

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM ☐ Original ☐ Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual *Financial Disclosure Statements* of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House by email at gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please **do not** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

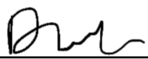
1. Name of Traveler: Damon Marx
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ **OR** ☒ None
b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: 9/2/2026 Return: 9/7/2026
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ **OR** ☒ None
4. Departure City: Washington, DC Destination: Sarajevo, BiH Return City: Washington, DC
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Washington Institute for Education and Policy (WIER) and New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy (PLI)
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: Attended the Sarajevo Security Conference focusing on the Western Balkans, NATO, and transatlantic partnership
7. Attached to this form are **each** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box:*
 - a. ☒ a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
 - b. ☒ the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor **prior** to the trip, **including all** attachments **and** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
 - c. ☒ page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the employee; **and**
 - d. ☒ the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. ☒ I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*
b. If not, explain: _____

I certify that the information contained on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Traveler: Damon Marx Date: 9/14/2026

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Name of Supervising Member: Dan Goldman Date: 9/14/2026

Signature of Supervising Member: 

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

☐ Original ☒ Amendment

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip within 10 days of their return.** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy (NLI)
Washington Institute for Education and Policy (WIER)

2. Travel Destination(s): Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

3. Date of Departure: September 3, 2026 Date of Return: September 7, 2026

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Damon Marx

Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if **all** information is **identical** for each person listed.

5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	\$1,867.33	\$683.04	\$250.00	\$4 - 400ml locally produced brandy as an opening dinner gift on 9.4.26
Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

6. ☐ All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment.
Signify statement is true by checking box.

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Date: 9/14/2026

Name: Kareem Makhoul Title: Chief of Staff

Organization: New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy (NLI)

☐ **I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.**

Address: 1660 L Street NW, Suite 450, Washington DC 20036

Telephone: (202) 800-7302 Email: kmakhoulf@newlinesinstitute.org

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection.

This form and any attachments may be submitted at 1015 Longworth House Office Building or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. **You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.**

Name of Traveler: Damon Marx

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Damon Marx

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): Rep. Dan Goldman

Office Address: 245 Cannon Office Building

Telephone Number: 202-480-3256

Email Address of Contact Person: damon.marx@mail.house.gov

☐ Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, and these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM. Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via email: travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

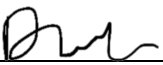
1. Name of Traveler: Damon Marx
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy
Washington Institute for Education & Research (WIER)
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
4. a. Date of Departure: September 2, 2026 Date of Return: September 7, 2026
b. Yes ☒ No ☐ Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?
If yes, list dates at personal expense: _____
5. a. Yes ☐ No ☐ Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**
(1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: _____
(2) Relationship to Traveler: ☒ Spouse ☒ Child ☐ Other(specify): _____
(3) Yes ☒ No ☐ Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age?
6. a. Yes ☒ No ☐ Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?
b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:

7. Yes ☒ No ☐ *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitation, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. **Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**
~~Damon Marx serves as Senior Counsel for Rep. Dan Goldman, covering the office's foreign policy and national security portfolios, including the office's work as drafters and co-leads of the Western Balkans Democracy & Prosperity Act. Damon's participation in the Sarajevo Security Conference will provide direct access to NATO, EU, and regional officials working on Western Balkans security, democratic resilience, and countering Russian and Chinese malign influence in the region. This engagement will directly inform the office's ability to facilitate future legislation, improve oversight on these issues, and support Rep. Goldman's work on the Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees.~~

9. **Yes ☐ No ☒ Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**
10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member:  Date: 9/14/2026

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should **NOT** submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:

New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy

2. ☐ I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. Signify that the statement is true by checking box.

3. **Check only one.** I represent that:

- a. ☐ The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**
- b. ☒ The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**
- c. ☐ The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.

If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: _____

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): Please Review Additional Document

5. Yes ☐ No ☒ Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?

6. Date of Departure: September 3, 2026 Date of Return: September 7, 2024

7. a. City of departure: September 7, 2026

b. Destination(s): Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

c. City of return: Washington DC

8. **Check only one.** I represent that

- a. ☐ The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**
- b. ☒ The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**
- c. ☐ The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. **Check only one of the following.**

- a. ☒ I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
b. ☐ I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
c. ☐ I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
d. ☐ I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. _____

10. ☒ Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. **Check only one of the following.**

- a. ☒ I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box; OR*
b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.

12. For **each** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip **and** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:

The Sarajevo Security Conference is one of New Line's West Balkan Center flagship activities bringing together transatlantic policy professionals, academics, and government officials for the largest gathering of NATO officials at an non-official event on transatlantic security and cooperation. New Lines sponsors this event and the travel for the US's congressional participants.

13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**

- a. Mode of travel: Air ☒ Rail ☐ Bus ☐ Car ☐ Other ☐ (specify: _____)
b. Class of travel: Coach ☒ Business ☐ First ☐ Charter ☐ Other ☐ (specify: _____)
c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted: _____

14. ☒ I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:

- a. ☒ The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
b. ☐ The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:
1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): _____
2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel Name: Courtyard by Marriott Sarajevo City: Sarajevo Cost Per Night: \$140

Reason(s) for Selecting: Proximity to Venue

Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____

Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____

Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

17. ☒ I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

☐ Actual Amounts ☒ Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$971	\$140	\$260
For each Accompanying Family Member			

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee		
For each Accompanying Family Member		

19. **Check only one:**

- a. ☒ I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**

- a. **I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;**
b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature: Christian Bardales Date: 9/14/2026
Name: Kareem Makhoulf Title: Chief of Staff
Organization: New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy (NLI)
Address: 1660 L Street NW, Suite 450, Washington DC 20036
Email: kmakhoulf@newlinesinstitute.org Telephone: (202) 800-7302

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Ranking Member

Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Ashley Hinson, Iowa
Nathaniel Moran, Texas
Brad Knott, North Carolina

Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland
Sylvia R. Garcia, Texas
Suhas Subramanyam, Virginia



ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Jordan Downs
Chief of Staff to the Chairman

David Arrojo
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone: (202) 225-7103
<https://ethics.house.gov>

August 31, 2026

Mr. Damon Marx
Office of the Honorable Daniel S. Goldman
245 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Marx:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Bosnia and Herzegovina,¹ scheduled for September 2 to 7, 2026, sponsored by New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy and Washington Institute for Education & Research.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$525 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House employees may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently \$525] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

¹ Please be aware that the Committee's review of the proposed trip does not extend to either the security situation in the destination country or security related to foreign travel in general. We recommend you contact the Office of House Security (OHS) for a safety and security briefing prior to your departure. OHS may be reached at (202) 226-2044 or ohsstaff@mail.house.gov. House travelers should also register for the U.S. State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at <https://step.state.gov>.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Guest". The first letter "M" is large and stylized, with a loop that extends upwards and to the left.

Michael Guest
Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark DeSaulnier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark DeSaulnier
Ranking Member

MG/MD:kjf

Sarajevo Security Conference Trip

With financial support from, The New Lines Institute for Strategy & Policy

Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina

September 2 - 7, 2026

MISSION GOALS: *The goal of this trip is to familiarize congressional staffers with the current security concerns facing the West Balkans, Southeast Europe, and the Euroatlantic region.*

RELEVANCE TO OFFICIAL DUTIES: *Participating congressional staffers have relevant duties, portfolios and interest in the region for their respective members, recently drafting legislation for the region, sitting on relevant committees, and co-chairing the Bosnian Congressional Caucus. Congressional staffers will attend panels and learn from leading experts on the West Balkans and transatlantic security to better support their respective Congresspeople.*

LOCATION: *The purpose of travel to Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina, is to attend the Sarajevo Security Conference, attend panels on strengthening transatlantic security by leading experts and to network with professionals and counterparts in the transatlantic sphere.*

ITINERARY

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2&3: TRAVEL

Lufthansa LH419

IAD 5:55PM - FRA 7:55 AM+1

Lufthansa LH1544

FRA 9:15 AM+1 - SJJ 10:55 AM+1

Transport to Hotel

Location: Hotel Europe, Vladislava Skarica 5, Sarajevo 71000

Hotel President, Bazardzani 1, Sarajevo 71000

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

9:35 - 9:45 AM Walk to Sarajevo City Hall (Ceremonial Hall)

10:00 - 10:30 AM Opening Speeches

Addresses: Ambassador Luigi Soreca, Head of the Delegation of the EU to BiH

Major General Maurizio Fronda, EUFOR Commander

Brigadier General James Fowler, Commander, NATO HQ Sarajevo

Sirpa Oksanen, Ambassador of Finland to BiH

María Molina Álvarez de Toledo, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to BiH

Sarah Eti Castellani, Ambassador of Italy to BiH

The presenters will initiate the conference, outlining the challenges faced by the wider region but more specifically in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They will touch on current challenges facing the country from both a diplomatic and security perspective, as well the European perspective

given the country's EU trajectory and the EU's role as principal security guarantor via EUFOR. The session will help inform the participating staffers of the current challenges the region and Bosnia and Herzegovina currently face. They will in turn inform their respective legislators on the developments in both the region and in Bosnia to address their policy priorities on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and positions on the Congressional Bosnian Caucus.

10:30 – 11:45 AM Women in Peace, Security and Diplomacy

Moderator: Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh OBE, Council of Europe

Panelists: Ann Linde (former Swedish Foreign Minister)
Eva Marie Limets (former Foreign Minister of Estonia)
Hassan Diab (former Prime Minister of Lebanon)

The panel will discuss the benefits and barriers of having women decision makers present in these critical roles. This is particularly relevant in the region, where women legislators and government officials are particularly marginalized and left unsupported by their political parties, effectively preventing independence and coercing continued support for their leaders' agenda.

The session will help inform the participating staffers to consider these challenges and opportunities when advising their respective Congresspeople when developing regional policy priorities via their committees and caucuses.

11:45 – 12:00 PM Coffee Break

Coffee culture is a significant aspect of Balkan work culture. The brief break allows both panelists and session attendees to network with one another and build relationships.

The break will provide the staffers the opportunity to network and build relationships with relevant panelists and attendees. This offers them the opportunity to establish connections to relevant subject matter experts which they could later utilize in supporting their respective Congresspeople. These breaks in particular facilitate an opportunity for staffers to informally meet with attending civil society, academics, and experts from the region.

