



Oslo Security
Conference

THE 61ST ANNUAL OSLO SECURITY CONFERENCE

THE TRANSATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP FACING THE “NEW NORMAL”

FEBRUARY 2ND-3RD 2026



Illustration by:
Roar Hagen

Welcome to the Oslo Security Conference 2026

The Norwegian Atlantic Committee is pleased to welcome you to the 61st edition of the Oslo Security Conference in the University of Oslo's historic Aula.

This year's conference is held under the title *"The Transatlantic Partnership – Facing the 'New Normal'."* The theme reflects a profound shift in the international environment confronting the transatlantic community.

The liberal, rules-based international order is being challenged from multiple directions. Authoritarian powers such as Russia and China continue to contest Western influence, norms, and institutions, while Russia's brutal war against Ukraine remains the most serious security challenge Europe has faced in decades. Simultaneously, developments within the West are reshaping the foundations of future transatlantic cooperation. The second Trump administration puts "might before right" and subsequently challenges the rules-based world order by weakening its main pillars: multilateral institutions, rule of law, liberal rights and free trade raising questions about the transatlantic partnership.

Against this backdrop, Europe finds itself at a strategic crossroads. How should European countries and institutions respond to these critical and rapidly changing shifts in the international order. What does the "new normal" mean for collective defence and deterrence? How can a strategically fragmented Europe with diverging threat perceptions, national priorities and defence postures act? And how can small and medium-sized states like Norway safeguard their security interests in an international system increasingly shaped by great power rivalry?

Over the course of two days, the Oslo Security Conference 2026 will address these questions through high-level discussions on the future of the transatlantic partnership, the consequences of shifting U.S. foreign policy, Europe's ability to adapt, and the continued imperative to deter Russia while supporting Ukraine's path forward. Particular attention will also be given to the maritime domain, highlighting Norway's strategic role in the High North, the growing importance of allied maritime cooperation in the North Atlantic, how this is linked to the US-China rivalry in the Indo-Pacific.

We are honored to be joined by an exceptional group of heads of government, ministers, senior officials, military leaders, scholars, and analysts from across the transatlantic community, as we seek to better understand the contours of this new strategic landscape.

We thank you for joining us and look forward to two days of insightful discussions and meaningful exchanges at the Oslo Security Conference 2026.



Kate Hansen Bundt

Secretary General

The Norwegian Atlantic Committee

08:00 – 08:50 Registration

Opening Session

The Transatlantic Partnership – Facing the “New Normal”

The transatlantic partners are facing a “new normal” as the liberal international order is under pressure both from the outside and within. The great powers of the East, Russia, China and other authoritarian states, are continuously contesting the West. Simultaneously, the US global role is rapidly changing as the Trump administration challenges the rules-based world order by weakening its main pillars: multilateral institutions, rule of law, liberal rights and free trade. How should NATO, the EU and small states like Norway, respond to these critical and rapidly changing shifts in the international order? How do we make our institutions relevant? Will the current situation require new forms of cooperation and strengthen bilateral and regional alliances?

09:00-09:05 *Words of Welcome*

Kate Hansen Bundt, Secretary General, The Norwegian Atlantic Committee

09:05-09:55 **Europe Navigating the “New Normal”**

Keynote Address

Jonas Gahr Støre, Prime Minister of Norway

**Kaja Kallas, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs
and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission**

In conversation with:

Kate Hansen Bundt, Secretary General, The Norwegian Atlantic Committee

09:55-10:25 **Future Transatlantic Relations**

Radmila Shekerinska, NATO Deputy Secretary General

In conversation with:

Kate Hansen Bundt, Secretary General, The Norwegian Atlantic Committee

10:25-10:40 **Leg stretch**

“The MAGA World Order” & Consequences for the Transatlantic Partnership

Time: 10:40-11:40

Chaired by: **Janne Haaland Matlary, Professor, University of Oslo
and the Norwegian National Defence University College**

Donald Trump's second presidency has rattled the world order through its raw exercise of power. In order to “Make America Great Again” Trump's administration has openly flouted international law, weaponized international trade, questioned allies' ability to collective defence and apparently embraced the idea of spheres of interest. Do we find a grand strategy behind Trumps foreign policy and does the National Security Strategy coin this? Does this pave the way for a new structural shift in US foreign policy, or is it merely a result of Trump himself? An essential question becomes which elements will remain of the current strategy? Will Trumpism outlive the president? How will this shape the transatlantic partnership and the global order in the years to come?

