BLACK SEA
SECURITY
FORUM

END GAME

Black Sea Security Forum 2026

May 28–31, 2026 | Agenda

Main Program

May 29, 2026 (Friday)

10:00–11:00 *Opera House*

Welcome coffee, registration & media accreditation

11:00–11:25 *Opera Stage*

Opening of the Black Sea Security Forum

Oleksii Goncharenko, MP, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Chairman of the Black Sea Security Forum

Gen. Serhii Lysak, Head of Odesa City Military Administration

Dr. Ihor Koval, Mayor of Odesa a.i.

Oleg Kiper, Head of Odesa Region Military Administration

11:25–11:30 *Opera Stage*

Spotlight: Keynote Address

Andrius Kubilius,
EU Commissioner for Defence and Space

11:30–12:10 *Opera Stage*

Spotlight: Keynote Conversation

Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, Chairwoman of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e. V., Federal Minister of Defence (ret.), Minister-President (ret.), Chairwoman of the CDU of Germany (ret.)

Moderated by **Dr. Hanna Shelest**, Security Studies Program Director, Foreign Policy Council "Ukrainian Prism"

12:10–12:30 *Opera Stage*

Spotlight: Ukraine, Russia and the battle for public opinion

Lord Ashcroft KCMG PC

12:30–13:00

Coffee Break

13:00–14:10 *Opera Stage*

From Pawn to Queen: What Defines a Great Power? FORCE

First rule of the fight club: how not to get yourself beaten up during WWIII?

Scene-setting remarks: **Senator Mark Kelly**, U.S. Senator

Adm. Oleksii Neizhpapa, Commander of the Naval Forces of Ukraine

Andriy Yusov, Representative of the Defence Intelligence of Ukraine for Strategic Communications Representative of the Armed Forces of Ukraine

Wrap-up remarks: **Gen. Valerii Zaluzhnyi**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the UK, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Member of the National Defence and Security Council of Ukraine (2021–2024)

Moderated by **Dr Robert Seely MBE**, Head of Strategy, Trypillian

13:00–14:10 *Duke Stage* *in partnership with Hudson Institute*

The Dictator's Dilemma: Deconstructing Autocratic Resilience and the Path to Democratic Openings

How to become a Dictator? Tips & Tricks

Valentyn Nalyvaichenko, MP, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 13th Head of Security Service of Ukraine

Filip Noubel, Central Europe Correspondent, The Battleground media

Dr Kori Schake, Senior Fellow, American Enterprise Institute

Iuliia Iatsyk, MP, Chairperson of the Sub-committee on Criminal Procedure Law and Police, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Moderated by **Luke Coffey**, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute

The program is subject to change.
For the most up-to-date information,
please, check out Eventee Forum App

14:10–15:20 *Opera Stage*

From Pawn to Queen: What Defines a Great Power? ECONOMY

How to live a happy life,
when oil costs $90 per barrel?

Scene-setting: **Rep. Tim Walberg**, Chair of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, U.S. House of Representatives

Michael Gahler, MEP, EP Committee on Foreign Affairs' Standing Rapporteur on Ukraine

Dmytro Razumkov, MP, 14th Chair of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Dalibor Rohac, Senior Fellow, American Enterprise Institute

Brooks Newmark, Chairman and Co-Founder of Trypillian

Moderated by **Mykola Davydiuk**, political scientist

14:10–15:20 *Duke Stage* *in partnership with Independence Avenue Media*

What if Russia wins? Modeling the "Worst-Case" Scenario to Prevent its Reality

~~Goodbye~~ Hello, Lenin

Dr. Hanna Maliar, Deputy Minister of Defense of Ukraine (2021–2023)

Oleksii Antypovych, CEO & Founder Rating Group

Ruth Harris, Executive Director, National Security and Data Science at RAND Europe

Lesia Zaburanna, MP, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Ihor Gryniv, Advisor to the 5th President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko

Moderated by **Ia Meurmishvili**, Editor-in-Chief, Independence Avenue Media

15:20–15:30 *Opera Stage*

Spotlight: Keynote Address

Pastor Mark Burns, Spiritual Advisor to President Donald J. Trump

---

15:30–16:00 **Coffee Break**

16:00–17:10 *Opera Stage*

From Pawn to Queen: What Defines a Great Power? RESOLVE

Statesplanning: how to master political decisiveness?

