

## Agenda

### ELIAMEP-NATO Youth Symposium: Why Defense Matters

Monday, 8 December 2025

9:30 – 10:00	Welcome with coffee
10:00 – 11:30 <i>Sophia Hall</i>	<p><b>Panel I: Culture, political communication and strategy</b></p> <p><b>Angeliki Alexopoulou, Independent Researcher &amp; Trainer</b> <i>Towards a more effective European Global Strategy: Insights from an interculturalist perspective</i></p> <p><b>Aleksandre Buzaladze, Security, Policy and Nationalism Research Centre, University of Georgia - <i>online</i></b> <i>Digital Authoritarianism and NATO's Security Agenda: Implications for the Eastern Flank</i></p> <p><b>Dr. Elli Papazoi, Expert, Heritage Crime Task Force, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Vienna</b> <i>Cultural Diplomacy as a Soft Power Tool in NATO's Southeastern Flank: Practices and New Approaches</i></p> <p><b>Theodosis Pipis, staff, European Parliament and SCPS (Sustainable Cooperation for Peace and Security) - <i>online</i></b> <i>AI in the Democratic Sphere</i></p> <p><i>Moderation: Niko Efstathiou, journalist, author, and public speaker; Editor-in-Chief, Wired Greece</i></p>
10:00 – 11:30 <i>Marianthi Hall</i>	<p><b>Panel II: NATO in the new Era</b></p> <p><b>Konstantinos Christopoulos, University of Groningen</b> <i>NATO's space deterrence in the dual-use technology era</i></p> <p><b>Lamprini Bikou, PhD Candidate, Politics and International Relations, University of Reading</b> <i>Drone Walls and Borders: Sensorial Deterrence on NATO's South-Eastern Flank</i></p> <p><b>Vassilis Nanis, Journalist, To Vima</b> <i>The necessity for a new NATO communication strategy in social media and the public sphere</i></p> <p><b>Miltiades Lapatsanis, PhD Candidate, University of Macedonia; ESDC &amp; Bodossakis Fellow</b> <i>From Soft Power to Smart Power?: European Defence Readiness 2030 and NATO</i></p> <p><b>Alex Saltout, PhD Candidate, University of Limassol - <i>online</i></b> <i>Strengthening Air Defense in NATO's Southeastern Flank: Challenges and Prospects</i></p>

**Theodor Skarvelis, MA Graduate of University of Groningen; Research fellow at the Institute of International Economic Relations (IIER)**  
*Strategic Connectivity and Security: The Three Seas Initiative and NATO's Southeastern Flank*

Moderation: *Elena Lazarou, Director General, ELIAMEP*

**11:30 – 12:00**

**Coffee Break**

**12:00 – 13:30**  
*Sophia Hall*

**Panel III: Emerging Threats**

**Ignatios Ntaras, Project Coordinator**

*Countering Emerging Threats: From Hybrid Warfare to New Technological Transformations*

**Efthymios Staikos, Postgraduate Student, Global Governance & Security, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens**

*Countering Russia's Hybrid Playbook: NATO's Doctrinal Evolution, Gaps, and Policy Responses*

**Eva Xevgeni, Legal practitioner, journalist**

*"It's not war, but it's no longer peace": The hybrid threat on Europe's doorstep and the activation of Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty*

Moderation: *Vassilis Nedos, diplomatic and defense editor; journalist and columnist, "KATHIMERINI"*

**12:00 – 13:30**  
*Marianthi Hall*

**Panel IV: Energy and Supply Chains**

**Afroditi Gkortsou, Political Scientist and Security Analyst, MSc in Global Governance and Security, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens**

*EU Energy Independence from Russia: Possibility or Illusion? The Case of the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline*

**Antonia Koumpoti, PhD Candidate, Department of Agribusiness and Supply Chain Management, Agricultural University of Athens - *online***

*Securing Europe's Future: EU Law and Policy Responses to Supply Chain Vulnerabilities in Times of Geopolitical Crisis*

**Eleni Siapikoudi, PhD Candidate, Energy Transition, Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia**

*Navigating Dependences: EU Energy Security, China's Green Technologies, and the Russian Challenge*

**Maria Elisavet (Mariliza) Siotou, Political Scientist, MSc in Global Governance and Security, International Security Analyst, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens**

*Reshaping European Energy Geopolitics: The EU- Russia Decoupling in times of Crisis*



