Summit in Vilnius.

Following the opening of the event, MSC CEO and Vice-Chairman Benedikt Franke moderated a conversation with NATO Deputy Secretary General Mircea Geoană, covering the main topics discussed among NATO leaders at the summit. Later on, the MSC hosted a conversation with General Christopher G. Cavoli, NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe, discussing NATO's new regional plans, which he called "blueprints for the modernization of NATO's collective defense system." Toward the end of the first day, MSC Chairman Christoph Heusgen interviewed Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares, who expressed his optimism that the allies were making substantial progress in implementing the commitments made at the 2022 NATO Summit in Madrid.

The second day kicked off with NATO's High-Level Dialogue on Climate Security hosted by the MSC with Icelandic Foreign Minister Thórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörd Gylfadóttir, NATO Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges David van Weel, Secretary General of the International Military Council on Climate and Security Sherri Goodman, and Member of the Executive Council of the World Meteorological Organization General Luca Baione. Moderated by Deutsche Welle anchor Christine Mhundwa, the speakers discussed the security threats caused or exacerbated by climate change and the necessary responses.

As the highlight of the day, MSC Chairman Christoph Heusgen moderated a conversation with Jake Sullivan, the US National Security Advisor. Speaking shortly after the publication of the Summit Communiqué, Sullivan made a strong case for the importance of maintaining NATO's unity in face of Russian aggression and not drawing the alliance into a war with Russia.

MSC Roundtable on Cyber Security Brussels

On September 6, 2023, the Munich Security Conference organized a Roundtable on cyber security and tech regulation at the Bavarian Representation to the European Union in Brussels. In two sessions, participants discussed the EU's recent tech regulation initiatives, their impact on (cyber) security, and opportunities for transatlantic cooperation in this area.

The first discussion, which focused on cyber security, began with establishing the difficulty of regulating and safeguarding the cyber domain. As all aspects of life and politics become more digitally connected, participants agreed that the biggest security risk always emanates from the weakest link, be that humans in a corporation or one single, tiny piece of military equipment that is connected to all others and becomes a vector for attack.

The second session started with the question whether we are witnessing a strategic technology rivalry at the moment and between whom. Participants broadly agreed that this was the case between the transatlantic partners and China. Perspectives on the relationship between the EU and the US were more nuanced. The event concluded with a dinner, which focused on the technology-related lessons from the Russian war against Ukraine.



Participants of the MSC Roundtable with the President of the MSC Foundation Wolfgang Ischinger (2nd from left)

Munich Leaders Meeting Nairobi

On October 15 and 16, 2023, the Munich Security Conference (MSC) hosted a Munich Leaders Meeting (MLM) in Nairobi, Kenya. More than 90 leaders from over 20 countries, including 12 African states, representing governments, parliaments, civil society, the private sector, think tanks, and universities discussed how to develop a shared vision to advance the rules-based international order and bolster multilateralism.

The meeting in Nairobi took place against the backdrop of aggressive revisionism, growing geopolitical fragmentation, and a myriad of conflicts. Following the Munich Security Conference in February and the Munich Leaders Meeting in Tokyo, the event in Nairobi thus offered a timely opportunity to continue the MSC's efforts of promoting dialogue between countries from different parts of the world on how to shape such an inclusive vision of advancing the international order. On issues such as peacebuilding and counterterrorism, food security, and the energy transition, the participants stressed the importance of balanced partnerships and that "African solutions to African problems" must be more than a slogan.

The discussions in Nairobi underscored the importance of dialogue between leaders from Africa, Europe, and other parts of the world and the benefits of mutual learning. The discussions highlighted that for lasting transcontinental partnerships, based on mutual trust and solidarity, governments will need to drive an agenda for change: increasing the representation of African countries in the international system, forging mutually beneficial partnerships, and delivering on international commitments.



Participants in discussion at the MLM Nairobi







MSC a COP

In December, the MSC hosted multiple sessions as part of and alongside the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai. Following the MSC in February and activities at past COP summits, the MSC sought to enable cross-sectoral cooperation on climate change at COP28. Bringing together diverse stakeholders, MSC events aimed to identify steps towards decisive climate action in times of geopolitical divisions. The first day began with a high-level segment in partnership with the UAE COP28 Presidency. The event convened leaders to align priorities on the interlinked challenges of climate change and security. A dinner discussion then focused on entry points for multilateral climate cooperation. On the second day, MSC hosted a high-level panel to discuss pathways to strengthening climate resilience of food systems. Finally, in an off-the-record lunch discussion, the contentious issue of fossil fuel phase-out as a pillar of climate mitigation efforts took centre stage.

Munich Strategy Retreat Elmau

From December 3 to 5, 2023, the MSC hosted its annual Munich Strategy Retreat for a select group of experts to develop recommendations on pressing international security challenges. This year's Strategy Retreat concentrated on European security, the EU's broader geopolitical role in the face of aggressive great-power revisionism, and Franco-German relations. At the heart of the discussions was the question how Europe's response to the "Zeitenwende" can be strengthened and what longer term changes are needed to adjust to the altered security and geopolitical context. Taking place once a year at Schloss Elmau in Southern Germany, the meeting is limited to about 50 participants and held entirely off the record. While there certainly is no shortage of good events on foreign and security policy, no comparable forum exists in Germany or Europe. The Munich Strategy Retreats aim to fill this gap. Besides helping to promote a strategic debate on foreign and security policy choices and the development of strategic priorities for Germany and Europe, the Munich Strategy Retreats are also meant to provide input and guidance for all MSC activities and programs.

Zeitenwende on tour

The MSC's "Zeitenwende on tour" event series, launched in the summer of 2022, invites German citizens from all walks of life to join the debate on foreign and security policy. Initiated in light of Russia's attack against Ukraine, the campaign set out to encourage discussions on issues previously underrepresented in the German political debate. The event series is based on the idea that a true "Zeitenwende" – the change in Germany's foreign and defense policy required because of the fundamental shift in its security environment – is only possible if it can draw on the broad public support. Therefore, a respectful and fact-based dialogue between citizens, decision-makers and experts is crucial. Thus, this authentic exchange is at the heart of all "Zeitenwende on tour" events.

During the first year of the campaign alone, discussions took place across all 16 German states. These events were supported by the German Federal Government's Press and Information Office. Furthermore, the MSC collaborated closely with renowned organizations such as the German Society for Security Policy (Gesellschaft für Sicherheitspolitik, GSP), the German Atlantic Association (Deutsche Atlantische Gesellschaft, DAG), German Council on Foreign Relations (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik, DGAP) and German Institute for International and Security Affairs (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, SWP) as well as the Liz Mohn Center or Airbus Defense and Space in hosting events related to specific topics such as young peoples' concerns regarding "Zeitenwende" or the need for a strong European defense industry. For this contribution to a vibrant public debate in Germany, Zeitenwende on tour received overwhelmingly positive feedback and was shortlisted for the prestigious Politikaward as societyfocused campaign of the year 2023. Therefore, and in recognition of the continued need for an inclusive public debate on security and foreign policy, the MSC decided to continue the successful series for a second year until the summer of 2024.

Connecting citizens with renowned experts and high-ranking decision-makers, "Zeitenwende on tour" aims to promote an open and fact-based debate on foreign and security policy not only in large cities but also in Germany's small towns and rural areas. This is particularly important in light of the pervasive impact of online disinformation and increased polarization. These exchanges provide a unique value for both sides: on the one hand, citizens can voice their concerns, worries and questions and







receive a prompt, personalized response. This face-to-face communication is essential in strengthening citizens' confidence in the value of democratic government and discourse. On the other hand, this format assures the experts and decision-makers on the panel of the citizens' high level of interest in and oftentimes deep understanding of foreign and security policy.

Every "Zeitenwende on tour" townhall discussion gathers up to 300 citizens to join the conversation with four to six panelists from politics, academia, non-governmental organizations, and the media. Livestreams of these events and special digital formats such as Twitter spaces regularly reach over 1,000 people. Additionally, school visits give students the opportunity to raise their questions and express their expectations in interactive discussion formats. During workshops and background conversations, artists, soldiers and police officers, students at community colleges and journalists can get involved in the conversation as well. Finally, the successful "Zeitenwende" podcast provides detailed background information and in-depth conversations. Each episode of the podcast, experts and citizens speak about the impact one aspect of "Zeitenwende" has on the everyday lives of citizens. The episodes' topics range from Germany's policy towards Russia and energy prizes to inflation, the delicate balance between social spending and the 100 billion Euro special fund for the German armed forces and arms deliveries to Ukraine, as well as the role of the intelligence services.