Scene-setting: **Sen. Richard Blumenthal**, U.S. Senate

Rep. Jim Himes, U.S. House of Representatives, Ranking Member of the House Intelligence Committee

Davyd Arakhamia, Leader of the "Servant of the People" Faction, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Member of Ukraine's negotiation team

Col. Roman Kostenko, MP, Secretary of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Committee on National Security, Defence, and Intelligence

Ariel Bulstein, International Secretary of Likud

Moderated by **Luke Coffey**, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute

---

17:10–18:00 *Opera Stage*

Spotlight: Keynote Conversation

Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg, United States Special Envoy for Ukraine (2025)

Moderated by **Oleksii Goncharenko**, MP, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Chairman of the Forum

---

18:00–18:30 *Opera Stage*

Spotlight: Keynote Conversation

H.E. Salome Zourabichvili, 5th President of Georgia

Moderated by **Kira Rudik**, MP, Leader of "Golos" Party, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Advisory Board of Black Sea Security Forum

---

18:45–19:30 *Opera Stage* **Symphony orchestra concert**

19:30–22:00 *Palais Royal — Opera House Backyard* **Welcome reception by Chris Fussner**

END GAME?

May 30, 2026 (Saturday)

10:00–10:40 *Opera Stage*

Spotlight: Keynote Conversation

Secret Guest

*Moderated by **Vasyl Pekhno**, Host, Radio NV*

10:40–11:50 *Opera Stage*

From Pawn to Queen: What Defines a Great Power? REGION

How I learnt not to fall out but fall in love with my neighbors?

H.E. Petro Poroshenko, 5th President of Ukraine

Amb. Kurt Volker, Distinguished Fellow, CEPA

Helmut Brandstätter, MEP, Vice-Chair, Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee, a rapporteur for the Black Sea in Renew group

Lord Richards,Chief of the Defence Staff, the professional head of the UK Armed Forces (2010-2013)

*Moderated by **Peter Dickinson**, Editor, Atlantic Council UkraineAlert*

10:40–11:50 *Duke Stage* *in partnership with American Enterprise Institute*

Inside the Hill: How Washington's Internal Battles Shape the Black Sea Chessboard

What will Trump write on TruthSocial tomorrow?

Robert Doar, President, American Enterprise Institute

Sen. Mark Kelly, US Senator

Rep. Tim Walberg, U.S. House of Representatives, Chairman of the Committee on Education and Workforce

Yaroslav Zheleznyak, MP, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Moderated by **Kim Hjelmgaard**, USA Today

11:50–12:30 *Opera Stage*

Spotlight: Keynote Conversation

Simon Shuster, Staff Writer, The Atlantic

Roman Romaniuk, Political columnist for Ukrainska Pravda, podcaster, writer

Moderated by **Mykola Davydiuk**, political scientist

12:30–13:30 **Lunch**

13:30–14:15 *Opera Stage*

Spotlight: War in Front: Reality Check

Col. Sviatoslav Palamar, Deputy Commander of the First Corps Azov of the National Guard of Ukraine

Secret Guest

Moderated by **Vasyl Pekhno**, Journalist, Radio NV Presenter

---

14:15–14:50 *Opera Stage*

Spotlight: Keynote Conversation

Dr. Wladimir Klitschko, Ukrainian athlete, entrepreneur, academic, and philanthropist

Moderated by **Vadym Denysenko**, political analyst; Member of the Parliament of Ukraine (2014–2019)

13:30–14:50 *Duke Stage* *in partnership with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung*

Black Sea Maritime and Regional Security as a global Challenge: Views from Abroad

Scene-setting remarks: **Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer**, Chairwoman of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e. V., Federal Minister of Defence (ret.), Minister-President (ret.), Chairwoman of the CDU of Germany (ret.)