Andrew Michta, Professor of Strategic Studies, University of Florida

Barbara Kunz, Senior Researcher and Director of the European Security Programme, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

Kaush Arha, Senior Fellow at the Center for Technology & Diplomacy at Purdue and President of the Free and Open Indo-Pacific Forum

Lt. Gen (ret.) Ben Hodges, former Commanding General of US Army Europe

11:40-12:30 **Lunch**

Norway & Poland – Close Allies in Northern Europe

Time: 12:30-13:30

Chaired by: **Kate Hansen Bundt, Secretary General,
The Norwegian Atlantic Committee**

As Europe adapts to an increasingly contested security environment, cooperation between aligned and capable allies becomes essential. In Northern Europe, Poland is a fast growing economic and military power. Both Norway and Poland view Russia as the main threat to European security. The two countries have bolstered cooperation over the common aim to secure a Ukrainian victory. This is exemplified through Camp Jomsborg – a training camp for Ukrainian troops in Poland. The Foreign Ministers of Norway and Poland will discuss the current transatlantic security situation and the challenges ahead.

Espen Barth Eide, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway

Radosław Sikorski, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland

How to Deter Russia while Carving out a Future Path for Ukraine

Time: 13:30-14:30

Chaired by: **Ulf Sverdrup, Professor, Department of Law
and Governance, the Norwegian Business School**

Russia's continued aggression against Ukraine remains the defining security challenge for Europe. How can an effective deterrence against Russia be strengthened and upheld under the current strained transatlantic relationship? What strategic options lie ahead for Ukraine, what incentives does Putin have to end the war and how will these choices shape European and transatlantic security in the years to come?

Katarzyna Pisarska, Professor, Chair of the Warsaw Security Forum

**Keir Giles, Former Senior Consulting Fellow, Russia and Eurasia
Programme, Chatham House**

**Lt. Gen (ret.) Arne Bård Dalhaug, Senior Advisor,
The Norwegian Atlantic Committee**

14:30-15:00 **Coffee break**

Response from a Strategically Fragmented Europe

Time: 15:00-16:30

Chaired by: **Barbara Kunz, Senior Researcher and Director
of the European Security Programme, SIPRI**

As Europe confronts a more volatile security environment, its ability to respond is shaped not only by external threats, but by internal economic, political and strategic conditions and internal fragmentation. Diverging threat perceptions, national priorities, and defence postures, complicate Europe's capacity to act united and cohesively at a time of heightened pressure on the transatlantic partnership. How should Europe respond to a changing international order, strengthen collective action, and contribute more effectively to European and transatlantic security?

**Sten Rynning, Director of the Danish Institute of Advanced Study
and a Professor of War Studies, the University of Southern Denmark**

**Rob Johnson, Director of the Changing Character of War Centre,
University of Oxford**

**Bruno Tertrais, Deputy Director, Fondation pour la Recherche
Stratégique**

**Karl-Heinz Kamp, Associate fellow, Center for Order and Governance
in Eastern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia, German Council on Foreign
Relations**

08:30-09:20 Registration

The Geostrategy of the Maritime Domain

Norway is one of NATO's key front-line actors in the High North especially when it comes to monitoring Russian nuclear posture on the Kola Peninsula aimed for the US. In addition, its long coastline is a critical entry point for allied reinforcements in the event of war. The Norwegian government is modernizing and strengthening the Royal Norwegian Navy. However, as one of Europe's small states, Norway is dependent upon allies with shared interests, willing and able to stand up for each other. The recent bilateral Lunna Agreement with our long-term allied Britain, is an example of that.

09:30-09:35 *Words of Welcome*

Kate Hansen Bundt, Secretary General, The Norwegian Atlantic Committee

09:35-10:00 *Keynote Address*

Andreas Flåm, State Secretary, Norwegian Ministry of Defence

Maritime Cooperation in The North Atlantic

Time: 10:00-11:30

Chaired by: **Julian Lindley-French, Chairman of The Alphen Group**

Rear Admiral Oliver Berdal, Chief of the Royal Norwegian Navy

**Major General Richard J Cantrill OBE MC Royal Marines,
Commander Operations, Royal Navy**

Katarzyna Zysk, Professor, Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies

**Sten Rynning, Director of the Danish Institute of Advanced Study and
a Professor of War Studies, the University of Southern Denmark**

11:30-11:50 **Coffee Break**

The U.S. Asia Policy: Implications for Europe

Time: 11:50-13:00

Chaired by: **Jo Inge Bekkevold, Senior China Fellow,
Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies**

The strategic importance of Northern European maritime security is increasingly interconnected with the Indo-Pacific, particularly the shared need for allies and partners to counter Russian and Chinese naval ambitions. The United States, the strongest military power in NATO, is prioritizing its military rivalry with China in East Asia. How is Norway along with key European allies working to fill some of the strategic gaps and challenges that are emerging due to the US-China superpower rivalry?

