

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

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

16 June 2026
Vienna, Hotel Regina

9:00: Arrival & check-in

9:30-10:00: Welcoming word

10:00-11:00: Where European security stands: Presentation & dissemination of the “Post-war Europe” publication

11:00-11:15: *Coffee break*

11:15-12:30: Between Allies and Enemies: How to rebuild the Transatlantic Relationship?

The fundamentals of European security have often been articulated through consolidating and strengthening the transatlantic partnership. In 2026, however, the transatlantic relationship is facing a profound crisis, as increasingly serious questions arise over United States’ commitment to the collective defense of Europe within NATO, but also over its status as an ally. Tensions have been building up for decades, and a change in administration will not be enough to solve the crisis, nor will short-term compromises from both sides – Washington toning down its unproductive rhetoric against NATO and some of its members, withdrawing its claim over Greenland and resuming its support to Ukraine, while European Allies continuing stepping up their defense spending to NATO’s 5% goal -. Rather than merely anticipating and adapting ever more disruptive U.S. positions, is it time for the Europeans to acknowledge “*the end of a pleasant fiction*” (Mark Carney) and navigate their future without America?

12:45-14:00: *Lunch*

14:15-15:30: Europe’s security with or without Russia?

In 2026, Russia’s war against Ukraine is approaching a critical turning point. Beyond restoring peace and justice in Ukraine and providing their eastern partner with solid security guarantees, Europeans must start looking at an inclusive pan-European security order that, one day, could encompass the Russian Federation. Russia is part of the European security system – for the worst

right now –. On the long term, security in Europe needs to be built together with Russia, not against Russia. A new iron curtain in Eastern Europe would only seal the failure of diplomacy, recognize Yalta-like spheres of influence and, ultimately, serve the Kremlin's interests. However, a lucid definition of the type of cooperation Europe wants to propose to Russia will require courage, strength and vision.

15:30-15:45: *Coffee break*

15:45-17:00: What Europe needs: Checklist for a powerful Europe

Caught between a revisionist Kremlin and a merciless – if not openly contemptuous – White House, facing the pressure of the so-called Global South towards a 'de-westernization' of the world order, Europeans are constantly outmaneuvered and often marginalized. Donald Trump's unpredictable foreign policy has played an accelerating role for the EU's long-awaited strategic autonomy, but has also revealed Europe's major structural deficiencies. The wake-up call is beneficial on the long run, but makes Europe's short-term reaction much more difficult. What does Europe need to speak the "language of power" (Josep Borrell), step-up as a global superpower and overcome its crisis of confidence? Beyond economic competitiveness and reducing dependencies, the way Europeans will build-up new 'coalitions of the willing' across the region, manage enlargement, prevent democratic backsliding and maintain unity and cohesion, will be key.

17:00-17:45: Final word focusing on the future of neutrality in Europe