12:00 – 1:00 PM Creative Resilience: Lessons in Geopolitical Maneuvering from Europe's Eastern Frontiers

Moderator: Dziatkowiec Paul, Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP)

Panelists: Alexandru Flenchea, Director of Initiative 4 Peace
Shorena Lortkipanidze, Civil Council on Defense and Security
Johnny Melikyan, Orbeli Center
Hryhoriy Nemyria, Deputy Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee, Parliament of Ukraine
Gulshan Pashayeva, Member of Milli Majlis (Azerbi Parliament); Center of Analysis of International Relations (AIR Center)

The panel will examine the current security situation of European "frontier" states most exposed to malign Russian influence. The panel will incorporate perspectives from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Romania, and Ukraine and examine the "balancing" of transatlantic and Russian influence in the European periphery and the extent of EU accession ambitions with future potential candidate states.

The panel will help inform the participating staffers of the current political and security challenges within the European and transatlantic periphery states. This will allow them to better inform their respective Congresspeople on developing policy priorities for their Committee assignments.

1:00 – 2:00 PM Networking Lunch

The lunch break allows both panelists and session attendees to network with one another and build relationships. This lunch is sponsored by New Lines Institute for all conference attendees.

The networking lunch will provide the staffers the opportunity to build relationships with relevant panelists and attendees. This offers them the opportunity to establish connections to relevant subject matter experts which they could later utilize in supporting their respective Congresspeople. These breaks in particular facilitate an opportunity for staffers to informally meet with attending civil society, academics, and experts from the region.

2:00 – 2:15 PM Presentation of CEPS-RUSI-Clingendael-IEP Task Force Report “More Europe in Defense - 3 Pathways” Presenter: Steve Blockman, Center for European Policy Study (CEPS) and International Center for Defense and Security (ICDS)

The presentation will examine the Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), Clingendael Institute, and the Institute for European Policy Making at Bocconi University (IEP) recent joint report on how to strengthen European defense and its contributions to the transatlantic security architecture. This report examines the possibilities of strengthening European leadership and contributions within NATO, developing distinct multilateral mechanisms between NATO states, and developing an EU-led defense mechanism.

The session will help inform the participating staffers of the current European security challenges and its possible development pathways in an increasingly unstable world. They will in turn inform their respective Congresspeople on developing policy priorities for their Committee assignments.

2:15 – 3:15 PM A Shared River, A Shared Security: The Lower Danube as a Strategic Theatre for Security, Defense, and Democratic Resilience Moderator: Cristian Chiscop, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Panelists: Dr. Ruxandra Ivan, University of Bucharest Dr. Aleksandar Dimitrov, University of National and World Economy Oleh Andriiovych Dunda, MP Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

The panel will examine the current Black Sea security situation via the perspective of Romania, Bulgaria, and Ukraine. The Black Sea is vital to US and transatlantic interests, representing NATO's southeastern flank, global food supply chains, and offshore natural gas and infrastructure. These interests have remained under kinetic threat by Russians invasion of Ukraine and malign foreign influence in Romania and Bulgarian, straining their democratic systems.

The National Defense Authorization Act requires a long-term Black Sea Security Strategy which the panel will better inform participating staffers of its importance and ongoing risks in the strategic region. The staffers will use the knowledge provided to better inform their respective Congresspeople to shape policy on this region, monitor the US government progress, and adjust future strategies.

3:15 – 3:30 PM Coffee Break

Coffee culture is a significant aspect of Balkan work culture. The brief break allows both panelists and session attendees to network with one another and build relationships.

The break will provide the staffers the opportunity to network and build relationships with

relevant panelists and attendees. This offers them the opportunity to establish connections to relevant subject matter experts which they could later utilize in supporting their respective Congresspeople. These breaks in particular facilitate an opportunity for staffers to informally meet with attending civil society, academics, and experts from the region.

3:30 – 4:30 PM **Addresses by Norwegian Civil Defense Chief Øistein Knudsen, Secretary General of the Austrian Ministry of Defense, Dr. Arnold Kammel, and President of the Information Professionals Association, Dave Pitts, and Presentation of “*The Not So Grey Zone: How Small and Medium Powers Can Exploit Adversaries’ Red Lines to Influence Behaviour*”**

Presenter: Davis Elisson, Hague Center for Security Studies (HCSS)
Hans Horan, Hague Center for Security Studies (HCSS)

The presentation describes how smaller states can influence adversaries’ behavior via the use of “Gray Zone” tactics. This can include the use of unconventional, ambiguous, or deniable methods to shift the status quo without triggering a conventional military response. This can include the targeted use of economic levers, cyber probes, maritime militias, and strategic signaling to impose disproportionate costs on larger powers. This will also examine the risks posed by new domains such as cyber and its capabilities.

The presentation will help inform the participating staffers to better understand techniques for smaller states to resist larger states and the risks posed when engaging a state employing “Gray Zone” techniques. This will allow them to better inform their respective Congresspeople of the risks of engaging states willing to employ these strategies.

4:30 – 6:00 PM **Western Balkan Security and Europe’s Response to Russian and Other Threats – A German Perspective**
Moderator: Manuel Sarrazin, Southeast Europe Association President

Panelists: General (ret.) Erhard Bühler, President of the Clausewitz Society
Ambassador Thomas Ossowski, German Permanent Representative to the EU
Dr. David Preisendanz, Member of the Bundestag
Dr. Bojana Zoric, European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)

The panel will examine the German policy thinking towards the West Balkan security, the ongoing Ukraine War, and other strategic threats. Moderated by Manuel Sarrazin, former German Special Representative for the Western Balkans, will examine Germany’s security posture from the perspective of national and supranational political leadership, former military, and external researchers.

The panel will help inform the participating staffers of the current German security concerns and future priorities. They will allow them to better inform their respective Congresspeople on developing policy priorities for their Committee assignments and Caucuses.

7:00 - 8:00 PM **Grand Opening Ceremony**
Keynote Address: Rear Admiral Jeroen van Zanten, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations/Commander Surface Forces, MARCOM
Addresses: Dr. Azeem Ibrahim, New Lines Institute
H.E. Zukan Helez, Bosnian Minister of Defense
Dame Karen Pierce, UK Special Representative to Western Balkans

The presenters will culminate the first day, outlining the challenges faced by the West Balkans, Black Sea, and Southeast Europe. They will touch on current challenges facing these regions from the perspective of security and energy in particular, highlighting the intertwined nature of these concerns amongst all three regions.

The session will help inform the participating staffers of the current security challenges within these three regions. They will in turn inform their respective legislators on the developments in both in the region and in Bosnia to address their policy priorities on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, House Armed Services, and in the Congressional Bosnian Caucus.

8:00 - 11:00 PM VIP Dinner & Cocktail Reception

The VIP Dinner will provide a networking opportunity exclusively for the panelists, presenters, and invited guests attending the conference. The smaller dinner will provide opportunities to follow up with specific presenters earlier in the day with additional questions and thoughts. This dinner is sponsored by New Lines Institute for all presenters, panelists, and invited guests.

The VIP dinner will provide the staffers the opportunity to build relationships with panelists and presenters. This offers them the opportunity to establish connections to relevant subject matter experts which they could later utilize in supporting their respective Congresspeople.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

8:45 - 8:50 AM *Walk to Sarajevo Army Hall*

9:00 - 9:45 AM Welcome Addresses

Keynote Address: Lieutenant General Winston P. Brooks, Deputy Chair of the Military Committee, NATO

Addresses: General Edin Fako, Inspector General, Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Major General (ret) Matthew Van Wagenen, former DCOS, SHAPE
Major General Alessandro Grassano, Ministry of Defense, Republic of Italy
Major General Duane R. Miller, US Army & former Deputy Commanding General of Security Assistance Group

The speakers will introduce the importance of transatlantic cooperation and the longstanding security relationship. The speakers represent NATO as well as both US and European defense officials, which will speak on future challenges as well. The importance of NATO membership for the region will be addressed by the representative from the Bosnian Armed Forces.

The session will help inform the participating staffers of the current security challenges and the importance of the transatlantic relationship via institutions like NATO and how European and US cooperation aligns. This can be used to support the members committee assignment on the House Armed Services Committee.

9:45 – 11:00 AM Address by Dr. Charles Kupchan & The State of Transatlantic Relations

Moderator: Amanda Thorpe, Atlantic Council

Panelists: Dr. Katja Lindskov Jacobsen, University of Copenhagen
Brigadier General (ret.) Jakob Henius, Royal Danish Defence College
Prof. Robert Person, United States Military Academy at West Point

Matthew Salvetti, VP and Head of Analysis, Arcanum & former National Intelligence Officer for Europe

As Senior Director for European Affairs for two different administrations and former member of the State Department's Policy Planning Staff, he will share his insights on the current state of the transatlantic relationship. The panel will build upon this introduction by providing expert view points from both sides of the transatlantic, examining why and how the relationship can course correct.

The staffers will use the knowledge provided to better inform their respective Congresspeople of the state of transatlantic policy, particularly the viewpoints of our European partners. This could later be a good starting point for future policy discussions and initiatives from their respective Congressional Committees.

11:00 – 11:30 AM Coffee Break

Coffee culture is a significant aspect of Balkan work culture. The brief break allows both panelists and session attendees to network with one another and build relationships.

The break will provide the staffers the opportunity to network and build relationships with relevant panelists and attendees. This offers them the opportunity to establish connections to relevant subject matter experts which they could later utilize in supporting their respective Congresspeople. These breaks in particular facilitate an opportunity for staffers to informally meet with attending civil society, academics, and experts from the region

11:30 – 1:00 PM Address by Major General Sami Nurmi, Finnish Defense Forces & Brigadier General Víctor Bados Nieto, Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies, and “Europe’s New Security Architecture” Panel

Moderator: Dr. Bojana Zoric, EUISS

Panelists: Greta Cristini, Journalist and Geopolitical Analyst
Major General Karsten Stoye, Eurocontrol
Matthew Palmer, Shield AI
Col. Jonathan Heist, Strategic Planner, SHAPE

The discussions will focus on the development of Europe's security architecture since the start of the Ukraine War, examining the role of key new technologies such as drones and AI within this architecture. This will link together military and civilian including the threats posed to air traffic and other civilian infrastructure due to new technologies. Since the start of the Ukraine War, Russian drones and manned aircraft have continuously penetrated NATO airspace, representing one aspect of Russia's "Shadow War".