**Kaush Arha, Senior Fellow at the Center for Technology & Diplomacy
at Purdue and President of the Free and Open Indo-Pacific Forum**

**Luis Simón, Director, Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy,
Vrije Universiteit Brussels**

Øystein Tunsjø, Professor, Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies

Closing remarks

Grete Faremo, Chair of the Board, The Norwegian Atlantic Committee

Speaker Biographies in Order of Appearance

Kate Hansen Bundt

Secretary General of the Norwegian Atlantic Committee

Kate Hansen Bundt has been Secretary General of the Norwegian Atlantic Committee since 2010. She is a political scientist (Cand.polit) from University of Oslo and foreign policy analyst with particular expertise in German, European and transatlantic security and strategy. She is a board member of NOREF (Norwegian Centre for Conflict Resolution) and the Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI) in Oslo. Prior to her current position, she was a research fellow at NUPI (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs) from 1990-93, where she also was Chair of the Board from 2014-21. She was Research Director at the Oslo-based think tank “Europaprogrammet” from 1993-2006 and worked as an independent commentator of European and German affairs from 2006-09. In 2009 she graduated from the executive course at the Norwegian Defence University College, where she still lectures. Bundt has been member of several Government appointed expert committees on security, defence and EU-issues, and is frequently invited by the media to comment on developments in Germany, NATO, and the EU. In 2018 she was awarded the Willy Brandt Prize for her long and outstanding efforts for Norwegian-German relations.



Jonas Gahr Støre

Prime Minister of Norway

Jonas Gahr Støre has been the Prime Minister of Norway since the 14th of October 2021. In 1989, Mr. Støre was employed as Special Adviser at the Office of the Prime Minister, and in 1995, he was appointed Director General of its Department of International Affairs. From 1998 to 2000, he served as Chief of Staff under Gro Harlem Brundtland at the World Health Organization.

Mr. Støre was Minister of Foreign Affairs in Jens Stoltenberg's second government from 2005 to 2012, and then Minister of Health and Care Services until the change of government in 2013. Before that, he was State Secretary and Chief of Staff at the Office of the Prime Minister in 2000–2001. He has also held a number of other senior positions in the civil service and humanitarian organisations, including serving as Secretary General of the Norwegian Red Cross from 2003 to 2005. Mr Støre became Leader of the Labour Party in 2014 and has been a member of the Storting for Oslo since 2009. He has served on the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs, the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, and the Enlarged Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence.



Kaja Kallas

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs
and Security Policy / Vice-President of the Commission



Kaja Kallas is the current High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the Commission. She was Prime Minister of Estonia from January 2021 until July 2024. She became the leader of Estonia's Reform Party in 2018, and was twice a Member of Parliament, (2011-2014; 2019-2021). From 2014 to 2018, Kallas served as a Member of the European Parliament (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe). Before entering politics, Kallas was a lawyer, specialising in European and Estonian competition law, and a partner in two law firms. She graduated from Tartu University law school in 1999. Kallas was awarded the Order of Prince Yaroslav the Wise of Ukraine, the Grand Cross of the Order of the Star of Romania, CEPA Transatlantic Leadership Award, the 2022 Grotius prize, the Hayek International Prize, European Prize for Political Culture, 2nd Class Order of Prince Yaroslav the Wise (Ukraine, 2023), the Commander Grand Cross of the Royal Order of the Polar Star (Sweden, 2023), the Marion Dönhoff Prize, the Jeane J. Kirkpatrick Award of the International Republican Institute, the Lord Byron International Prize, the L'Express Europe Award, the European Liberal of the Year, the Woman in Power Award (Women of Europe Awards), and the Walther Rathenau Prize (2024).

