

November 12–13, 2024

# Baltic Sea Region Security Initiative Taskforce Meeting

Berlin, Germany

WITH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF:



Federal Foreign Office



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
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# **Baltic Sea Region Security Initiative Taskforce Meeting**

**Co-hosted by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the German  
Federal Foreign Office**

Berlin, Germany

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The Baltic Sea Region is a hub of international trade, energy flows, industrial links, and cultural exchange. At a time when major war has returned to Europe, it is also a potential theater of confrontation with Russia. The countries of NATO's Northeast in the Baltic Sea Region—the Nordics, the Baltics, Poland, and Germany—have long been linked through a web of close political, security, and defense cooperation formats. Russia's war against Ukraine has united them against the shared threat. As Europe grapples with the end of the post-Cold War order, transatlantic allies must think anew about what role Northeastern Europe will play in Europe's security and defense architecture. With Finland and Sweden joining NATO, Denmark removing its opt-out from the European Union's Common Security and Defense Policy, and NATO and the EU poised to ramp up cooperation, now is the time to forge a truly joint regional approach to security and defense challenges—not least because the United States is asking Europeans to take responsibility for their own security. European stability, peace, and prosperity are at stake in the Baltic Sea Region. The potential for innovation and cooperation is substantial.

Please note that the Taskforce meeting will be conducted under Chatham House Rule.

## **Tuesday, November 12, 2024**

### ***Welcome Dinner and Closed-Door Debrief on U.S. Elections***

Tuesday, November 12, 18:00 to 20:30 CET

Location: Il Sorriso, Kurfürstenstraße 76, 10787 Berlin

## **Wednesday, November 13, 2024**

### ***Arrival and Check-in at German Federal Foreign Office***

Wednesday, November 13, 8:30 CET

Location: German Federal Foreign Office Building, Werderscher Markt 1, 10117 Berlin

### ***Welcome and Introduction***

Wednesday, November 13, 09:00 to 09:15 CET

### ***Speakers***

- Sophia Besch, Senior Fellow, Europe Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- Annika Bolten-Drutschmann, Deputy Director, Policy Planning Unit, German Federal Foreign Office

### ***Session 1: Ukraine's future***

Wednesday, November 13, 9:15 to 10:45 CET

Nearly three years have passed since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Russia continues to make incremental gains in Ukrainian territory, but events like Ukraine's Kursk offensive prove that there is still room for surprise. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has presented his "victory plan" to Western capitals. Simultaneously, policymakers in these same capitals are divided on crucial questions, from whether to lift restrictions on Ukraine's ability to use long-range weapons to how to integrate Ukraine in Europe's security architecture. Uncertainty over the future of U.S. leadership in Europe has accelerated European debates about the role and responsibility of Europe vis-à-vis Ukraine and Europe's ability to step up as primary security provider. In the aftermath of the U.S. elections, an open and frank exchange with Washington about the future of European and Ukrainian security is crucial. The countries of the Baltic Sea Region are instrumental in the process of proactively shaping the European offer.

How would various elements of a potential plan to end the war, including security guarantees to Ukraine or Ukrainian membership in NATO or the EU, affect security and defense in NATO's Northeast? What risks—past, present, and future—are Baltic Sea Region countries particularly concerned with? What do the government in Kyiv and the new U.S. administration expect from the countries of the region when it comes to securing Ukraine's future and can they deliver?

### ***Speakers***

- Liana Fix, Europe Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations
- Jakob Hallgren, Director, Swedish Institute of International Affairs

Chair: Eric Ciaramella, Senior Fellow, Russia and Eurasia Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

### ***Coffee Break***

Wednesday, November 13, 10:45 to 11:15 CET

## ***Session 2: The politics of support for Ukraine***

Wednesday, November 13, 11:15 to 12:45 CET

In both the United States and across Europe, support for Ukraine has become an increasingly delicate point of contention, particularly as the war enters its third year. Those in favor of continuing—or increasing—military and economic support for Ukraine are facing growing backlash by a range of opponents, from individuals uncertain or concerned about the war’s endgame to Kremlin-sympathizers. In some countries, a narrative of “peace” that stands in conflict with further military support for Kyiv is gaining momentum among the electorate, causing even pro-Ukrainian politicians to soften or alter their positions. In the United States, future aid packages to Ukraine are a politically contested topic. Disinformation surrounding support for Ukraine also remains a prevalent challenge on both sides of the Atlantic.

