

**03-05
Feb25**
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Handelsblatt Conference

Security & Defence

Are we ready? And for what?

Prof Dr Veronika Grimm
Member of the
German Council of
Experts



Claudia Plattner
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General Carsten Breuer
Inspector General

of the Bundeswehr



Dr Constanze Stelzenmüller
The Brookings Institute



PD Dr Frank Sauer
Metis Institute for Strategic
and Foresight

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available

Are we ready? And for what?

In the third year of the turning point, questions of security and defence continue to dominate the political debate in Germany and Europe. Shortly before the new elections to the German Bundestag and after the inauguration of Donald Trump as President of the United States, we are facing a global political environment characterised by uncertainty and upheaval. The security and geopolitical changes affect everyone - the military, the defence industry, politics, society and the (financial) economy.

How ready for defence will we be in February 2025? What measures and investments are the various players prepared to make in order to face up to the new realities?

The Handelsblatt Conference on Security and Defence helps shape this discourse and offers a high-calibre framework for determining the current situation. In a modern, interactive and independent format with room for controversy, we bring together the most important players and opinion leaders.

As Germany's major business and financial newspaper, we are particularly interested in how the implementation of the turnaround will affect the defence industry, innovation capabilities and economic activity. Defence capabilities in space and the use of space capacities are playing an increasingly important role. In a special kick-off event on the evening of 3 February 2025, we will therefore be devoting particular attention to these topics.

There is a lot to discuss - we look forward to hearing from you.

Larissa Holzki, Teamlead AI, Handelsblatt

Time frame

Kick-off event

Space: the special dimension

3. February 2025

16:30 Check-In

17:30 Welcome and programme 20:00

Get-together

First conference day

4. February 2025

8:00 Check-In

8:45 Welcome and programme 12:45

Networking lunch

18:30 Exclusive dinner event

Second conference day

5. February 2025

8:15 Check-In

9:00 Welcome and programme 13:30

Networking lunch

14:30 End of the conference

All topics and times are provisional and subject to change.

Your highlights

Class instead of mass

Almost 300 high-ranking representatives from the military, politics, industry and science on stage and in the audience. Over 50% of the participants at the 2024 conference were CEOs, managing directors and high-ranking military officers.



Controversy and interaction

We discuss the issues that concern you - critically and independently.



Numerous networking opportunities

Two evening events and numerous breaks offer plenty of time for confidential discussions and to cultivate your network.

Kick-off event

Monday, 3 February 2025

Space: the special dimension

Moderation:

Larissa Holzki, Teamlead AI, Handelsblatt
Andrea Rotter, Head of Foreign and Security Policy, Deputy Director of the Academy for Politics and Current Affairs, Hanns-Seidel-Foundation

Opening keynote and interview

Between cooperation and competition: Europe's strategic position in space

Dr Dietmar Pilz, Director of Technology, Engineering and Quality, European Space Agency

Discussion

What space capabilities does Germany have and need?

- What is the strategic importance of space for defence and the economy?
- What has the German government's national space strategy changed so far?
- How is the Bundeswehr organised?

Moderation in the discussion with:

Major General Jürgen Setzer, Deputy Inspector CIR
Juliana Suess, Researcher, SWP Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik

Major General Michael Traut, Commander of the German Armed Forces Space Command

Prof. Dr Andreas Knopp MBA, SPACE Research Centre, University of the Federal Armed Forces Munich

Discussion

European sovereignty in space:

An eternal dream?

- What skills should Europe focus on now?
- What technological leaps are expected and how is Europe positioned?
- How can and should politics support the space industry?

Marco Fuchs, BDLI Vice President Space

Jürgen Kerner, Deputy Chairman, IG Metall

Dr Regina Peldszus, Policy Officer for Space Security, European External Action Service (EEAS)

Matthias Spott, space economy expert, entrepreneur and space tech investor

End of the kick-off event

Afterwards, we cordially invite you to a get-together at the conference hotel.



First Conference day

Tuesday, 4 February 2025

How ready are we? And for what?

Moderation:

Larissa Holzki, Teamlead AI, Handelsblatt
Martin Murphy, Co-Head of Investigative Department, Handelsblatt
Frank Specht, Editor, Handelsblatt

Welcome and presentation of the event platform

Strategic defence readiness

Keynote and interview

General Carsten Breuer, Inspector General of the Bundeswehr

Discussion

Germany before the election: defence capability, Economic strength, new US government - how ready will we be?