Radmila Shekerinska

NATO Deputy Secretary General



Radmila Shekerinska took office as NATO Deputy Secretary General on 2 December 2024. She has served two terms as Minister of Defence of North Macedonia (2017-2020, 2020-2022), the first woman in that post and the longest-serving since the country's independence in 1991. As Minister of Defence, she was instrumental in preparing North Macedonia to join NATO. North Macedonia became NATO's 30th member in 2020 and successfully achieved full military integration into NATO in less than 19 months. Ms Shekerinska served as a member of parliament (2006-2014). As Deputy Prime Minister in charge of European Integration and Foreign Aid Coordination (2002-2006), she oversaw North Macedonia's application to become a candidate country for accession to the European Union. She graduated from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering in Skopje and received her MA in International Relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, USA.

Janne Haaland Matlary

Professor, University of Oslo
and the Norwegian Defence University College



Janne Haaland Matlary is Professor dr.philos at the Department of Political Science, University of Oslo, and Adjunct Professor at the Norwegian Defence University College. She has an extensive career in public service and academia, inter alia as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs 1997-2000 and prior to that in the Ministry of Petroleum and at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs. Her main research interests are strategy and international security policy with a special focus on Europe. Haaland Matlary is author of more than 20 books, and her most recent English publication, *"NATO and the Russian War in Ukraine: Strategic Integration and Military Interoperability"* (co-edited with Dr. Robert Johnson, Oxford) was published in 2024.

Andrew Michta

Professor of Strategic Studies, University of Florida



Andrew A. Michta is Professor of Strategic Studies at the Hamilton School at the University of Florida. Before joining Hamilton, Michta was a Senior Fellow with the GeoStrategy Initiative in the Atlantic Council's Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security and the former dean of the College of International and Security Studies at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies. He holds a PhD in international relations from Johns Hopkins University. His areas of expertise are international security, NATO, and European politics and security, with a special focus on Central Europe and the Baltic states. Previously, he was professor of national security affairs at the US Naval War College, an adjunct fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Europe Program, and an affiliate of the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard University. Michta is a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He is also a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council and a Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace at Stanford University. He is fluent in Polish and Russian and proficient in German and French.

Barbara Kunz

Senior Researcher and Director of the European Security Programme, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

Dr. Barbara Kunz is a Senior Researcher and Director of the SIPRI European Security Programme. Her research focuses on European security, both within the framework of relevant organizations such as NATO, the EU and the OSCE, and in the wider Euro-Atlantic context. Prior to joining SIPRI in October 2023, she inter alia worked for the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy (IFSH) in Hamburg and the Institut français des relations internationales (Ifri) in Paris. In 2023, Barbara Kunz was a Helmut Schmidt Fellow with the German Marshall Fund in Washington D.C.

**Kaush Arha**

Senior Fellow at the Center for Technology & Diplomacy at Purdue and President of the Free and Open Indo-Pacific Forum

Kaush Arha is a leading architect of Free and Open Spaces strategy and a pioneer in the field of tech diplomacy. He is the author of the trusted connectivity framework, advancing resilient global supply chains and reoriented economic relations. His work focuses on strengthening Quad Plus economic and security architecture in the Indo-Pacific; fostering US-India Great Power Partnership; framing a global economic security quad of US-EU-Japan-India; advancing Indo-Mediterranean partnerships through IMEC and 3SI; reframing US-Europe engagement with Africa; fostering integrated Arctic-Baltic cooperation through a Free North stratagem; promoting the strategic importance of a free and open Black Sea to stabilize Central Asia–Caucasus–Europe engagement; facilitating a sub-national partnership between American Western States and Western Australia for defense-energy-minerals coordination; and advocating for a Japan-ASEAN-Australia-India Economic Corridor. Arha has served in senior roles under the Trump and Bush administrations, including as G7 sherpa for quality infrastructure, and as a senior diplomat in Kabul during the Obama administration. A regular commentator on global economic, political, and security affairs, he holds a doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley, and a law degree from Stanford University.



Lt. Gen (ret.) Ben Hodges

Former Commanding General of US Army Europe



Lieutenant General (Retired) Ben Hodges, the former Commanding General of US Army Europe (2014-2017), currently serves as NATO Senior Mentor for Logistics, he consults for several companies on Europe, NATO, and the European Union, and has co-authored the book, *Future War and the Defence of Europe*, published by Oxford University Press. Hodges has a regular media presence on leading international media, such as CNN, MSNBC, Fox, BBC, Times Radio, Deutsche Welle and The Daily Telegraph, among others. He offers insight and analysis on a wide range of topics, such as NATO, US and European security, the Russian War against Ukraine, and the upcoming US Election. He was most recently Senior Advisor to Human Rights First, a non-profit, nonpartisan international human rights organization, and he held the Pershing Chair in Strategic Studies at the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA). General Hodges graduated from the United States Military Academy in May 1980. He has long an extensive operational experience and has served in a variety of Joint and Army Staff positions.

