

BUCHAREST SECURITY CONFERENCE 2022

“Strengthening resilience in volatile times. New dimensions, new players, new perspectives”

16/17 September 2022

*Panel description***DAY 1 September 16****Roundtable: A Hegemonic/Succession War? The nature/characteristics of the war in Ukraine and its significance for the present stage of transition**

The moderator will introduce the theme in 15 minutes and the speakers will have interventions of about 20 minutes, followed by a Q&A session.

The war in Ukraine and the world's reaction to it will be a decisive factor in shaping the global political and economic order in the decade ahead. In particular, the Western allies' actions, narratives, and planning regarding both Russia and the role of the West in Ukraine's post-war reconstruction will indicate what their long-term strategic goals are. Russia's so-called "special military action" in Ukraine is part of a wider strategic confrontation that challenges the current distribution of power and world order. More precisely, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has upended the present world order — and together with it the global energy, distribution, production, and financial systems.

The roundtable will address the characteristics of the war in Ukraine and its relevance for the present stage of transition, focusing on the security dynamics and evolutions in the region, but also on the position of great powers. The speakers will envisage how the next world order will look like considering the strategic triangle including the US, China and Russia.

Is the banking sector safer than during the global financial crisis?

The moderator will introduce the theme in 15 minutes and each speaker will have a speech of 20 minutes, followed by a Q&A session.

Stress tests of major banks in 2019 suggested that the sector was sufficiently capitalized and had enough liquidity to withstand big economic shocks and continue to meet the financing needs of households and firms. But is it safer than 10 years earlier? And is it safe enough to cope with economic damage from coronavirus?

Prior to the pandemic, there was a consensus that banks were in a stronger financial position relative to the 2008/09 global financial crisis. This is attributed to the extensive regulatory reforms that boosted bank capital and liquidity (among other things) following the crisis.

Unlike in the global financial crisis, the situation faced by banks this time is not of their own making. The pandemic is an unprecedented economic shock, and despite various policy interventions to mitigate its worst effects, in the coming months we might face: increased credit defaults by households and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); illiquidity in various bank funding markets; and threats to bank stability.

The purpose of this panel is to respond to the following questions: Which banks have the necessary resilience to withstand such an unprecedented shock? Which are the lessons learned from the previous global financial crisis? What are the preventive measures to be implemented on the short term and what trends will there be on the long term?.

Security and resilience in the Black Sea region in the context of the war in Ukraine

* In partnership with the Euro-Atlantic Resilience Center E-ARC

The moderator will introduce the theme in 15 minutes and each speaker will have a speech of 20 minutes, followed by a Q&A session.

The recent events in Ukraine demonstrate the importance of defensive and deterrence capabilities, and also resilience, on the long line that starts in the Baltic Sea and runs through the Adriatic and Mediterranean. At the center of this frontier between political and ideological systems, lies the Black Sea, whose strategic importance for NATO and the EU has been constantly explained by Romanian diplomacy in recent years. The accession of Finland and Sweden to NATO, in parallel with the Russian aggression against Ukraine, shows just how important a balanced position of the Western and democratic world regarding the Black Sea region actually is, in relation to the Baltic and the Adriatic Seas.

The panel will respond to the following questions: How vulnerable is the Black Sea, in the context of the "Three Seas" debate, at this stage of the new Russian imperialism? How safe can the States with a pro-Western vocation around the Black Sea feel?

How important is national resilience in this context? Is resilience a major condition to ensure security in the Black Sea region?



16.30 – 18.20 Linking Europe at the Periphery - A more geopolitical European Union in times of conflict: prospects and challenges

* This panel is part of the Linking Europe at the Periphery Jean Monnet Network, project co-funded by the Erasmus + Programme, European Commission.

The moderator will introduce the theme in 15 minutes and each speaker will have a speech of 20 minutes, followed by a Q&A session.

Back in 2014, Former European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker promised he would lead a "political Commission." Five years later, the new Commission President-elect Ursula von der Leyen opted for a different framing: she said she wanted to lead a 'geopolitical Commission'. Both the COVID-19 pandemic and mostly the war in Ukraine created a fast-changing geopolitical context in which the EU was forced to play a stronger global role. After February 2022 new challenges appeared in EU's strategic neighbourhood, calling for immediate action, at multiple levels. Is the current security crisis making the EU stronger and more united in relation to its neighborhood or does it weaken it, creating new divisions inside its centers of power? The goal of the panel is to assess the recent geopolitical challenges to European security from different country perspectives and their prospects of European integration, directly affected by the war in Ukraine - such as Georgia, Turkey, Kosovo* or the Republic of Moldova. Moreover, the speakers will cover the regional dynamics of the current game changing geopolitical context and will explore potential future prospects from the different perspectives of the expert speakers.

* the name is used under United Nations' Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

DAY 2 September 17

Military adaptation and emerging challenges in volatile times

The moderator will introduce the theme in 15 minutes and each speaker will have a speech of 20 minutes, followed by a Q&A session.

In an era of continuous innovation and evolution of risks and threats, the main challenge for the military domain is to understand the evolving face of conflict and adapt the highly structured military apparatus. It is becoming a cliché to say how transformative new technologies are, serving as a double-edged sword that may either lead to our collective human flourishing – or to our collective demise.

The panel will seek to explain how states adapt, shape and rebalance the military and non-military instruments to prepare for the strategic challenges of the future, in areas such as intelligence, IT, communication and new media, etc. The speakers will try to assess whether these challenges lead to shifting paradigms or a more complex and multipolar world.

The Republic of Moldova – foreign policy and security strategy under imminent threat

The moderator will introduce the theme in 15 minutes and each speaker will have a speech of 20 minutes, followed by a Q&A session.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has left nearby Moldova feeling vulnerable and threatened.

With a small military of its own and a decades-long frozen conflict in breakaway Transdniestria fueled in large part by Moscow, Moldova is worried it could be the Kremlin's next target.

In this context the speakers will assess Moldova's options in the present stage of transition and will debate on whether Moldova should scrap neutrality and move closer to NATO or not. The panel will also focus on the practical terms of such a move and on the role of the internal political divide in this context. The speakers will also approach the prospect of Russia using Transdniestria to open a second front against Ukraine and the implications of Moldova's newly acquired EU candidate status.

Partners