What is the state of public support for military aid toward Ukraine across the Baltic Sea Region and in Baltic Sea Region security guarantor states like the United States and United Kingdom? How is this dynamic affecting the level of support offered to Ukraine? How should governments respond to the fears and grievances that fuel the backlash? What can they learn from each other about how to respond to the “peace” narrative which calls for an immediate stop of military support? What best practices exist in combatting disinformation?

### ***Speakers***

- Thorsten Benner, Director, Global Public Policy Institute
- Rachel Rizzo, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Europe Center, Atlantic Council

Chair: Sophia Besch, Senior Fellow, Europe Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

### ***Working lunch: An agenda for the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF)***

Wednesday, November 13, 12:45 to 14:00 CET

The JEF was conceived to increase interoperability between non-NATO countries Finland and Sweden and the Alliance. Following Helsinki and Stockholm’s accession to NATO, it must change focus. How can the Force best contribute to security in the Baltic Sea Region? (How) should the JEF be integrated in existing NATO planning and command structures? In what ways could the JEF be better aligned with EU defense capacities? What are high-priority agenda items related to Baltic Sea regional security that should be addressed at the next JEF meeting in Tallin?

### ***Input Speaker***

- Ian Bond, Deputy Director, Centre for European Reform

Chair: Dan Baer, Senior Vice President for Policy Research and Director of the Europe Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

***Taskforce Closing Remarks***

Wednesday, November 13, 14:00 to 14:10 CET

***Speakers***

- Dan Baer, Senior Vice President for Policy Research and Director of the Europe Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

## List of Participants

**Robin Allers**

Associate Professor  
*Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies*

**Merili Arjakas**

Junior Research Fellow  
*International Centre for Defense and Security*

**Ed Arnold**

Senior Research Fellow, European  
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*Royal United Services Institute*

**Dan Baer**

Senior Vice President of Policy Research,  
Director of Europe Program  
*Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*

**Thorsten Benner**

Co-Founder and Director  
*Global Public Policy Institute*

**Sophia Besch**

Senior Fellow, Europe Program  
*Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*

**Annika Bolten-Drutschmann**

Deputy Director, Policy Planning Unit  
*German Federal Foreign Office*

**Ian Bond**

Deputy Director  
*Centre for European Reform*

**Oliver Bräuner**

Desk Officer, Arctic Policy, Norway, and  
Iceland  
*German Federal Foreign Office*

**Sarah Brockmeier-Large**

Researcher and Head of Berlin Office  
*Peace Research Institute Frankfurt*

**Erik Brown**

Junior Fellow, Europe Program  
*Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*

**Sebastian Bruns**

Senior Researcher, Center for Maritime  
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*Institute for Security Policy Kiel University*

**Eric Ciaramella**

Senior Fellow, Russia Eurasia Program  
*Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*

**Bartosz Chmielewski**

Research Fellow,  
Department for Germany and Northern  
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*Centre for Eastern Studies*

**Solvita Denisa-Liepnice**

Assistant Professor  
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**Katherine Kjellström Elgin**

Fellow  
*Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments*

**Liana Fix**

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*Council on Foreign Relations*

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*German Federal Foreign Office*

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**Eric Green**

Nonresident Scholar, Russia Eurasia  
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*Carnegie Endowment for International  
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**Jakob Hallgren**

Director  
*Swedish Institute of International Affairs*

**Sebastian Heindel-Gaiser**

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*German Federal Foreign Office*

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Head of Division, United States  
*German Federal Foreign Office*

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*Embassy of Norway, Berlin*

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Head of Department, East and Southeast  
Europe and the Caucasus  
*Heinrich Böll Foundation*

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Nonresident Scholar, Russia Eurasia  
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*Carnegie Endowment for International  
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**Gerrit Krönert**

Junior Analyst  
*Embassy of Sweden, Berlin*

**Harri Mikkola**

Program Director, Finnish Foreign Policy,  
Northern European Security, and NATO  
Research  
*Finnish Institute of International Affairs*

**Kristaps Misāns**

Deputy Head of Mission  
*Embassy of Latvia, Berlin*

**Almut Möller**

Director, European and Global Affairs  
*European Policy Center*

**Kalvi Noormägi**

Deputy Head of Mission  
*Embassy of Estonia, Berlin*

**Ann-Kristin Otto**

Military Advisor, Policy Planning Unit  
*German Federal Foreign Office*

**Robert Pszczel**

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*Centre for Eastern Studies*

**Jana Puglierin**

Senior Policy Fellow and Head of Berlin  
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**Rachel Rizzo**

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*Atlantic Council*

**Stepan Rusyn**

Coordinator of German-Ukrainian  
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*Transatlantic Dialogue Center*

**Henri Vanhanen**

Specialist  
*Finnish Defence and Aerospace Industries*

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