Espen Barth Eide

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway



His Excellency Mr. Espen Barth Eide is the Foreign Minister of Norway. Eide became Norway's Minister of Foreign Affairs on 16 October 2023. From 14 October 2021 he was Minister of Climate and Environment. From 2017-2021, he was a Member of Parliament and the Norwegian Labour Party's Climate and Energy spokesperson. In the two Stoltenberg Governments, Mr. Eide occupied many prominent positions: Foreign Minister from 2012 to 2013, Minister of Defense from 2011 to 2012, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs from 2010 to 2011, State Secretary for Defense from 2005 to 2010 and State Secretary for Foreign Affairs from 2000-2001. Mr. Eide was Managing Director and Member of the Managing Board of the World Economic Forum in Geneva from 2014 to 2016. Furthermore, he served as UN Under-Secretary General and the Secretary General's Special Adviser on Cyprus (2014-2017), chairing the negotiations aiming at reunification of the divided island. He has a degree in political science from the University of Oslo and former researcher to The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI).

Radosław Sikorski

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland

Radosław Sikorski is the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland. He is a graduate of High School No. 1 in Bydgoszcz and Oxford University. He served as a war correspondent in Afghanistan and Angola (1986–1989). In 2002–2005, he was a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C., and the executive director of the New Atlantic Initiative. Radosław Sikorski was Minister of Defence (2005–2007), Minister of Foreign Affairs (2007–2014), and Speaker of the Sejm (2014–2015). In 2019–2023, he was a Member of the European Parliament, sitting on the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Security and Defence Subcommittee. He chaired the Delegation for relations with the United States. He is a Senior Fellow at the Center for European Studies at Harvard. In 2014, he headed the EU mission to Kyiv. He is the author of several books.

**Ulf Sverdrup**

Professor at the Norwegian Business School (BI)

Ulf Sverdrup is a professor at the Department of Law and Governance, at the Norwegian Business School (BI). He was Director of the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) from 2012 to 2023. He holds a PhD in political science. Sverdrup led the Norwegian government-appointed commission that reviewed the implications of geopolitics for the Norwegian Government Pension Fund Global (NOU 2022:12). He has been a Jean Monnet Fellow at the European University Institute, a Senior Advisor in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and a Research Professor/Senior Researcher at the University of Oslo. He was the Head of the Secretariat for the Official Norwegian Europe Review (NOU 2012:2.). He has published extensively on various topics in international politics, with a particular emphasis on European affairs and Norwegian foreign policy.



Keir Giles

Former Senior Consulting Fellow,
Russia and Eurasia Programme, Chatham House

Keir Giles is a former Senior Consulting Fellow with Chatham House's Russia and Eurasia Programme. He also works with the Conflict Studies Research Centre (CSRC), a group of subject matter experts in the wide range of security threats emanating from Russia. After acquiring a range of experience in other fields in Europe and the former Soviet Union, Keir originally joined CSRC in 2005 at the UK Defence Academy on secondment from the BBC Monitoring Service. At the Defence Academy Keir wrote and advised on Russian military, defence and security issues including human factors influencing Russian security policy, Russian strategy and doctrine, the Russian view of cyber and information security, and Russia's relations with its neighbours in Northern Europe. Giles is the author of "Moscow Rules: What Drives Russia to Confront the West" (Brookings, January 2019), "Russia's War on Everybody" (Bloomsbury, November 2022) and his latest book "Who Will Defend Europe?" (C Hurst & Co Publishers Ltd, 2024).

**Katarzyna Pisarska**

Professor, Chair of the Warsaw Security Forum

Prof. Katarzyna Pisarska is a Polish civic activist and scholar, and a leading figure in European foreign and security policy. She is the Founder of the European Academy of Diplomacy (2004) and Co-Founder of the Casimir Pulaski Foundation (2005), the Warsaw Security Forum (2014), and the International Center for Ukrainian Victory (2022). Since 2024 she has served as the Head of the Advisory Council to the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Polish Parliament. She is a Tenured Professor at the Warsaw School of Economics and has held visiting fellowships at Harvard University, Johns Hopkins SAIS, the Australian National University, University of Southern California, and the University of Malaga. Her research focuses on EU foreign policy, the Eastern Partnership, EU–Russia relations, and public diplomacy. She is the author of *The Domestic Dimension of Public Diplomacy* (Palgrave, 2016). Pisarska was named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum and a Munich Young Leader by the Munich Security Conference. In 2025 she received an Order of Merit from the President of Ukraine for her contributions to international cooperation and support for Ukraine.