The session will help inform the participating staffers of the ongoing threats to transatlantic security as new risk vectors created through the deployment of new technologies developed in the Ukraine War. This would be particularly relevant for staffers to inform their respective Congresspeople on both the Homeland Security Committee and the House Armed Services Committee.

1:00 – 2:00 PM Networking Lunch

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The networking lunch will provide the staffers the opportunity to build relationships with relevant panelists and attendees. This offers them the opportunity to establish connections to relevant subject matter experts which they could later utilize in supporting their respective Congresspeople. These breaks in particular facilitate an opportunity for staffers to informally

meet with attending civil society, academics, and experts from the region.

**2:00 – 2:45 PM Fireside Chat with Congressman Greg Murphy (NC-3) and
Congressman Marc Veasey (TX-33)**

The discussion will examine the role of the transatlantic relationship and highlight a bipartisan approach towards Transatlanticism and the continued need for US engagement in the region.

The session will help inform the participating staffers on potential opportunities for collaboration with Congressional colleagues by learning their positions on current transatlantic issues. This would be useful for legislative actions and house resolutions back in Washington and to better inform their Congresspeople on statements and positions they hold.

**2:45 – 3:00 PM Presentation on “*Defence readiness beyond the EU: How
enlargement partners underpin European security*” by Dr. Bojana
Zoric & Commentary by Major General Maurizio Fronda, EUFOR**

The discussion will examine how European enlargement has a key security role in the security architecture of Europe. European enlargement has the key role in coercing reforms from potential states and has recently seen greater interest from states in the European periphery since the start of the Ukraine War. Since the start of the war, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine have applied for candidate status. The role of enlargement partners often incur the most risk as these alignments occur without NATO protection to align with transatlantic values on a hostile frontier.

The session will help inform the participating staffers of the ongoing EU strategy towards accession and the European candidate countries bolster European and transatlantic security. The staffers will use the knowledge provided to better inform their respective Congresspeople on the ongoing dynamic changes within the EU sphere and the contributions of aspiring members towards the broader security architecture.

3:00 – 3:50 PM The Future of NATO and the Western Balkans
Keynote Address: Ambassador Kevin Hamilton, NATO SG Special Envoy
Moderator: Vedrana Vujović, House of Representatives, FBIH
Panelists: Ambassador Kevin Hamilton, NATO SG Special Envoy
Barre Seguin, George C. Marshall Center
Dan White, Ramapo College of New Jersey
Giorgio Fruscione, Institute for International Political Studies

Building on the previous session, the panelists will examine NATO's pivotal role in the security architecture of the West Balkans as well as the role joining NATO as a transatlantic milestone in the region. Currently, three of the West Balkan Six, namely Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia are within NATO, with NATO operations ongoing in Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The panel will also examine the future of the alliance in the region and its role in democratic transition as the organization remains polarizing in some countries.

The session will help inform the participating staffers of NATO's role in the region as a stability anchor now and into the future as well as potential challenges for future membership of the remaining unaligned states. The staffers will use the knowledge provided to better inform their respective Congresspeople on the ongoing dynamic changes within the West Balkans security architecture.

3:50 – 4:00 PM Coffee Break

A culturally significant aspect of Balkan culture, the brief break allows the participants to network with both panelists and attendees of the previous sessions and facilitate relationship building.

The break will provide the staffers the opportunity to network and build relationships with relevant panelists and attendees. This could allow them to establish connections to relevant subject matter experts which they could later utilize in supporting their respective.

4:00 - 5:00 PM Book talk “*Air Warfare: An Introduction*” by Col. Michael Kreuzer, Director, Air & Space Power, Irregular Warfare Initiative & Keynote Address on Nuclear Deterrence by Lt. Col. Travis Halleman

The speaker will introduce their novel “Air Warfare: An Introduction” to the audience. The book is designed to bridge the gap between complex military doctrine and civilian/academic understanding of air power, providing policymakers with a clear framework for understanding the unique characteristics, terminology, operational concepts, and tactical applications of aerial combat. Beyond the foundational concepts, the speaker will also evaluate the impact of future frontiers and other emerging tactical and strategic challenges.

A deeper understanding of Air Warfare will aid the staffers to inform their respective Congresspeople in developing future policy and serve as a resource to other legislative staffers, particularly those on House Armed Services or House Oversight Committees.

5:00 – 5:15 PM Address by Dr. Benedetta Berti, NATO Parliamentary Assembly Secretary General

The speaker will introduce the importance of transatlantic cooperation, the longstanding security relationship, and highlight the role of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. The NATO Parliamentary Assembly is a specialized, inter-parliamentary consultative organization, institutionally independent of NATO, which links NATO leadership to national parliaments and its citizens. Its biannual plenary session provides an opportunity for Pan-NATO debate on policy solutions and provides national legislatures visibility into NATO’s strategic decision making.

The staffers will be better informed of the role and purpose of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly as well as the ongoing debates within the Assembly from its most recent plenary session. This could later be a good starting point for future policy discussions and initiatives from their respective Congressional Committees, particularly the House Armed Services Committee.

5:15 – 6:30 PM **Fortifying the Black Sea: Security, Resilience, and Connectivity**
Moderator: Maia Otarashvili, Delphi Global Research Center
Panelists: Dr. Robert Hamilton, Delphi Global Research Center
Amb. Vasil (Dato) Sikharulidze, former Georgian Minister of Defense, Georgia
Admiral Iuri Covaleov, former Romanian Deputy Chief of Military Intelligence
Dr Mira Milosevich, IE University Spain

The panel will examine the current Black Sea security situation from both the Balkans and Georgia and how this security posture can be improved via increased cooperation between different partners. The Black Sea is vital to US and transatlantic interests, representing NATO’s southeastern flank, global food supply chains, and offshore natural gas and infrastructure.

The National Defense Authorization Act requires a long-term Black Sea Security Strategy which the panel will better inform participating staffers of its importance and ongoing risks in the strategic region. The staffers will use the knowledge provided to better inform their respective Congresspeople to shape policy on this region, monitor the US government progress, and

adjust future strategies.

7:00 - 11:00 PM VIP Dinner at Sarajevo Brewery

The VIP Dinner will provide a networking opportunity exclusively for the panelists, presenters, and invited guests attending the conference. The smaller dinner will provide opportunities to follow up with specific presenters earlier in the day with additional questions and thoughts. This dinner is sponsored by New Lines Institute for all presenters, panelists, and invited guests.

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

8:45 - 8:50 AM *Walk to Sarajevo Army Hall*

9:00 - 11:00 AM Welcome Addresses & Europe's Closet Neighbor: Promoting Regional Integration in the Greater Middle East Panel

Keynote Addresses: H.E. Hassan Diab, former Prime Minister of Lebanon
Ambassador Hossam Zaki, former Assistant Secretary General of the League of Arab States

Moderator: Azeem Ibrahim, New Lines Institute

Panelists: Kamran Bokhari, Middle East Policy Council
Michael Robbins, Arab Barometer
Hamza Al-Mustapha, Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Abdulla Banndar Al-Etaibi, Qatar University

The speakers will highlight ongoing energy risks posed to the transatlantic alliance and its global partnerships. The Eastern Mediterranean is a critical development region for both energy extraction and energy infrastructure development, particularly with US supported efforts to connect the Balkans to this energy infrastructure in order to connect the European market and displace Russian energy dominance. Additionally, the proposed IMEC economic corridor intends to connect the Middle East, Europe, and India via transit infrastructure to displace the influence of Chinese belt and road efforts.

The session will help inform the participating staffers of the current security challenges, particularly regarding energy, directly linking the effects of Middle East instability to transatlantic security and resiliency architecture. They will in turn inform their respective legislators on the developments in the region and connect these policy spheres to future discussions.

11:00 – 12:15 PM EU Membership and Transatlantic Alignment: A Strategic Path to Western Balkans Security

Introductory Address: Aaron Korewa, Atlantic Council Europe Center

Moderator: Tine Kracun, Institute for Strategic Solutions

Panelists: Prof. Klaus W. Larres, University of North Carolina (UNC) in Chapel Hill.

Christian Forstner, Hanns Seidel Foundation

Alenka Antloga, Information Commissioner of the Republic of Slovenia

The panelists will examine how EU accession and continued transatlantic alignment in institutions like NATO will provide a pathway to greater security and stability in the West Balkans. The primary strategy for regional security since the collapse of Yugoslavia has been

entry into the European Union, but almost twenty years of European intransigence has produced “Euro fatigue” as Western Balkans citizens lost faith in joining the European Union and its motivation to complete its mandated reforms. However, the Ukraine War has revitalized the accession process, creating another opportunity for transatlantic alignment, and producing regional stability.

The session will help inform the participating staffers of the ongoing EU strategy towards accession and how the United States can better pivot to motivate the Western Balkans to engage in this new period of dynamism. The staffers will use the knowledge provided to better inform their respective Congresspeople on the ongoing dynamic changes within the EU sphere and how to better support these policies. For the Congressional Bosnian Caucus, takeaways would include additional reasoning for their policy interests and supporting Bosnian inclusion into transnational institutions like NATO.

12:15 – 12:30 PM Coffee Break

Coffee culture is a significant aspect of Balkan work culture. The brief break allows both panelists and session attendees to network with one another and build relationships.

