

Conference on European Defence

The challenge of our time

Tuesday 19th May 2026

Europe House
32 Smith Square
London SW1P 3EU

Organised by



Delegation of the European Union to
the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland



Eurodefense - UK

in partnership with



Programme

09:00 Registration

09:40 Welcoming remarks

Ambassador Pedro Serrano

Head of the EU Delegation to the United Kingdom

09:45 Keynote

Lord Coaker

Minister of State, Ministry of Defence

10:15 ***The Threats***

Dr Ruth Deyermond

Senior Lecturer in Post-Soviet Security, Department of War Studies, King's College London

Edward Lucas

Non-resident Senior Fellow at the Center for European Policy Analysis

Jack Lopresti

UK Desk Officer, National Guard of Ukraine, former Member of Parliament 2010-24

In conversation with

Ian Bond

Deputy Director, Centre for European Reform

11:15 Coffee Break

11:35 ***The Response***

Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman

Emeritus Professor of War Studies, Kings College, London

Rachel Ellehuus

Director General, Royal United Services Institute (RUSI)

Jason Alderwick

Director of Government Affairs, MBDA UK

In conversation with

General Jean Marc Vigilant

President, Eurodefense France and former Director, Ecole de Guerre

12:35 Keynote

Rear Admiral Ignacio Cuartero Lorenzo

Director of Concepts and Capabilities of the EU Military Staff

13.00 NETWORKING LUNCH

Conference Chairman: **Robert Walter** *President, Eurodefense UK*