Lt. Gen (ret.) Arne Bård Dalhaug

Senior Advisor, The Norwegian Atlantic Committee

Lieutenant General, Arne Bård Dalhaug (Ret.) served as senior manager in the Luhansk Monitoring Team, for the Special Monitoring Mission Ukraine, OSCE from 2016 to 2019. Dalhaug has earlier been Commandant at the NATO Defense College in Rome, Italy from 2011 to 2014. Former Norwegian Representative for the NATO Military Committee from 2008 to 2011 and served as the Chief of Defence Staff/Deputy Chief of Defence from 2005 to 2008.



Sten Rynning

Director of the Danish Institute of Advanced Study and a Professor of War Studies, the University of Southern Denmark

Sten Rynning is Professor at the Center for War Studies, the University of Southern Denmark, and a senior fellow of the Danish Institute for Advanced Studies. He served as interim dean of the Faculty of Business and Social Sciences November 2021-May 2022 and as vice dean for research June 2019-August 2022. In 2011 he founded the University of Southern Denmark's Center for War Studies, which he headed until 2019. He served on the official Norwegian Afghanistan Commission (2015-2016) and has advised several policy commissions in Denmark. Sten Rynning writes on NATO, war, and geopolitics. He is the author of *"NATO: From Cold War to Ukraine, a History of the World's Most Powerful Alliance"* (Yale University Press, 2024). In 2021 Sten Rynning was made Knight of the Order of Dannebrog.



Rob Johnson

Director of the Changing Character of War Centre,
University of Oxford

Dr Rob Johnson is the Director of the Strategy, Statecraft, and Technology: Changing Character of War research centre at Oxford University. He was the first Director of the UK's Office of Net Assessment at the UK Ministry of Defence. Dr Johnson acts as a strategic advisor to the UK government and NATO. He is the author of a number of books on strategy and operations, through his funding from Sweden's Ax:Son Johnson Institute. He has recently published *NATO and Russia's War in Ukraine* (2023), *Military Strategy for the 21st Century* (2020), *The Conduct of War* (2020), and *World Information War* (2020). Dr Johnson is currently assisting in the development of Net Assessment across NATO member states and its partners, informationised warfare, future deterrence, and the conduct of operations. He is a visiting Professor of the Norwegian Defence University and Staff College, Strategic Advisor on submarine technology, and Distinguished Fellow of the Council on Geostrategy.



Bruno Tertrais

Deputy Director, Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique

Dr. Bruno Tertrais is Deputy Director of the *Fondation pour la recherche stratégique* (FRS) and an Adviser for Geopolitics at *Institut Montaigne*. His areas of expertise include geopolitics and international relations, strategic and military affairs, as well as political demography. He was previously a Senior Research Fellow at FRS, a Visiting Fellow at the RAND Corporation, a Special Assistant to the Director of Strategic Affairs at the French Ministry of Defense, and the Director of the Civilian Affairs Committee at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Brussels. He was a member of the Commissions on the White Paper on Defense and National Security appointed by Presidents Sarkozy (2007) and Hollande (2012). He was made a Knight of the Legion of Honor by the President of the Republic in 2014. He has a monthly column in the French weekly *Le Point*.



Karl-Heinz Kamp

Associate Fellow, German Council on Foreign Relations

Karl-Heinz Kamp is an Associate Fellow with the German Council on Foreign Relations in Berlin (DGAP). He studied history and social sciences in Bonn, was a Research Fellow at the John F. Kennedy School, Harvard University and earned his doctorate at the University of the Federal Armed Forces in Hamburg. He served in various positions at the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation and was seconded to the Planning Staff of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2007 he became the first Research Director at the NATO Defense College in Rome. In 2015 Minister Ursula von der Leyen appointed him as President of the German Federal Academy for Security Policy in Berlin and from 2019 to 2023 he served as Special Envoy in the German Ministry of Defence. He is a co-editor of the German strategic journal "Sirius" and published more than 400 articles on security policy issues in books and journals.

**Andreas Flåm**

State Secretary, Norwegian Ministry of Defence

Andreas Flåm (The Norwegian Labor Party) was appointed State Secretary for Minister of Defence Tore O. Sandvik in February 2025. Flåm is an experienced advisor and political professional with a strong background in defence policy, High North issues, and regional development. Over 15 years of experience working in public administration and higher education, with a focus on strategic advising, political processes, and industry collaboration. He holds a Master's degree in political science from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU).