Find out more about Zeitenwende on tour:



Panelists at the
Zeitenwende on tour
townhall in Wittenberg:
Rainer Haseloff, Jessica Nies,
Julia Krittian, Anne Gidion,
Svenja Schulze, Christoph
Heusgen, and Marc Rath
(lfrom left to right)



During the "Zeitenwende on tour" discussions in large cities and small towns across Germany, from Furth im Wald to Friedrichshafen, and Neuss to Cottbus, many prominent politicians and renowned experts joined the conversation with citizens. In Flensburg, Robert Habeck, Germany's Minster for Economic Affairs and Climate Action argued that peace in Ukraine is worth little if it is not followed by a strong deterrence and sustainable peace order, as it would otherwise only allow Russia to recover and prepare for another attack. At other events, General Carsten Breuer, Chief of the German armed forces, stressed the importance of making the Bundeswehr fit for war to prevent the need to fight one through credible deterrence, whilst former German Minister of Defense Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer highlighted the need to develop a long-term plan for Ukraine's reconstruction and security



Liz Mohn speaking at the Zeitenwende on tour Townhall in Gütersloh

guarantees. In Leipzig, Finnish Minister for European Affairs conveyed her country's emphasis on resilience in the face of the Russian threat in perfect German to the audience, benefiting from her exchange in Germany as a student. A particularly prominent feature of all events is the high level of citizens' engagement. In addition to asking their questions during the event, people chose various ways to express their views: In Bremerhaven, for example, a group of activists positioned themselves in front of the venue's entrance, holding signs which spelled the word "V-E-R-H-A-N-D-E-L-N (English: "Negotiate"). Reluctant to join the event at first, they later contributed actively to the discussion with their questions and remarks. Therefore, there is one main take-away from all events: the citizens who take part in the discussions are well informed and committed to meaningful dialogue. Thus, with "Zeitenwende on tour", the MSC and its partners are taking the foreign and security policy debate to the German people - an investment in democracy that is crucial to the success of a true change of course.



Zeitenwende: Special Issue

Already in the fall of 2020, the MSC published its report "Wendezeiten – Zeitenwende" to reignite the discussion on German foreign and security policy. In June 2023, the MSC and the German Council on Foreign Relations published a special edition of the "Internationale Politik" magazine regarding the "Zeitenwende", titled "Reden mit der Republik" (English: "In conversation with the Republic"). This special edition includes chapters by Ukraine's Minister of Foreign Affairs Dmytro Kuleba, NATO's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, Minna Ålander with a Finnish and Robert Ward with the Japanese perspective on "Zeitenwende", as well as the MSC's Ambassador Christoph Heusgen, Benedikt Franke, and Nico Lange.



Zeitenwende on tour Townhall at the Airbus Defence and Space Center in Manching

Zeitenwende on tour locations 2023

Leipzig
Munich
Lutherstadt Wittenberg
Braunschweig
Gütersloh
Bremerhaven
Friedrichshafen
Cottbus
Völklingen
Berlin
Flensburg
Erfurt
Rostock
Berlin
Manching



Protesters at the Zeitenwende on tour Townhall in Bremerhaven

The Ewald von Kleist Award

Ewald von Kleist

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

The Ewald von Kleist Award

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



MSC Chairman
Christoph Heusgen
(3rd from left) and
Bavarian Minister President
Markus Söder
(3rd from right)
with the winners of the
Ewald von Kleist Award 2023

Ewald von Kleist Award recipients, 2009-2023

2023	Finland and Sweden Accepted by Magdalena Andersson (former Prime Minister of Sweden), Ulf Kristersson (Prime Minister of Sweden), Sanna Marin (Prime Minister of Finland) and Sauli Niinistö (President of Finland)
2022	Jens Stoltenberg Secretary General, North Atlantic Treaty Organization
2021	Angela Merkel Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany
2020	United Nations accepted by Ambassador Jean-Pierre Lacroix, UN Under Secretary General for Peace Operations
2019	Alexis Tsipras Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic Zoran Zaev Prime Minister of the Republic of North Macedonia
2018	John McCain US Senator
2017	Joachim Gauck Federal President of the Federal Republic of Germany
2016	Laurent Fabius Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development of the French Republic; President COP 21 and Christiana Figueres Secretary General of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
2015	The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Didier Burkhalter (Chairman in Office 2014), Ivica Dacic (Chairman in Office 2015), Frank-Walter Steinmeier (Chairman in Office 2016), Lamberto Zannier (Secretary General)
2014	Helmut Schmidt Former Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing Former President of the French Republic
2013	Brent Scowcroft Former National Security Advisor of the United States of America
2012	Joseph Lieberman Former US Senator

The John McCain Dissertation Award



"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

About John McCain

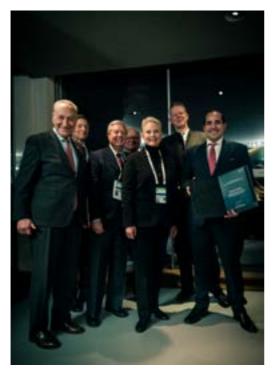
Senator John McCain was a companion, partner, and friend of the Munich Security Conference for more than four decades. After first attending the conference as a young Navy officer, he eventually came to lead the United States Congressional delegation to the MSC for more than 20 years in his role as senator.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

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

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

The Award

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







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

The selection process is led by an expert jury which includes Eugénia da Conceição-Heldt (Munich School of Politics and Public Policy at the TUM), Carlo Masala (University of the Federal Armed Forces), Berthold Rittberger (Geschwister Scholl Institute for Political Science, LMU Munich), Trine Flockhart (University of Southern Denmark), Stephanie Hofmann (European University Institute, Geneva Graduate Institute), Andrew Moravcsik (Princeton University), Mark Green (The Woodrow Wilson International Center), Francis Gavin (Johns Hopkins University), and Evelyn Farkas (McCain Institute).

The John McCain Dissertation Award recipients, 2019–2023

2023	Marino Felipe Auffant Post Doctoral Fellow, Kissinger Center for Global Affairs, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore
2022	Rachel Myrick Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Duke University, Durham
2021	Due to the pandemic, the MSC Special Edition 2021 took place as a live broadcast event. Consequently, no awardee was honoured.
2020	Balazs Martonffy American University, Washington, DC and Oscar Jonsson King's College London
2019	Abigail Post Anderson University and Ulrike Esther Franke University of Oxford

The Munich Young Leaders

About the Munich Young Leaders

The Munich Security Conference and 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 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. To date, more than 300 talented minds from over 60 countries and a wide range of professional backgrounds have become part of this distinguished group. Among them are ministers, members of parliament, senior civil servants, commanders, and leading political experts from some of the world's most prestigious institutions. Every year, a new cohort of 25 outstanding talents becomes part of the MYL network. They come from governmental institutions, parliaments, think tanks, the media, and the private sector. The Munich Young Leaders are nominated by the Körber Stiftung in coordination with the MSC, based on proposed candidates identified by German Embassies in selected countries.

Munich Young Leaders are given the chance to take part in the MSC and engage with high-ranking personalities and key decision-makers on foreign policy and security-related issues. Besides this, alumni gatherings take place regularly all over the world. Former annual meetings have been held in Rabat, Warsaw, Moscow, Madrid, New York, Tallin, and most recently New Delhi. At annual meetings, MYL alumni meet with senior experts and decision-makers, who share their insights and debate current foreign and security policy challenges with the MYL. Throughout the year, MYL are also invited to selected additional events organized by the MSC and Körber-Stiftung.



https://securityconference.org/ en/munich-young-leaders/

Activities in 2023

The Munich Young Leaders at the MSC 2023

After the pandemic-related restrictions of previous years, we were able to once again welcome a new cohort of Munich Young Leaders in person at the MSC 2023, who had the opportunity to take part in the diverse formats of the main program, as well as specifically tailored exclusive background discussions on the sidelines.



The 2023 MYL cohort at the Munich Security Conference with the MSC Chairman Christoph Heusgen (r.) Credit: Körber-Stiftung/Sauerer

The program and discussions offered the MYL the opportunity to actively engage with leading personalities in foreign and security policy and to exchange diverse perspectives on the most pressing issues in global affairs. The MYL discussed current challenges in foreign and security policy with Nadia Murad, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and founder of "Nadia's Initiative", German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius, his Singaporean counterpart Ng En Hen, Lithuanian Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis, US Senator Jeanne Shaheen, and Togolese Foreign Minister Robert Dussey. In addition, the group met with Ukrainian activists and MYL alumnae Hanna Hopko and Svitlana Zalishchuk, who gave the cohort an insight into the role of Ukrainian civil society in times of war and discussed the current situation in Ukraine with the group.



MYL Annual Meeting in New Delhi

Ahead of this year's G20 Summit, MYL Alumni from across the globe convened in New Delhi for discussions on pressing global challenges for India and its partners, including the future of multilateralism, strategic choices in the region, and opportunities for climate action and economic growth.

During a diverse and interactive two-day-program, the MYL met with Indian government representatives for exclusive background discussions, engaged in diverse panels and in-depth breakout sessions, and visited cultural sites in New Delhi and beyond. One of the highlights of this year's annual meeting was the high-level conversation with Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of India, who provided a brief input outlining his perspective on the most pressing foreign and security challenges for the international community ahead of the G20 summit, before engaging in a lively and frank Q&A session with the Young Leaders. Moreover, the MYL also met with Hardeep Singh Puri, India's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, who joined the Young Leaders for an intimate exchange, sharing his expertise from a longstanding diplomatic career including at the United Nations in New York, as well as his perspective on the current global order. The program also included panel discussions on strategic choices in the Indo-Pacific, the present and the future of the world's biggest democracy, and visions for a fairer and more equitable global order. Following three days of diverse discussions and thematic inputs, the MYL Annual Meeting concluded with an excursion to the Taj Mahal in Agra, giving the group an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of India's cultural and historic richness.



