

# USA & EU Barcelona Meeting *2022 The Year of European Defense*

March 4th  
Sala Macaya – Palau Macaya  
Pg. de Sant Joan 108, 08037 Barcelona



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The Institute of North American Studies Foundation in Barcelona wishes to support the study of different aspects of American culture, history, society, economics and politics in order to promote the city of Barcelona as a place for reflection, debate and as a key meeting point for American studies.

With this objective in mind, since September 2020 Dr. Jeffrey Michaels joined the Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI) as an IEN Senior Fellow to organize a study program on U.S. foreign policy and international security which is modeled on the pattern of the best American studies programs in Europe.

As part of its new initiative to expand educational activities in the field of American studies, the IEN is launching the **USA & EU Barcelona Meeting** as an annual program of conferences that will provide expert vision, reflection and greater details on transatlantic relations in terms of politics, the environment, technology, research, culture, history and society.

A current topic or area relevant to USA-EU relations will be chosen each year. This year we are inaugurating our annual USA & EU Barcelona Series with **“2022: The year of European Defense”**.

**Dr. Joan F Corona Ramón**

President

Institute of North American Studies Foundation



Playing on Henry Kissinger's reference to 1973 being the 'Year of Europe', European Council President Charles Michel has declared that '2022 will be the year of European defense'. As the EU and NATO attempt to navigate a new course in the defense field, set against the backdrop of Russia's confrontation with Ukraine and growing instability in Eastern Europe, China's rise, the enormous challenges in Afghanistan, problems around Europe's periphery, the negative impact of climate change, rapidly evolving technology, especially the military applications of cyber and artificial intelligence, as well as many other contentious issues, 2022 will be a crucial year for Transatlantic defense relations. Two events of particular importance will be the EU Defense Summit in the first half of 2022 and the NATO Summit in late June. At the former, EU leaders will be obliged to confront the lingering drift in the policy debates about 'strategic autonomy' and the appropriate military 'level of ambition'. At the NATO Summit, to be held in Madrid, Alliance leaders will approve NATO's eighth Strategic Concept, and in the meantime, will be heavily engaged in drafting this capstone document. In advance of the two summits, this event aims to gain a better understanding of areas of convergence and discord in Transatlantic defense relations.

**PANEL 1.**

**NATO's Eighth Strategic Concept: Balancing US and European Priorities**

In the coming months, as NATO officials continue to draft the Alliance's latest Strategic Concept, what substantive changes, if any, are we likely to see in the new document? Although in recent years NATO has balanced dealing with the threat from Russia on an equal level with terrorism and instability on Europe's southern periphery, will China now be elevated to the same level? Or will Russia's recent belligerence toward Ukraine force the Alliance to remain focused on its Eastern Flank for years to come? Will the Alliance continue to expand its membership and tasks, or is it set to decline in importance relative to the EU? How do non-US allies see the United States' commitment to European defense?

**PANEL 2.**

**Europe's Strategic Level of Ambition: Objectives, Capabilities and Cooperation**

After years of dithering about the EU's role on the world stage, particularly the extent to which it exercises 'strategic autonomy', there is a growing determination among European leaders to finally establish a clear direction for the future. In particular, lack of clarity about the EU's military 'level of ambition' has undermined efforts by the EU to become more assertive in the defense field. But will the forthcoming summit be able to achieve a positive consensus, or will longstanding impediments continue to hamper the prospect of new initiatives? Will the de facto division of labor between the EU and NATO continue when it comes to territorial defense versus conducting smaller-scale expeditionary operations? To what extent will the EU cooperate with the United States on defense matters outside the NATO framework?

**Dr. Jeffrey Michaels**

IEA Senior Fellow in American Foreign Policy and International Security  
Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI)

## PROGRAM

**9.30h** Welcome coffee and registration for attendees – Palau Macaya

**10.00h** Event Introduction

**Dr. Joan F. Corona**, President, Institute of North American Studies Foundation

**Ms. Katie Stana**, Consul General, Consulate General of the United States in Barcelona

**Mr. Olivier Ramadour**, Consul General, Consulate General of France in Barcelona

**10.10h** **PANEL 1. NATO's Eighth Strategic Concept: Balancing US and European Priorities**

*Topic presentation*

**Dr. Thierry Tardy**, Head of the Research Division, NATO Defense College

*Speakers*

**Mr. Tom Vandenkendelaere**, Chair, Delegation for relations with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, European Parliament

**Dr. Lukas Milevski**, Assistant Professor in International Studies, Leiden University

*Moderator*

**Dr. Jeffrey Michaels**, IEN Senior Fellow in American Foreign Policy and International Security, Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI)

**Questions & Answers**

**11.20h** Mid-morning snack



Simultaneous interpretation will be included.

**11.50h** **Panel 2. Europe's Strategic Level of Ambition: Objectives, Capabilities and Cooperation**

**Topic presentation**

**Dr. Francisco Ruiz González**, Professor at the General Gutiérrez Mellado University Institute of the UNED

**Speakers**

**Ms. Joanneke Balfort**, Director, Security and Defence Policy, European External Action Service

**Ms. Theresa Fallon**, Director, Centre for Russia, Europe, Asia Studies (CREAS)/Nonresident Senior Fellow, Chicago Council on Global Affairs

**Moderator**

**Dr. Carme Colomina**, Research Fellow on European Union, disinformation and global politics at Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB)

**Questions & Answers**

**13.00h** **Event Closure**

**Sr. Javier Solana**, President of EsadeGeo Center for Global Economy and Geopolitics. Former European Union High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and Former Secretary General of NATO



Simultaneous interpretation will be included.

