

Munich Security Conference 2022

List of selected Side Events

Thursday, February 17

Afternoon & Evening Sessions

The Western Balkans at the crossroads: returning to integration or Great Power rivalry?
hosted by Bavarian State Chancellery and Deutsche Atlantische Gesellschaft (DGA)

Thirty years ago, the escalation of violence in the Western Balkans posed the first major challenge for the European and Transatlantic community after the End of the Cold War. Since the end of the 1990s, peace, albeit fragile, has allowed for growth and development and a gradual integration of Europe's Southeast into the EU and NATO. In the past years, however, uncertainty over the future of EU enlargement in the region coincided with a gradual deterioration of political dynamics within several Balkan states, which has not been met with sufficient attention and engagement by Washington or Brussels. At the same time, Russia has significantly increased its political and economic footprint in the region, to expand influence, project power into Western Europe, and obscure transatlantic policy formulation. In a similar vein, China has expanded its presence in the region significantly, generating economic and political leverage, which complicates future cooperation between Western Balkan states and NATO and EU in areas such as strategic infrastructure, security and defense. How can the transatlantic community both help mitigating local conflicts and sustaining successful integration processes? How can the emergence of external power rivalry be contained to prevent further destabilization in an already fragile region?

Dinners

Aligning U.S. and European Climate Policy: The Path Forward
hosted by Atlantik-Brücke and American Council on Germany (ACG)

Countering climate change is a fundamental challenge to humanity. Aligning efforts in countering climate change may be a future leitmotif for building back a better transatlantic alliance. This year, Atlantik-Brücke and the American Council on Germany's traditional Opening Dinner on the eve of Munich Security Conference will discuss pathways for deeper cooperation in countering humanities most fundamental threat. This event is generously supported by KPMG.

Friday, February 18

Breakfasts

Innovation or Imitation? Evaluating NATO's Approach to Emerging Tech
hosted by Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA)

NATO has recently launched several new initiatives designed to enhance the Alliance's technological edge, including an innovation fund and defense innovation accelerator, as well as emerging tech and AI-specific strategies. As these efforts take shape and implementation begins, more work is needed to ensure they deliver results and avoid 'innovation theater'. This discussion, hosted by CEPA, will convene policymakers, military officials, industry leaders, and tech experts to evaluate NATO's approach to emerging and disruptive technologies. Participants will discuss how to make the most of these new initiatives and better align them with other national and multinational initiatives going forward. The conversation will also be an opportunity to preview the initial findings and recommendations from CEPA's major new study on transatlantic defense tech cooperation.

Dusting Off the Dinosaur: How to Make NATO's Nuclear Sharing Arrangement Fit for the Future?

hosted by Centre for International Security at the Hertie School and German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)

NATO's nuclear sharing arrangement, a key pillar of NATO's nuclear deterrence posture for more than half a century, faces strong headwinds. In the German election campaign, several prominent politicians have called for Germany's withdrawal from it, spurred by a German public deeply opposed to nuclear deterrence. Nuclear weapons are similarly unpopular in other European host countries. At the same time, however, the world's nuclear powers are modernizing their arsenals, Russia is considering stationing nuclear weapons in Belarus and other nuclear proliferation initiatives by Iran, North Korea, Pakistan and India remain unabated.

In this context, this breakfast round table intends to address the dinosaur in the room: What is the military, political and institutional relevance of the current nuclear sharing arrangement? Why is the arrangement so contested in some corners and can this be mitigated? Are there any credible alternatives to nuclear sharing? What role could the Future Combat Air System, launched by France, Germany and Spain, play in nuclear sharing and deterrence?

Lunches

Transatlantic Forum

hosted by Christlich-Soziale Union in Bayern (CSU)

To successfully respond to Russian threats against the Ukraine, Moscow's demands for a new European security, and an increasingly aggressive Chinese foreign policy that now includes threats against a NATO member, it is essential that Berlin and Washington speak with one voice. Domestic politics in both the United States and Germany complicate the challenge of formulating a coherent and credible foreign policy for both the Biden Administration and Olaf Scholz's three-member coalition government. The CSU's Transatlantic Forum will discuss the cornerstones of a common approach to promoting Euro-American security interests in an increasingly dangerous world.

Opening Lunch Futurity Pavilion

hosted by BMW Stiftung Herbert Quandt

Wild wild space? How to improve space security by promoting responsible behaviors

hosted by Federal Foreign Office of Germany and German Aerospace Center (DLR)

Space has become critical for global economic, social and security aspects of nations and societies and is equally used by military and civil entities. In addition to safety risks due to the growing number of space objects or the creations of long-lived debris, security threats emanating from new technologies with dual-use applications and the development of counter-space capabilities may have a destabilizing impact and increase the risk of miscalculation and unwanted escalation. To avoid a "Wild West" scenario in space, strategies, policies, norms and regulations are urgently needed to shape an international rules-based architecture. As a global domain, space requires global responses. This debate will first examine the growing relevance of space for civil and economic life as well as for security and defense. It will then discuss emerging security threats related to outer space and ways to mitigate them through new concepts of arms control and responsible behavior.