Panel Discussion in New Delhi, Indian MYL



MSC Women Parliamentarians Program

About the Women Parliamentarians Program

As a leading international platform for debating foreign and security policy issues, the MSC is convinced that relevant and effective dialogue must include diverse voices. Yet studies show that politics remains the sector with the largest gender gap globally, and women are still particularly underrepresented in foreign and security policy. That is why, with the Women Parliamentarians Program (WPP) and the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the MSC aims to strengthen the voices of female decision-makers and provide them with access to relevant fora and networks.

With WPP, the MSC has established a network which connects young female parliamentarians across party affiliations. Through selected formats, such as participation in MSC events, study trips, and background discussions, the program provides a platform for its members to exchange views, to engage with international leaders from the MSC network, and to generate new ideas and approaches for foreign, security, and development policy.

In 2023, the program brought together a group of 11 young, female German parliamentarians from the Bundestag and European Parliament, who work in the fields of foreign, security, and/or development policy.

Activities in 2023

At the MSC 2023

To kick off WPP, the members were invited to participate in the Munich Security Conference 2023. They were able to attend the entire conference program, including the main agenda and side-events. At the margins of the conference, the parliamentarians came together for a meeting with Nancy Pelosi, Speaker Emerita of the U.S. House of Representatives, and Canadian Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly, who shared personal experiences and recommendations for succeeding as women in politics. The group also met with Bill Gates, who highlighted the importance of female empowerment in the work of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and provided some insights into the priorities of the Foundation's work.

Study Trip to Geneva

The first WPP study trip brought the group to Geneva, the humanitarian capital. A series of high-level background discussions gave the parliamentarians insights into the work of, priorities, and challenges for international organizations. Overall, the conversations made clear how important Germany, the second biggest humanitarian donor, is as a partner – even more so as heightened geopolitical tensions, numerous crises, and increasing budget cuts put immense pressure on humanitarian organizations to fulfil their mandate. The parliamentarians left Geneva with a deepened understanding of the current challenges for international (humanitarian) organizations and new input for their parliamentary work.

Meetings with UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights Nada Al-Nashif, the Executive Director of the World Health Organization (WHO), Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Mirjana Spoljaric Egger, highlighted the dire humanitarian situation in many parts of the world. Balanced policies and funding are needed to address the challenges around migration, protection of civic space, pandemic preparedness, and complex conflict environments. The conversations with Beatrice Fihn, Nobel Peace Prize winning International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), and Robin Geiß, Director of the UN Institute for Disarmament Research, focused on nuclear security and disarmament, emphasizing the growing importance of multilateralism and norms in the face of the Russian aggression against Ukraine. Finally, an exchange with German Permanent Representative Katharina Stasch gave concrete insights into Germany's role in the UN environment and the challenges of multilateral negotiations in times of increasing systemic competition.



Women Parliamentarians Program at the MSC 2023



² Publications

MSC Publications in 2023



In addition to its annual flagship publication, the Munich Security Report (MSR), in 2023, the MSC also released a Special Edition of the MSR on European Defense and two Munich Security Briefs (MSBs) that summarize the key takeaways from the Munich Security Conference 2023 and the Munich Leaders Meetings in Tokyo, respectively.

The MSC also developed a new, much shorter publication format that complements the two already established formats MSR and MSB. In November, it released its first issue thereof: a "Debrief" of the Munich Leaders Meeting that took place in Nairobi in October. The new publication format comes in three variants. Apart from the "Debrief" (short readouts of MSC events) it also features policy papers ("Analysis") and opinion papers ("Opinion"). These additions to the established formats allow MSC authors to comment on current security developments and contribute concise and prompt background analyses and opinion papers to the political debate.

In February, the MSC published the Munich Security Report 2023. Titled "Re:vision," it explores intensifying authoritarian revisionism and the growing contest between different visions for the international order. It also stimulates the debate about how liberal democracies can confront authoritarian efforts to subvert key rules and principles and how they can re-envision the liberal, rules-based international order to make it more attractive among the wider international community. The MSR 2023 features a new edition of the Munich Security Index, a risk index jointly developed by the MSC and Kekst CNC that is based on surveys conducted in the G7 and BRICS countries. The Munich Security Index 2023 is exceptional because the MSC and Kekst CNC decided not to poll in Russia and instead included Ukraine. The survey results show that Russia's war of aggression and its ramifications have dramatically increased risk perceptions among citizens around the world. It also reveals that these traditional security threats add to, but do not replace citizens' existing concerns about transnational risks like climate change.

After the main conference, the MSC published the Munich Security Brief "Searching for a Common Vision." In the brief, Nicole Koenig and Leonard Schütte summarize the key takeaways from the conference, including from debates about how to push back against authoritarian revisionism and from

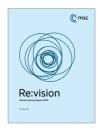
discussions about how to re-envision the international order to create wider ownership.

Another Munich Security Brief, published in June, documents the discussions that took place at the Munich Leaders Meeting in Tokyo in May. Titled "Zeitenwende in the Indo-Pacific?," the MSB summarizes the meeting's debates that revolved around deterrence and defense in the Indo-Pacific, the lessons from Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine for other regions in the world, and the strengths and weaknesses of the international order. The author, Paula Koehler, also lays out participants' discussions on how to deal with countries, sometimes referred to as "fence-sitters", that do not want to take sides amid increasing systemic rivalry between the United States, Russia, and China.

On the occasion of the MSC Roundtable on European Defense in Visby, which took place in June, the MSC published a Special Edition of the Munich Security Report on European Defense, titled "Defense Sitters: Transforming European Militaries in Times of War." The report makes suggestions for how Europeans can "come off the fence" on matters of defense – by better equipping themselves for a deteriorated security environment, supporting Ukraine over the long term, and strengthening the European pillar in NATO.

The second half of 2023, mostly dedicated to work on the Munich Security Report 2024, saw the publication of a "Debrief" – the first release in the MSC's new third format of shorter publications. The Debrief, titled "Actions Speak Louder Than Words," summarizes the key takeaways from November's Munich Leaders Meeting in Nairobi. The authors, Julia Hammelehle and Isabell Kump, also sketch out what from the discussions emerged as essential building blocks of deeper, lasting partnerships between African countries, the US, and Europe.

Munich Security Report 2023 – Re:vision



The Munich Security Report 2023 explores intensifying authoritarian revisionism and the growing contest between different visions for the international order, which has turned into a brutal and deadly reality for many after the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It also stimulates the debate on how the coalition defending the vision of a liberal, rules-based order can be enlarged and strengthened.

To explore where the global order is heading, the report zooms in on various domains where the contest for the future international order is currently playing out – human rights, the governance of global infrastructures, development, energy security, and nuclear stability. As the chapters show, the Russian war against Ukraine is just the most brazen attack by authoritarian revisionists on the liberal, rules-based international order. Revisionist actors are trying to undermine the status quo and change the international order in many different ways. At the same time, the chapters highlight that in the contest between different visions for the future international order, the divide between democracies and autocracies is not the only cleavage that matters – and powerful autocrats are not alone in their deep dissatisfaction with existing international norms and institutions.

The extraordinary resilience and determination of the Ukrainian people, which is also evident in the Munich Security Index survey result from Ukraine, has instilled a new sense of purpose into democratic countries and governance formats. But while liberal democracies have shown their willingness and ability to push back against authoritarian efforts to subvert key rules and principles, another difficult task still lies ahead: re-envisioning the liberal, rules-based international order to make it more attractive among the wider international community. Against the backdrop of multiple cleavages at play in the global order contest and legitimate resentments that many countries of the "Global South" have towards the existing order, simply defending the status quo will not do the trick. Instead, liberal democracies have to offer a positive vision for a more peaceful and prosperous world.



The 2023 edition of the Munich Security Report features a new edition of the Munich Security Index, an exclusive annual index of risk perceptions in 12 countries with decisive influence over global affairs: the G7 and BRICS states. What makes this year's index exceptional is that the MSC and Kekst CNC decided not to poll in Russia and instead included Ukraine. The Russian war of aggression and its ramifications have dramatically increased risk perceptions among citizens around the world. But these traditional security threats only add to, not replace, citizens' existing concerns about transnational risks like climate change. The Munich Security Index 2023 is thus a testament to a new age in global politics marked by an omnipresent sense of insecurity.

The report features a range of exclusive and previously unpublished data. For the MSR 2023, the MSC once more cooperated with a number of institutions, including the Centre for International Security at the Hertie School, the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR), the Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS), the Victor Pinchuk Foundation, and Global Trade Alert.

Media Response

The Munich Security Report 2023 and the Munich Security Index were referenced in leading German and international media outlets, including Tagesspiegel, Deutsche Welle, Financial Times, Project Syndicate, Bloomberg, and others.

In addition to the presentation of the report at the Bundespressekonferenz, multiple background briefings were conducted, and more than 6,000 direct downloads of the full report within four weeks after its release were registered. The report was shared with thousands of stakeholders in the MSC network across the world and was accompanied by further promotional activities in coordination with national and international partner organizations. Within the first weeks after publication, the MSR website received around 38,000 page views.

