



DELPHI GLOBAL RESEARCH CENTER



SCHOOL of INTERNATIONAL SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF PEACE, HUMAN RIGHTS & CULTURAL RELATIONS



Frontline Europe: Ukraine, Russia, and the Future of NATO

Event Date: April 22, 2026, 9 am - 5 pm

Location: American University, School of International Service,
Spring Valley Building (SVB) 602, 4801 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, DC

[Register Here](#)

Event Description:

Russia's war against Ukraine has accelerated a broader shift in the Euro-Atlantic security environment - one defined by sustained high-intensity conflict on Europe's borders, rising risks of escalation, and an increasingly contested strategic order. At the same time, Moscow's pressure campaign extends well beyond the battlefield through cyber operations, disinformation, sabotage, coercive energy and economic tools, and efforts to weaken democratic cohesion and alliance unity. For the United States, Europe, and NATO, the central challenge is no longer episodic crisis management, but maintaining credible deterrence and long-term staying power amid competing global priorities, political constraints, and finite defense-industrial capacity.

This conference will focus on translating strategic urgency and seek practical answers: how to sustain meaningful support for Ukraine while defining realistic objectives and pathways toward a durable peace; how to blunt hybrid threats below the threshold of war and harden societal and infrastructure resilience; how US foreign policy choices shape transatlantic burden-sharing and strategic coherence; and how NATO must adapt its posture, readiness, and decision-making for a more dangerous decade. A core emphasis is rearmament and the transatlantic defense industrial base—procurement reform, production scale, interoperability, and supply-chain resilience—because deterrence ultimately rests on the ability to generate capabilities at speed and sustain them over time.

Conference Agenda

8:30 am - Registration and Coffee

9 am - Welcoming Remarks

9:15 am - 10:30 am

Panel 1. Russia's War in Ukraine: Battlefield Realities, Negotiation Pathways, and Allied Strategy

This panel assesses where the war is heading militarily and what that implies for diplomacy, alliance unity, and long-term European security. Speakers will examine the operational balance on the ground, Ukraine's force generation and sustainment, Russia's capacity to adapt, and the implications of Western support—air defense, munitions, training, and intelligence. The discussion will also address plausible pathways toward a durable settlement, the risks of escalation and war fatigue, and what "success" should mean for Ukraine and the transatlantic community.

Speakers:

- Valdas Rakutis, Member, Seimas, Lithuania
- Iryna Gerashchenko, Member of the Committee for International Cooperation, Supreme Council, Ukraine
- Robert Hamilton, Delphi Global Research Center
- Luke Coffey, Hudson Institute

Moderator: Jakub Romaniuk, Delphi Global Research Center

10:30 am - 10:45 am - Coffee Break

10:45 am - 12:00 pm

Panel 2. View from Washington: US Strategy for Europe, Russia, and the Global Order

This panel explores how US global priorities—China, the Middle East, defense budgets, domestic polarization, and alliance burden-sharing—shape America's posture toward Europe and Ukraine. Speakers will discuss the continuity and change in bipartisan thinking on NATO, what the United States expects from European partners, and how to maintain credible deterrence while managing finite resources. The conversation will also examine the policy tools Washington is likely to emphasize—security assistance, sanctions, industrial policy, diplomacy—and what a sustainable transatlantic strategy looks like over the next five to ten years.

Speakers:

- George Gima, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Chamber of Deputies, Romania
- Szymon Szykowski vel Sęk, Vice-Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for the European Union Affairs, Sejm, Poland
- Garret Martin, American University
- Danica Starks, Delphi Global Research Center

Moderator: David Armitage, American University

12:00 pm - 12:45 pm - Lunch Break

Event Partners: Delphi Global Research Center. Foundation Institute for Eastern Studies, Poland. American University, School of International Service

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12:45 pm - 1:30 pm - Keynote Speech - Ambassador John F. Tefft

1:30 pm - 2:45 pm

Panel 3. Future of NATO: From Assurance to Warfighting Readiness

NATO is adapting to a more dangerous security environment—shifting from assurance measures to forward defense, reinforcement at speed, and credible warfighting plans. This panel will examine NATO’s evolving force posture, command and control, regional plans, and the role of the Eastern Flank in alliance strategy. Panelists will address readiness shortfalls, stockpiles and logistics, air and missile defense, and how to integrate new members, partners, and emerging domains such as cyber and space. A core focus will be the political dimension: sustaining cohesion, credible signaling, and decision-making under pressure.

Speakers:

- István Gyarmati, Secretary General of Hungária Atlantic Council, President of International Centre for Development and Democratic Transition, Hungary
- Adam Gomoła, Member, Sejm, Poland
- Colonel Steve Trynosky, US Army War College and The George Washington University

Moderator: Anthony Wanis-St. John, American University, Delphi Global Research Center

2:45 pm - 3:00 pm Coffee Break

3:00 pm - 4:15 pm

Panel 4. Below the Threshold of War: Countering Russian Hybrid Warfare

Russia’s campaign extends beyond the battlefield—targeting democratic cohesion, critical infrastructure, supply chains, and public trust. This panel maps the evolving hybrid toolkit: cyber operations, influence campaigns, election interference, weaponized corruption, energy and migration pressure, and sabotage or “gray-zone” disruption. Panelists will compare lessons across the Eastern Flank and the wider transatlantic space, identify gaps in deterrence and attribution, and propose practical steps for resilience—public-private coordination, counter-disinformation capacity, infrastructure protection, and rapid-response mechanisms among allies.

Speakers:

- Radu Burduja, Executive Director, Euro-Atlantic Institute for Building Resilience, former Representative to NATO and the EU, Republic of Moldova
- Katarína Klingová, Research Lead, Centre for Democracy & Resilience, GLOBSEC, Slovakia
- Vadym Chernysh, Head of the Governing Council, Center for Security Studies CENSS, former Minister of Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs, Ukraine
- Lieutenant Colonel (Germany) Ralph Peter, NATO Allied Command Transformation and The George Washington University

Moderator: Luis Navarro, Delphi Global Research Center

4:15 pm - 5:00 pm

Interview: Rearming Europe: Scaling the Transatlantic Defense Industrial Base

Deterrence is only as credible as the industrial capacity behind it. This panel focuses on the practical challenge of rebuilding and expanding the transatlantic defense industrial base—munitions, air defense, armored systems, drones, maintenance, and surge capacity. Speakers will discuss procurement reform, joint purchasing, standardization and interoperability, financing tools, and the balance between national industrial strategies and alliance-wide needs. The panel will also consider supply chain dependencies, workforce constraints, export controls, and how US–EU–UK–Poland cooperation can accelerate delivery timelines while strengthening long-term resilience.

Speakers:

- Robert Woźniak, Military University of Technology, Poland

Moderator: Batu Kutelia, Delphi Global Research Center

Event Partners: Delphi Global Research Center. Foundation Institute for Eastern Studies, Poland. American University, School of International Service