Talking to Terrorists? Rethinking the Fight Against Islamist Militancy

hosted by International Crisis Group (ICG) and Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP)

Some of the world's worst and most protracted conflicts involve jihadist groups, and their outright military defeat, in many cases, seems out of reach. The taboo against "negotiating with terrorists" significantly narrows the policy options available for durably resolving these conflicts. This event will bring together experts, stakeholders, and policymakers to explain why political engagement or dialogue with jihadists groups is needed, explore some of the challenges and provide practical prescriptions for how and when to engage them.

Rip It Up and Start Again: How to Stop the Spread of Missiles in a Post-Arms Control World hosted by International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)

Neither ballistic nor cruise missiles are new technologies, yet both are increasingly dominating the international security agenda. Previously, the most sophisticated missile systems were only accessible to only a handful of advanced states. Improvements in the accuracy and survivability have driven the utility of these systems, which in turn has fueled their demand. Now, these technologies are becoming increasingly available to states and even non-state actors. Unlike most other types of military equipment, some missile systems can have immediate and long-lasting implications for regional and international security. This MSC side-event will unpack some of the most important and discussed missile technology developments – including ‘hypersonic missiles’ – consider the potential implications of their development and deployment in Europe and act as a forum to discuss solutions to improve the efficacy of existing bilateral and multilateral frameworks and propose new solutions and ideas within a NATO and European format.

Digital Sovereignty Meets Geopolitics Security hosted by Microsoft and GZERO Media

Digital technologies have become the lifeblood of our modern societies, underpinning everything from how we share information and companies organize production to how governments deliver services to their citizens. Yet, digital capabilities are distributed unevenly between key economic regions. With the rising importance of digital technologies, major global economies have started to increase initiatives aimed at nurturing their own national tech ecosystems and closing perceived gaps in key enabling technologies -- such as artificial intelligence, high-performance cloud computing or next generation mobile networks and semiconductors. To some, this push towards “digital sovereignty” is in contrast with the global economic order, built on principles of free markets. To others, it is a chance to level the playing-field and increase competition in a market dominated by “big tech”—while also strengthening the resilience of global supply chains at the same time. All the while—in the national security sphere in particular—global actors increasingly understand they must collaborate on technological innovation and ethical standards to ensure leadership in the digital realm. Which view will prevail? How can governments and corporate leaders create new opportunities for trust-building, collaboration, and burden sharing throughout a time of global rebalancing in the digital sphere? Please join us for an intimate, high-level, off-the record-discussion over lunch; moderated Aspen-style where everyone around the table will participate in examining the question of technology and trust.

That's When Things Got Complicated: Addressing the Security-Climate-Migration Nexus in Today's World hosted by Nexus25

The event will lay the foundation for a policy conversation on broadening traditional notions of security and assessing complex crisis scenarios as is necessary for the 21st century. Nexus25 will initiate debates about policy assessments and institutional reform in Europe and the U.S. that address the climate-development-security nexus and prioritize planning for long-term humanitarian consequences of climate change and migration as a core national security issue. As discussion starter, Nexus25 will present two White Papers written for this MSC event: The first paper analyzes the convergence of climate change, migratory movements, and weak governance in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Sahel, and the Mediterranean region with its long-term consequences for Europe. The second paper documents the current refugee crisis and mass atrocities unfolding in Bangladesh and Myanmar in the broader context of South-Asian climate exposure and the potential deterioration of regional governance.

Panel Discussions

Perceptions Matter: Migration and International Security hosted by Sovereign Order of Malta

The Sovereign Order of Malta is a 900-year-old mission of care engaging in humanitarian action and diplomacy around the world. It is contributing to the Munich Security Conference's opening day on global challenges by drawing attention to the interlinkage between migration and international security, particularly its difficult perception thereof. Too often migration is still seen as a threat and walls are built in response. However, global management of migration cannot be reduced to the construction of barriers but requires a multidimensional approach based on common understanding of challenges as well as opportunities of human displacement. This high-level event will ask and seek to answer some of the difficult questions regarding today's migration perception.

Transatlantic Ties: Mapping out a common path through geo-economic challenges

hosted by Bavarian Industry Association (vbw) and Federation of German Industries (BDI)

At this event high-ranking political representatives and industry leaders will weigh the options for how the transatlantic relationship can be renewed in the face of current geo-political and geo-economic challenges and the fact that multilateral alliances have come under increasing pressure in recent years. Therefore, the panel discussion will analyze the future of the partnership between the US and the European Union and is going present ideas on how the EU can lead the way in rebuilding the transatlantic alliance. In addition, the aim is to explore options for Europe and the US to ensure security and prosperity both in the spirit of partnership and autonomously, each from its own position of strength.

Space Night - From Munich to the Stars: Promising sphere and emerging challenges

hosted by Federation of German Industries (BDI), Bavarian Industry Association (vbw) and MSC

Space is the up-and-coming sector of societal, economic and strategic importance. It is an essential prerequisite for critical infrastructures and logistics networks, for increasingly digital networking and future technologies such as autonomous driving, Industry 4.0, artificial intelligence and big data applications. It is indispensable for sustainable business and the protection of the environment. Space is just as fundamental for the ability to assess, judge and act in foreign and security policy. Whether for secure communication, reconnaissance or situational awareness: space technology is essential for the sovereign action of government and armed forces). The event will dive into the ongoing earth imaging revolution, covering big data, artificial intelligence, privatization of space as well as public-private partnerships. With the agile aerospace revolution, the NewSpace industry is reaching remarkable heights and gaining unprecedented amounts of data about our own Planet Earth. These capabilities and insights can be leveraged by governments, companies, and NGOs around the world to ensure a more transparent, secure and prosperous world.)