The break will provide the staffers the opportunity to network and build relationships with relevant panelists and attendees. This offers them the opportunity to establish connections to relevant subject matter experts which they could later utilize in supporting their respective Congresspeople. These breaks in particular facilitate an opportunity for staffers to informally meet with attending civil society, academics, and experts from the region

12:30 – 2:15 PM How Democracies Can Counter Information Influences

Moderator: Amanda Thorpe, Atlantic Council

Panelists: Olga Myrovych, Lviv Media Forum
Jasmin Hasić, Bosnia Federal Ministry of Education
Miguel Roán, Galician Institute of International Analysis and Documentation (IGADI)
Lieutenant Commander Eva María Ara Montojo, Secretariat General for Defence Policy, Spanish Ministry of Defense
Colonel Stevan Naumovski, Acting Head of J-5, General Staff, Army of the Republic of North Macedonia

The panelists will examine how polluted information ecosystems can destabilize democracies, tilting public opinion, and posing a risk to national security. The panel will directly connect the security risks posed by disinformation campaigns against democratic states, will present strategies and techniques for minimizing its corrosive effects. Additionally, the panel will discuss disinformation that can take root by looking at regional examples.

The session will help inform the participating staffers of the corrosive effects of disinformation on democratic states as well as strategies to identify and mitigate the disinformation. The staffers will use the knowledge provided to better inform their respective Congresspeople on how these strategies should be incorporated into other policies.

2:15 - 2:30 PM Closing Ceremony

The presenters will culminate the final day with a closing discussion outlining the challenges and opportunities that the transatlantic region faces and how policy makers can address these challenges.

As a recap session, it will serve to remind the participants of the previous sessions over the last three days. This will help remind them of the different panels and serve as a takeaway message

for their future legislative priorities.

2:30 – 3:30 PM Networking Lunch

The lunch break allows both panelists and session attendees to network with one another and build relationships. This lunch is sponsored by New Lines Institute for all conference attendees.

The networking lunch will provide the staffers the opportunity to build relationships with relevant panelists and attendees. This offers them the opportunity to establish connections to relevant subject matter experts which they could later utilize in supporting their respective Congresspeople. These breaks in particular facilitate an opportunity for staffers to informally meet with attending civil society, academics, and experts from the region.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7: TRAVEL

Lufthansa LH1547

SJJ 6:15 AM - FRA 8:10 AM

Lufthansa LH416

FRA 10:30 AM - IAD 1:35PM

End of Trip

Sarajevo Security Conference Trip

With financial support from, The New Lines Institute for Strategy & Policy

Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina

September 2 - 7, 2026

MISSION GOALS: *The goal of this trip is to familiarize congressional staffers with the current security concerns facing the West Balkans, Southeast Europe, and the Euroatlantic region.*

RELEVANCE TO OFFICIAL DUTIES: *Participating congressional staffers have relevant duties, portfolios and interest in the region for their respective members, recently drafting legislation for the region, sitting on relevant committees, and co-chairing the Bosnian Congressional Caucus. Congressional staffers will attend panels and learn from leading experts on the West Balkans and transatlantic security to better support their respective Congresspeople.*

LOCATION: *The purpose of travel to Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina, is to attend the Sarajevo Security Conference, attend panels on strengthening transatlantic security by leading experts and to network with professionals and counterparts in the transatlantic sphere.*

ITINERARY

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2&3: TRAVEL

Lufthansa LH419

IAD 5:55PM - FRA 7:55 AM+1

Lufthansa LH1544

FRA 9:15 AM+1 - SJJ 10:55 AM+1

Transport to Hotel

Location: Hotel Europe, Vladislava Skarica 5, Sarajevo 71000

Hotel President, Bazardzani 1, Sarajevo 71000

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

9:35 - 9:45 AM Walk to Sarajevo City Hall (Ceremonial Hall)

10:00 - 10:30 AM Opening Speeches

Addresses: Ambassador Luigi Soreca, Head of the Delegation of the EU to BiH

Major General Maurizio Fronda, EUFOR Commander

Brigadier General James Fowler, Commander, NATO HQ Sarajevo

Sirpa Oksanen, Ambassador of Finland to BiH

María Molina Álvarez de Toledo, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to BiH

Sarah Eti Castellani, Ambassador of Italy to BiH

The presenters will initiate the conference, outlining the challenges faced by the wider region but more specifically in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They will touch on current challenges facing the country from both a diplomatic and security perspective, as well the European perspective

given the country's EU trajectory and the EU's role as principal security guarantor via EUFOR. The session will help inform the participating staffers of the current challenges the region and Bosnia and Herzegovina currently face. They will in turn inform their respective legislators on the developments in both the region and in Bosnia to address their policy priorities on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and positions on the Congressional Bosnian Caucus.

11:30 – 11:45 AM Women in Peace, Security and Diplomacy

Moderator: Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh OBE, Council of Europe

Panelists: Ann Linde (former Swedish Foreign Minister)
Eva Marie Limets (former Foreign Minister of Estonia)
Hassan Diab (former Prime Minister of Lebanon)

The panel will discuss the benefits and barriers of having women decision makers present in these critical roles. This is particularly relevant in the region, where women legislators and government officials are particularly marginalized and left unsupported by their political parties, effectively preventing independence and coercing continued support for their leaders' agenda.

The session will help inform the participating staffers to consider these challenges and opportunities when advising their respective Congresspeople when developing regional policy priorities via their committees and caucuses.

11:45 – 12:00 PM Coffee Break

Coffee culture is a significant aspect of Balkan work culture. The brief break allows both panelists and session attendees to network with one another and build relationships.

The break will provide the staffers the opportunity to network and build relationships with relevant panelists and attendees. This offers them the opportunity to establish connections to relevant subject matter experts which they could later utilize in supporting their respective Congresspeople. These breaks in particular facilitate an opportunity for staffers to informally meet with attending civil society, academics, and experts from the region.

12:00 – 1:00 PM Creative Resilience: Lessons in Geopolitical Maneuvering from Europe's Eastern Frontiers

Moderator: Dziatkowiec Paul, Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP)

Panelists: Alexandru Flenchea, Director of Initiative 4 Peace
Shorena Lortkipanidze, Civil Council on Defense and Security
Johnny Melikyan, Orbeli Center
Hryhoriy Nemyria, Deputy Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee, Parliament of Ukraine
Gulshan Pashayeva, Member of Milli Majlis (Azerbi Parliament); Center of Analysis of International Relations (AIR Center)

The panel will examine the current security situation of European "frontier" states most exposed to malign Russian influence. The panel will incorporate perspectives from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Romania, and Ukraine and examine the "balancing" of transatlantic and Russian influence in the European periphery and the extent of EU accession ambitions with future potential candidate states.

The panel will help inform the participating staffers of the current political and security challenges within the European and transatlantic periphery states. This will allow them to better inform their respective Congresspeople on developing policy priorities for their Committee assignments.

1:00 – 2:00 PM Networking Lunch

The lunch break allows both panelists and session attendees to network with one another and build relationships. This lunch is sponsored by New Lines Institute for all conference attendees.

The networking lunch will provide the staffers the opportunity to build relationships with relevant panelists and attendees. This offers them the opportunity to establish connections to relevant subject matter experts which they could later utilize in supporting their respective Congresspeople. These breaks in particular facilitate an opportunity for staffers to informally meet with attending civil society, academics, and experts from the region.

2:00 – 2:15 PM Presentation of CEPS-RUSI-Clingendael-IEP Task Force Report “More Europe in Defense - 3 Pathways” Presenter: Steve Blockman, Center for European Policy Study (CEPS) and International Center for Defense and Security (ICDS)

The presentation will examine the Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), Clingendael Institute, and the Institute for European Policy Making at Bocconi University (IEP) recent joint report on how to strengthen European defense and its contributions to the transatlantic security architecture. This report examines the possibilities of strengthening European leadership and contributions within NATO, developing distinct multilateral mechanisms between NATO states, and developing an EU-led defense mechanism.

The session will help inform the participating staffers of the current European security challenges and its possible development pathways in an increasingly unstable world. They will in turn inform their respective Congresspeople on developing policy priorities for their Committee assignments.

2:15 – 3:15 PM A Shared River, A Shared Security: The Lower Danube as a Strategic Theatre for Security, Defense, and Democratic Resilience Moderator: Cristian Chiscop, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Panelists: Dr. Ruxandra Ivan, University of Bucharest Dr. Aleksandar Dimitrov, University of National and World Economy Oleh Andriiovych Dunda, MP Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

The panel will examine the current Black Sea security situation via the perspective of Romania, Bulgaria, and Ukraine. The Black Sea is vital to US and transatlantic interests, representing NATO's southeastern flank, global food supply chains, and offshore natural gas and infrastructure. These interests have remained under kinetic threat by Russians invasion of Ukraine and malign foreign influence in Romania and Bulgarian, straining their democratic systems.

The National Defense Authorization Act requires a long-term Black Sea Security Strategy which the panel will better inform participating staffers of its importance and ongoing risks in the strategic region. The staffers will use the knowledge provided to better inform their respective Congresspeople to shape policy on this region, monitor the US government progress, and adjust future strategies.

3:15 – 3:30 PM Coffee Break

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relevant panelists and attendees. This offers them the opportunity to establish connections to relevant subject matter experts which they could later utilize in supporting their respective Congresspeople. These breaks in particular facilitate an opportunity for staffers to informally meet with attending civil society, academics, and experts from the region.

3:30 – 4:30 PM **Addresses by Norwegian Civil Defense Chief Øistein Knudsen, Secretary General of the Austrian Ministry of Defense, Dr. Arnold Kammel, and President of the Information Professionals Association, Dave Pitts, and Presentation of “*The Not So Grey Zone: How Small and Medium Powers Can Exploit Adversaries’ Red Lines to Influence Behaviour*”**

Presenter: Davis Elisson, Hague Center for Security Studies (HCSS)
Hans Horan, Hague Center for Security Studies (HCSS)

The presentation describes how smaller states can influence adversaries’ behavior via the use of “Gray Zone” tactics. This can include the use of unconventional, ambiguous, or deniable methods to shift the status quo without triggering a conventional military response. This can include the targeted use of economic levers, cyber probes, maritime militias, and strategic signaling to impose disproportionate costs on larger powers. This will also examine the risks posed by new domains such as cyber and its capabilities.

The presentation will help inform the participating staffers to better understand techniques for smaller states to resist larger states and the risks posed when engaging a state employing “Gray Zone” techniques. This will allow them to better inform their respective Congresspeople of the risks of engaging states willing to employ these strategies.