General Carsten Breuer, Inspector General of the German Armed Forces

Prof. Dr Veronika Grimm, Member of the German Council of Economic Experts, Professor at the Technical University of Nuremberg (UTN)

Dr Constanze Stelzenmüller, Director, Fritz Stern Chair, Center on the United States and Europe, The Brookings Institution Further speakers by arrangement

Industrial defence readiness

Impulse and interview Plans of the EU Commission

Representative of the EU Commission in consultation

Impulse and interview

SVI strategy paper: Assessment of the industry

Thomas Gottschild, Managing Director, MBDA Deutschland GmbH, Executive Group Director Strategy, MBDA

Discussion

On the way to a sovereign German and European defence industry?

- How capable are German and European industry of delivering?
- European champions, lead nations and joint procurement: eternal castles in the air, or soon to become reality?

Handelsblatt editorial team in discussion with:

Dr Bastian Giegerich, Director, IISS

Helmut Rauch, CEO, Diehl Defence; Member of the Executive Board, Diehl Foundation

Armin Papperger, Chairman of the Executive Board, Rheinmetall AG, President BDSV Representative of the European Commission by arrangement

Discussion

Tight budgets, decreasing staffing levels: how can innovative procurement help?

Handelsblatt editorial team in discussion with:

Annette Lehnigk-Emden, President, BAAINBw

Marc A. Wietfeld, Founder & CEO, ARX Robotics

Sven Weizenegger, Head, Cyber Innovation Hub of the German Armed Forces

Keynote (in English)

Overview EIB, EIF, NATO Innovation Fund

Robert de Groot, Vice-President, European Investment Bank (EIB)

Second Conference day

Wednesday, 5 February 2025

Discussion (in English)

Financing the defence industry and start-ups

- Is the division between civilian and military industry outdated?
- What private levers can flank government investment?
- What is the view of PEs and VCs on German and European SVI?
- What role do the EIB, European Defence Fund and NATO Innovation Fund play? Are we (finally) scaling up?

Handelsblatt editorial team in discussion with:

Robert de Groot, Vice-President, European Investment Bank (EIB) **Susanne**

Wiegand, CEO, RENK Group AG, Chairwoman of the BDI Security Committee

Jack Wang, Managing Director UK, Principal, Project A Ventures

Political defence readiness

Power-Talk (in English)

Threats on NATO's eastern flank and industrial policy solutions

Handelsblatt editorial team in dialogue with:

Wolfgang Gammel, Managing Director, Helsing Deutschland GmbH
Representative Baltic States by arrangement

Discussion

Hybrid warfare, espionage, cyberwar - who protects those who protect us?

Handelsblatt editorial team in discussion with:

Vice Admiral Dr Thomas Daum, Inspector CIR

Sinan Selen, Vice President, Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution

Discussion

Turning point in the election year 2025

- Pensions or armaments? What is the budgetary priority?
- How do you create a convincing political narrative?

Handelsblatt editorial team in discussion with:

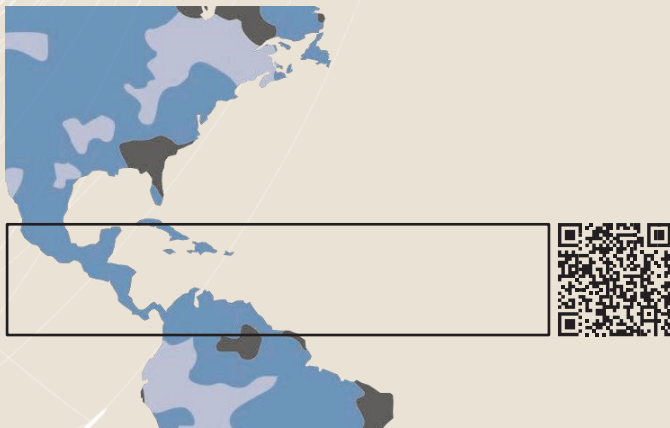
Alexander Müller MdB, Defence Policy Spokesman, FDP
Parliamentary Group

Colonel André Wüstner, Federal Chairman, Deutscher
Bundeswehrverband e.V.

Other political representatives in consultation

End of the first day of the event

Afterwards, we cordially invite you to a joint evening event.



Military and technological defence readiness

Welcome to the second conference day

Impulse and interview

Udo Philipp, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Protection

Impulse and interview Innovation in Ukraine

Discussion

"Drones, drones, drones": how far along are the Bundeswehr and industry?

- What specific role do drones and unmanned systems play in the Bundeswehr?
- What skills do we need and where and how do we need to invest now?

Handelsblatt editorial team in discussion with:

Dr Lorenz Meier, CEO, Auterion

Tim Wagner, CEO, NVL

Lieutenant General Andreas Marlow, Deputy Inspector General of the Army
Florian Seibel, Co-Founder & CEO, Quantum-Systems GmbH

Networking break

Discussion

Software-defined defence: how can it be implemented quickly? What conditions need to be created now?