Innovation Accelerator Pitch Night: Rethinking Solutions to Food Security and Food Systems

hosted by UN World Food Programme Innovation Accelerator

The WFP Innovation Accelerator sources, supports and scales high-potential solutions to end hunger worldwide. We provide WFP staff, entrepreneurs, start-ups, companies and non-governmental organizations with access to funding, mentorship, hands-on support and WFP operations. The WFP Innovation Accelerator Pitch Night is the showcase evening at the end of the Innovation Bootcamp, a high-intensity workshops to help innovation team dive deep into challenges, ideate solutions and refine project plans. The Innovation Accelerator sources teams from around the globe, offering a life-changing experience with expert mentors and facilitators. Attendees to this Munich Security Conference side event will have the opportunity to engage with these teams to advise them on their road ahead.

Dinners

John McCain Award Ceremony and Dinner

hosted by MSC & Siemens Energy

In memory of our close friend, partner and long-time companion, the Munich Security Conference has decided to award an annual prize in John McCain's name. Senator McCain was an integral part of the MSC for more than four decades. After first attending the conference as a young Navy officer he eventually came to lead the United States Congress delegation in his role as senator. As a strong supporter of the transatlantic relationship, Senator McCain believed in our common values and that we must work both hard and creatively to build foundations for a stable and enduring peace: "We are stronger, safer, and freer together". As such he played a key role in establishing the conference as an important forum for the transatlantic community. In times when the transatlantic bond can no longer be taken for granted, we have decided to honour the lifetime achievements of Senator John McCain by awarding an annual John McCain Award for Academic Excellence. The prize giving ceremony will take place in the presence of members of the U.S. Congressional Delegation and selected high-ranking MSC participants. It will be followed by a reception hosted by Siemens Energy.

In Security We Trust: Evaluating the State of Cybersecurity and Trust hosted by Trusted Future

Our digital ecosystem is under near constant threat from activities by malicious actors using techniques that are becoming increasingly more complex, sophisticated, and ubiquitous. Criminal gangs, hackers with a business plan, and even nation states are working around the clock and across the globe to find and exploit vulnerabilities in technologies and services in what are often believed to be secure systems. Yet as information technology becomes more pervasive, devices more prolific, and the information we carry with us more sensitive, the attack surface that hackers can attempt to exploit has increased substantially, creating new kinds of potential harm. To elevate our cybersecurity posture, our new digital home must also be built upon a strong foundation of trust – with security built into its very foundation by design - to keep personal and business data secure and our economy moving forward.

Climate, Peace and Stability: Building a better climate for peace hosted by Federal Foreign Office of Germany

The climate crisis is one of the most serious risks to global peace and stability in the 21st century. During this dinner, experts and decision-makers will discuss how to respond to these risks more adequately and comprehensively: How can those worst affected be better supported in building resilience? What promising entry points for addressing climate fragility risks do we know that can and should be scaled up? How can we ensure that the ambitious climate policy we need does not exacerbate division and conflict but instead helps realize a peace dividend from climate action?

Foreign Policy of Collective Action: Lessons from COVID-19 for the G7 hosted by Council on Foreign Relations

This dinner conversation will assess the foreign policy response to the collective action challenges in the COVID-19 pandemic, identifying the key political lessons that have emerged and their implications for Germany's G7 presidency related to COVID-19 and global health security.

Transatlantic Dinner on the Ukraine-Russia Crisis hosted by Open Society Foundations (OSF) and European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR)

The Open Society Foundations and the European Council on Foreign Relations are delighted to invite you to a small, high-level transatlantic dinner on western approaches to the current stand-off between Russia and Ukraine. The dinner aims to bring together a small group of high-level decisionmakers from both sides of the Atlantic for an off-the-record and frank discussion. As an impulse to the discussion, Ivan Krastev will share recently published public opinion polling commissioned by ECFR in seven countries on the Russia-Ukraine crisis.

Collective Sovereignty: How to Leverage Transatlantic Industrial Cooperation to Enhance Security hosted by Raytheon Technologies

European efforts to promote strategic autonomy and technological sovereignty, and U.S. buy American initiatives, could have significant impact on the transatlantic defense industrial base, especially on the ability for U.S. and European defense and aerospace companies to collaborate and coproduce. Over the past century, such collaboration has led to technological innovation and capability development that have promoted security, jobs and prosperity on both sides of the Atlantic. This dinner will gather relevant government and industry stakeholders to review the role that transatlantic industrial collaboration has played in regional security, discuss the future of collaboration, and explore the implications of new policy initiatives on this sector in Europe and the United States.

The Future of Dissent

hosted by Reporters without Borders

Today, we face a profound democratic decline in many countries of the world. While leaders in China and Russia seek to build a new international order of authoritarian rulers, even democratic countries - amongst them EU-member states and the United States - struggle to live up to their own principles. With two „Summits for Democracy“ the current US-Administration seeks to underline the importance of democracy as the foundation of an rules-based international order. But the right to dissent, including the freedom of the press and of information is threatened by powerful surveillance technologies, nothing less than global cyberweapons against democracy. Spyware like „Pegasus“, made by NSO group, was used to compromise the phones of almost 200 journalists, but also of human-rights activists and politicians. Everyone is vulnerable. The discussion aims to explore the role of governments, the private sector and of civil society in order to prohibit the use and proliferation of surveillance technologies and protect the right to dissent.