Download the Report:



Bibliographic data: Tobias Bunde, Sophie Eisentraut, Natalie Knapp, Leonard Schütte, Julia Hammelehle, Isabell Kump, Amadée Mudie-Mantz, and Jintro Pauly, "Munich Security Report 2023: Re:vision," Munich: Munich Security Conference, February 2023, https://doi.org/10.47342/ ZBJA9198 The 2023 edition of the Munich Security Report features a new edition of the Munich Security Index, an exclusive annual index of risk perceptions in 12 countries with decisive influence over global affairs: the G7 and BRICS states. What makes this year's index exceptional is that the MSC and Kekst CNC decided not to poll in Russia and instead included Ukraine. The Russian war of aggression and its ramifications have dramatically increased risk perceptions among citizens around the world. But these traditional security threats only add to, not replace, citizens' existing concerns about transnational risks like climate change. The Munich Security Index 2023 is thus a testament to a new age in global politics marked by an omnipresent sense of insecurity.

The report features a range of exclusive and previously unpublished data. For the MSR 2023, the MSC once more cooperated with a number of institutions, including the Centre for International Security at the Hertie

About the Munich Security Report

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

About the Munich Security Briefs

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

MSC Publications in 2023



Nicole Koenig, Leonard Schütte, Natalie Knapp, Paula Köhler, Isabell Kump, and Jintro Pauly, "Defense Sitters: Transforming European Militaries in Times of War,"

Munich: Munich Security Conference, Special Edition of the Munich Security Report, June 2023, https://doi.org/10.47342/LIHA9331.

Russia's war against Ukraine exposed the dire state of European defense once and for all. But the war could unleash new dynamics. Carried by public support, European leaders have committed themselves to transforming European defense. The EU is launching several initiatives that could help overcome the pathological fragmentation of Europe's defense industrial base and establish the Union as a strategic enabler for NATO. But more needs to be done.



Paula Köhler, "Zeitenwende in the Indo-Pacific? A Readout From the Munich Leaders Meeting in Tokyo in May 2023,"

Munich: Munich Security Conference, Munich Security Brief 2, June 2023, https://doi.org/10.47342/RPQC8598.

Not only Germany and Europe, but also the Indo-Pacific region is in the midst of a Zeitenwende and must increasingly confront revisionist tendencies in its immediate neighborhood. In May 2023, the MSC held its first meeting in Japan. Discussions focused on deterrence and defense in the Indo-Pacific, lessons from Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine for other regions in the world, and the strengths and weaknesses of the international order. This Munich Security Brief gives an overview of the most important topics and discussions of the Meeting held in Tokyo.



Nicole Koenig and Leonard Schütte, "Searching for a Common Vision: A Readout From the Munich Security Conference 2023"

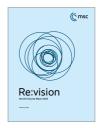
Munich: Munich Security Conference, Munich Security Brief 1, February 2023, https://doi.org//10.47342/JPRD3642.

The MSC 2023 took place amid intensifying efforts by autocracies to revise the international order: from Russia's war against Ukraine to China's attempts to assert a regional sphere of influence. Meanwhile, many states in the "Global South" have expressed their dissatisfaction with the status quo. In Munich, leaders of liberal democracies sought to push back against this revisionism, reaffirm their commitment to Ukraine's victory, and discuss how to re-envision the international order.

Tobias Bunde, Sophie Eisentraut, Natalie Knapp, Leonard Schütte, Julia Hammelehle, Isabell Kump, Amadée Mudie-Mantz, and Jintro Pauly, "Munich Security Report 2023: Re:vision"

Munich: Munich Security Conference, February 2023, https://doi.org/10.47342/ZBJA9198.

The Munich Security Report 2023 shows how competing visions for the international order are playing out in several policy fields. Set against the background of intensifying autocratic revisionism, manifest in Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine as well as China's support for Russia and growing assertiveness, the report analyses the fault lines shaping human rights, global infrastructures, development cooperation, energy relations, and the nuclear order.



Isabell Kump and Leonard Schütte, "Dark Clouds Over the Black Sea: A Readout From the Munich Leaders Meeting in Bucharest in November 2022"

Munich: Munich Security Conference, Munich Security Brief 4, December 2022, https://doi.org/10.47342/VJZB9052.

In late November 2022, the MSC held its first formal meeting in Southeastern Europe – the region most affected by Russia's war on Ukraine. This Munich Security Brief summarizes the discussions centering on support for Ukraine, the Black Sea region, and the implications of the war for the European security architecture. It includes an updated edition of the "Transatlantic To-Do List."



Tobias Bunde and Sophie Eisentraut, "Zeitenwende for the G7: Insights From the Munich Security Index Special G7 Edition"

Munich: Munich Security Conference, Munich Security Brief 3, June 2022, https://doi.org/10.47342/JDIE4364.

As survey data collected for a special edition of the Munich Security Index shows, Germany is not the only country where people perceive the Russian invasion of Ukraine as a Zeitenwende – a historical turning point. This Munich Security Brief discusses the momentous changes in public opinion in the G7 countries and provides an overview of the challenges facing the G7 in a security environment shaped by both traditional and nontraditional security risks.





Reach and Visibility

Global Media Coverage

After two years of adapted versions due to the pandemic, the 59th Munich Security Conference was back in its full format and reached more people and a broader media coverage than ever. More than 1,100 accredited journalists from 57 countries participated on-site.

Almost a year after the start of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, the MSC 2023 was at the center of international diplomacy. For three days, the MSC 2023 provided an unparalleled platform to take stock of alliance cohesion and political commitment to the rules-based international order.

Global media coverage was higher than ever. The top global and top 20 German newspapers reached a circulation of >60 million reporting on the MSC 2023. More than 6,429 articles were published before, during, or after the conference weekend from worldwide media outlets, including The New York Times, The Japan News, The Guardian, Le Monde, The Kyiv Independent, The Washington Post, Financial Times, and Deutsche Welle. In addition, more than 4,753 newswire reports were issued by more than 89 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, with over 8,061 reports broadcasted on over 176 different channels, including France 24 and NBC News. In addition, the MSC's media partner, Bayerischer Rundfunk, live-streamed the conference on German TV.

The MSC's continued effort in the social media strategy and public outreach program managed to further increase numbers, reach new key audiences, and build momentum for future activities. This resulted in more than 612,000 visits to the MSC website, more than 19,500 new followers on social media, and more than 15.7 million impressions across all social media platforms.

MSC coverage throughout 2023 in numbers

Digital Communication by the Organization

1,046

posts by the MSC across all platforms (+ 362 stories)

> 192,600

followers across all MSC platforms

> 370,000

total views of MSC livestreams and videos

9,866

followers of Chairman Christoph Heusgen's Twitter account

20.02 mio.

total impressions (including paid impressions)

4,867

newsletter subscribers

84

tweets by Chairman Christoph Heusgen's Twitter account

1.01 mio.

total visits of the MSC website

Media appearances by MSC Representatives

269

appearances of the MSC leadership and experts in the media

1

Vice-Chairman Rainer Rudolph

159

Chairman
Christoph Heusgen
• international: 48

• national: 111

11

CEO Benedikt Franke

68

President of the Foundation Council Wolfgang Ischinger

- international: 6
- national: 62

41

other
MSC representatives
(25 appearances of
Gerhard Conrad)

Sample Coverage

Online

More than 900,000 DW users wanted to know more about China's stance on the war in Ukraine.



MSC coverage for one of DW's target audiences: DW Hindi reached more than 400,000 users with this video



MSC 2023 in Numbers

> 1,100

accredited journalists participated on-site

323

different media outlets

57

countries represented

6,429

newspaper articles (+ 26% compared to 2022) (Europe 3,544, USA 537, Asia 1,682, Africa 82) 4,753 reports from 89 news agencies (+ 17% compared to 2022) > 60 mio.

circulation of leading global and top 20 German newspaper reporting on MSC 2023

The New Hork Times

Western Leaders Pledge Support for Ukraine 'as Long as Necessary'

The New York Times

As Russia's invasion approaches its second year with no end in sight, Ukraine's supporters faced lingering questions at the Munich Security Conference about how long their resolve will last. Nearly one year into the brutal and costly war in Ukraine, Western leaders pledged to remain steadfast in their support for Kyiv amid worries about whether their unity can survive what France's president called "a prolonged conflict." As dozens of leaders convened in Germany, Ukraine's president opened the annual Munich Security Conference with a warning against "fatigue" and emphasizing that speed is of the essence if his country is to hold off a renewed Russian onslaught. He compared his country's fight against Russia to the biblical battle of David and Goliath, saying that Western weapons would be the key to defeating "the Russian Goliath." Michael Crowley, Roger Cohen, Steven Erlanger, Erika Solomon, The New York Times, February 17, 2023

Le Monde

A Munich, les Occidentaux font la démonstration de leur unité face à la Russie

Le Monde

"Cette extrême tension, alimentée par le double discours du président russe sur un prétendu retrait de ses troupes proches de la frontière tout en menant des exercices nucléaires, a largement dominé la deuxième journée de la conférence de Munich sur la sécurité, en Allemagne, samedi 19 février. Un sentiment de gravité croissant a marqué les interventions des responsables et dirigeants qui se sont succédé à la tribune, y compris chez ceux des Européens qui avaient fait jusqu'ici preuve de plus de retenue que les Américains et les Britanniques. Il était aussi perceptible dans les nombreuses réunions organisées en marge de la conférence, comme celle des ministres de la défense de l'OTAN et celle des ministres des affaires étrangères du G7."

