

The Strategic Compass: how to ensure security of supply and enhance the EU's resilience?



Ministry of Defence
Republic of Latvia



A conference co-organised by the Finnish Ministry of Defence, the Latvian Ministry of Defence and the EU Institute for Security Studies (EU ISS).

09:00-12:15 CEST, 4 June, 2021

CONCEPT

Security of supply is an essential pillar of the EU's resilience and there is a need to guarantee the supply of raw materials, critical components and technologies. The Covid-19 pandemic has revealed vulnerabilities in the EU's strategic value chains and geopolitical competition has already raised questions about the resilience of supply chains. The Strategic Compass provides an opportunity to highlight the importance of security of supply for EU security and defence. It could also help stress the need for cross-border cooperation between EU Member States and European defence industries, especially in relation to developing critical European know-how, technologies, capacities and logistical arrangements.

In this respect, a truly comprehensive approach for security of supply is required that brings together Member States, industry and EU institutions. Accordingly, this conference seeks to answer the following questions:

- > In what ways does security of supply affect the security and defence of the EU and its Member States? How best to coordinate the supply of resources, especially in times of crisis?
- > How can security of supply and resilience be addressed at the political level, and who are the principle bodies responsible for ensuring supply resilience in defence?
- > What robust European commitments and arrangements for security of supply can be foreseen in the context of the Strategic Compass? What existing tools does the EU have at its disposal and is there a need for new ones?
- > What does EU solidarity for security of supply look like today? Are there regional examples that can provide best practice? How best to ensure EU-NATO coordination on security of supply issues?

PROGRAMME

09:00-09:05

Welcome remarks

Gustav LINDSTROM

Director, EU Institute for Security Studies

09:05-09:15

Keynote speech

Jānis GARISONS

State Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Latvia

09:15-10:30

Session I – New challenges to security of supply and interdependencies

Geopolitical and technology trends are effecting the understanding of security of supply today. Increasing digitalisation means that technological systems are more closely interlinked, and a range of resources and components are required for the manufacturing of strategic products and services. New digital technologies are a challenge and opportunity for security and defence, but there are questions about how best to certify or standardise technologies that are relevant for security and defence. This session focuses on the following questions:

- 1) *How is the development of emerging defence technologies creating new forms of interdependencies in security and defence and what is the best way to ensure the acquisition and retention of critical know-how and skills in the EU?*
- 2) *How are ongoing geopolitical and technological shifts altering European understandings and assessments of security of supply in defence?*
- 3) *How can existing EU initiatives on security of supply be leveraged under the Strategic Compass and what new measures might be needed?*

Speakers

Anne FORT

Head of Unit, Defence Industry and Market Policy, DG DEFIS, European Commission

Heikki HÄRTSIÄ

Owner and Senior Business Consultant, Härtsiä Consulting

Jan-Peter KLEINHANS

Head, Technology and Geopolitics, Stiftung Neue Verantwortung

Ingmārs PŪKIS

Vice-President, Marketing and Business Development, and Member of the Management Board, LMT

Moderator

Daniel FIOTT

Security and Defence Editor, EU Institute for Security Studies

10:30-10:45

Break

10:45-12:00

Session II – Meeting the challenge of supply and logistics resilience

Security of supply touches upon a number of inter-related issues such as the provision of raw materials, access to critical technologies and components, diversification of supplies, the resilience of supply routes and effective procurement systems. In this respect, it is important to recognise that security of supply requires a comprehensive approach to supply and logistics. This is a core challenge for the Strategic Compass. To tackle these issues, this session addresses the following questions:

- 1) *How do Member States currently secure access to critical resources for defence purposes and how can this access be ensured in times of crisis?*
- 2) *What relevant regional arrangements and public-private partnerships exist for security of supply and can these serve as positive models to be promoted?*
- 3) *What is the most effective way to manage the high dependence on vulnerable logistical channels such as maritime routes?*
- 4) *How to manage security of supply in the context of partnerships, especially EU-NATO cooperation?*

Speakers

Tuija KARANKO

Secretary General, Association of Finnish Defence and Aerospace Industries

Kristīne RUDZĪTE-STEJSKALA

Director, Logistics and Defence Investments Policy Department, Ministry of Defence, Latvia

Pieter TAAL

Head of Unit, Industry, Strategy and EU Policies, European Defence Agency

Moderator

Daniel FIOTT

Security and Defence Editor, EU Institute for Security Studies

12:00-12:05

Closing remarks

Gustav LINDSTROM

Director, EU Institute for Security Studies

12:05-12:15

Closing speech

Jukka JUUSTI

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Finland