Nightcap Sessions

Russia-Ukraine Cyberwar Game

hosted by Silverado Policy Accelerator and Alperovitch Institute

Cyber-attacks continue to rapidly rise in volume and impact. A growing set of governments have consistently attributed the most consequential cyber actions to adversarial nation states — while these perpetrators seek deniability. The potential for escalation into geopolitical crisis and kinetic conflict is significant, and increasing. This Live Cyber War Game will be held at the Munich Security Conference alongside senior government officials as they struggle with questions of response proportionality, certainty of attribution, preventing escalation, and resolving the crisis. The war game will demonstrate how rapidly cyber problems evolve into traditional geopolitical security issues and the unique challenges that it poses.

Geopolitical Sparks? Hydrogen - The Oil of the 21st Century

hosted by Siemens Energy and Schaeffler

“Water is the coal of the future,” was how the man who would come to be known as the founder of science fiction summed it up more than 150 years ago. “The energy of tomorrow is water that has been separated by electric power. The elements of water thus decomposed, hydrogen and oxygen, will secure the global energy supply for the unforeseeable future.” That man, Jules Verne, seems to have been on to something. What will happen if hydrogen really becomes a leading energy carrier of the future? How would this development change the “geography of energy trade”? What does that mean for the relationships between traditional fossil fuel exporters, emerging hydrogen producers, and continuing import markets? In short, what are the implications of this development for the geopolitical balance? Who are the winners and who are the losers in the new geopolitical energy triangle of sustainability, reliability, and affordability? And how can an international hydrogen economy become a global stability factor? Schaeffler and Siemens Energy are inviting leading experts from politics, business and society to discuss this question directly after the annual McCain Dinner.

Saturday, February 19

Breakfasts

[Same Issues, New Approach? Rethinking Transatlantic Priorities for the Biden-Scholz Era](#)

hosted by American Council on Germany (ACG) and American Institute for Contemporary German Studies (AICGS)

With a new coalition government in Berlin and mid-term elections on the horizon in the United States, the list of global challenges facing Europe and the United States is long. The United States will have high expectations of its European allies, including Germany, especially in dealing with the ambitions of authoritarian powers. Chancellor Scholz's recent visit to Washington is part of an intense period of shuttle diplomacy regarding Russian designs on Ukraine. In addition to this first foreign policy test, his government is expected to set new accents in its China policy as it seeks to strengthen the transatlantic relationship. The U.S. Congressional election cycle may constrain the Biden administration's ability to advance new policies in some areas (like climate) but there should be strong bipartisan consensus in others (like NATO) and a great desire to coordinate on approaches to the Indo-Pacific. This discussion will focus on how Germany and the United States can work together to develop an agenda to address common challenges.

[Beyond Buzzwords Breakfast – Space Tech: Implications for Security and Sustainability](#)

hosted by Boston Consulting Group (BCG)

This breakfast will discuss how Space Tech can promote transparency, and in turn promote security and sustainability. On the security side, space technology is key to understanding military activities on earth, exposing nefarious actors and helping with conflict prevention. It is also critical for evaluating the security of the Space domain itself – how people operate and increasing awareness of the things in space that can do us harm. These same technologies are also helpful for promoting sustainability and will be increasingly used to understand and predict weather and sea changes, population movements, and even famine projection.

[Breakfast with New York Times Journalists and the Athens Democracy Forum: Threats and Progress in the Post-Pandemic World](#)

hosted by Democracy and Culture Foundation

From the ravages of the pandemic to rise of authoritarianism and the implosion of tech platforms, these have been volatile times for democracy. Whatever trajectory the current crises may take, it's clear that threats will be amplified, but at the same time there is a groundswell movement to protect and even reinvent the tenets of democracy. This breakfast by the Athens Democracy Forum will feature a discussion with two veteran New York Times journalists, Steven Erlanger and David Sanger.

[Sufficient Self-Sufficiency? Evaluating the role of state actors and global businesses in times of resource nationalism](#)

hosted by EY

The global competition over resources is a first order challenge to international security. Access to or supply of raw materials, intellectual property, technological assets, and human capital have become trump cards in the global power struggle. As global and regional actors assert themselves in power politics, value chains, trade and financial flows become more fragile. Geo-economic strategies aim to weaponize resource dependencies, threatening to halt not only our economies today, but also the transitions we envision for the future. These developments call for counter-strategies to preserve and enhance the resilience of business actors in economic terms and the autonomy of state actors in political terms. We would like to foster the idea that the European Union has to focus on cooperation in order to emerge as a strong player among other states such as the People Republic of China, the United States, and Russia. This session will discuss resource dependencies beyond the traditional energy issues. Speakers will look at geo-economic power actors and their political goals, discuss economic and political resilience, and assess the role of industrial policy in order to strengthen national autonomy beyond self-sufficiency.