4:30 – 6:00 PM **Western Balkan Security and Europe’s Response to Russian and Other Threats – A German Perspective**
Moderator: Manuel Sarrazin, Southeast Europe Association President

Panelists: General (ret.) Erhard Bühler, President of the Clausewitz Society
Ambassador Thomas Ossowski, German Permanent Representative to the EU
Dr. David Preisendanz, Member of the Bundestag
Dr. Bojana Zoric, European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)

The panel will examine the German policy thinking towards the West Balkan security, the ongoing Ukraine War, and other strategic threats. Moderated by Manuel Sarrazin, former German Special Representative for the Western Balkans, will examine Germany’s security posture from the perspective of national and supranational political leadership, former military, and external researchers.

The panel will help inform the participating staffers of the current German security concerns and future priorities. They will allow them to better inform their respective Congresspeople on developing policy priorities for their Committee assignments and Caucuses.

7:00 - 8:00 PM **Grand Opening Ceremony**
Keynote Address: Rear Admiral Jeroen van Zanten, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations/Commander Surface Forces, MARCOM
Addresses: Dr. Azeem Ibrahim, New Lines Institute
H.E. Zukan Helez, Bosnian Minister of Defense
Dame Karen Pierce, UK Special Representative to Western Balkans

The presenters will culminate the first day, outlining the challenges faced by the West Balkans, Black Sea, and Southeast Europe. They will touch on current challenges facing these regions from the perspective of security and energy in particular, highlighting the intertwined nature of these concerns amongst all three regions.

The session will help inform the participating staffers of the current security challenges within these three regions. They will in turn inform their respective legislators on the developments in both in the region and in Bosnia to address their policy priorities on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, House Armed Services, and in the Congressional Bosnian Caucus.

8:00 - 11:00 PM VIP Dinner & Cocktail Reception

The VIP Dinner will provide a networking opportunity exclusively for the panelists, presenters, and invited guests attending the conference. The smaller dinner will provide opportunities to follow up with specific presenters earlier in the day with additional questions and thoughts. This dinner is sponsored by New Lines Institute for all presenters, panelists, and invited guests.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

8:45 - 8:50 AM *Walk to Sarajevo Army Hall*

9:00 - 9:45 AM Welcome Addresses

Keynote Address: Lieutenant General Winston P. Brooks, Deputy Chair of the Military Committee, NATO

Addresses: General Edin Fako, Inspector General, Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Major General (ret) Matthew Van Wagenen, former DCOS, SHAPE
Major General Alessandro Grassano, Ministry of Defense, Republic of Italy
Major General Duane R. Miller, US Army & former Deputy Commanding General of Security Assistance Group

The speakers will introduce the importance of transatlantic cooperation and the longstanding security relationship. The speakers represent NATO as well as both US and European defense officials, which will speak on future challenges as well. The importance of NATO membership for the region will be addressed by the representative from the Bosnian Armed Forces.

The session will help inform the participating staffers of the current security challenges and the importance of the transatlantic relationship via institutions like NATO and how European and US cooperation aligns. This can be used to support the members committee assignment on the House Armed Services Committee.

9:45 – 11:00 AM Address by Dr. Charles Kupchan & The State of Transatlantic Relations

Moderator: Amanda Thorpe, Atlantic Council

Panelists: Dr. Katja Lindskov Jacobsen, University of Copenhagen
Brigadier General (ret.) Jakob Henius, Royal Danish Defence College
Prof. Robert Person, United States Military Academy at West Point

Matthew Salvetti, VP and Head of Analysis, Arcanum & former National Intelligence Officer for Europe

As Senior Director for European Affairs for two different administrations and former member of the State Department's Policy Planning Staff, he will share his insights on the current state of the transatlantic relationship. The panel will build upon this introduction by providing expert view points from both sides of the transatlantic, examining why and how the relationship can course correct.

The staffers will use the knowledge provided to better inform their respective Congresspeople of the state of transatlantic policy, particularly the viewpoints of our European partners. This could later be a good starting point for future policy discussions and initiatives from their respective Congressional Committees.

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11:30 – 1:00 PM Address by Major General Sami Nurmi, Finnish Defense Forces & Brigadier General Víctor Bados Nieto, Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies, and “Europe’s New Security Architecture” Panel

Moderator: Dr. Bojana Zoric, EUISS

Panelists: Greta Cristini, Journalist and Geopolitical Analyst
Major General Karsten Stoye, Eurocontrol
Matthew Palmer, Shield AI
Col. Jonathan Heist, Strategic Planner, SHAPE

The discussions will focus on the development of Europe's security architecture since the start of the Ukraine War, examining the role of key new technologies such as drones and AI within this architecture. This will link together military and civilian including the threats posed to air traffic and other civilian infrastructure due to new technologies. Since the start of the Ukraine War, Russian drones and manned aircraft have continuously penetrated NATO airspace, representing one aspect of Russia's "Shadow War".

The session will help inform the participating staffers of the ongoing threats to transatlantic security as new risk vectors created through the deployment of new technologies developed in the Ukraine War. This would be particularly relevant for staffers to inform their respective Congresspeople on both the Homeland Security Committee and the House Armed Services Committee.

1:00 – 2:00 PM Networking Lunch

The lunch break allows both panelists and session attendees to network with one another and build relationships. This lunch is sponsored by New Lines Institute for all conference attendees.

The networking lunch will provide the staffers the opportunity to build relationships with relevant panelists and attendees. This offers them the opportunity to establish connections to relevant subject matter experts which they could later utilize in supporting their respective Congresspeople. These breaks in particular facilitate an opportunity for staffers to informally

meet with attending civil society, academics, and experts from the region.

**2:00 – 2:45 PM Fireside Chat with Congressman Greg Murphy (NC-3) and
Congressman Marc Veasey (TX-33)**

The discussion will examine the role of the transatlantic relationship and highlight a bipartisan approach towards Transatlanticism and the continued need for US engagement in the region.

The session will help inform the participating staffers on potential opportunities for collaboration with Congressional colleagues by learning their positions on current transatlantic issues. This would be useful for legislative actions and house resolutions back in Washington and to better inform their Congresspeople on statements and positions they hold.

**2:45 – 3:00 PM Presentation on “*Defence readiness beyond the EU: How
enlargement partners underpin European security*” by Dr. Bojana
Zoric & Commentary by Major General Maurizio Fronda, EUFOR**

The discussion will examine how European enlargement has a key security role in the security architecture of Europe. European enlargement has the key role in coercing reforms from potential states and has recently seen greater interest from states in the European periphery since the start of the Ukraine War. Since the start of the war, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine have applied for candidate status. The role of enlargement partners often incur the most risk as these alignments occur without NATO protection to align with transatlantic values on a hostile frontier.

The session will help inform the participating staffers of the ongoing EU strategy towards accession and the European candidate countries bolster European and transatlantic security. The staffers will use the knowledge provided to better inform their respective Congresspeople on the ongoing dynamic changes within the EU sphere and the contributions of aspiring members towards the broader security architecture.

3:00 – 3:50 PM The Future of NATO and the Western Balkans
Keynote Address: Ambassador Kevin Hamilton, NATO SG Special Envoy
Moderator: Vedrana Vujović, House of Representatives, FBIH
Panelists: Ambassador Kevin Hamilton, NATO SG Special Envoy
Barre Seguin, George C. Marshall Center
Dan White, Ramapo College of New Jersey
Giorgio Fruscione, Institute for International Political Studies

Building on the previous session, the panelists will examine NATO's pivotal role in the security architecture of the West Balkans as well as the role joining NATO as a transatlantic milestone in the region. Currently, three of the West Balkan Six, namely Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia are within NATO, with NATO operations ongoing in Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The panel will also examine the future of the alliance in the region and its role in democratic transition as the organization remains polarizing in some countries.

The session will help inform the participating staffers of NATO's role in the region as a stability anchor now and into the future as well as potential challenges for future membership of the remaining unaligned states. The staffers will use the knowledge provided to better inform their respective Congresspeople on the ongoing dynamic changes within the West Balkans security architecture.

3:50 – 4:00 PM Coffee Break

A culturally significant aspect of Balkan culture, the brief break allows the participants to network with both panelists and attendees of the previous sessions and facilitate relationship building.

The break will provide the staffers the opportunity to network and build relationships with relevant panelists and attendees. This could allow them to establish connections to relevant subject matter experts which they could later utilize in supporting their respective.

4:00 - 5:00 PM Book talk “*Air Warfare: An Introduction*” by Col. Michael Kreuzer, Director, Air & Space Power, Irregular Warfare Initiative & Keynote Address on Nuclear Deterrence by Lt. Col. Travis Halleman

The speaker will introduce their novel “Air Warfare: An Introduction” to the audience. The book is designed to bridge the gap between complex military doctrine and civilian/academic understanding of air power, providing policymakers with a clear framework for understanding the unique characteristics, terminology, operational concepts, and tactical applications of aerial combat. Beyond the foundational concepts, the speaker will also evaluate the impact of future frontiers and other emerging tactical and strategic challenges.

A deeper understanding of Air Warfare will aid the staffers to inform their respective Congresspeople in developing future policy and serve as a resource to other legislative staffers, particularly those on House Armed Services or House Oversight Committees.

5:00 – 5:15 PM Address by Dr. Benedetta Berti, NATO Parliamentary Assembly Secretary General

The speaker will introduce the importance of transatlantic cooperation, the longstanding security relationship, and highlight the role of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. The NATO Parliamentary Assembly is a specialized, inter-parliamentary consultative organization, institutionally independent of NATO, which links NATO leadership to national parliaments and its citizens. Its biannual plenary session provides an opportunity for Pan-NATO debate on policy solutions and provides national legislatures visibility into NATO’s strategic decision making.

The staffers will be better informed of the role and purpose of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly as well as the ongoing debates within the Assembly from its most recent plenary session. This could later be a good starting point for future policy discussions and initiatives from their respective Congressional Committees, particularly the House Armed Services Committee.