Julian Lindley-French

Chair of the Alphen Group



Professor Dr. Lindley-French is Chairman of The Alphen Group, a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society in London, and a Founder Member of the Free Speech Union. He is also Senior Fellow at the Institute for Statecraft in London, Director of Europa Analytica in the Netherlands, and a Fellow of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute. In September 2024, he published his latest book, *The Retreat from Strategy* with General Lord Richards the former head of the British armed forces. In January 2025 he published *Atlantic Charter 2025: A New NATO Deal for America*. He has thirteen books to his name, including the award-winning *Oxford Handbook of War and NATO: The Enduring Alliance*, together with many major reports and articles. He has also held three professorial chairs, including Eisenhower Professor of Defence Strategy. In 2022 he also drafted the *Shadow NATO Strategic Concept* for NATO Secretary-General, and in March 2023 presented *A Comprehensive Strategy for a Secure Ukraine* to NATO and partner defence ministers. He is also Director of the high-level series of *Future War conferences* at Wilton Park.

Rear Admiral Oliver Berdal

Chief of the Royal Norwegian Navy



A native of Bergen, Norway, Oliver Berdal joined the Royal Norwegian Navy in 1993 and graduated from the Royal Norwegian Naval Academy in 1998. He then went on to serve in the Submarine Service. In 2006 he took two years' leave to pursue a job in the private sector as a project manager for a new regional airport, from early construction to opening. He went on as a special advisor at the Norwegian Defense Research Establishment before rejoining the Navy as "Teacher"/Commanding Officer for the Norwegian Submarine Command Course in 2008. He attended the US Naval War College from 2011-2012, before taking on a staff position in the Norwegian Ministry of Defense as program manager for our new submarines. In 2019 he assumed duty as commander of the Submarine Service. In 2020 Berdal was promoted to Commodore and Chief of the Norwegian Coast Guard, and in 2023 Berdal was promoted to Rear Admiral and chief of the Royal Norwegian Navy.

Major General Richard J Cantrill OBE MC Royal Marines
Commander Operations, Royal Navy



Rich Cantrill joined the Royal Marines in 1996 and spent the majority of his early career in 3 Commando Brigade, deploying on amphibious operations and in specialist mountain and cold weather warfare roles. The highlight of his regimental duty was deployment to Afghanistan on HERRICK 9 as a company commander, for which he was awarded the Military Cross and a commendation from the Canadian Chief of Defence Staff. A 'Top Maritime Student' on the Advanced Command and Staff Course in 2010, he was promoted Lieutenant Colonel and spent two years in the MOD as Military Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Defence Staff (Military Strategy and Operations), for which he was made an OBE. Promoted Colonel in 2016, he served as Chief of Staff to Commander UK Amphibious Forces and an operational Maritime Headquarters delivering EU Operation ATALANTA, before an MOD role focused on Counter-terrorism and UK Operations. Following Higher Command and Staff Course 20, he was seconded to the Cabinet Office's Covid-19 Taskforce as Chief of Staff, promoted Brigadier, and assumed command of 3 Commando Brigade in September 2020. He assumed his current role as the Royal Navy's Commander Operations in May 2024.

Katarzyna Zysk
Professor, Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies



Dr Katarzyna Zysk is Professor of International Relations and Contemporary History at the Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies (IFS) since 2007, which is a part of the Norwegian Defence University College (NDUC) in Oslo. At the IFS, she also served as Deputy Director, Head of Centre for Security Policy, and Director of Research, and was Acting Dean of the NDUC. Prof. Zysk has two decades of experience in international security, defence, and strategic studies.

Following her 2006 PhD on NATO enlargement, her research and publications have focused on Russia's military strategy, warfare, armed forces; nuclear deterrence; the Russian Navy; security in the Arctic, as well as AI, disruptive technologies and defence innovation. Prof. Zysk was visiting fellow at the Center for International Security and Cooperation (Stanford University), The Changing Character of War Centre (Oxford University), The Paris Institute of Political Studies, and The US Naval War College. Currently, she also serves as Core Group Member of the Russia Transatlantic Forum (Center for a New American Security), Non-resident Senior Fellow (Atlantic Council), and Advisory Board Member of the Transatlantic Deterrence Dialogue Initiative.

