

29. September

Symposium

Europe's security can no longer be understood primarily in military terms. Geopolitical rivalry, shifting global alliances, technological dependencies and growing threats to critical infrastructure are fundamentally changing the conditions under which states can safeguard their sovereignty and capacity to act.

Comprehensive security therefore requires a broader perspective: one that connects defence and diplomacy with economic and technological resilience, the protection of critical infrastructure, the strength of democratic institutions, and the ability to shape rather than merely respond to global change.

Marking the fifth anniversary of the Academy of International Affairs NRW, the symposium brings together leading voices from politics, academia and key sectors of industry to examine the choices Europe now faces. Across three high-level panels, discussions will address the future of global governance, new forms of public-private cooperation in protecting critical infrastructure, and the role of science and technology in strengthening Europe's strategic autonomy.

The symposium will conclude with a European perspective on comprehensive security in an age of geopolitical change. An evening reception will mark the Academy's fifth anniversary.

Venue: Grandhotel Steigenberger Petersberg, 53639 Königswinter

Time: 09.30 – 18.00

Event language: English

Programme:

9.00 Arrival of participants

9.30 – 9.45 **Opening and Welcome Remarks**
Dr. Mayssoun Zein Al Din, Director Academy of International Affairs
Guido Déus, Lord Mayor of the City of Bonn

9.45 – 10.00 **Keynote**
Matthias Hauer, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of Research, Technology and Space

10.00 – 11.30 **Panel I: Minilateralism/Multilateralism – or what will be the future of global governance?**

Prof. Dr. Volker Perthes, SWP
Dr. Norbert Röttgen MdB
Prof. Dr. Robert Spano, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

11.30 – 12.00	Coffee Break
12.00 – 13.30	Panel II: Protecting Critical Infrastructure – New Public-Private Partnerships Axel Petri, Deutsche Telekom AG Prof. Dr. Jürgen Stock, former Secretary General of Interpol and Deputy President of the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) Dr. Moritz Weiß, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
13.30 – 15.00	Lunch Break
15.00 – 16.30	Panel III: Science, Technology, and Europe's Strategic Autonomy Prof. Dr. Anna-Katharina Hornidge, German Institute of Development and Sustainability, IDOS Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Michael Hoch, University of Bonn
16.30 – 17.15	Closing Address A European Perspective: Comprehensive Security in an Age of Geopolitical Change Nathanael Liminski, Minister for Federal, European and International Affairs and Media of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia Dr. Mayssoun Zein Al Din, Director Academy of International Affairs
18.00	Reception Anniversary Address Power, Responsibility and Europe's Role in the World Armin Laschet MdB, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the German Bundestag