Sylvie Kauffmann and Thomas Wieder, Le Monde, February 20, 2022

THE KYIV INDEPENDENT

Ukraine war latest: 'No alternative to Ukrainian victory,' Zelensky says at Munich Security Conference

The Kyiv Independent

In his address to the attendees of the Munich Security Conference, President Volodymyr Zelensky said "there is no alternative" to Ukrainian victory, the country's membership in the EU and NATO. "There is no alternative to our unity. Therefore, there is and will be no alternative to getting rid of Russian aggression once and for all, liberating the land and the people," Zelensky said in a video address on Feb. 17. This year's Munich Security Conference, set to take place through Feb. 19, is focused on Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Thaisa Semenova, The Kyiv Independent, February 17, 2023

MSC 2023 Media Partnerships in Numbers

MSC Media Partnership with Deutsche Welle

13

language programs for worldwide audiences

> 22 mio.

users across all DW social media accounts + dw.com

> 45

hours of live streaming and live analysis on TV and social media (in English, Ukrainian and Russian

MSC Media Partnership with Foreign Policy

117,108

subscribers overall

281,654

people have read the four special issues on the MSC 2023 in total 70,413

readers per issue on the MSC 2023 on average

MSC Media Partnership with Foreign Affairs

197,050

990,210

total online ad impressions

total e-newsletters sent

Special Issues and Op-Eds

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Süddeutsche Zeitung traditionally publishes a special insert on security issues in the run-up to the Munich Security Conference this year entitled "Security 2023". The four-page print version was made available to participants at the MSC.

This year's special issue focused on Russia's war against Ukraine and its different implications. Stefan Kornelius wrote about one of the most pressing questions: would Putin dare to use nuclear weapons? While Silke Bigalke shed light on the fear and discontent in the Russian population and the occasional open criticism, Paul-Anton Krüger took a look at the role of the United Nations. Lea Sahay analyzed China's position, and Florian Hassel focused on the structure and capability of the Ukrainian army. The global implications of the war were discussed by Mirco Keilberth, David Pfeiffer, and Tobias Zick. In an interview with Jabin T. Jacob, Professor for International Relational at the Shiv-Nadar University School in Delhi, Tobias Matern shed light on India's position on the war.

Süddeutsche Zeitung is one of Germany's leading nationwide daily newspapers with up to about 400,000 readers per print issue and 83,79 visits of their website per month.



Süddeutsche Zeitung

Süddeutsche Zeitung, Feburary 16. 2023

Op-Ed by Christoph Heusgen in Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

On February 17, 2023, the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung published an Op-Ed by Ambassador Heusgen. In this Op-Ed, the Chairman of the Munich Security Conference demanded that Wladimir Putin has to be held accountable for his aggression.

Frankfurter Allgemeine ZBITUNG FÜR DEUTSCHLAND

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, February 17, 2023

ie Münchner Sicherheits-konferenz findet ein Jahr nach dem Überfall Russ-lands auf die Ukraine statt.

lands auf die Ukraine statt. Ein Jahr nachdem die russischen Truppen von Wladimir Putin in das Nachbarland getrieben wurden, um dessen Eigenständigkeit zu beenden und 40 Milliomen Menschen zu unterjochen. Trotz aller Rückschläge hat der russische Machthaber seine Absicht nicht aufgegeben, die Ukraine in seine Einflüssezone eirzugliedern. Um sein Ziel zu erreichen, schreckt 10m sein Ziel zu erreichen, schreckt 10m sein Ziel zu erreichen, schreckt 10m seine Einflüssezone eirzugliedern. Um sein Ziel zu erreichen, schreckt 10m seine Menschen mussten libe Heimat verlassen, Zehntaussende haben ihr Leben verloren, wurden physisch und psychisch verletzt, gefoltert, vergewaltigt oder entführt. Putin, seine Soldaten und Söldner haben Kriegswerberchen und Verbrechen gegen die Menschlichkeit unvorstellbaren Ausmales begangen, Auch die anhaltende

Menschlichkeit unvorstellbaren Aus-maßes begangen. Auch die anhaltende systematische Zersförung der ukraini-schen zivilen Infrastruktur stellt ein Kriegsverbrechen dar. Bei der letzten Minchner Sicher-Bei der letzten Minchner Sicher-ger und der Schaffen der Schaffen der Schlimmste abwenden zu können. Wir haben uns bemühr, russische Regie-

Fremde Federn: Christoph Heusgen

Ein Sondertribunal für Verbrechen in der Ukraine

rungsvertreter zu einer Teilnahme zu bewegen, sie mit ihren Gegenübern aus der Ukraine, Europa und Nordamerika zusammenzubringen. Die russische Regierung hat dis Angebot ausgeschlassen der Schaffen de

nicht warten mussen. Auch der vom Auswärtigen Amt unterstützte Weg über ein "hybrides Gericht", das nach ukrainischem Recht entsteht und international besetzt wird, führt nicht zum Erfolg, denn Putin kann sich ihm unter Hinweis auf seine Immunität entziehen.

cher, Dies ist aber auch wichtig, um andere Diktatoren auf dieser Welt davon abzuhalten, Putins entsetzlichen Beispiel zu folgen und zu versuchen, mit Gewalf Fakten zu schaffen. Frieden kann es run der geben, wo des berichten der Schaffen ein der bei den Schaffen. Er ich welt das Recht des Stärkeren durchsetzt. Es gibt keinen einfachen Weg, wie Putin für das von ihm begangene Verbrechen der Aggression belangt werden kann. Dem Internationalen Strafgerichtschof hat sich Russland nichtt unterworfen. Anpassungen seines Staffenen sich welt der Schaffen der Weg bei der Schaffen der vom Auswärtigen Am tunterstützte Weg fiber ein "Inbrides Gericht", kan anch verantwortlich gemacht wird. Aber die Miloševićs, Karadžićs und Taylors die-ser Welt haben sich auch für unantast-bar gehalten.

Der Autor ist Leiter der Münchner Sicher-

Op-Ed by Tobias Bunde, Sophie Eisentraut and Leonard Schütte in Tagesspiegel

On Feburary 17, 2023, the Tagesspiegel published an Op-Ed by Tobias Bunde (Director of Research & Policy), Sophie Eisentraut (Head of Research & Publications) and Leonard Schütte (Senior Researcher). In the Op-Ed, the MSC researchers presented some exciting findings of the Munich Scurity Report ahead of its official publication.



Entschlossen und zuversichtlich So blickt die Ukraine auf den Krieg

it der Entscheidung der Brundersteilerung, Kampfpanzer in die Ukraine zu liefern, hat auch in Deutschland die bebatte über die siken dieser Politik an Fahr aufgenommen. Dabei wird erstaumlich wenig danach gefragt, wie die Ukrainerinnen und Ukrainerinnen und Ukrainerinnen und Ukrainerinnen und Ukrainerinnen werden der über der der Scholch hat erst jüngst betont, man werde "nicht der Ukraine mitteilen, was ihre Zielstungen zu sein haben. Wir werden nicht über dem Kopf der Ukrainhanden." Aber seibst eringe, die meinen, im ukrainischen Interesse zu handeln. "Most seibst eringe, die meinen, im ukrainischen Interesse zu handeln." Wers niem, wie die die meinen, im ukrainischen Interesse zu handeln. "Most sein kunn wie die die

handeln." Aber selbst einige, dismeinen, im ukrainschen Interesse
zu handeln, wissen kaum, wie die
Bevölkerung vor for auf rügliche
gen für einen Waffenstillstand
oder auch langfritige Sicherheitsgarantien blickt.

Für ihren jährlichen "Munich
Security Report" hat die Münch
Security Report "hat die Münch
Security Report" hat die Münch
Security Report "hat die Münch
Security Report in der Ukraine in Auftrag gegeben. Sie wurde von der Kommunikationssgentur Kelst CKC mit
lokale Parturen über mehrere
Wochen im November 2022
Kriegbedingungen zu belastbaren Ergebnisse zeichnen der Geselbschaft,
die dem russischen Angriff son der
und zuwersichtlich in die Zukunft
schatt. Ihr seischen Angriff son der deutschen.
Besonders eindricklich wird
dies bei der Berurellung des Miss
das in der deutschen Debatte- und
wohl auch in der Eutscheidungs-

Tobias Bunde ist Director of Research & Policy der Münchner





Leonard Schütte ist Senior Researcher im Publications & Re-search Team der

findung des Bundeskanzlers-einer zentrale Rolle spielt. Konfroniert mit mehreren hypothetischen Sze-narien, zeigen sich die Befragten erstaunlich unbeeindruckt von Moskaus Drohungen, obwohl sie die ersten Opfer eines russischen Nuklearschlage wären. Ein russi-sche Einsatz taktischer Atomwaf-fen ist für die überwältigende Mehrheit kein Grund, den Wider-stand einzustellen. 89 Prozent der stand einzustellen. 89 Prozent der Befragten geben an, selbst im Falle eines nuklearen Angriffs auf eine ukrainische Stadt weiterkämpfen

nie zu Beginn des Angriffskrieges keine akzeptable Grundlage für ei-nen Waffenstillstand. Acht von zehn Befragten würde auch ein über diese Linie hinausgehender