Jo Inge Bekkevold

Senior China Fellow, Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies

Jo Inge Bekkevold is Senior Advisor at the Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies (IFS). Bekkevold has written extensively on Chinese foreign and security policy, Asian security, China and Arctic affairs, Sino-Russian relations, and great power politics. He is currently writing a book on the geopolitics of U.S.-China rivalry. His recent publications include “India’s Great Power Politics: Managing China’s Rise”, co-edited with S. Kalyanaraman (Routledge, 2021), “Sino-Russian Relations in the 21st Century” co-edited with Bobo Lo (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019), “China in the Era of Xi Jinping: Domestic and Foreign Policy Challenges” with Robert S. Ross (Georgetown University Press, 2016), and “International Order at Sea: How it is challenged. How it is maintained” (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016) co-edited with Geoffrey Till. Bekkevold is a former career diplomat in the Norwegian Foreign Service, with several postings to China and East Asia.

**Luis Simón**

Director, Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy,
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Prof. Luis Simón is Director of the Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy (CSDS) at Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Director of the Brussels Office of the Elcano Royal Institute. He is also a Senior Associate (non-resident) at CSIS and a Visiting Fellow at the Robert Schuman Institute for Advanced Studies (EUI). He currently leads a European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator project on US–China rivalry and its implications for Europe. His expertise covers international security, US foreign and defense policy, European and transatlantic security, and Asian security. His work has been published in leading journals including Security Studies, International Affairs, European Journal of International Relations, Review of International Studies, Journal of European Public Policy, Contemporary Security Policy, Survival, The Washington Quarterly or Geopolitics. Previously, he was a postdoctoral FWO Fellow at Columbia University and a Visiting Fellow at Johns Hopkins University. He holds a PhD from the University of London and a Master’s degree from Sciences Po Paris.



Øystein Tunsjø

Professor, Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies

Øystein Tunsjø is Professor and Head of the Security in Asia Program at the Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies at the Norwegian Defence University College. Tunsjø's latest book is *The Return of Bipolarity in World Politics: China, the United States and Geostructural Realism*, (Columbia University Press, 2018). He has published articles in many acclaimed journals, such as *International Security*, *Journal of Common Market Studies*, *The Washington Quarterly* and *International Relations*, and contributed with book chapters to several edited volumes. Tunsjø holds a PhD in International Relations from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, 2006, a cand. philol. from the University of Oslo, an MSc from the London School of Economics, 2002 and a MA from Griffith University, Australia, 2000. Tunsjø was a visiting Fulbright scholar at the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University, during spring term of 2010, and a visiting Fulbright scholar at the Security Studies Program at MIT during spring term of 2023. Tunsjø was a member of the government appointed Norwegian Defence Commission of 2021, which finalized and submitted its report to the Norwegian Government in May 2023.



Grete Faremo

Chair of The Norwegian Atlantic Committee

Grete Faremo has broad political experience as Minister in the Norwegian Government over a period of 10 years, serving three different Prime Ministers within the defence -, justice and public safety, oil and energy and development cooperation department. Faremo has a large personal network from politics, business and public society through 13 years of international experience from assignments in the UN system and in Microsoft. Her business experience includes leading executive and non-executive positions from technology, finance, industry, real estate development and media.



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About the Norwegian Atlantic Committee

Since its foundation in 1955, the Norwegian Atlantic Committee has sought to increase public awareness on issues relating to defence, security and foreign policy, with particular emphasis on transatlantic relations.

The Norwegian Atlantic Committee is politically independent and aims to facilitate knowledge sharing and discussions about issues on the international agenda of security and foreign affairs. We attract a wide audience consisting of representatives from the political environment, the diplomatic corps and government officials, as well as journalists, military personnel, and researchers from a number of institutions.

The Oslo Security Conference, formerly known as Leangkollen Security Conference, is our largest event and has been hosted annually since 1965. Every year we invite a wide range of acknowledged researchers and senior officials to present their valuable insight on current security, defence and foreign policy related issues.

The secretariat consists of the Secretary General and three full-time employees. Annually, we have roughly 6-7000 people participating in a variety of events ranging from lunch seminars, hard-talks, conferences, 'round-tables', regional courses in international politics, and study trips to key strategic cities and institutions.

Furthermore, we publish several analyses on our website throughout the year. The Norwegian Atlantic Committee is also featured extensively in the media.

Follow the conference on social media by using the hashtag **#OsloSecurityConference**, or on our Facebook or Instagram page at **"Den norske Atlanterhavskomite"**.

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