



INVITATION TO PANEL

How can the EU find new ways to engage in security and defence cooperation with associated Eastern Partnership countries?

Since Russia's invasion of Georgia in 2008, Russia has been employing an increasingly aggressive strategy against its post-Soviet neighbours, including the use of hybrid warfare. Russia's aggression culminated with the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Russia's war in Ukraine has led to the geopoliticization of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) and created new momentum for cooperation of associated Eastern Partnership countries in the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), European Union agencies and security and defence mechanisms. For the EU, becoming a holistic security provider in the EaP region is essential to achieving European strategic autonomy and pushing back against Russian influence.

In this context we will discuss the future cooperation of the European Union with Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine in security and defence, and to what extent Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine constitutes a wake-up call for European defence. What are obstacles to cooperation? And in which areas should more progress be achieved? Amongst the topics of interests will be the CSDP, cyber security, disinformation, and the EU's role in conflict settlement in the region.

Vocal Europe invites you to an online webinar on **Thursday 15th of December 2022** to discuss the key challenges and as well as opportunities vis-a-vis the future of the cooperation of European Partnership countries with the EU in defence and security, with a particular focus on the Associated Trio (Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine).

We would be delighted if you were to accept this invitation and look forward to hearing from you shortly. We remain at your disposal for any further information.

Please confirm your attendance by replying to this email.

Time: 15th December 2022, 10:00 – 11:30 CET

Venue: Zoom

The Program

- 10h00 **Introduction**
Caroline Herlin, Vocal Europe (Moderator)
- 10h10 **Input statements**
Eduard Auer, Head of Division EURCA.1 (Eastern Partnership regional, regional programmes, OSCE) at the European External Action Service (EEAS)
- 10h30 **First Q&A Session**
- 10h35 **Expert Perspectives**

Dr. Vadim Pistrinciu, Founder of the Institute for Strategic Initiatives (IPIS) of Moldova

Dr. Gustav Gressel, Senior policy fellow with the Wider Europe Programme at the European Council on Foreign Relations' Berlin office

Dr. Susan Stewart, Senior Fellow at German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)
- 11h10 **Second Q&A Session**
- 11h25 **Concluding Remarks**
Caroline Herlin, Vocal Europe (Moderator)
- 11h30 **End of the Panel**