	<p><i>Moderation: George Tzogopoulos, Senior Research Fellow, ELIAMEP; expert in media and international relations</i></p>
<p><b>13:30 – 14:30</b></p>	<p><b>Light lunch</b></p>
<p><b>14:30 – 16:00</b> <i>Sophia Hall</i></p>	<p><b>Panel V: Challenges in Asia</b></p> <p><b>Athina Gogodoni, University of Aegean</b> <i>Chinese Economic Influence in Southeastern Europe: Challenges for NATO and EU Cohesion</i></p> <p><b>Vasilis Petropoulos, Junior Research Fellow ELIAMEP, Security and Foreign Policy</b> <i>EU in the Indo-Pacific: Weathering Rough Waters</i></p> <p><b>Efthymia (Fay) Thanopoulou, MSc in Global Governance and Security, NKUA &amp; MSc in International Relations, LSE</b> <i>Coercive Negotiation: Theoretical Model and Application in the Case of Donald Trump's Strategy towards China</i></p> <p><b>Dimitris Tsaknis, Responsible for Academic Affairs, European Law and Governance School (ELGS) Rome Office (European Public Law Organization - EPLO)</b> <i>A Message from Shanghai to the West</i></p> <p><i>Moderation: Stefanos Gandolfo, Research Associate, ELIAMEP; Director, Columbia Global Center in Athens</i></p>
<p><b>14:30 – 16:00</b> <i>Marianthi Hall</i></p>	<p><b>Panel VI: Transatlantic relations, security and the digital realm</b></p> <p><b>Charikleia Thomopoulou, Assistant Research Supervisor, IDIS</b> <i>Cognitive Warfare Dynamics: Understanding the Influence of Non-State Actors in NATO's Information Environment</i></p> <p><b>Dr. George Marias, Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Turkish Studies and Modern Asian Studies, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens</b> <i>From 2006 Riga NATO Summit to The Hague 2025 NATO Summit: Challenges and Opportunities for EU member states</i></p> <p><b>Veroniki Sinou, Co-Founder, Youth Group, Equality Youth</b> <i>Transatlantic coordination in the Digital Age: US - EU E-diplomacy responses to crises in the Eastern Mediterranean.</i></p> <p><b>Maria Theodorou, Independent Researcher - <i>online</i></b> Strategic Communication in times of conflict; A comparative view of NATO and EU on the Middle East and Russo-Ukrainian wars</p> <p><i>Moderation: Ino Afentouli, Executive Director, Institute of International Relations (IDIS)</i></p>

**Tuesday, 9 December 2025**

<p><b>10:00 – 11:30</b> <i>Sophia Hall</i></p>	<p><b>Panel I: Western Balkans and Turkey</b></p> <p><b>Evangelia Akritidou, Senior Researcher, Research Institute for European and American Studies (RIEAS)</b> <i>Guarding Europe’s Vulnerable Core: NATO’s Evolving Role in the Balkans</i></p> <p><b>Giulia Kakavas, PhD Student, Law and Religion, National Doctorate in Religious Studies (DREST), University of Modena and Reggio Emilia</b> <i>Fault lines under strain: Greece-Turkey conflicts and NATO cohesion on the South-Eastern flank</i></p> <p><b>Georgios Alatsidis, MA graduate, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki - <i>online</i></b> <i>EU’s and NATO’s Public Diplomacy in Western Balkans after February 2022</i></p> <p><b>Charilaos Rapis, Founding Member, Synergia Institute for Public Policy, Foreign Policy &amp; Security Team</b> <i>U.S. Post–Cold War Foreign Policy in the Western Balkans: Continuity and Change</i></p> <p><b>Eva Zimianiti, University of Cambridge Graduate (BA &amp; MPhil)</b> <i>Turkey in Europe’s Defence and Security Architecture: Win-Win Strategy or Strategic Risk?</i></p> <p><b>Alexandros Zyka, MSc holder on International and European Studies, University of Piraeus</b> <i>The influence of revisionist powers in the Balkans: the cases of the Russian Federation and Turkey</i></p> <p><i>Moderation: Eleni Stamatoukou, journalist, Greece Correspondent, Balkan Investigative Reporting Network</i></p>
<p><b>10:00 – 11:30</b> <i>Marianthi Hall</i></p>	<p><b>Panel II: Climate Change, Extreme Phenomena and Security</b></p> <p><b>Emmanouel Daskalakis, Officer, Hellenic Fire Service; PhD Candidate, Hellenic Army Academy</b> <i>Earthquake as a Trigger for the Activation of Asymmetric Threats in Greece</i></p> <p><b>Alexandra Evangelopoulou, School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), Columbia University</b> <i>Climate change amplified conflict: state fragility in a suffocating world, and the European Union’s responsiveness</i></p> <p><b>Athina Fatsea, PhD C., Ionian University, A.G. Leventis Scholar; Research Assistant to the Director General, ELIAMEP</b> <i>Climate Security in the Mediterranean: A Strategic Challenge for Europe</i></p> <p><i>Moderation: Othon Kaminiaris, Research Fellow, ELIAMEP; expert in climate policy and sustainability</i></p>