5:15 – 6:30 PM **Fortifying the Black Sea: Security, Resilience, and Connectivity**
Moderator: Maia Otarashvili, Delphi Global Research Center
Panelists: Dr. Robert Hamilton, Delphi Global Research Center
Amb. Vasil (Dato) Sikharulidze, former Georgian Minister of Defense, Georgia
Admiral Iuri Covaleov, former Romanian Deputy Chief of Military Intelligence
Dr Mira Milosevich, IE University Spain

The panel will examine the current Black Sea security situation from both the Balkans and Georgia and how this security posture can be improved via increased cooperation between different partners. The Black Sea is vital to US and transatlantic interests, representing NATO’s southeastern flank, global food supply chains, and offshore natural gas and infrastructure.

The National Defense Authorization Act requires a long-term Black Sea Security Strategy which the panel will better inform participating staffers of its importance and ongoing risks in the strategic region. The staffers will use the knowledge provided to better inform their respective Congresspeople to shape policy on this region, monitor the US government progress, and

adjust future strategies.

7:00 - 11:00 PM VIP Dinner at Sarajevo Brewery

The VIP Dinner will provide a networking opportunity exclusively for the panelists, presenters, and invited guests attending the conference. The smaller dinner will provide opportunities to follow up with specific presenters earlier in the day with additional questions and thoughts. This dinner is sponsored by New Lines Institute for all presenters, panelists, and invited guests.

The VIP dinner will provide the staffers the opportunity to build relationships with panelists and presenters. This offers them the opportunity to establish connections to relevant subject matter experts which they could later utilize in supporting their respective Congresspeople.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

8:45 - 8:50 AM *Walk to Sarajevo Army Hall*

9:00 - 11:00 AM Welcome Addresses & Europe's Closet Neighbor: Promoting Regional Integration in the Greater Middle East Panel

Keynote Addresses: H.E. Hassan Diab, former Prime Minister of Lebanon
Ambassador Hossam Zaki, former Assistant Secretary General of the League of Arab States

Moderator: Azeem Ibrahim, New Lines Institute

Panelists: Kamran Bokhari, Middle East Policy Council
Michael Robbins, Arab Barometer
Hamza Al-Mustapha, Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Abdulla Banndar Al-Etaibi, Qatar University

The speakers will highlight ongoing energy risks posed to the transatlantic alliance and its global partnerships. The Eastern Mediterranean is a critical development region for both energy extraction and energy infrastructure development, particularly with US supported efforts to connect the Balkans to this energy infrastructure in order to connect the European market and displace Russian energy dominance. Additionally, the proposed IMEC economic corridor intends to connect the Middle East, Europe, and India via transit infrastructure to displace the influence of Chinese belt and road efforts.

The session will help inform the participating staffers of the current security challenges, particularly regarding energy, directly linking the effects of Middle East instability to transatlantic security and resiliency architecture. They will in turn inform their respective legislators on the developments in the region and connect these policy spheres to future discussions.

11:00 – 12:15 PM EU Membership and Transatlantic Alignment: A Strategic Path to Western Balkans Security

Introductory Address: Aaron Korewa, Atlantic Council Europe Center

Moderator: Tine Kracun, Institute for Strategic Solutions

Panelists: Prof. Klaus W. Larres, University of North Carolina (UNC) in Chapel Hill.
Christian Forstner, Hanns Seidel Foundation
Alenka Antloga, Information Commissioner of the Republic of Slovenia

The panelists will examine how EU accession and continued transatlantic alignment in institutions like NATO will provide a pathway to greater security and stability in the West Balkans. The primary strategy for regional security since the collapse of Yugoslavia has been

entry into the European Union, but almost twenty years of European intransigence has produced “Euro fatigue” as Western Balkans citizens lost faith in joining the European Union and its motivation to complete its mandated reforms. However, the Ukraine War has revitalized the accession process, creating another opportunity for transatlantic alignment, and producing regional stability.

The session will help inform the participating staffers of the ongoing EU strategy towards accession and how the United States can better pivot to motivate the Western Balkans to engage in this new period of dynamism. The staffers will use the knowledge provided to better inform their respective Congresspeople on the ongoing dynamic changes within the EU sphere and how to better support these policies. For the Congressional Bosnian Caucus, takeaways would include additional reasoning for their policy interests and supporting Bosnian inclusion into transnational institutions like NATO.

12:15 – 12:30 PM Coffee Break

Coffee culture is a significant aspect of Balkan work culture. The brief break allows both panelists and session attendees to network with one another and build relationships.

The break will provide the staffers the opportunity to network and build relationships with relevant panelists and attendees. This offers them the opportunity to establish connections to relevant subject matter experts which they could later utilize in supporting their respective Congresspeople. These breaks in particular facilitate an opportunity for staffers to informally meet with attending civil society, academics, and experts from the region

12:30 – 2:15 PM How Democracies Can Counter Information Influences

Moderator: Amanda Thorpe, Atlantic Council

Panelists: Olga Myrovych, Lviv Media Forum
Jasmin Hasić, Bosnia Federal Ministry of Education
Miguel Roán, Galician Institute of International Analysis and Documentation (IGADI)
Lieutenant Commander Eva María Ara Montojo, Secretariat General for Defence Policy, Spanish Ministry of Defense
Colonel Stevan Naumovski, Acting Head of J-5, General Staff, Army of the Republic of North Macedonia

The panelists will examine how polluted information ecosystems can destabilize democracies, tilting public opinion, and posing a risk to national security. The panel will directly connect the security risks posed by disinformation campaigns against democratic states, will present strategies and techniques for minimizing its corrosive effects. Additionally, the panel will discuss disinformation that can take root by looking at regional examples.

The session will help inform the participating staffers of the corrosive effects of disinformation on democratic states as well as strategies to identify and mitigate the disinformation. The staffers will use the knowledge provided to better inform their respective Congresspeople on how these strategies should be incorporated into other policies.

2:15 - 2:30 PM Closing Ceremony

The presenters will culminate the final day with a closing discussion outlining the challenges and opportunities that the transatlantic region faces and how policy makers can address these challenges.

As a recap session, it will serve to remind the participants of the previous sessions over the last three days. This will help remind them of the different panels and serve as a takeaway message

for their future legislative priorities.

2:30 – 3:30 PM Networking Lunch

The lunch break allows both panelists and session attendees to network with one another and build relationships. This lunch is sponsored by New Lines Institute for all conference attendees.

The networking lunch will provide the staffers the opportunity to build relationships with relevant panelists and attendees. This offers them the opportunity to establish connections to relevant subject matter experts which they could later utilize in supporting their respective Congresspeople. These breaks in particular facilitate an opportunity for staffers to informally meet with attending civil society, academics, and experts from the region.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7: TRAVEL

Lufthansa LH1547

SJJ 6:15 AM - FRA 8:10 AM

Lufthansa LH416

FRA 10:30 AM - IAD 1:35PM

End of Trip

Damon Marx
Office of Congressman Dan Goldman
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515



Dear Damon,

On behalf of the New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy, I write to extend a warm invitation to you and to Congressman Goldman's team to attend the Sarajevo Security Conference (SSC), to be held in Sarajevo beginning September 4, 2026.

The Sarajevo Security Conference has developed into a premier strategic forum in Southeast Europe, convening a carefully selected, invitation-only audience of senior government officials, parliamentarians, NATO and EU representatives, military leaders, diplomats, and internationally recognized experts. The Conference serves as a high-level platform for serious and substantive dialogue on the geopolitical, security, and democratic challenges shaping the evolving international order.

Given Congressman Goldman's previous sponsorship of the Western Balkans Democracy & Prosperity Act, we believe the Conference's programming will be of direct substantive relevance to the office's work on Southeast European policy. Sessions are expected to cover NATO's southeastern flank, foreign malign influence and disinformation, democratic resilience, the legacy and future of the Dayton framework, and the broader geopolitical contest playing out across the region. We hope the Conference will offer your team valuable opportunities for direct engagement with counterparts from across the OSCE region, as well as with senior officials and experts from NATO, the EU, and the wider transatlantic community.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Western Balkans more broadly, continue to hold significant strategic relevance within Europe's security architecture. Positioned at a historic crossroads of cultures and geopolitical interests, the region remains central to discussions on transatlantic

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cohesion, democratic resilience, and the safeguarding of peace and stability. In an era marked by systemic competition and institutional strain, principled engagement and strong international partnerships are essential.



The Conference will be inaugurated on the evening of September 4 with a Gala Ceremony at **19:00**, followed by a formal **Gala Dinner at 20:00** at the historic City Hall Sarajevo. Substantive programming — including plenaries, closed-door sessions, and working-level briefings — will continue over the days that follow, and we would be pleased to coordinate tailored participation for members of your team based on their portfolios and interests.

We would be grateful if you would share this invitation with your colleagues across the office's foreign policy, defense, and legislative teams. Our team stands ready to work directly with you to confirm attendance, coordinate travel logistics, and arrange any bilateral meetings or site visits that may be of interest. We are confident that the Conference will prove a valuable engagement for your office, and we look forward to the possibility of welcoming you to Sarajevo.

With warm regards,

Dr. Hikmet Karčić
Director
Sarajevo Security Conference

Kristiana Kuqi
Senior Policy Advisor
New Lines Institute

sarajevosecurityconference.com
info@sarajevosecurityconference.com



Sarajevo Security Conference – House of Representatives Invitees

Representative Robert Aderholt (AL-4): Invited due to previous briefings held on the West Balkans with New Lines and invited to participate in the forthcoming Western Balkans Caucus.

Representative Greg Stanton (AZ-4): Invited due to previous briefings held on the West Balkans with New Lines and invited to participate in the forthcoming Western Balkans Caucus.

Representative Gabe Evans (CO-8): Invited due to previous briefings held on the West Balkans with New Lines and invited to participate in the forthcoming Western Balkans Caucus.

Representative Sarah McBride (DE-AL): Invited due to previous briefings held on the West Balkans with New Lines and invited to participate in the forthcoming Western Balkans Caucus.

Representative Mike Quigley (IL-5): Invited due to previous briefings held on the West Balkans with New Lines and invited to participate in the forthcoming Western Balkans Caucus.

Representative Brad Schneider (IL-10): Invited due to previous briefings held on the West Balkans with New Lines and invited to participate in the forthcoming Western Balkans Caucus.