The Age of Impunity: What can be done?

hosted by International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)

In conflict zones from Syria, to Yemen, to Ethiopia, we are entering an Age of Impunity, with deadly consequences for civilians, aid workers, and the principle of a rules-based international order. Instead of accountability, we see impunity – armed actors committing crimes without facing justice – reigning supreme. The international community is at a critical juncture to bring together a coalition of governments, private sector and civil society to re-establish accountability for violations of international humanitarian law in conflicts. Failure to act will see a deepening of the trend towards “might makes right” and further weaken the multilateral system at a time of unprecedented global challenges. Ahead of the German-hosted G7 summit, and building on the work of IRC in responding to humanitarian crisis and CIVIC in civilian protection, this event is an opportunity to discuss concrete commitments supportive governments can take to ensure better accountability and adherence to IHL within their own activities, as well as steps to promote accountability globally and among partners.

Emerging Alliance or Eternal Rivals? Evaluating Chinese-Russian Strategic Coordination

hosted by Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Chinese-Russian strategic coordination has steadily intensified since 2014, as indicated by numerous common projects and frequent bilateral meetings. Despite the pandemic, Russia was the country most visited by high-level Chinese delegations and the two leaders Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin have praised their new ‘comprehensive partnership’ regularly. Common military exercises, intensified cooperation in the area of technology and implementation of 5G, and increase of trade and energy exchange all seem to point to a potential new alliance between Moscow and Beijing. Some experts view intensified cooperation between the People’s Republic and Russia as a logical consequence of the deteriorating relationship between Moscow and the West since 2014 and the increasing rivalry between the US and China. Other observers dismiss the scenario of a Chinese-Russian strategic alliance as entirely implausible – often on the basis of historic or cultural factors that supposedly make a true partnership between China and Russia unlikely.

If War Comes: Increasing Resilience by Preparing the Public for Crisis and Conflict

hosted by Ministry of Defense of Sweden and Ministry of Defense of Finland

In 2018, the Swedish government sent a booklet entitled “If Crisis or War Comes” to all (4.9. million) households in Sweden with information on how to prepare for severe threats to society – ranging from extreme weather, cyberattacks to military conflicts - and how to act in case of a crisis or war. The goal was to increase awareness regarding such situations, underlining that all citizens are responsible for security and preparedness. This effort is part of the “Total Defence” concept, which is similar to the “Comprehensive Security” model pursued by Finland. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and increasing great power competition, both NATO and the EU are also paying attention to societal resilience. This event will feature short presentations by senior Swedish and Finnish representatives and will allow for a discussion on how our societies can counter hybrid threats and build credible deterrence and defense in an increasingly complex security landscape.

German-Russian Business Breakfast

hosted by German Eastern Business Association

Morning Sessions

The Case for Democracy hosted by Jigsaw

Democracy's demise has been predicted many times throughout its history. And today the death knell is being sounded louder and louder in myriad places, amplified in the capitals of Beijing and Moscow which believe the democratic spirit has run its course and that national authoritarianism represents the best means to "protect the nation" and its interests at home and abroad. It is true that democracy today faces many challenges. Our institutions are under strain coping with a number of crises all at once. The COVID pandemic, the rise of anti-system parties, a challenging geo-political context and a seeming paralysis of democratic institutions to meet citizens' expectations. And yet, democracies continue to demonstrate resilience. It was after all democracies that managed to deliver the most effective vaccines. And it is now democracies that are distributing those vaccines to the rest of the world. Recent elections, too, have indicated that citizens within democracies continue to support leaders who they believe can deliver. With high turnout across the democratic world these elections have also seen voters reject those who advocate radical approaches to governance. Still, the authoritarian challenge remains and democracies need to face it squarely. But what more can be done to confront authoritarians, advance human rights and democracy, and tackle kleptocracy?

Bridging troubled Waters - Rethinking Maritime Security Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific Region hosted by NATO Centre of Excellence for Operations in Confined and Shallow Waters (COE CSW)

The Indo-Pacific region is characterized by a high potential for conflict. Different national interests and behavioral patterns have a negative impact on the free use of maritime sea lines of communication and the use of maritime resources. This affects regional economic prosperity and has the inherent potential for bringing the global economy to a halt. In this context, the question arises whether existing agreements in the Indo-Pacific Region are sufficient for conflict prevention or whether new approaches should be taken.

Tech- tonic Shifts: Evaluating Strategic Competition and Global Partnerships in Emerging Technologies hosted by Special Competitive Studies Project (SCSP) and Royal United Services Institute (RUSI)

China's "AlphaGo moment" in 2017 highlighted for Beijing the need to accelerate their longstanding, whole-of-nation effort to become the world's leader in emerging technologies. Where are the transatlantic community and other global democracies in developing their own technology strategies? What are the global security, economic, and societal implications of emerging technologies? This roundtable will start with short remarks from the moderator and panelists to set the scene on these issues, laying out perspectives from the United States, Europe, and Indo-Pacific, and lead into a discussion with MSC participants on the global strategic environment, the implications emerging technologies have on the prosperity, security, and sovereignty of nations, and how global democracies can collaborate to shape the development, adoption, and use of these technologies in a manner consistent with our values.

Lunches

Securing the Public Square - How we can work together to defend democracies hosted by Google and Jigsaw

Businesses flourish when democracy flourishes, and in return, industry and technology can help democracies thrive. The open debate, the collective innovation, private-public partnership and collaboration are what helped democracies tackle many of the biggest societal and economic challenges we face. American and European companies are also the lead in many other industries, including in digital technologies.

Yet we cannot take democracy itself for granted. Challenges include efforts to shut down free speech, or in some cases even the Internet itself as well as an increasing control and crackdown on content that is legal albeit may be harmful online.