## ■ ■ ■ ABOUT THE PANELISTS



**Dr. Thierry Tardy** is Director of the Research Division at the NATO Defense College (Rome). Previously he held senior research and management positions at the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) in Paris, the Geneva

Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), and the Foundation for Strategic Research in Paris.

His fields of expertise include NATO's policy and adaptation, the European Union Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), NATO-EU relations, the politics of crisis management, UN peace operations, and French security and defense policy.

He has published seven books and more than 150 articles or book chapters. His recent publications include: "NATO 2030: new technologies, new conflicts, new partnerships".



**Mr. Tom Vandenkendelaere** has been Member of the European Parliament since 2014. He presides over the delegation of the European Parliament for Relations with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. Vandenkendelaere is a

member of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) group and member of the Security and Defense Subcommittee as a full member and an alternate member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, among others.

He holds a PhD in International Relations from the University of Kent.





**Dr. Lukas Milevski** is an assistant professor at Leiden University where he teaches strategy for the BA International Studies and MA International Relations programs. He is also a Baltic Sea Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research

Institute in Philadelphia and has a longstanding affiliation with the Changing Character of War Centre at the University of Oxford. His core research interest is strategic theory in all of its facets, but he also engages seriously with strategic history as well as contemporary defense. He received his PhD in 2014 from the University of Reading, where he was mentored by Colin S. Gray. He has published two books, both by Oxford University Press, *The Evolution of Modern Grand Strategic Thought* (2016) and *The West's East: Contemporary Baltic Defense in Strategic Perspective* (2018), and publishes widely in numerous academic, policy, and professional journals. He has both US and Latvian citizenship.



**Dr. Francisco Ruiz González**, International Security Phd, High Level Course on CSDP from the European Security and Defence College, and Professor at the General Gutiérrez Mellado University Institute of the UNED. He has also

been analyst at the Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies, International Relations professor at the Joint Staff College and Defense Counsellor at the Permanent Representation to the EU. His main areas of expertise include CSDP, Russia and Eastern Europe, Energy Security, and Maritime Security. He is the author of *La arquitectura de seguridad europea: un sistema imperfecto e inacabado*, and has published more than 120 research papers, book chapters and articles.

## ■ ■ ■ ABOUT THE PANELISTS



**Ms. Joanneke Balfoort** is the Director Security and Defense policy at the European External Action Service. Joanneke has been with the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs for more than 25 years. She graduated from the

University of Amsterdam with a law degree, specializing in international law, and a degree in political science. During her career at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, she has worked as a project officer for human rights and humanitarian projects, responsible for political affairs at the Netherlands embassy in Moscow, first secretary within the Netherlands NATO delegation in Brussels, coordinator EU affairs within the Ministry and head of the economic section at the embassy in London. In September 2013, she arrived at the embassy in Washington, D.C. as the deputy head of mission. From 2017 till mid 2020 she was the Dutch Ambassador to the Political and Security Committee of the European Union in Brussels. Since June 2020 she is the Director Security and Defense policy at the European External Action Service.



**Ms. Theresa Fallon** is the founder and director of the Centre for Russia Europe Asia Studies (CREAS) in Brussels. She is concurrently a member of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, a Nonresident Senior Fellow of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Adjunct Professor at George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies and a member of the CEPS Task Force on AI and Cybersecurity.

Theresa's current research is on EU-Asia relations, great power competition, maritime security, global governance, and China's Belt and Road Initiative. She has testified on numerous occasions to the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs and Subcommittee on Security and Defence, and has been featured in international media including ABC (Australia), Agence France Presse, BBC, CNN, Deutsche Welle, Financial Times, Science Magazine, The Japan Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Financial Times, The Washington Post and The New York Times.

## ABOUT THE MODERATORS



**Dr. Jeffrey Michael** is the IEN Senior Fellow in American Foreign Policy and International Security at the Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI). Formerly he was a Senior Lecturer in Defence Studies at King's College

London. He has also served as an official with NATO and the US Defense Department.

His research has been published in *The Journal of Cold War Studies*, *The Journal of Strategic Studies*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *International Politics Reviews*, *Small Wars and Insurgencies*, *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, the *RUSI Journal*, *Contemporary Security Policy* and *Orbis*. He is also the co-author, with Sir Lawrence Freedman, of *The Evolution of Nuclear Strategy* (4th Edition).



**Dr. Carme Colomina** is a Research Fellow on European Union, disinformation and global politics at Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB), Editor and member of the Editorial Board. She is also visiting professor

at the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium. She has been Brussels' correspondent and head of international affairs in *Catalunya Ràdio* and in *ARA* newspaper. As a special envoy, she covered dozens of international summits and political conflicts and she is still a frequent contributor to various media organizations as an analyst of European current affairs. She was Head of Interregional Cooperation in the Foreign Affairs department of the Catalan government.



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