

European Court of Auditors Conference on Defence

ECA Conference Hall, Luxembourg, 30 June 2025

Format: hybrid

8.30 – 9.00 Registration

9.00 – 9.30 Opening speeches

ECA President Mr Tony Murphy

General Sławomir Wojciechowski, Polish Military Representative to NATO and EU Military Committees

9.30 – 10.45 Session 1 – Future of the European Defence Policy and challenges ahead

Outline: This session will set the scene for the entire event. It will demonstrate the current geopolitical context and how the EU is responding to the urgency of transforming the EU's defence and strengthening the EU security (white paper for European Defence Readiness). It will also show the perspective of MS's and of NATO experts.

Moderator: ECA Member Laima Liucija Andrikienė

Mr Andrius Kubilius - European Commissioner for Defence and Space – video statement

RAdm Ignacio Cuartero Lorenzo - Director Concepts & Capability of the EU Military Staff

Mr Robert Pszczel - Senior Fellow at the Centre for Eastern Studies

Lieutenant General Krzysztof Król - Advisor of the Chief of the General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces (tbc)

Discussion

10.45 – 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 – 12.00 Session 2 - Strategic Insights: Strengthening EU's Industrial Defence readiness

Outline: This session aims to provide insights into the realities and challenges of the EU's defence industrial base both on the ground and space. In addition, it will be a platform to share views on the EU's programmes to strengthen the EU's defence and the competitiveness of EU defence industry: (EDIRPA, EDIDP) and new legislative initiatives (EDIP; SAFE). Insights will be provided on the challenges and risks involved with the implementation and adoption of the new instruments.

Moderator: ECA Member George-Marius Hyzler

Mr Philippe Glaesener – Senior Vice President, Global Government, SES Space & Defence

Mr Francois Arbault - Director - Coordinator for defence, DG DEFIS

Ms Olga Wojciechowska – Supervisory Board Member of WB Electronics S.A.

Discussion

12.00 – 13.30 Lunch break

13.40 – 14.50 Session 3: How to finance EDP and how to audit it

Outline: This session will shed light on the funding landscape in the area of defence that has changed considerably in recent years with numerous new initiatives being proposed involving both EU-grants and loans. It will also be an opportunity to feature accountability arrangements and challenges linked with auditing these new instruments. The session will also offer a possibility to obtain insights into the practice of selected SAIs. It may also capture challenges and risks related to auditing military aid to Ukraine.

Moderator: Dean of Chamber III Bettina Jakobsen

Mr Radek Visinger - Chair of the Board International Board of Auditors for NATO

Mr Ville Saarinen - Security and Defence Office, European Investment Bank

Mr Piotr Skwara - Senior Public Audit Expert of Department of National Defence of the Polish Supreme Audit Office (NIK)

Mr Joël Costantzer – Senior administrator, Chamber III, ECA

Discussion

15.00 – 16.00 Session 4: Parliamentary scrutiny of Defence Policy

Outline: This session will provide insights into parliamentary scrutiny of defence policy by the EP and the experience of the national parliaments and NATO with the oversight. This session will be completed with an exchange of views on the accountability arrangements in the area of the European Defence Policy – what is needed and possible.

Moderator: ECA Member Marek Opiola

Ms Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann, MEP - Chair of the Committee on Security and Defence of the European Parliament

Ms Sascha Faxe, MP – Member of the Defence, Resilience and Preparedness Committee of the Danish Folketing

Mr Marcin Ociepa, MP – Member of the Defence Committee of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland, former Deputy Minister of Defence

Mr Gusty Graas, MP - President of the Committee on Foreign and European Affairs, Cooperation, Foreign Trade and the Greater Region of the Chamber of Deputies of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Discussion

16.00 – 16.15 Closing remarks: ECA Member Viorel Stefan

Outline: summary and takeaways from the conference.

Master of Ceremony: Damijan Fišer – ECA Deputy Spokesperson