German-U.S. Congressional-Business Roundtable

hosted by Transatlantic Business Initiative (TBI), American Chamber of Commerce and U.S. Embassy Berlin

Transatlantic relations have experienced some challenges in the past several years. A lot of trust has already been regained since President Joe Biden took office. At the same time, differences between Germany/the EU and the United States remain, e.g. on how to deal with China. With regard to trade policy issues and technology standards, a new forum has been created: the EU-U.S. Trade and Technology Council. It is of great interest to both sides that this forum leads to tangible outcomes. The transatlantic partners must remain in close exchange to maintain a high level of trust and tackle both bilateral issues and global challenges successfully. This includes establishing close ties between the U.S. Administration and Congress and the new German government.

New Regional Perspectives for the Caucasus – Common challenges, common solutions?

hosted by Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

What is the way forward for sustainable socio-economic development in the Caucasus and how can international stakeholders and the countries of the region work together to move ahead? How can the region come together to address human security challenges related to climate change and environmental degradation? Are there windows of opportunity for an effective regional cooperation and how can they be used? This panel sets out to present perspectives from the countries of the region, Europe, and the international community.

Technology and Trust: From “Digital Sovereignty” to Regional Resilience

hosted by McKinsey & Company and Aspen Strategy Group

Digital technologies have become the lifeblood of our modern societies, underpinning everything from how we share information and companies organize production to how governments deliver services to their citizens. Yet, digital capabilities are distributed unevenly between key economic regions. With the rising importance of digital technologies, major global economies have started to increase initiatives aimed at nurturing their own national tech ecosystems and closing perceived gaps in key enabling technologies -- such as artificial intelligence, high-performance cloud computing or next generation mobile networks and semiconductors. To some, this push towards “digital sovereignty” is in contrast with the global economic order, built on principles of free markets. To others, it is a chance to level the playing-field and increase competition in a market dominated by “big tech”—while also strengthening the resilience of global supply chains at the same time. All the while—in the national security sphere in particular—global actors increasingly understand they must collaborate on technological innovation and ethical standards to ensure leadership in the digital realm. Which view will prevail? How can governments and corporate leaders create new opportunities for trust-building, collaboration, and burden sharing throughout a time of global rebalancing in the digital sphere? Please join us for an intimate, high-level, off-the record-discussion over lunch; moderated Aspen-style where everyone around the table will participate in examining the question of technology and trust.

Towards NATO’s next Strategic Concept – Future-Proofing NATO for the next decade

hosted by NATO

NATO Leaders will adopt a new Strategic Concept at the upcoming NATO Summit in Madrid in June 2022. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg is leading the process of preparing this key document for the Alliance, through consultations with Allied capitals but also through engagements with external partners and institutions. NATO’s next Strategic concept will come at an important time for the Alliance and will need to reflect a more complex and contested security environment. Since its inception in 1949, NATO has continued to adapt and modernize to be able to serve its purpose as a provider of peace and security in the Transatlantic area. To support the development of NATO’s next Strategic Concept, NATO will engage with experts to gather input, shape the debate and stimulate discussions on key topics for the Alliance for today and tomorrow.

V4, B9 and 3S: Between a Rock and a Soft Place hosted by Globsec

EU and NATO member states in Central Europe and on the eastern flank have increasingly found themselves exposed to external pressures, not least from Russia. They are on the frontline of several global confrontations. They depend on the EU and NATO being aligned and complementing each other. These countries are keen to balance European and transatlantic frameworks of reference. Alongside the US, many of them regard Germany as an anchor country, but one that frequently fails to live up to expectations. This event will explore what Berlin and other capitals around the EU and NATO might learn from the citizens and the leaders of these central, eastern and southeastern partners and allies to make the EU and NATO stronger and more coherent.

Earth and Water: Intersecting Politics of Eurasia and the Indo-Pacific hosted by Observer Research Foundation (ORF)

The emergence of the Indo-Pacific maritime domain is having a significant impact on the world order. Even as the politics of the Indo-Pacific evolves, Europe, the predecessor fulcrum of geopolitics, seems ready to erupt again. Old battle lines have been re-emphasized, as a new context brews in the waters of Asia. How can the world respond to these two arenas, with distinct and different underpinnings, motivations and stakeholders? Is there a consensus in the Liberal system on the emergent challenges? Is there a case for new partnerships with new actors to manage new geographies? Are conflicting demands of land and water diminishing opportunities for 21st century coalitions?

Beyond coups, interventions, and sanctions – What's next for peacebuilding in the Sahel? hosted by Robert Bosch Stiftung

Since the 2012 coup d'état in Mali, the international community's interest in the Sahel region has increased enormously. The decade since has seen an immense amount of international funding made available and multiple international (military) missions deployed to fulfill a variety of mandates and objectives in the region. However so far, none of these efforts have born tangible effect on the intersecting challenges the region faces. Instead, violent conflict and instability are on the rise, involving more and more of the Sahel's countries. With the catastrophic consequences of the West's failed long-term intervention in Afghanistan fresh in everyone's mind, the Sahelian nations' leadership and societies, together with the international community need to arrive urgently at a new way forward.