Marek Kohv, Head of Security & Resilience Programme, The International Centre for Defence & Security

Nico Lange, Founder and Director, IRIS

Wilfried Jilge, Expert on Ukraine and wider Black Sea region, Associate fellow at the Center for Order and Governance in Eastern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia at the German Council on Foreign Relations

Hanna Shelest, Security Studies Program Director, Foreign Policy Council "Ukrainian Prism"

Wrap-up remarks: **Michael Gahler**, MEP, EP Committee on Foreign Affairs' Standing Rapporteur on Ukraine

Moderated by **Florian C. Feyerabend**, Deputy Head of Department Europe/North America, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

14:50–16:00 *Opera Stage*

From Pawn to Queen: What Defines a Great Power? AI & TECHNOLOGIES

Scene-setting: **Max Novendstern**, Founder & CEO of Mana, Founder of Worldcoin

Oleksandr Bornyakov, Minister of Digital Transformation of Ukraine a.i.

Gil Dolev, CTO of Dream

Artem Starosiek, CEO of Molfar

Moderated by **Vladislav Davidzon**, Journalist and Writer

14:50–16:00 *Duke Stage* *in partnership with Atlantic Council — Eurasia Center*

America's 250th Anniversary: Global Leadership, Alliances, and the Black Sea Frontier *Why is the U.S. so cool?*

Scene-setting: **H.E. Ms. Julie Davis**, United States Chargé d'Affaires to Ukraine

Amb. John E. Herbst, Sr Director, Atlantic Council — Eurasia Center, U.S. Amb. to Ukraine (2003–2006)

Amb. Valerii Chalyi, Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States (2015–2019)

Vasyl Ostryi, Executive Pastor, Irpin Bible Church

Moderated by **Dr. Kari Odermann**, Visiting Fellow, CEPA

16:00–16:30 **Coffee Break**

16:30–17:30 *Opera Stage*

Spotlight: Keynote Conversation

Secret guest

Moderated by **Oleksii Goncharenko**, MP, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Chairman of the Black Sea Security Forum

17:30–18:00 *Opera Stage*

Closing of the Forum

Thomas Birringer, Head of Ukraine Office, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e. V.

Markus Wiechel, Vice-Chairman, Board of Directors, Hepatica Foundation, Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs in the Swedish Riksdag and Chairman of the Swedish, Delegation to the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE)

Oleksii Goncharenko, MP, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Chairman of the Black Sea Security Forum

19:00–22:00 *Buddha Stage*

Closing Reception

Special address from a distinguished guest
Sen. Ruben Gallego, U.S. Senate

Side Event Program

May 28, 2026 (Thursday)

17:00–18:30 *Duke Conference Hall, English Hall*

Faith as a Target: Russia's Hidden War in Ukraine

Side event by Ukraine Freedom Project

Pastor Burns, Spiritual Advisor to President Donald J. Trump

Moshe Reuven Azman, Chief Rabbi of Ukraine and Kyiv, Central Synagogue of Brodsky

Oleksandr Dymov, Head of the Odesa Regional Association of Evangelical Christian Baptist Churches, Bishop

Theodore Orobec, Secretary, Odesa Eparchy of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine

Moderated by **Steven Moore**, CEO, Ukraine Freedom Project

19:00–21:00 *Duke Conference Hall & Fitz Bar, Marine Hall*

Engineering Zugzwang: Leveraging Russian Assets for the Restitution of Ukraine's Private Sector

Side event by Feniks Alliance, with support from Helvetas and Baker Tilly

Petr Stransky, CEO, The Feniks Alliance

Alan Riley, Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council

Henry S. Ensher, Former U.S. Ambassador, U.S. Department of State

Hugh Meighen, International Arbitration, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (BLG)

Moderated by **Andrii Buzarov**, Political Risk Analyst, IDAP Global LLP

May 29, 2026 (Friday)

09:00-10:30 *Duke Conference Hall, Marine Hall*

War in the Minds: Russia's Cognitive and Information Warfare across Ukraine, Moldova, and Romania

Side event by Hanns Seidel Stiftung

Thomas Silberhorn, MdB, Member of the German Bundestag (CSU), spokesperson for the CDU/CSU in the Bundestag on transatlantic relations

Prof. Dr. Iulian Chifu, President, Centre for Conflict Prevention and Early Warning

Elena Mârzac, Chairwoman, Platform for Security and Defence Initiatives

Vira Konstantynova, Chairwoman, Center for Geopolitical Studies "Konstanta R&D Group," former Foreign Policy Adviser to the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Moderated by **Dmytro Zolotukhin**, Executive Director, Institute of Post-Information Society