Representative Brett Guthrie (KY-2): Invited due to previous briefings held on the West Balkans with New Lines and invited to participate in the forthcoming Western Balkans Caucus.

Representative Jim McGovern (MA-2): Invited due to previous briefings held on the West Balkans with New Lines and invited to participate in the forthcoming Western Balkans Caucus.

Representative Kweisi Mfume (MD-7): Invited due to previous briefings held on the West Balkans with New Lines and invited to participate in the forthcoming Western Balkans Caucus.

Representative Debbie Dingell (MI-6): Invited due to previous briefings held on the West Balkans with New Lines and invited to participate in the forthcoming Western Balkans Caucus.

Representative Lisa McClain (MI-9): Invited due to previous briefings held on the West Balkans with New Lines and invited to participate in the forthcoming Western Balkans Caucus.

Representative Wesley Bell (MO-1): Invited due to previous briefings held on the West Balkans with New Lines and invited to participate in the forthcoming Western Balkans Caucus.

Representative Ann Wagner (MO-2): Invited due to previous briefings held on the West Balkans with New Lines and invited to participate in the forthcoming Western Balkans Caucus.

Representative Emanuel Cleaver (MO-5): Invited due to previous briefings held on the West Balkans with New Lines and invited to participate in the forthcoming Western Balkans Caucus.

Representative Dan Goldman (NY-10): Invited due to previous briefings held on the West Balkans with New Lines and invited to participate in the forthcoming Western Balkans Caucus. Representative Goldman sponsored the Western Balkans Democracy and Prosperity Act.

Representative George Latimer (NY-16): Invited due to previous briefings held on the West Balkans with New Lines and invited to participate in the forthcoming Western Balkans Caucus.

Representative Warren Davidson (OH-8): Invited due to previous briefings held on the West Balkans with New Lines and invited to participate in the forthcoming Western Balkans Caucus.

Representative Tim Burchett (TN-2): Invited due to previous briefings held on the West Balkans with New Lines and invited to participate in the forthcoming Western Balkans Caucus.

Representative Keith Self (TX-3): Invited due to previous briefings held on the West Balkans with New Lines and invited to participate in the forthcoming Western Balkans Caucus.

Representative Pat Fallon (TX-4): Invited due to previous briefings held on the West Balkans with New Lines and invited to participate in the forthcoming Western Balkans Caucus.

Representative Pete Sessions (TX-5): Invited due to previous briefings held on the West Balkans with New Lines and invited to participate in the forthcoming Western Balkans Caucus.

Representative Jake Ellzey (TX-6): Invited due to previous briefings held on the West Balkans with New Lines and invited to participate in the forthcoming Western Balkans Caucus.

Representative Ronny Jackson (TX-13): Invited due to previous briefings held on the West Balkans with New Lines and invited to participate in the forthcoming Western Balkans Caucus.

Representative James Walkinshaw (VA-11): Invited due to previous briefings held on the West Balkans with New Lines and invited to participate in the forthcoming Western Balkans Caucus.

Representative Michael Baumgartner (WA-5): Invited due to previous briefings held on the West Balkans with New Lines and invited to participate in the forthcoming Western Balkans Caucus.

Representative Adam Smith (WA-9): Invited due to previous briefings held on the West Balkans with New Lines and invited to participate in the forthcoming Western Balkans Caucus.

Simon Joenler: Point-of-Contact for Representative Aderholt's Office

Michelle Schein: Point-of-Contact for Representative Stanton's Office

Tyler Moore: Point-of-Contact for Representative Evan's Office

Hatti Specter: Point-of-Contact for Representative McBride's Office

Michael Corcoran: Point-of-Contact for Representative Quigley's Office

Gil Thompson: Point-of-Contact for Representative Schneider's Office

Molly Martin: Point-of-Contact for Representative Guthrie's Office

Todd Stein: Point-of-Contact for Representative McGovern's Office

Sam Mollin: Point-of-Contact for Representative Mfume's Office

Annica Burmester: Point-of-Contact for Representative Dingell Office

Alex Bedwell: Point-of-Contact for Representative McClain's Office

Ethan Sorcher: Point-of-Contact for Representative Bell's Office

David Gans: Point-of-Contact for Representative Wagner's Office

Christina Mahoney: Point-of-Contact for Representative Cleaver's Office

Damon Marx: Point-of-Contact for Representative Goldman's Office

Rob Hoch: Point-of-Contact for Representative Latimer's Office

George Barber: Point-of-Contact for Representative Davidson's Office

Anna Fox: Point-of-Contact for Representative Burchett's Office

Joshua Adams: Point-of-Contact for Representative Self's Office

Andrew Bohn: Point-of-Contact for Representative Fallon's Office

Luis Vega: Point-of-Contact for Representative Session's Office

Mike Velasquez: Point-of-Contact for Representative Ellzey's Office

Caroline Campbell: Point-of-Contact for Representative Jackson's Office

Maha Syed: Point-of-Contact for Representative Walkinshaw's Office

Catherine Liu: Point-of-Contact for Representative Smith's Office

Sarajevo Security Conference

Draft Conference Program

Day 1 / Sept 4, 2026

Sarajevo City Hall (Vijecnica) / Room: Ceremonial Hall (2nd floor)

10:00 - 10:30

Opening speeches

- SSC Chairman (5 min)
- Brig. Gen. James Fowler, Commander, NATO HQ Sarajevo
- Ambassador of Finland (5 min)
- Ambassador of Spain (5 min)
- Ambassador of Italy (5 min)

Panel I / 10:30 - 11:45

"The Role of Cultural Diplomacy in Peace and Security" in partnership with the *Institute for Cultural Diplomacy*

Keynote speaker: The Honorable Nusrat Ghani
(Deputy Speaker, UK House of Commons)

Panelists:

- Ann Linde (former Swedish Foreign Minister)
- Eva Marie Limets (Former Foreign Minister of Estonia)
- Hassan Dian (former Prime Minister of Lebanon)

Moderated by: Tasmina Ahmed Sheik (Director, Institute for Cultural Diplomacy)

11:45 - 12:00 Coffee break

Panel II / 12:00-13:00

"Fortifying the Black Sea: Security, Resilience, and Connectivity" in partnership with *Delphi Global Research Center*

Panelists

- Dr. Robert Hamilton, President, Delphi Global Research Center, USA
- Maria Avdeeva, Senior Fellow, Delphi Global Research Center, Ukraine
- Amb. Vasil (Dato) Sikharulidze, former Minister of Defense, Georgia
- Admiral Iuri Covaleov, former Deputy Chief of Military Intelligence, Romania

Moderator: Maia Otarashvili, Vice President, Delphi Global Research Center

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch break

GRADSKA SKUPSTINA (JASMIN MODERATOR)

14:00 - 14:30 Presentation of the CEPS-RUSI-Clingendael-IEP Task Force report **“More Europe in Defence - three pathways”** by Steven Blockmans, CEPS (Brussels) and ICDS (Tallinn)

14:30 - 15:45 Panel: **“A Shared River, A Shared Security: The Lower Danube as a Strategic Theatre for Security, Defense, and Democratic Resilience”** *in partnership with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung*

Panelists

- Ruxandra IVAN, Faculty of Political Science, University of Bucharest; former State Counsellor for European Affairs to the Prime Minister of Romania
- Aleksandar DIMITROV, University of National and World Economy, Sofia
- Metin Hakverdi, Member of the German Bundestag (TBC)
- Tobias Cremer, Member of the European Parliament (TBC)

Moderator: Cristian CHISCOP, Programme Coordinator, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Romania

15:45 - 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 - 18:00 / Western Balkans in Focus

16:00 - 17:00: “Western Balkan Security and Europe’s Response to Russian and Other Threats – A German Perspective” *in partnership with Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft*

Panelists

- General (retd) Erhard Bühler, President of the Clausewitz-Society, Germany
- Ambassador Thomas Ossowski, German Permanent Representative to the EU
- Dr. David Preisendanz, Member of the Bundestag

Moderator: Manuel Sarrazin, President, Southeast Europe Association

16:30 - 16:45 Coffee

17:00 - 18:00: “EU Membership and Transatlantic Alignment: A Strategic Path to Western Balkans Security”

Panelists:

- Prof. Klaus W. Larres, Distinguished Professor, UNC-Chapel Hill

- Christian Forstner, Executive Director, Hanns Seidel Foundation
- Valbona Zeneli, PhD, Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council
- Alenka Antloga, Information Commissioner of the Republic of Slovenia

Moderator: Tine Kračun, Director of the Institute for Strategic Solutions (ISR), Slovenia

19:00 Grand Opening Ceremony / Sarajevo City Hall

- Welcome address by Dr. Azeem Ibrahim, NewLines Institute
- Address by Dame Karen Pierce, UK Special Representative to Western Balkans
- General Edin Fako, Inspector General, Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina

20:00 - 23:00 VIP Dinner (Closed door) & Cocktail reception

Day 2 / Sept 5, 2026

Venue: Army Hall (Dom Armije) / Main Hall

09:00 - 10:00

- Welcome Speech by Minister of Defense Zukan Helez
- Address by DSACUER ACM Sir John Stringer (TBC)
- Address by Vice Admiral Gianfranco ANNUNZIATA, Senior Strategic Advisor to the Italian Chief of Defense
- Commander Surface Forces NATO/MARCOM Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Rear Admiral Jeroen van Zanten
- Brigadier General Víctor Bados Nieto, Director of Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies(IEEE)

Keynote address by prof. Charles Kupchan, Georgetown University & Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)

10:00 - 11:30

Panel I: The state of transatlantic relations

- Katja Lindskov Jacobsen, University of Copenhagen
- Brigadier General (ret.) Jakob Henius, Royal Danish Defence College
- Prof. Robert Person, The United States Military Academy at West Point
- Matthew Salvetti, former National Intelligence Officer for Europe, NIC

Moderator: Amanda Thorpe, Atlantic Council

11:30 - 12:00 Coffee break

Panel II

12:00 - 13:15

Panel 2: Europe's new security architecture

Keynote speech: Major General Sami Nurmi (Finnish Defense Forces)