An Environment of Peace: The Challenge of Securing both Peace and a Sustainable Environment hosted by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

Climate change and environmental degradation are already impacting peace and security in diverse ways. At the same time, the change needed to transition to lower-carbon, greener economies is fraught with risks, but also offers many opportunities to contribute to more peaceful, sustainable societies. SIPRI is hosting the Environment of Peace initiative, which aims to increase understanding of how climate change and other environmental crises increase risks to peace and security. Environment of Peace will synthesize the best available evidence on environmental change and its societal impacts. It will present new insights on the risks, challenges and promising solutions. And it will illuminate pathways for policy and action.

Environment of Peace will release a major report in May 2022. This comes 50 years after the landmark United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (the Stockholm Conference), and just days ahead of the international UN conference "Stockholm+50: A healthy planet for the prosperity of all - our responsibility, our opportunity" in May 2022. This lunch will provide an opportunity to discuss the report's preliminary findings.

Europe's Security is Decided in Ukraine hosted by Yalta European Strategy (YES)

Ukraine is at a critical juncture. Its status as a peaceful, resilient country has never been more crucial to the security of Europe. This event will provide a platform for leading decision-makers and experts in security and transatlantic cooperation to engage in high-level dialogue. Despite the urgency of Ukraine's strategic importance, NATO and the EU are divided on a clear strategy towards the country. Some allies in the West call on Ukraine to exercise strategic patience, and last year the US lifted sanctions on the controversial Nord Stream 2 project. However, the recent buildup of Russian forces along Ukraine's border has placed the country in the foreground of international affairs and serves as a reminder that Europe's strategic fate depends on Ukraine's security, now more than ever. We will discuss how Ukraine and its allies - including NATO, the EU, and their member states - can move beyond the status quo, shaping a common policy towards security and defense in Ukraine and in Europe.

G7 in Germany Multilateral Cooperation in an inequitable World hosted by Zeit-Stiftung

This lunch singles out a key challenge for the coming year: in 2022, the debate seeks to shed some light on the challenges of the German G7 presidency, and find ways to overcome inequalities and shaping an agenda for a healthy planet and sustainable economies.

Dinners

The Transatlantic Partnership Award 2022: Evaluating Priorities for Renewed Transatlantic Security and Economic Cooperation hosted by American Chamber of Commerce in Germany

The American Chamber of Commerce in Germany honors the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) with the 31st Transatlantic Partnership Award (TAPA). The ceremony will recognize NATO's outstanding commitment and contributions to the German-American partnership and supports NATO's innovative endeavors within the transatlantic security sector, among others the usage of new technologies and trends such as big data and artificial intelligence. This event offers the opportunity for stakeholders from NATO, politics, and the transatlantic business community to discuss how to increase cooperation between NATO and the private and research sector in addressing the transatlantic security challenges of tomorrow. Participants will engage in an open dialogue on the priorities for renewed transatlantic security and economic cooperation under the new administrations in both Germany and the U.S.

What if the JCPOA Talks Fail? Is there a Plan B? hosted by American Jewish Committee (AJC)

The topic and aim of this discussion is to explore possible pathways back to the JCPOA and to see if any consensus emerges on how to deal with the Iranian nuclear threat. American Jewish Committee (AJC) would propose a moderated discussion among a maximum of three panelists, drawn from the U.S., Europe, and the Middle East, with different vantage points and perspectives. After an adequate period of discussion among the panelists, the moderator would invite the audience to pose their questions. Finally, there would be an effort to see if a consensus emerged on at least the most appropriate approach to Plan B.

Tafahum & Tabadul: Promoting Regional Dialogue in the Middle East hosted by Gulf Research Center

In 2019 and 2020, the region of West Asia and the Arabian Peninsula witnessed exacerbated tensions with implications for the region and beyond. Oil facilities and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz came under attack, and US and Iran directly confronted each other with the killing of Iranian General Soleimani. Shortly after, Covid-19 started posing unprecedented challenges to the region. In 2021, however, increasing regional calls for de-escalation were followed suit with a series of dialogue processes. The Al Ula GCC Summit in January 2021, talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia, and the 'Baghdad Conference for Cooperation and Partnership' brought regional leaders together for the first time in years. At this event, GRC/CARPO will explore how these processes can be built on, and how Europe and the international community can assist in promoting dialogue and regional understanding (tafahum) and exchange (tabadul).

An Adaptation Battle Plan: Implementing Climate Security Action hosted by International Military Council on Climate and Security and NATO

The role of Climate Change as one of the biggest drivers of change of our security environment has been widely recognized. The question no longer is whether we should adapt, but how we are going to adapt. During this dinner political leaders and experts will discuss best practices and lessons toward implementing climate security adaptation measures, including opportunities for new partnerships among participating countries.

Next Stop: Transatlantic China Policy hosted by Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS) and Aspen Strategy Group

The rise of a domestically authoritarian and globally assertive China renders transatlantic cooperation more relevant than at any time in recent history. Last year, a Distinguished Reflecting Group on Transatlantic China Policy was convened by the Munich Security Conference (MSC), the Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS), and the Aspen Strategy Group (ASG), to explore what transatlantic partners need to do to hold their own in the strategic competition with China. The result of this partnership was [Mind the Gap: Priorities for Transatlantic China Policy](#). Seven months after this report was published, with a new government in Berlin, and EU and NATO preparing their respective strategy documents, this event will review whether the US, Europe, and like-minded partners are in fact coming together on China policy, and examine pragmatic approaches in areas related to technology, economic security as well as security in the Indo-Pacific.

