

**The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung – Wien Multilateral Dialogue
& the Austrian Institute for International Affairs (oiip)**

cordially invite you to a whole-day conference on

Post-War Europe: How to Rebuild our Security Architecture?

The “new era of democracy, peace and unity” foreseen in the Charter of Paris for a New Europe (1990) has ended after a long process of erosion. Europe has been jolted out of its lethargy and thrust back to the days when the USSR sent its tanks to crush popular uprisings in Budapest (1956) and in Prague (1968). “*It has not been possible to create a security architecture that could have prevented this. And that is something to think about*”, Angela Merkel, Germany’s former Chancellor, said in her first public interview since leaving office in December 2021. The Old Continent is once again divided between two hostile camps. The current security situation in Europe is even seen as more unpredictable and uncertain than in the final years of the Cold War.

This phase of new insecurity and unpredictability in Europe confronts us with the question of how we wish to re-establish peace and security in our region in the coming years and decades. It is indeed only during critical junctures marked by rapid change and upheaval that security architectures are likely to be fundamentally reconfigured. In addition to continuing efforts to support Ukraine and deter Russia’s war of aggression, the time seems ripe for an in-depth assessment of Europe’s security regime, one that builds on the experiences of the past, masters the challenges of the future and mitigate security ‘vacuums’ and dilemmas that led to mistrust. History – the 1941 Atlantic Charter and the multilateral conversations initiated by Finland in 1969, which led to the Helsinki Final Act - shows us that ongoing hostility should not be an obstacle to thinking about the next step. It is time to “look beyond the horizon”. Just increasing military expenditures cannot be the only option.

This assessment has guided the reflection of the Consortium ‘*Post-war Europe: how to rebuild our security architecture?*’ since its inception in 2023. Comprising eight institutions that reflect Europe’s geographic diversity and its various security challenges (BIGS, CIDOB, Egmont, iep, Ifri, KEW, oiip and SFPa), the Consortium organizes its final conference, with the generous support of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung – Wien Multilateral Dialogue, on

Tuesday June 16, 2026
at Hotel Regina, Rooseveltplatz 15, 1090 Vienna, Austria
9:30 am – 17:45

The event, held in English and in a hybrid format, will offer the opportunity to present and disseminate the Consortium’s final publication. Three high-level discussion panels will also focus on how to rebuild

and preserve the Transatlantic Relationship, on 'Europe's security with or without Russia?' and on 'What Europe needs: Checklist for a powerful Europe'.

A light lunch will be hosted by the Austrian Institute for International Affairs (oiip), in Hotel Regina's immediate vicinity.

The detailed agenda of the event, as well as the modalities for registration, will be circulated later in May 2026.