



About the Conference

Europe's security architecture is being tested at its edges – in the Arctic, in Ukraine, and across the Caucasus and the Black Sea. These are not peripheral theatres. They are where the credibility of European deterrence is established or lost, and where the assumptions underpinning the continent's post-Cold War order are being probed most systematically. Yet the states and societies bearing that pressure remain under-represented in the forums where European strategy is actually formed. The London Security Conference exists to correct that imbalance.

Conference Programme

09:00 – 09:10	Opening and Introductory Session
09:10 – 09:20	Keynote address
09:20 – 09:50	Ministerial panel
09:50 – 10:00	<i>Break</i>
10:00 – 10:45	Spotlight Chat 1: Hard Power, Soft Lies: Securing Europe in the Digital Age
10:45 – 11:35	Spotlight Chat 2: The Price of Impunity: Confronting Russian Power in Europe
11:35 – 12:00	<i>Lunch</i>
12:00 – 13:00	Panel Discussion 1: The Next Battlefield: Emerging Technologies and European Defence

Europe's security environment is being reshaped by the rapid diffusion of digital and emerging technologies, from uncrewed systems and electronic warfare to artificial intelligence, space-based assets and the contest for critical infrastructure. Russia's continuing invasion of Ukraine has thrown that shift into sharp relief, demonstrating how quickly comparatively inexpensive capabilities can unsettle established assumptions about deterrence and defence. This panel considers what these developments mean in practice for Europe's defence posture: where the continent's technological and industrial base remains exposed, how far innovation can be translated into deployable capability at the pace required, and which trade-offs now confront policymakers in London, Brussels and allied capitals. Speakers will address the choices that can no longer reasonably be deferred, and the institutional reform needed to meet them.

13:00 – 14:00

Panel Discussion 2: Exposing Europe's Black Sea blind spots: From crisis response to coherent strategy

The Black Sea has become one of the most consequential and least coherently governed theatres in European security, a region in which maritime access, energy infrastructure, freedom of navigation and frontline resilience all converge. Western engagement there has too often been reactive, organised around successive crises rather than any settled strategic framework, leaving partner states to manage sustained pressure with intermittent support. This panel brings together regional and allied perspectives to examine what effective support genuinely requires, where present policy falls short, and how Europe and its partners might move from ad hoc crisis response towards a steadier and more coherent regional strategy.

14:00 – 15:00

Panel Discussion 3: Eastern Europe at a Turning Point: Strategies for Defence and Democratic Resilience

Across Eastern Europe, mounting external pressure and domestic strain are testing both the hard edge of security and the resilience of democratic institutions. Hybrid interference, information operations, elite capture and the instrumentalisation of law have proved as consequential as conventional military threat, and frequently a good deal harder to counter, not least because they exploit the openness on which democratic societies depend. Drawing on practitioners with direct experience of the region, this session considers what defence and resilience now demand of governments, civil society and Europe's wider institutions - and whether the two are too readily traded off against one another.

15:00 – 16:00

Panel Discussion 4: Who Governs Arctic Security? Assessing the relevance of international bodies in a contested Arctic

The Arctic is no longer a frozen region far apart. Receding ice, emerging shipping routes, contested resource claims and renewed military activity have made the High North a theatre of strategic competition, while the institutions charged with governing it were designed for a considerably quieter era. This session examines how state power and international institutions now interact across the region, how great-power competition is eroding the authority of established bodies such as the Arctic Council and the UN Security Council, and whether those bodies remain fit for purpose. In doing so it asks what a credible governance architecture for a contested Arctic would need to look like, and who might realistically build it.