

Handelsblatt Conference

# Security and Defence

30 and 31 January 2024, Berlin + Streaming event

**"Zeitenwende": now for real.**

Russia's attack on Ukraine was a wake-up call for security and defense policy in Germany and Europe. Long unthinkable, questions of defense capability and armaments policy have been at the top of the political agenda ever since. The first year of the "Zeitenwende" was characterized by many announcements and little implementation. In the second year, many plans become more concrete. The EU is also focusing on the defense industry.

But are the current efforts sufficient to meet the increased requirements for national and alliance defense? How must and can the current structures change? What are the long-term prospects for the Bundeswehr and the defense industry? What projects need to be launched now in order to be ready for defense in the future?

To provide clarity in uncertain times, we are bringing together the key minds from industry, the military, politics and academia at the Handelsblatt Security and Defense Conference. We discuss the issues that concern you **constructively, critically and independently**. As Germany's leading business and financial newspaper, we are **particularly interested in how the implementation of the change of era will affect the defense industry, innovative capabilities and technological developments in the German armed forces and industry.**

There is a lot to talk about - we look forward to meeting you.

Yours

Larissa Holzki

Teamlead AI

Handelsblatt

**Main conference language:** German. Selected discussions in English.  
AI-generated translation German-English available (text)

## **Preliminary agenda, subject to changes**

### **Day 1: Tuesday, January 30th 2024**

#### **Perspectives for Germany and Europe in a New World Order**

8.30 Streaming Platform Opening and on-site check-in

##### **8.50 Welcome + Presentation of the Event Streaming Platform**

**Larissa Holzki**, Teamlead AI, Handelsblatt

**Frank Specht**, Editor, Handelsblatt

**Martin Murphy**, co-head of investigative department, Handelsblatt

9.00 Keynote + Interview

**Thomas Hitschler**, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of Defence

9.20 Discussion

**What is the future security policy role of Europe? What are the implications of the shifts in the centers of economic power?**

Larissa Holzki in discussion with:

- **Dr. Tobias Lindner**, Minister of State, German Federal Foreign Office
- **David Mc Allister MEP**, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
- **Benedikta von Seherr-Thoss**, Managing Director for Peace, Security and Defence, European External Action Service
- **Dr Christian Mölling**, Deputy Research Director, DGAP German Council on Foreign Relations

10.00 Time for questions and interaction

10.05

**Meet the Handelsblatt editorial team**

10.30 Coffee Break

#### **Germany as a Defence Location**

11.00 Keynote + Interview

**Industry needs predictability**

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

11.15 Discussion

**Germany as a defence location: how can it survive? What contribution does it make to strengthening the security policy role and technological sovereignty of Germany and Europe?**

Frank Specht in discussion with:

- **Sven Giegold**, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate
- **Armin Papperger**, Chairman of the Board, Rheinmetall AG and President of BDSV
- **Dr. Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann MdB**, Chairperson of the Defence Committee
- **Jürgen Kerner**, second Chairman of IG Metall

11.55 Time for questions and interaction

**Two years of the Special Fund: What has been achieved? And where do we go from here?**

12.00 Keynote (in English)

**Digitalization in procurement using an international example**

Executive Vice President, GEO Managing Director, Americas – Dassault Systèmes

12.15 Keynote and interview

**Annette Lehnigk-Emden**, President, BAAINBw

12.35 Discussion

**Two years of "Zeitenwende": Is the direction (still) right? What is the long-term outlook for the defense industry and the Bundeswehr?**

Frank Specht in discussion with:

- **Susanne Wiegand**, Chairwoman of the Executive Board, RENK Group and Chairwoman of the BDI Committee for Security
- **Lieutenant General Ingo Gerhartz**, Inspector of the German Air Force
- **Dr. Johann Wadephul MdB**, Deputy Chairman of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group
- **Sven Weizenegger**, Head, Cyber Innovation Hub of the German Armed Forces

13.15 Time for questions and interaction

13.20 Lunch break

14.50 Welcome back

**European armaments cooperation and development**

14.55 Discussion (in English)

**European armaments cooperation - how can it (still) succeed?**

Martin Murphy in discussion with:

