



Strengthening Euro-Atlantic Defence Integration



June 4, 2026

9:00 | REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST

9:30 | WORDS OF WELCOME

Dr. Gaëlle Rivard Piché, Executive Director, Conference of Defence Associations & CDA Institute

9:40 | SCENE SETTER

Dr. Keith Hartley, Professor Emeritus, York University (virtual)

10:00 | PANEL 1: REORIENTING CANADIAN DEFENCE - TRANSATLANTIC FRAMEWORK

This panel will examine Canada's role in the evolving international and transatlantic security landscape. It will explore how current geopolitical crises are driving Canada to reorient its defence posture and deepen ties with European allies. The discussion will assess both the short and long-term implications of this shift, its impact on Canada's strategic priorities, alliance commitments, and defence policy.

Moderator: Dr. Fen Hampson, Professor at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs

Speakers

Dr. Bernd Althusmann, Head, Canada Office, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Dr. Renaud Bellais, Group Chief Defence Economist, MBDA France

Dr. Chantal Lavallée, Professor at the Royal Military College St-Jean

Lieutenant-General Greg Smith, Canadian Military Representative, NATO (virtual)

11:15 | HEALTH BREAK

11:35 | PANEL 2: EUROPEAN SECURITY, NATO AND CANADA'S STRATEGIC CONTRIBUTION

This panel will examine Canada's role within NATO, its security cooperation with European allies, and the contributions it can meaningfully offer to its partners. Attention will be given to the strategic importance of emerging technologies, critical minerals, resilient supply chains, and other key enabling capabilities that will shape the future of collective defence.

Moderator: Dr. Crina Viju-Miljusevic, Associate Professor, Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, Carleton University

Speakers

Brigadier-General (Ret'd) Bruno Heluin, Facilitator of the "France-Canada group", GICAT

Dr. Kerry-Lynn Nankivell, Director, NATO and Europe, ADM(Pol), DND

Dr. Per Olsson, Senior Researcher, Swedish Defence Research Agency



12:50 | LUNCH

13:50 | PANEL 3: STRENGTHENING TIES - INDUSTRIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CANADA AND EUROPE

This panel will examine defence procurement and redevelopment of Canada's defence industrial base at a time of renewed global rearmament. It will explore Canada's Defence Industrial Strategy alongside efforts to deepen cooperation with European allies through initiatives such as ReArm Europe and SAFE.

Moderator: Dr. Gaëlle Rivard Piché, Executive Director, CDA & CDA Institute

Speakers

Mr. Colin Barker, Executive Director of the Defence Export Division, Global Affairs Canada

Ms. Mairead Lavery, Former President and CEO, Export Development Canada

Mr. Eliot Pence, Founder, Dominion Dynamics

Mr. Siegfried Usal, Vice-President Strategy and AI Growth, Thales

15:05 | KEYNOTE

Dr. Ravi S. K. Singh, Director General, Defence Industrial Strategy, Department of National Defence

15:50 | CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Ugurhan G. Berkok, Associate Professor of Economics at the Royal Military College