Handelsblatt editorial team in discussion with:

Harald Mannheim, Managing Director, SVP, Head of Defence Digital & Cyber, Airbus
Defence and Space

Claudia Plattner, President, Federal Office for Information Security

Marcel Taubert, Vice President Defence & Space, secunet Security Networks AG

Lieutenant General Michael Vetter, CIO, Federal Ministry of Defence

Digression

AI in weapon systems: Current discussions and challenges

- What questions do we need to ask ourselves now?
- Does the industry need clear regulation, and if so, what kind?

PD Dr Frank Sauer, Head of Research, Metis Institute for Strategy and Foresight

Further speakers by arrangement

Discussion

Innovations on the battlefield: requirements for structures, mindset and resources

Handelsblatt editorial team in discussion with:

Max Heimann, Managing Director and Member of the Executive Board, FFG
Flensburger Fahrzeugbau Gesellschaft mbH

Former Lieutenant General Frank Leidenberger, Chief Executive Officer, BWI GmbH

Leonard Wessendorff, Co-Founder & CEO, Project Q Further speakers by arrangement

Conclusion, outlook and business lunch

Your agenda always up to date



Meet the speakers



General Carsten Breuer
Inspector General of the Bundeswehr



Vice Admiral Dr Thomas Daum
Inspector CIR



Wolfgang Gammel
Managing Director,
Helsing Germany GmbH



Thomas Gottschid Managing Director,
MBDA Deutschland GmbH, Executive
Group Director Strategy, MBDA



Prof Dr Veronika Grimm Member of
the German Council of Economic
Experts, Professor at the
Technical University of Nuremberg
(UTN)



Robert de Groot Vice-
President, European
Investment Bank (EIB)



Marco Fuchs
BDLI Vice President Space



Max Heimann
Managing Director and Member of
the Executive Board,
FFG Flensburger Fahrzeugbau
Gesellschaft mbH



Jürgen Kerner Second
Chairman, IG Metall



Annette Lehnigk-Emden President,
Federal Office of Bundeswehr
Equipment, Information
Technology and In-Service Support
(BAAINBw)



Lieutenant General Andreas Marlow
Deputy Inspector of the Army



Dr Lorenz Meier
Chief Executive Officer, Auterion



Armin Papperger Chairman of the
Executive Board, Rheinmetall AG,
President BDSV



Dr Regina Peldszus
Policy Officer for International
Security, European External Action
Service (EEAS)



Udo Philipp
State Secretary, Federal Ministry for
Economic Affairs and Climate
Protection



Dr Dietmar Pilz Director of
Technology, Engineering
and Quality, European
Space Agency



Henning Schacht

Claudia Plattner
President, Federal Office for
Information Security



Helmut Rauch
CEO, Diehl Defence and Member
of the Executive Board, Diehl
Foundation



Andrea Rotter
Head of the Foreign and Security
Policy Department, Deputy Head of
the Academy for Politics and Current
Affairs, Hanns-Seidel-Foundation



PD Dr Frank Sauer
Head of Research,
Metis Institute for Strategy and
Foresight



Florian Seibel
Co-Founder & CEO,
Quantum-Systems GmbH



Sinan Selen Vice President,
Federal Office for the
Protection of the
Constitution



Major General Jürgen Setzer
Deputy Inspector CIR



Matthias Spott Space economy
expert, entrepreneur and
Space-Tech Investor



Marc Darchinger

Dr Constanze Stelzenmüller Director,
Fritz Stern Chair, Center on the
United States and Europe, The
Brookings Institution



Juliana Suess
Scientist,
SWP German Institute for
International and Security Affairs



Marcel Taubert
Vice President Defence & Space,
secunet Security Networks AG



Major General Michael Traut Commander
of the Space Command
of the Bundeswehr



Lieutenant General Michael Vetter
CIO, Federal Ministry of
Defence



Tim Wagner
CEO, NVL



Jack Wang
Managing Director UK, Principal,
Project A Ventures



Sven Weizenegger
Head, Cyber Innovation Hub of
the German Armed Forces



Susanne Wiegand
Chairwoman of the Management
Board, RENK Group, Chairwoman
BDI Committee for Security



Marc A. Wietfeld
CEO & Co-Founder,
ARX Robotics



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Co-Founder & CEO,
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Colonel André Wüstner
Federal Chairman,
German Armed Forces Association

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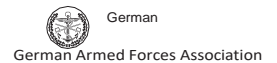
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Handelsblatt Conference

Security & Defence

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