<p><b>11:30 – 12:00</b></p>	<p><b>Coffee Break</b></p>
<p><b>12:00 – 13:30</b> <i>Sophia Hall</i></p>	<p><b>Panel III: Strategic Autonomy and Defense</b>  <b>Agathe Delorme, International Cooperation Officer, Fondation Méditerranéenne d'Études Stratégiques (FMES), France - <i>online</i></b>  <i>The European defense: the true emancipation of the European Union or a reconfiguration of its legal and geopolitical dependencies?</i></p> <p><b>George Lappas, Control Risks, School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute</b>  <i>Adapting, not emulating: Creating an enhanced European Defence Innovation ecosystem by examining the US model</i></p> <p><b>Zorzina Georganta, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens</b>  <i>From Reliance to Resilience: Time for Europe's Strategic Autonomy</i></p> <p><b>David Cardero Ozarin, Senior Geopolitical Analyst, Istituto Analisi Relazioni Internazionali (IARI) Spain/Italy - <i>online</i></b>  <i>The Three Foundational Flaws that Hinder the Creation of a European Army</i></p> <p><b>Panagiota Pagoni, Personal Assistant, Professor Nikiforos Diamandouros; Research internship, European Programme, ELIAMEP (September 2025)</b>  <i>Can the Weimar Triangle Re-Emerge as a Pillar of European Security?</i></p> <p><i>Moderation: Foteini Asderaki, Professor, Department of International and European Studies, University of Piraeus</i></p>
<p><b>13:30 – 14:30</b></p>	<p><b>Light lunch</b></p>
<p><b>14:30 – 16:00</b> <i>Sophia Hall</i></p>	<p><b>Panel IV: Middle East and Aspects of the Palestinian Question</b>  <b>Zoi Angelakopoulou, Researcher, MA in International Security, SciencesPo - Paris School of International Affairs - <i>online</i></b>  <i>NATO and Its South: The Challenges the Allies Cannot Afford to Ignore</i></p> <p><b>Ioanna Kalli, Political Scientist, MSc - <i>online</i></b>  <i>Framing and Foreign Policy Legitimacy - Greece's Communication Strategy on the Israeli-Gaza Conflict</i></p> <p><b>Elena Miltiadakou, MA Governance, Development and Security in the Mediterranean</b>  <i>The relation of religion and politics in the Israeli-palestinian dispute</i></p> <p><b>Dimitris Theologidis, Journalist; MSc International Relations and Strategic Studies, Panteion Univeristy - <i>online</i></b>  <i>Greek-Israeli Relations and the Stance of Greek Media on the Gaza War</i></p> <p><i>Moderation: George Tzogopoulos, Senior Research Fellow, ELIAMEP; expert in media and international relations</i></p>

**14:30 – 16:00**  
*Marianthi Hall*

**Panel V: New Warfare**

**Dimitris Marampeas, Postgraduate student, International and European Affairs, University of Piraeus; Junior researcher, IDIS; Second lieutenant, Greek Army Reserves; Intern, Department of International and Public Affairs, Hellenic Parliament**  
*Private Military Companies in International Relations: Continuities, Risks, and Strategic Challenges*

**Polytimi Mimigianni, LLM, Public International Law from the University of London**  
*Autonomous weapons systems as a new means of warfare conduct*

**Lambros Moutso, Capability Management Staff Officer, ACT NATO**  
*Disruptive Underwater Unmanned Vehicles (UUVs) in the Future Fleet.*

**Kimon Stylianos Skiadas, MA in Intelligence and Security, Brunel University London**  
*AI as a Strategic Force Multiplier: Redefining Intelligence and Security in Contemporary Warfare*

**George Tzanis, Research Associate at Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH)**  
*Artificial Intelligence as a new key element of power*

**Evangelos Michalis, Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs, Leiden University, Netherlands**  
*European Union's quest for strategic autonomy in defence*

*Moderation: John Psaropoulos, Senior Policy Advisor, ELIAMEP; Foreign Correspondent, Al Jazeera English*