Security in the Black Sea Region: From Cyberstorm and Brinkmanship to Border Confrontation? hosted by New Strategy Center (NSC) and Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA)

The Black Sea region has re-emerged as a cauldron of geopolitical competition among Russia, China, the United States, and the European Union. Against a backdrop of thawing conflicts, military activities, energy developments, and foreign investment in infrastructure, much of this competition is playing out in the cyber domain, with significant implications for both NATO and the EU. To maintain its strategic advantage, the transatlantic community must urgently develop a unified strategy for the Black Sea region, with a view towards enhancing cyber cooperation. Some meaningful progress has been made, including the newly established EU Cybersecurity Competence Center in Bucharest. But more work must be done to prioritize the region, streamline existing efforts, and outline concrete next steps for the U.S., NATO, EU, and regional countries. This discussion, co-hosted by NSC and CEPA, will convene policymakers, military officials, cyber experts, and industry innovators across ally and partner countries to lay the groundwork for a more coherent transatlantic Black Sea strategy, with cybersecurity as a key pillar.

Don't look decoupled – Charting a Path for the EU and Western Balkans
hosted by Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)

While the geostrategic importance of the Western Balkans is increasing, strengthening closer cooperation in the region remains challenging - as does the road for countries from the region towards joining the European Union. Still, in light of growing global geostrategic rivalry between the West and China as well as Russia, the closer cooperation between the European Union and countries from the Western Balkans is in their mutual interest. This is especially true for empowering political stability, economic growth and democratic prosperity. Dialogue and diplomatic initiatives like the Berlin Process as well as ambitious plans like creating a common regional market or the Open Balkans Initiative are key to a prosperous European future – in the Western Balkans and beyond.

Rethinking Responses: Terrorism, Violent Extremism and Trans-Organized Crimes in Africa
hosted by Tana Forum

The spread of violent extremism, terrorist organizations and trans-organized crimes and the significant rise globally in acts of terrorism directly undermine the maintenance of international peace and security. The collective impacts of terrorism in Africa are severe and with devastating adverse effects on all spheres of human endeavor. In Africa, terrorism has, thus, become a menace to the well-being of the people, the economy and the socio-political spheres wreaking havoc and stalling development. The approaches to rethinking and addressing terrorism must be such that “solution(s) must be as much political as they are military” incorporating a human security element that focuses on people’s well-being. With this event, the Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa seeks to provoke an engaging and critical discussion around terrorism, violent extremism and trans-organized crimes and aims to create a space where ideas could be exchanged and deliberated upon in a dialogic context.

Sunday, February 20

Breakfasts

Brussels Babble or Global Goodie? Evaluating Europe's approach to AI in an age of geopolitical rivalry
hosted by Eva Maydell, Member of the European Parliament

Artificial Intelligence is rapidly changing our lives. Current challenges such as the introduction of high-risk AI without proper safeguards are compounded by potential opportunities and threats of AI in the future. In a generation from now, we might be surrounded by AI doing the tasks we don't want to do or cannot do as good. This revolution - akin to the industrial revolution - needs to be steered without losing even more space to competitors such as the US and systemic rivals such as China. By March 2022, the special committee on Artificial Intelligence in a digital world (AIDA) of the European Parliament will issue a strategy for AI in Europe over the next decade that focuses on real world problems and solutions. This MSC round-table will gather Members of the European Parliament and international experts with expertise in digital and security policy to discuss the dynamics between these two important fields when it comes to AI.

Security Radar 2022: Navigating the Disarray of European Security
hosted by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Regional Office for Cooperation and Peace in Europe

Disorder and disarray dominate the perceptions of security in Europe. There seems to be little hope for cooperation, despite the fact that experts and populations across the continent share the same anxieties and worries. Even close partners and allies differ substantially in their view on how to organize security in Europe. The upcoming 50-year anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act reminds us about the indivisibility of European security and the need to look for cooperation in the OSCE area. That is the aim of the updated public opinion poll "Security Radar 2022". The main results of this survey, conducted in 14 countries (Armenia, Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Norway, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Turkey, UK, Ukraine, USA) will be presented for the first at this event.

Lunches

Closing Time: The transatlantic relationship after Munich hosted by Atlantic Council and Airbus

For the tenth time, the Atlantic Council will host this closing luncheon, bringing together top ministers of defense and foreign affairs, senior military officials, leading policy experts, and business executives for a rich off-the-record discussion building on the key themes of the conference. As a new us administration rebuilds and reestablishes its alliances, this year's conversation will again summarize the key outcomes from the MSC and cover how the transatlantic community can move swiftly and ambitiously to address global competition with China and Russia, threats to global democracy, rapid technological change, and can adapt and strengthen Nato's role as the bedrock of transatlantic security.

Strengthening the EU's Immune System: Rethinking Security Demands in Eastern Europe hosted by Karlspreis Aachen

The intensification of the situation at and beyond the eastern borders of the European Union is not only a risk to intra-European unity and stability, but also calls for unified solutions and positioning of the EU and its partners. While public calls for the protection of democracy and the rule of law in neighboring states are growing louder, at the same time security demands have shifted in various EU member states and need to be addressed in concrete terms. This concluding lunch will feature the 2022 Belarusian laureates of the Charlemagne Prize and will provide an opportunity to discuss the outlook for European unity.