über diese Linie hinausgehender Rückzug russischer Truppen nicht ausreichen, sofern die Krim weiterhin von Russland besetzt bliebe. Für die große Mehrheit ist damit die Wiederherstellung der Souveränität über das gesamte ukrainische Territorium Voraussetzung für einen Waffenstillstand und Verhandlungen.

und Verhandlungen.
Obwohl sich die Bundesregierung für die Anerkennung der
Ukraine als EU-Beitrittskandidat
starkgemacht hat, hat sie bisher
vermieden, detailliert zu langfris-



TAGESSPIEGEL

Tagesspiegel, Feburary 17, 2023

ne ohne westliche Sicherheitsga-rantien niemals vor Russland si-cher sein wird. Für 72 Prozent be-darf es langfristiger Waffenliefe-rungen des Westens. Etwa zwei Drittel der Befragten sind davon überzeugt, dass ihr Land außer-halb der Naton ies icher sein wird. Eine klare Mehrheit vertraut den 155 A. de A. West. Aber über Jeut

USA und der Nato eher, ihr Land zu verteidigen, als der EU.

kommenden Jahr Neben der moralischen Verpflich-tung, die Perspektive der Opfer des russischen Angriffskriegs zu

sen met Deutschland unlangemes-sen wäre. Zudem hegt die ukraini-sche Öffentlichkeit möglicherwei-se unrealistische Vorstellunger davon, was militärisch und poli-isch möglich ist.

tasch möglich ats. Med Berölliche Aber die Hälmt eine Herolliche und ein Kriegsverfauf, sondern beschränkt auch das Menü belastbarer Friedenslösungen. Zum einen ist der Zussammenhalt der ukrainischen Bevölkerung, wereint im gen den autokraischen Revisionismus Russlands zu verteidigen, ein wesentlicher Grund für die erstaunliche Widerstandskraft der Ukraine. Der Aussang des Kriegsen und der Händlungsbaren bei der Berücktung der Steine Bei der Bei der

niger frei als sein autokratischer Gegenspieler im Kreml. Wer es mit dem Mantra ernst meint, dass nichts über die Köpfe

MSC 2023 Digital Communications

Throughout the Munich Security Conference 2023, the MSC was actively engaged with followers on all major social networks, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn. With 344 posts informing the public about the event, the MSC gained more than 15.7 million total impressions on all its channels. Furthermore, more than 400,000 total interactions could be counted. This correlated with a significant increase of followers on all platforms; more than 19,500 new fans and followers to be precise. The YouTube channel "Munich Security Conference" features highlight videos and exclusive YouTube Studio content – providing an overview of the debates and events during the MSC 2023. Additionally, the MSC broadcasted various sessions simultaneously on its website and streamed select-ed program items live on social media.

MSC 2023 was thus the most public and accessible conference in its history.

In Pictures





Twitter

MSC 2023 Digital Communications in Numbers

344

> 19,500

posts by MSC across all social media platforms

new fans and followers

> 400,000

> 15.7 mio.

total interactions

total impressions

> 612,000

> 52,900

total visits of the MSC website

total views of MSC YouTube videos

> 311,000

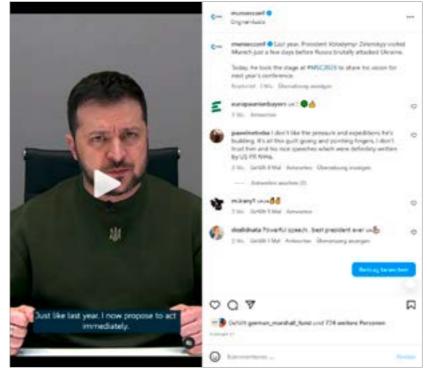
> 5000

total MSC livestream views

total Newsletter subscribers

Instagram









Facebook





LinkedIn



Website



MSC Homepage





Live-Streaming

Building on the success of last year's livestreaming offer, the MSC team decided to continue to make large parts of the program publicly and digitally available. For the second time, the MSC broadcasted various sessions simulatenously on its website and streamed selected program items live on social media. A digital conferencing platform for registered participants and journalists offered a range of virtual engagement options. In addition to the live streams on Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, and LinkedIn, selected streams were made available to associated organisations, such as the European Commission, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).





Live Streaming @ MSC2023

Overview

> 311,000

total MSC livestream views

36

36 sessions streamed on social media +72,7% compared to 2022

> 100,000

subtotal livestream views from the MSC website

> 211,000

subtotal livestream views from social media

> 137,000

live stream viewers on MSC Twitter

> 24,200

live stream viewers on MSC Facebook

> 43,100

live stream viewers on MSC YouTube

> 6,700

live stream viewers on MSC LinkedIn

MSC Studio

The MSC Studio offers the possibility of producing high-quality video content directly inside the Hotel Bayerischer Hof. Equipped with cutting-edge recording and streaming technology, the MSC Studio was available to partners and media organizations to host a show or live conversation, press conference or other digital engagement. This year's edition included a CNN interview with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, a CNBC interview with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, as well discussion panels by Deutsche Welle and GZERO.





MSC Studio in Numbers

20

total events press releases

11 4

interviews podcast recordings

news show recordings

MSC YouTube Studio

The MSC YouTube Studio has been an integral part of the Munich Security Conference program for several years. As part of a partnership with YouTube, the MSC brings together conference guests with prominent YouTube creators from around the world for an intimate one-on-one conversation on the most pressing security questions of our time.

This year, the host team consisted of four YouTube creators and renowned journalists: Eva Schulz from Germany, Jack Kelly from the UK, Masha Efrosynina from Ukraine, and Wode Maya from Ghana. In a total of 21 conversations, the hosts questioned their guests on a wide range of issues, from the war in Ukraine, current geopolitical tensions, to accountability, and human rights. The hosts also distributed the material on their own channels. This way, the MSC was able to benefit from the reach and authenticity of the creators and tap into new audiences and target groups.



Interview Hosts

Eva Schulz

A prominent face in the German media landscape and an experienced moderator: Eva Schulz joined us to ask our studio guests the questions that dig deeper.

Kobina Ackon (Wode Maya)

Aeronautical engineer turned influential creator from Ghana: Kobina Ackon (Wode Maya) pro-vided his unique Pan-African perspective as a host in our studio.

Masha Efrosynina

Masha Efrosynina is a renowned Ukrainian TV presenter, UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador, and fights to end violence against women.

Jack Kelly

"We don't just share the news, we explain the news." That's the motto of the United Kingdom's pi-oneering digital outlet TLDR News. Founder Jack Kelly joined the team of hosts at this year's studio.

Interviewees

Christiane Amanpour, Baiba Braze, James Cleverly, John Dramani Mahama, Comfort Ero, Benedikt Franke, Lieutenant General Ingo Gerhartz, Richard N. Haass, Robert Habeck, Kaja Kallas, Hina Rabbani Khar, Mikhail Khordokovsky, Þórdís Kolbrún R. Gylfadóttir, Lieutenant General Michael A. Loh, Oleksandra Matviichuck, Mitch McConnell, Cem Özdemir, Wolfgang Schmidt, Düzen Tekkal

MSC YouTube Studio in Numbers

4

21

Hosts with a combined reach of more than 2.5 million You-Tube subscribers MSC YouTube Studio recordings

> 45,000

7,820

total YouTube Studio views

subscribers on the MSC YouTube channel



Munich Security Report 2023: "Re:vision"

The Munich Security Report (MSR) is the MSC's annual flagship publication and was published ahead of MSC 2023 as a discussion starter. The chairman of the MSC, Dr. Christoph Heusgen, the MSC's Director of Research & Publication, Dr. Tobias Bunde, and, the MSC's Head of Research and Publications Dr. Sophie Eisentraut presented the report at the Bundespressekonferenz.

To explore where the global order is actually turning toward, the 2023 edition of the Munich Security Report zooms in on various domains where the contest for the future international order is currently playing out human rights, the govern-ance of global infrastructures, development, energy security, and nuclear stability. As the chapters show, the Russian war against Ukraine is just the most brazen attack by authoritarian revisionists on the liberal, rules-based international order. Revisionist actors are trying to undermine the status quo and change the international order in many different ways. At the same time, the chapters highlight that in the contest between different visions for the future international order, the divide between democracies and autocracies is not the only cleavage that matters – and powerful autocrats are not alone in their deep dissatisfaction with existing international norms and institutions. Data from the Munich Security Index 2023, an exclusive annual index of risk perceptions that the MSC developed together with its partner Kekst CNC, shows that people around the world feel they are indeed witnessing a turning point in world politics.

The 2023 edition was downloaded more than 6,000 times within four weeks of publication, with selected data and analysis featured widely in German and international media including Tagesspiegel, Deutsche Welle, Financial Times, Project Syndicate, Bloomberg, and others. The MSR was also prominently featured on the MSC's social media channels.

Munich Security Report

... in Numbers

> 1,300

individual copies sent out ahead of the MSC 2023

42

mentions in print media

2,060

total online mentions (incl. blogs, websites, etc.)

>38,000

page views of MSR website

> 10,000

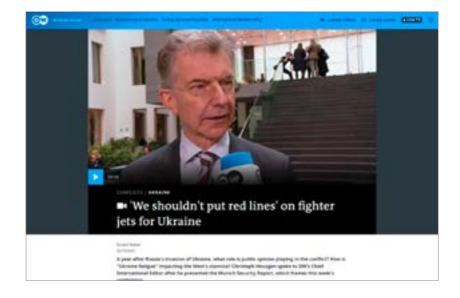
downloads of executive summary within 4 weeks



The Munich Security Report 2023 was presented by Dr. Tobias Bunde, Dr. Sophie Eisentraut and Ambassador Christoph Heusgen to members of the press at the Federal Press Conference in Berlin.



