

Webinar: Non-Nuclear Weapons and Strategic Stability in Europe



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EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium

*Promoting the European network of independent
non-proliferation and disarmament think tanks*

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900–1200 EDT / 1400–1700 BST / 1500–1800 CET / 1600-1900 AST / 2100-0000 SGT

Speakers: Dr Alexander Graef, Łukasz Kulesa, Mark Massa, Marion Messmer, Dr Anna Péczeli, Timothy Wright

Chairs: William Alberque, Dr Simona Soare

The line between conventional and nuclear weapons in Europe is becoming increasingly blurred as new technologies such as cyber weapons and precision-guided missiles are making it possible to achieve strategic-level effects without employing nuclear weapons.

In this IISS webinar, generously funded by the European Union as part of the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium project, two panels of experts will help us understand how the spread of these technologies is affecting stability on the European continent. Session 1, beginning at 1400 BST, will focus on the weapons themselves, what capabilities they have, and the emerging doctrine surrounding their use. Session 2, beginning at 1525 BST, will explore the impact and implications of their use, including in Ukraine, and offer concrete advice for decision-makers seeking to manage the risks associated with these weapons.

Dr Alexander Graef is a Researcher at the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg, where he focuses on conventional arms control in Europe. He holds a BA in Cultural Studies from the European-University Viadrina and an MA in International Relations from the Free University Berlin and the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO). His PhD thesis (2019) at the University of St. Gallen explored Russian experts and think tanks in the field of foreign and security policy.

Łukasz Kulesa is the Deputy Head of Research at the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM) and Senior Associate at the European Leadership Network. His interests include non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, Russian security policy, NATO, nuclear and conventional deterrence, the role of missile defence, and the future of arms control.

Mark Massa is an Assistant Director in the Forward Defense practice of the Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security at the Atlantic Council. Massa has contributed to Forward Defense programs and research on nuclear security and arms control, space security, and the Future of DHS Project. Massa earned his MA from Georgetown University's security studies program. He received a BSc in foreign service magna cum laude from Georgetown University with a degree in Science, Technology, and International Affairs.

Marion Messmer is the Co-Director of the British American Security Information Council (BASIC). Her expertise includes a breadth of issues in transatlantic security and conflict transformation, including strategic risk reduction, disarmament diplomacy and NATO-Russia relations. She is completing a PhD in the School of Security Studies at King's College London where her research focuses on trust building and cooperation in the relationship between Russia and NATO after the end of the Cold War.

Dr Anna Péczeli is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Center for Global Security Research at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. She is also an affiliate at the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University, and an adjunct fellow at the Centre for Strategic and Defence Studies at the National University of Public Service in Budapest, Hungary. Her research focuses on US nuclear planning, in particular the changes and continuities in US nuclear strategy since the end of the Cold War. Her research areas also include extended nuclear deterrence in Europe, NATO's defense policy, and the US-Russian arms control dialogue.

Timothy Wright is a Research Analyst and Programme Administrator for Defence and Military Analysis at the IISS. He provides administrative and research support in the implementation of the Missile Dialogue Initiative. He also conducts open-source analysis and research on strategic and theatre-range missile systems for the Military Balance and the Military Balance+ online database. Before joining the Institute, Tim worked at Chatham House and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. He holds an MSc in security studies from University College London and a BA from the University of Sheffield.

William Alberque is Director of Strategy, Technology, and Arms Control at IISS, focusing on preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction and related delivery systems, as well as risk reduction and arms control. William previously served as the director of NATO's Arms Control, Disarmament, and WMD Non-Proliferation Centre (ACDC), with more than 25 years in arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation.

Dr Simona Soare is a Research Fellow for Defence and Military Analysis at the IISS where she analyses trends in emerging and disruptive technologies and their impact on transatlantic and European security and defence. Before joining the IISS, Simona was Senior Associate Analyst for transatlantic defence and EU-NATO cooperation with the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) in Paris. She previously served as security and defence adviser to the vice-president of the European Parliament and as a defence analyst with the Romanian Ministry of Defence.

This Webinar is part of our War series, looking at the nature of conflict in the 21st century.