

Facing Hybrid Threats through Consolidated Resilience and Enhanced StratCom

Programme

A conference co-organised by the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the EU Institute for Security Studies. The event is an official conference of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

28 February 2019, Nicolae Bălcescu Hall, The Palace of the Parliament, Bucharest

08:30-09:00

Registration and welcome coffee

09:00-10:00

Welcome remarks

Teodor MELESCANU

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania

Opening addresses

Sir Julian KING

European Commissioner for the Security Union, European Commission

Co-hosts:

Stefan TINCA

Political Director, Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Gustav LINDSTROM

Director, EU Institute for Security Studies

10:00-10:15

Family photo



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10:15-11:45

Panel I - Preventing and responding to hybrid threats

Disinformation, cybersecurity, CBRN and hostile intelligence activity. These are just some of the hybrid threats mentioned in the EU's Joint Communication of June 2018. The Communication speaks about the need to ensure the EU's preparedness and resilience on hybrid threats, but it also states that coordination between EU bodies and Member States is a vital part of the Union's strategy against hybrid threats. How far has the EU come in preventing and responding to hybrid threats? Given the multifaceted and interlinked nature of hybrid threats, what are the most effective methods and strategies for tackling multiple threats simultaneously? How can the EU help improve coordination between Member States on hybrid threats, especially in a rapidly changing and deteriorating security landscape in and around Europe?

Moderator

Daniel FIOTT

Security and Defence Editor, EU Institute for Security Studies

Speakers

Philippe de la BLETIÈRE

Deputy Head of Analysis Division, EU Intelligence and Situation Centre, European External Action Service

Dan Claudiu CHIRONDOJAN

DG Joint Research Centre, Directorate E – Space, Security and Migration, European Commission

Antonio MISSIROLI

Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges, NATO

Matti SAARELAINEN

Director, The European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats

11:45-12:00

Coffee break

12:00-13:30

Panel II - Investing in resilience: overcoming vulnerabilities

The EU Global Strategy recognises that the EU and its Member States are subject to many of the structural pressures that test the resilience of the Union's partners. Critical infrastructure protection, energy diversification and border management are just some of the ways the EU can enhance its resilience, but there are other vulnerabilities too including disinformation and fake news, electoral interference and the impact of new technologies on society. In line with some of the questions asked in the June 2017 Joint Communication on Resilience, how far has the EU and its Member States developed a common approach to early warning and risk analysis? What are the EU's institutional and societal strengths in the face of hybrid threats and conventional security challenges? Is the Union any better at linking early warning with early action?

Moderator

Olivia TODEREAN

Director for Analysis and Policy Planning, Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Speakers

Raed ARAFAT

Secretary of State, Head of the Department for Emergency Situations, Romanian Ministry of Internal Affairs

Eitvydas BAJARŪNAS

Ambassador-at-Large for Hybrid Threats, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

Sorin DUCARU

Chair of New Strategy Center (NSC) Scientific Board, Senior Fellow - Hudson Institute

Oana POPESCU

Director, Global Focus Romania

13:30-15:00

Lunch break

15:00-16:30

Panel III - Principles and actions in enhancing strategic communication

Strategic communication has not only been identified as a vital component of the EU's overall policy objectives, but it is seen as a tool to counter harmful narratives and contribute to the EU's overall media environment. The Action Plan on Strategic Communication of June 2015 clearly acknowledges that the EU's strategic communication capacity needs to be enhanced. The Communication "Tackling online disinformation: a European approach", launched in April 2018, envisages the challenges associated with online disinformation. In order to address capacity building of the media and civil society, an EU "Action Plan against Disinformation" was set out in December 2018, aiming to develop a more coordinated response to the challenges in the field strategic communication and countering disinformation, especially in view of the forthcoming European elections. What has the Union further to achieve in awareness raising, strengthening social resilience and citizens' civic trust, as well as in media literacy and against disinformation?

Moderator

Loredana PADUREAN

Special Representative for StratCom, Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Speakers

Henry COLLIS

Director Security and Defence Projects, Prime Minister's Office and Cabinet Office Communications, UK

Silvio GONZATO

Director, Interinstitutional Relations, Policy Coordination and Public Diplomacy, EEAS

Simon KREYE

Head of the Steering Group on Strategic Communications, Federal Foreign Office, Germany

Janis SARTS

Director, NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence

19:00-20:30

Dinner