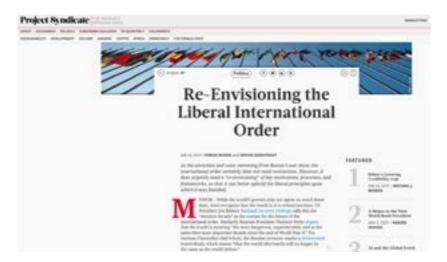
Deutsche Welle, February 16, 2023





Financial Times, Data Watch, Feburary 22, 2023









4 People and Organization

People, Culture, and Organizational Development

The Munich Security Conference 2023 marked Ambassador Dr. Christoph Heusgen's first conference as Chairman, succeeding Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger the previous year. Following the successful 59th conference, the team bid farewell to Boris Ruge, who served as Vice-Chairman for nearly four years. Rainer Rudolph, his successor, joined the MSC team in fall 2023 and is actively contributing as Vice-Chairman across multiple projects and events. Since spring 2023, Dr. Michael Werz supports the MSC as Senior Adviser for North America and Multilateral Affairs.

Continuing the trend from previous years, MSC core staffing has seen significant growth – from 67 staff members in 2022 to 83 staff members in 2023. The workforce, with an average age of around 32 years, has a women's proportion exceeding 58% and surpasses 63% in management positions. The special project "Zeitenwende on Tour", introduced in 2022, has been extended for another year, retaining the 7 additional staff members who were hired exclusively for this project. In addition to the 34 team members at our Berlin office, and the 49 at our Munich office, over 50 temporary employees are supporting the core team in preparations for the Munich Security Conference 2024.

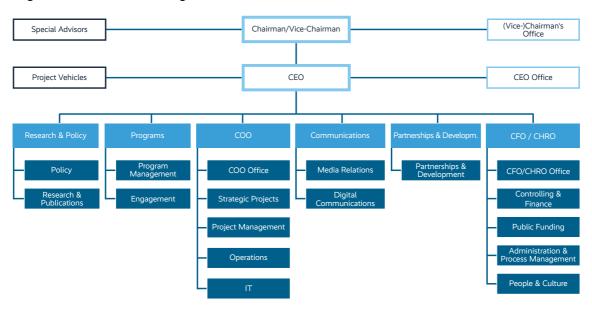
In terms of further growth, digitalization and knowledge management were key priorities throughout the year. Significant milestones in 2023 included the introduction of a new HR tool, tailored to the needs of a medium-sized organization, the implementation of a digital HR knowledge hub for collecting, organizing, and centralizing MSC-wide information, and the launch of a new software for managing travel expenses, offering reduced effort and a more transparent approval process. Overall, the ongoing digitalization of the organization and optimization of internal processes are now being advanced by the newly established "Administration and Process Management" department. Upcoming projects include the implementation of a desk booking system to streamline employees' office work planning, and the introduction of a contract management system to enhance efficiency and transparency across MSC's operations. Plans also include establishing more standardized processes, revising regulations, and enhancing services, e.g., in health and safety. All these initiatives aim at optimizing workflows and collaboration, increasing efficiency through the implementation of

state-of-the-art technology, and advancing the MSC's readiness for the future of the workplace.

Attracting and retaining top talents remains a primary goal for the organization. The MSC focused on enhancing its appeal as an employer, with crucial initiatives led by the People & Culture department, including agreements on vacation and overtime regulations. Adopting these agreements in collaboration with the works council, and updating the MSC-wide salary structure, marked important milestones achieved in 2023. To further enhance long-term employee satisfaction, new benefits were introduced. Additionally, employee development remains a key focus. In this context, the MSC Academy program was extended and continues to be integral to MSC culture, by offering employees diverse workshops and informative lectures.

As the MSC's best results are based on cross-departmental collaboration, MSC has sustained diverse team-building activities throughout the year. To foster employee engagement, the organization consistently encourages staff to contribute new ideas and provide feedback. One of many initiatives to enhance employee participation is the implementation of regular Q&A sessions introduced by the People & Culture team, serving as an open dialogue platform for posing questions and expressing feedback. To further enhance the feedback culture, the MSC introduced employee surveys on team satisfaction, known as the "team barometer", and revised the guidelines for the regular employee-manager meetings.

Organizational Structure | Org Chart





MSC Security Innovation Board Summary 2023

Background

As part of its activities, the Munich Security Conference regularly addresses complex topics and challenges facing defense and security policy decision makers around the world. The MSC has hosted numerous events on the intersection of defense policy and cyber security and technology issues over the years. From its Cyber Security Summits that have taken place in technology hubs around the world – including, among others, Silicon Valley, Tallinn, Tel Aviv and Berlin - to the MSC Innovation Night that has taken place on the eve of the Munich Security Conference since 2018, the MSC has developed a track record as a forum of exchange between decision makers from the technology industry and defense and security policy alike. To stay ahead of the current technological trends, the MSC has formed the Security Innovation Board and conducted a multitude of workstreams with a group of distinguished experts from both the technology and defense policy sector to address the challenges faced in the departments of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Energy and Defense. While the war in Ukraine and its political, economic and social consequences has rightly focused attention on hard security issues, we must not lose sight of the crucial intersection between innovation and security. We remain convinced that technological progress will play an enormous role in overcoming current challenges and avoiding and softening future ones. We also remain convinced that our Security Innovation Board can play a useful role in drawing attention to such opportunities and connecting the right people to make use of them.

Sharpened Concept

A central goal for the Security Innovation Board this year was the release of its sharpened concept, which resulted from reflections over the first two years of its operation. This sharpened concept was initiated by the hosts of the MSC Security Innovation Board: Ambassador Christoph Heusgen, the Chairman of the Munich Security Conference, and Christian Bruch, the President and CEO of Siemens Energy AG. According to this new concept the Board's overarching mission is proposed to be an impulse generator that brings together future political, business, and social leaders from the companies and institutions participating in it to form a network that promotes the idea of innovation. To this end, existing networks such as the

MSC Young Leaders Forum can be integrated. By adding a focus on networking, it is demonstrated that, in addition to its important role as a discussion and opinion-forming body, the board also uses its prominence, visibility and reach to initiate, promote, and support concrete actions that have a real impact. Moreover, another aspect of the sharpened concept is that the board will increasingly act as a project driver that conducts a dialogue with external partners and then develops specific measures from these conversations. The partnership with Breakthrough Energy in the context of MSC 2023 (see below) can be seen as a great example of this. Regular dialogues with representatives from politics, global innovation boards, science, NGOs, and business are just as important as the initiation of specific implementation projects from the various topic areas. Going forward, the discussions by the board will go beyond the previous focus topics and cover such fields as health, food, environment, cybersecurity, the safeguarding of democracy, equitable development, and conflict prevention and resolution.

Membership

The Security Innovation Board welcomed Klaus Hommels, Chair of the NATO Innovation Fund Board of Directors, as a returning member.

Initiatives

Energy Resilience Leadership Group - Under the umbrella of the Security Innovation Board, Breakthrough Energy and Siemens Energy launched the Energy Resilience Leadership Group (ERLG). The ERLG is a one-of-a-kind multistakeholder initiative operating at the intersection of security, innovation, and climate change with the aim of collaborating in rapidly deploying commercially viable clean energy project. It brings together policymakers and CEOs from industry, the financial sector, and climate tech startups to strengthen Europe's energy resilience and rapidly bring emerging climate technologies to market. The launch was attended by EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, German Vice-Chancellor Robert Habeck, and 15 CEOs of leading European companies, as well as the CEOs of innovative cleantech startups. The overarching goal of the ERLG is to help accelerate the innovations needed for a sustainable, secure, prosperous, and competitive Europe. By jointly identifying the technological, political, financial challenges and by fostering collaboration on concrete solutions the ERLG can help to overcome the obstacles that will make Europe a leader in clean technologies

MSC Summer School

The board has been continuously launching new initiatives of its own, such as the MSC Summer School. The goal of the initiative is to bridge the knowledge gap between policymakers and industry experts, fostering relationships, to improve exchange in order to promote innovation, and to allow all parties to "speak the same language". After an intensive kick-off workshop at the Siemens Energy Headquarters in Berlin at the end of July 2023, full of discussions with representatives from academia, business, politics, and the defense sector, nominated representatives from each board member worked together for six weeks to find a solution for the task at hand, the results of which were presented to the board during a board meeting in Brussels. The team developed an immersive gamification scenario, aimed at exemplifying the consequences of cumbersome innovation processes, particularly in the face of strong and fast-paced autocratic adversaries. The MSC Security Innovation Board will continue to develop the program until NATO Summit in DC in 2024, at which time it will be prominently tested with high-level conference participants.