Keynote speech: Øistein Knudsen, Chief of Civil Defence of Norway

- Arnold Kammel, Secretary General of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Defense
- Greta Cristini, journalist and geopolitical analyst
- Major General Karsten Stoye – Head of Civil-Military Cooperation, Eurocontrol
- Matthew Palmer, Shield AI & former State Department official

Moderator: Dr. Bojana Zoric, EUISS

13:15 - 14:00 Lunch break

Panel: 14:00 - 15:15 / Panel V: New Frontiers in intelligence gathering

Keynote address: Amy McFadden, Vice President, Arcanum Global / former National Intelligence Council (NIC)

- Christopher D. Booth, Reveal Technology, former CIA Senior Executive
- Ed Bogan, former CIA Senior Operations Officer
- Ioannis Koskinas, Hoplite Group
- Robbie McAnnally, Janes, former CIA Senior Executive

Moderator: JC Lintzenich, German Marshall Fund

15:15 - 15:30 Coffee break

15:30 - 16:30

"Cyber STRATCOM" panel *in partnership with DCAF*

- Mr. Matija Otašević, strategic communications expert
- Mr. Jussi Toivonen, strategic communications expert in the Prime Minister's Office of Finland and Head of the Cyber Strategic Communications Department at the Finnish Cyber Defense Agency
- Representative of the NATO StratCom COE (Center of Excellence) – name to be announced in the coming days

Moderator: Denisa Kurtagic, DCAF

16:45 - 18:00

Panel in partnership with Littoral Dynamics

- Fejzo Numanaj, Multilateral Affairs and International Security Expert (Former Deputy Head, Anti-Terrorism Issues at OSCE)
- LT COL Pawel Zdziarek, Polish SOF
- Mr. William Liffick, CEO of Littoral Dynamics
- Chair/Moderator: Dr. Peter Forster, Chief Academic Officer of Littoral Dynamics

16:30 - 18:00 Back-to-back Masterclass series

- “*Nuclear Deterrence: A Team Effort*”, by Lt Col. TRAVIS “Pred” HALLEMAN, USAF Chief, Nuclear Policy, HQ USAFE
- Book talk “*Air Warfare: An Introduction*” by Dr. Michael Kreuzer, Vice Deputy Director for Intelligence Strategy Plans and Policy (J25), The Joint Staff

- “High-Stakes Negotiations: A Psychiatrist's Perspective”, lecture by Dr. Kenneth Dekleva,

Army Hall “Room 36”

14:00 - 15:15

The Return of the 1990s? Bosnia and Herzegovina, Regional Leadership, and the Future of Peace

- Boris Tadić, Former President of Serbia.
- Ivo Josipović, Former President of Croatia.
- Borut Pahor, Former President of Slovenia.
- Ejup Ganić, Former Member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Moderator: Lejla Nuhanovic, German Marshall Fund

15:15 - 15:30 Break

15:00 - 15:30

Presentation on “***Defence readiness beyond the EU: How enlargement partners underpin European security***” by Dr. Bojana Zoric, Policy Analyst at European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS, Paris)

Commentary by: Major General Maurizio Fronda, EUFOR Commander

15:30 - 16:30

Panel: The Future of NATO and the Western Balkans

- Ambassador Kevin Hamilton, NATO SG Special Envoy
- Dan White, Ramapo College of New Jersey
- Giorgio Fruscione, Western Balkans Specialist, ISPI
- Barre Seguin, Director, George Marshall Center

Moderator: Vedrana Vujovic

16:30 - 17:30

“Creative Resilience: Lessons in geopolitical maneuvering from Europe’s eastern frontiers” in partnership with Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP)

17:00 - 19:00 Sarajevo Historic City Tour

19:00 - 22:00 Dinner

Sunday, Sept 6, 2026 / Army Hall / “Room 36”

09:00 - 12:00

The Iran War and Gulf Sovereign Wealth Fund Investment Strategies by Dr. Robert Mogielnicki, Arab Gulf States Institute

Panel “The Changing dynamics of the Middle East” in partnership with *Middle East Policy Council (MEPC)*

- TBC
- TBC
- TBC
- TBC

Army Hall / Main Stage	
09:00 - 11:00 Panel: Hybrid warfare and Grey Zone tactics	• Address by Maj. Gen. Matthew Van Wagenen, former DCOS, SHAPE • Presentation on “<i>The Not So Grey Zone: How Small and Medium Powers Can Exploit Adversaries’ Red Lines to Influence Behaviour</i>” by Davis Elisson & Hans Horan, by Hague Center for Security Studies (HCSS) • Lecture by Dave Pitts, former CIA Senior Executive, on “Grey Zone Tactics” • Lecture by Robert Rose, Modern War Institute at West Point
11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break	
11:30 - 13:00 Panel: How Democracies Can Counter Information Influences: Lessons from Ukraine in partnership with <i>Lviv Media Forum</i>	

Panelists:

- Olga Myrovysh, CEO of Lviv Media Forum
- Yuliia Dukach, Head of Disinformation Investigations at OpenMinds
- Nicolas del Pedro, Senior Fellow, IBEI

Moderator: Dr. Jasmin Mujanovic

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 - 15:15

Panel: **“Energy Security, AI, and Decarbonisation: How Energy Policy Will Shape Allied Capabilities”** in partnership with Bloomsbury Intelligence and Security Institute (BISI) and Euro-Gulf Information Centre (EGIC)

- Elisabetta Trenta, Former Defence Minister (Italy)
- Prof. Gianluca Duretto
- Dr. Abdulla Alabbasi, CEO at Derasat (Bahrain)

Army Hall / Main Stage

14:00 - 15:15

Panel: **“South Caucasus Between Two Fires: Regional Stability Amid the Russia–Ukraine War and Iran Crisis”** in partnership with Top Chubashov Center

Coffee break 15:15 - 15:30

16:00 - 16:30

Friday Sept 4
14:00 - 17:00

14:00 - 17:00

**Closed door VIP Discussion: “Making sense of the new world order”
INTRO TALK BY ILKER BABUROGLU**

Confirmed attendees:

Major General Duane R. Miller - Deputy Commanding General, Security Assistance Group-Ukraine

Vice Admiral Robert M. “Rob” Gaucher, Director, Submarine Programs, US Navy

Major General Maurizio Fronda, EUFOR commander Sarajevo

Boris Tadić – Former President of Serbia.

Barre Seguin, Director, George Marshall Center, Garmish-Partenkirchen

Ivo Josipović – Former President of Croatia.

Borut Pahor – Former President of Slovenia.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Johnny Stringer KCB CBE – Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (DSACEUR), SHAPE.

Brigadier General Víctor Bados Nieto, Director of the Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies(IEEE)

Major General Sami Nurmi – Director General of the Defense Policy Department, Finnish Ministry of Defence / Finnish Defence Forces.

Major General Matthew J. Van Wagenen – former Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), NATO.

Major General Karsten Stoye – Head of Civil-Military Cooperation, Eurocontrol

Brigadier General Edin Fako – Inspector General of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Dr. Arnold Kammel – Director General for Defense Policy, Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence.

Lieutenant Commander Eva Ara Montojo – Chief of the Defense Culture Section, Secretary General for Defence Policy

Colonel Arnel David – Strategist, NATO Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE).

Jason Galanes, NATO Parliamentary Assembly

Øistein Knudsen, National Civil Defence Commissioner and Chief of Civil Defence of Norway.

Katja Lindskov Jacobsen, Director, Center for Military Studies, University of Copenhagen

Col. Jan Krahman, SACEUR team, SHAPE

Col. Marc-Ulrich Cropp, Executive Officer to SOFAD, SHAPE

Brooks Newmark – Chairman, Trypillian.

Robert Seely – Head of Strategy, Trypillian.

Dr. Jim Rebesco – CEO, Striveworks.

Eric Clark – Vice President for Europe, Striveworks.

Luke Openshaw – Account Executive / Public Sector Defense, Amazon Web Services (AWS).

Edward Hunter Christie – Senior Partner, Hypersonica; former NATO Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Innovation.

Nick Fuller – Director of Sales / Global Government & Defense, Intellian Technologies.

Andrej Bastar – CEO, Brasidas Group AG.

Odd-Harald Hagen – Vice President of Defense and Security Market & Sales, Space Norway.

Chris Booth – Director of International Business Development, Reveal Technology.

Marcus Robert – Director of Operations, IoT Tribe.

Dr. Bojana Zoric, Policy Analyst, EUISS

Charles Kupchan, Georgetown University & Council for Foreign Relations

Amy McFadden – Former Vice Chair for Strategic Engagement at the National Intelligence Council (NIC) within the ODNI

LTC Marjorie Apruzzese, NATO Defense College

Matthew Salvetti – Former National Intelligence Officer (NIO) for Europe on the National Intelligence Council (NIC) at the ODNI

Ed Bogan – Former Senior CIA Senior Operations Officer, Chief of Station, and recipient of the National Intelligence Award.

Bernard Hudson – former CIA Chief of Counterterrorism.

Dr. Kenneth Dekleva – Senior Fellow, George H.W. Bush Foundation for U.S.-China Relations

Ben Connable – Executive Director, Battle Research Group.

Robert G. Rose – Senior Fellow, Modern War Institute at West Point; U.S. Army Officer.

Robert Hamilton, President, Delphi Global Research Center

Maia Otarashvili, Vice President, Delphi Global Research Center

Adam Savit – Director of the China Policy Initiative, America First Policy Institute (AFPI).

Felix Arteaga – Senior Fellow for Security and Defence, Elcano Royal Institute.

Kevin Hamilton – NATO Secretary General's Special Envoy

Dr. Robert Person – Professor of International Relations, U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Jakob Henius – Senior Lecturer and Researcher, Royal Danish Defence College.

Giorgio Fruscione – Western Balkans Specialist, ISPI

Greta Cristini – Geopolitical Analyst, Author, and Conflict Reporter.

Robert Mogielnicki - Senior Fellow, Arab Gulf States Institute

Massimo Esposito – Retired Admiral, Marina Militare

Dan White – Ramapo College of New Jersey

Davis Elisson – Geopolitical Risk and Intelligence Analyst, Hague Center for Strategic Studies