---

09:00–10:30 *Londonska Hotel*

Navigating the Endgame: Economic Chokepoints and Military Trade-offs

Side event by RAND Europe

Nick Borton, Commander, NATO Rapid Reaction Corps (2021–2024); Senior Research Fellow, RAND Europe

Judith Huismans, Research Leader, Defence, Security & Justice, RAND Europe

Yevhen Mochalov, writer, author of the book "The First Energy War: The War Russia Lost Before the Invasion"

Moderated by **Ruth Harris**, Executive Director, National Security and Data Science at RAND Europe

The program is subject to change.
For the most up-to-date information,
please, check out Eventee Forum App

09:00–10:30 *Duke Conference (2nd floor), Randevu Meeting Room*

Side event by American Enterprise Institute (by invitation only)

New Opening: What Ukraine Can Teach America About Anti-Drone Defenses?

Dr. Kori Schake, Director of Foreign and Defense Policy Studies, American Enterprise Institute

Tamar Jacoby, Director of the New Ukraine Project, Progressive Policy Institute

André Loesekrug-Pietri, Chairman & Scientific Director, Joint European Disruptive Initiative (JEDI)

Moderated by **Dalibor Rohac**, Senior Fellow, American Enterprise Institute

May 30, 2026 (Saturday)

08:00–10:00 *"Union" International Cultural Center*

Side event by Odesa Strategy Development Council (by invitation only)

Black Sea Prayer Breakfast

May 31, 2026 (Sunday)

11:00–12:30 *Duke Conference Hall, English Hall*

Side event by VALOR Media Network

The Kherson Gambit — Civilians as Pawns: Ukraine's Heroic Defense Against Russian Drones along the "Highway of Death"

Denver Riggleman, Former Congressman (2019–2021), U.S. House of Representatives

Kenneth Harbaugh, Former U.S. Navy Pilot, U.S. Navy

Max Penko, Videographer of "Drone Hunters of Kherson"

Moderated by **Bohdan Nahaylo**, Editor-in-Chief, Kyiv Post

11:00–12:30 *Duke Conference Hall, Palais-Royal Meeting Room*

Side event by Lord Ashcroft KCMG PC

The Dogs of Mariupol: Book Presentation & Discussion

Thomas Mutch, War Correspondent and Author of the book "The Dogs of Mariupol"

Moderated by **Pierre Heilbronn**, Former Special Envoy of President Macron for Ukraine's relief and reconstruction, Chairman, Ukraine Culture Heritage Fund

---

All trips are subject to confirmation due to security reasons

- **Trips to the Frontline Communities**
- **Visits to the Odesa Sea Port**
- **Meeting with Local Volunteers**
- **Shabo Winery Visit**

END GAME?

Title Partners

KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG

Hepatica Foundation

Strategic Partners

Lord Ashcroft

TRYPILLIAN

Chris Fussner
IRI Board Member
IDU Assistant Chairman

Knowledge Partner

RAND EUROPE

Side Event Partner

Hanns Seidel Stiftung

Partners

GEFEST

InterChem

ODESA BUSINESS CLUB

BAP

UAC

VST bank

molfar | MOLFAR INTELLIGENCE

TIU Canada

UKRAINE FREEDOM PROJECT

superhumans Center

ЗЕВС

TENET

КРАЙНА

СІТІМЕД

TEUS

SINCE 1822 SHABO

Kostiantyn Sobol

SEA GATE LTD

Group ARICOL

FOUNDATION

Odrex

ULA

Institutional Partners

ODESA REGION A LAND THAT UNITES

AEI AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

Parliamentary Assembly Assemblée parlementaire

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Atlantic Council EURASIA CENTER

CEPA

IRI INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE

UKRAINIAN PRISM

IDU The Global Alliance of the Centre Right

Hudson Institute

AMERICAN PURPOSE

U.S. UKRAINE FOUNDATION

DELPHI GLOBAL

FPRI FOREIGN POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

NEW STRATEGY CENTER

Goncharenko centre

Media Partners

KYIV POST UKRAINE'S GLOBAL VOICE

INDEPENDENCE AVENUE MEDIA

TVP WORLD

GORDON

SLAVA

END GAME?

BLACK SEA SECURITY FORUM