Topic of the MSC Summer School

Board Meetings

February 17, 2023, Munich – Security Innovation Board x NATO Innovation Board

This year's first board meeting took place on February 17, 2023 on the margins of the Munich Security Conference. The meeting was conducted in cooperation with the NATO Innovation Board as a joint board breakfast and focused on the question of how to foster responsible innovation. The aim was to identify fundamental issues standing in the way of advancing responsible innovation and develop practical ways for NATO to collaborate with partners in industry and academia. Following opening remarks by the Christoph Heusgen, Chairman of the MSC, and Mircea Geoană, Deputy Secretary General of NATO and Member of the Security Innovation Board, the discussion among Board members on responsible innovation was initiated by input statements of Christian Bruch, Co-Chairman of the Security Innovation Board, and David van Weel, Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges of NATO. A key question was how to ensure the lawful, responsible and trustworthy use of the emerging and disruptive technologies, amid the rapid technological innovation.

September 5, 2023, Brussels

During the meetings at the Breakthrough Energy Headquarters and BMW offices on September 5, the board first had the opportunity to join a session of the Energy Resilience Leadership Group to observe the progress of the initiative and to hear from Dr. Christian Ehler, Member of the European Parliament and Rapporteur for the Net Zero Industry Act, on "Europe's Response to the Inflation Reduction Act." Afterwards, the participants of the MSC Summer School presented their final report on the outcome of the initiative and discussed them with the other members.

December 2, 2023, Dubai

The third board meeting this year took place on the margins of COP28 in Dubai at the Siemens Energy Headquarters. Board members discussed questions regarding the climate-security-nexus, energy transitions, and the role of technological innovation in dealing and averting the effects of climate change. The focus in this session was on the pivotal role innovation can play in averting or combating the effects of climate change. The Security Innovation Board plays as a key role here as sustainable and innovative solutions necessitates the active involvement of both private and public actors.

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 its founder Ewald-Heinrich von Kleist, the conference has become the world's leading independent forum for international security policy.

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

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

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

The Foundation Council

The Foundation Council serves as the primary decision-making body of the Munich Security Conference Foundation. It is currently comprised of seven members – including, ex officio, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees – and is chaired by a President, currently Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger, who also served as Chairman of the Munich Security Conference, until February 19, 2022. Helga Maria Schmid holds the position of Vice President of the Foundation Council.

President



Wolfgang Ischinger Ambassador (ret.), President of the Foundation Council, Munich Security Conference Foundation, Munich

Vice President



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

Members



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



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



Babara Frenkel Member of the Executive Board for Procurement, Porsche AG, Weissach



Christoph Heusgen Ambassador, Chairman, Munich Security Conference Munich



Wolfgang Schmidt Head of the Federal Chancellery and Federal Minister for Special Affairs, Federal Republic of Germany, Berlin



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.

Executive Director



Benedikt Franke Vice-Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Munich Security Conference, Munich

Members



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



Lisa Marie Ullrich Director of Programs, Munich Security Conference, Munich



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

Executive Staff



Secretary General Ulrike Strauss, Chief Operating Officer & Head of Strategic Projects, Munich Security Conference, Munich

The Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees, under the chairmanship of Wolfgang Schmidt, 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



Wolfgang Schmidt Head of the Federal Chancellery and Federal Minister for Special Affairs, Federal Republic of Germany, Berlin

Members



Graham Allison Douglas Dillon Professor of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA



Henry Alt-Haaker Senior Vice President for Strategic Partnerships and Robert Bosch Academy, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Berlin



Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, Doha



Frank Haun Chief Executive Officer, KMW+NEXTER Defense Systems, Amsterdam



Florian Herrmann Head of the Bavarian Chancellery and State Minister for Federal and Media Affairs, Free State of Bavaria, Munich



Andreas Schell Chief Executive Officer, EnBW, Karlsruhe



Alexander Soros Chair of the Board of Directors, Open Society Foundations, New York

The Advisory Council 2023

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

Chair



Joe Kaeser Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Siemens Energy, Munich

Members



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



Oliver Bäte Chief Executive Officer, Allianz SE, Munich



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



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



Thomas Enders President, German Council on Foreign Relations, Berlin



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



Arancha González Laya Dean, Paris School of International Affairs, Sciences Po; former Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Spain, Paris



Jane Harman Chair of the Board of Trustees, Freedom House; Board Member of the American Friends of the MSC, Munich Security Conference, Washington, DC



Kersti Kaljulaid Global Advocate of the United Nations Secretary-General, Every Woman Every Child; former President of the Republic of Estonia, Talinn



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, Republic of Rwanda, Kigali



Raychelle Omamo Former Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Kenya, Nairobi



Nancy Pelosi Speaker Emerita of the House of Representatives of the United States of America, Washington, DC



Boris Pistorius Federal Minister of Defense, Federal Republic of Germany, Berlin



Radosław Sikorski Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Poland, Warsaw



Ine Eriksen Søreide Chairwoman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defense, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway, Oslo



James G. Stavridis Admiral (ret.); former NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Operating Executive, Carlyle Group, Washington DC

⁵ Partnerships

Governmental Partners 2023

Bundesministerum der Verteidigung (BMVg)

Bundesministerium für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit (BMZ)

Presse- und Informationsamt der Bundesregierung (BPA)

Bayerisches Landesamt für Sicherheit in der Informationstechnik (LSI)

Institutional Partners 2023

AmCham

Antalya Diplomacy Forum

Atlantik-Brücke

Atlantic Council BDI

BMZ

Brookings

Bundeswehr Universität München

CCDCOE

Center for Civilians in Conflict

(CIVIC)

Center on Global Energy Policy

Chatham House

Climate Neutrality Foundation

Crisis Group

CSIS COP 28

DGAP DOHA Forum

ECFR

Emirates Policy Center

Elcano EUISS

Foreign Affairs

German Marshall Fund

GIZ HBH

Hertie School Centre for Internatio-

nal Security

International Center for Defense

and Security (ICDS)

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Interpol

Körber Stiftung

Merics

Mitre Corporation

Norwegian Institute of Internatio-

nal Affairs

ONS Foundation

Potsdam-Institut für Klimafolgen-

forschung RKK ICDS SCSP Sipri

SWP UNHCR

Verband der Reservisten World Food Programme

WIIS

Wilson Center

Corporate Partners 2023

Accenture Lockheed Martin

Airbus MBDA
Allianz McKinsey
APCO Merck
Apple Meta
ARTOC Microsoft
Atlas Invest NXP

Auterion Open Society Foundations

AWS Palantir
Bayer Planet
BCG PwC
BMW Qualcomm

BMW Foundation Rheinmetall Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Renk

Breakthrough Energy Robert Bosch Stiftung
Commerzbank Rockefeller Brothers Fund
Dataminr Rockefeller Foundation
Deloitte Rohde & Schwarz

Deutsche Bank Saab EnBW SAP

EY Schwarz Gruppe Fincantieri Siemens Energy

FMC Corporation Stiftung Klimaneutralität

Goetzpartners Tennor Holding

Goldman Sachs
UNIPER
Google
VARO Energy
Helsing
Wellcome Trust
Hensoldt
Westenergie

HVB XM Cyber A Schwarz Company

Illumina Giesecke + Devrient

Infineon Investcorp Kekst CNC KKR KNDS Lazard

Leonardo



6 Finances

Facts and Figures

The Munich Security Conference looks back on another successful year. After overcoming challenging years, the Munich Security Conference has successfully rebounded from the impacts of the global pandemic. The fiscal year 2022/23 marked the organization's return to pre-pandemic levels, with significant increases in both income and expenditure. To finance the projects and activities, the MSC was able to rely once again on a broad base of supporters. Furthermore, existing partnerships were extended, and new ones were established. The MSC registered a notable 27% growth in income, indicating a substantial interest in the MSC's events and activities. Simultaneously, the costs for organizing events have increased, driven by factors such as general price increases and the heightened complexity of event logistics. To successfully implement numerous activities and projects, the organizational development in terms of personnel and administrative infrastructure was further advanced. Against this backdrop, overhead costs have significantly increased.

The MSC has now been classified as a medium-sized (non-profit) corporation, underscoring the successful development of the organization in recent years. In the light of the multitude of current crises and building upon MSC's successful formats to assemble decision makers from around the world, the interest in MSC events and initiatives has increased significantly, which is reflected in the growth of revenues for the past fiscal year. The organization is grateful for the continued support and trust of all partners who remain committed to supporting the Munich Security Conference despite the challenging global economic environment. Without the support of private and public sector partners, the work of the MSC as the world's leading forum for international security policy would not be possible.

Figure 1 | The MSC budget, 2019-2023*

	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Revenues	9,521,152 €	6,763,230 €	14,595,666 €	18,521,207 €
Expenditures	9,761,118 €	6,891,535 €	13,278,590 €	18,082,954 €
Main conference	3,947,440 €	532,872 € *	5,375,584 €	5,569,565 €
Other projects and events	1,107,843 €	497,987 €	1,030,094 €	2,440,181 €
Overhead	4,705,835 €	5,860,676 €	6,872,912 €	10,073,208 €

^{*}MSC 2021 Special Edition

Figure 2 | Composition of MSC income

Private sector partners
74%

Foundations & Philanthropy
11%

Governmental partners
10%

Other (donations, reimbursements)
5%

Figure 3 | Development of private sector contributions

Tech industry
42%

Services
31%

Energy industry
Others
17%
4%
Defense industry
6%

Figure 4 | Overhead

Staff & consultants
51%

Administration
22%

Other
27%





Notes

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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.

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