- **Hein van Ameijden**, Chairman of the Advisory Board, Damen Naval Germany
- **Dr Michael Schöllhorn**, CEO, Airbus Defence and Space and President, BDLI e.V.
- **Lieutenant General Diaz de Tuesta**, National Armaments Director, French Army

15.30 Time for questions

15.40 Discussion

### **Software-defined-defence - the gamechanger in development?**

Larissa Holzki in discussion with:

- **Martin Karkour**, Vice President, Head of Aerospace & Defense Germany, Capgemini
- **Frank Leidenberger**, CEO, BWI GmbH
- **Generalleutnant Michael Vetter**, CIO, Federal Ministry of Defence

16.10 Time for questions

16.15 Coffee break

## **Security and society**

16.45 Impulse + Interview

**Johann Saathoff**, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community

17.10 Discussion

### **Defence and resilience of society and democracy - where will we be in January 2024?**

Handelsblatt editorial team in discussion with:

- **Johannes Arlt MdB**, Member of the Defence Committee and Member of the Economic Committee
- **Franziska Brandmann**, Chairwoman, Junge Liberale e.V.
- **Oberst André Wüstner**, Chairman, German Armed Forces Association

17.40 Time for questions and interaction

17.45 Time for current topics

18.00 End of the first day of the event, followed by evening reception

## **Day 2: Wednesday, January 31st 2024**

### **National and Alliance Defence: which capabilities will be needed in the future?**

9.00 Welcome to the second day of the conference

Larissa Holzki, Teamlead AI, Handelsblatt

9.10 Impulse

**General Carsten Breuer**, Inspector General of the Bundeswehr

9.20 Discussion

### **Effective national and alliance defence - what are concrete solutions in times of declining personnel strength?**

Handelsblatt editors in discussion with:

- **General Carsten Breuer**, Inspector General of the Bundeswehr
- **Dr Gundbert Scherf**, Co-Founder and CEO, Helsing

- **Dr Timo Haas**, CEO & Founder, blackned GmbH
- **Dr Claudia Major**, Head of Security Policy Research Group, German Institute for International and Security Affairs

10.00 Time for questions

10.10 Impulse

**Meet the Handelsblatt editorial team**

10.20 Impulse

N.N.

10.35 Discussion

**The future of warfare: what role will drones, autonomous weapons and AI play on the battlefield?  
What can a European position look like?**

Handelsblatt editors in discussion with:

- **General Christian Badia**, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, NATO
- **Dr Ulrike Franke**, Senior Policy Fellow, ECFR - European Council on Foreign Relations
- **Dr Sibylle Bauer**, Director of Studies, Armament and Disarmament, SIPRI
- **Florian Seibel**, CEO and Founder, Quantum Systems

11.15 Time for questions

11.20 Networking break

11.50

Discussion (in English)

**"Bottleneck" logistics, infrastructure and military mobility**

Handelsblatt editors in discussion with:

- **Marc-Aurel Bischoff**, Senior Director Corporate Communications, EU-Policy & Industrial Affairs, General Dynamics European Land Systems
- **Lieutenant General Kai Ronald Rohrschneider**, Head of the Armed Forces Command Department, Federal Ministry of Defence
- **N.N.**

12.20 Time for questions

12.25 Discussion

**Space: the future mother of all dimensions? What are Germany and the EU focussing on?**

Handelsblatt editors in discussion with:

- **Matthias Wachter**, Managing Director, BDI Initiative New Space
- **Sabine von der Recke**, Member of the Management Board, OHB System AG
- **Vice Admiral Dr Thomas Daum**, Inspector, CIR

13.05 Time for questions

13.15 Interview

**Annika Wollermann-Umpierrez**, POLARIS Raumflugzeuge GmbH

13.25 Time for questions

13.30 U40 panel

**Future vision of the Bundeswehr 2035: structures, technologies, personnel**

Handelsblatt editors in discussion with:

- **Frigate Captain Tanja Merkl**, Federal Office of Bundeswehr Personnel Management
- **Marc A. Wietfeld**, Founder & CEO, ARX Landsysteme
- N.N.

14.05 Time for questions and interaction

14.10 Conclusion and outlook

14.15 End of the event with a joint lunch

**YOUR CONTACT PERSONS**

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