

Six months of war in Ukraine: challenges and consequences for European security

Evening conference
15 September 2022
17:00 – 18:30

Dr Gustav C. GRESSEL (European Council on Foreign Relations, Berlin)
Dr Victoria VDOVYCHENKO (Kyiv Borys Grinchenko University, and KU Leuven)

Dear Madam, Sir,

We are pleased to invite you to an **evening conference** organised on **Thursday 15 September 2022** by the **Centre for Security and Defence Studies** of the Royal Higher Institute for Defence.

On 24 February, Europe saw the outbreak of the most destructive conflict on its continent since World War II, with the Russian Federation launching a mass assault against Ukraine. Since the beginning of the invasion, we have witnessed terrible and unprovoked aggression committed by a state against its neighbour and the unfolding of a humanitarian crisis. Ukraine's fierce resistance has surprised and inspired many, as has the strong EU-NATO unity against the actions of the Russian government. Yet, as the toll of the war between both nations increases, fears loom large that it could last for many more months and challenge security both in Europe and further afield for many years to come within the uncertain dynamics of a "new Cold War".

In all respects, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is a watershed moment with profound consequences, not only for the future of the 44-million-strong East European nation, but also for European security and the global order. From what we know about the purposes of the Russian leadership, the confrontation between Russia and the West is not merely about the future of Ukraine's security arrangements; it is about Europe's entire post-Cold War strategic framework. Among many unknowns regarding the trajectory and outcome of hostilities, it is certain that our continent is confronted with its worst security crisis since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

As Ukraine has been struggling with an all-out war for nearly six months, it is important to reflect upon and analyse the challenges and consequences for Ukraine, for Europe, and for the international security. How can this war be ended? What are the future prospects? What is the impact of Russia's war against Ukraine on Europe and its security in the long term? What can be done in order to support Ukraine on its rocky path towards lasting peace and security? What are the EU's political options towards Russia? Are we going back to a geopolitics of blocs?

In order to diversify our understanding of those crucial issues, we will be honoured to welcome Dr Gustav C. Gressel, senior policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations, and Dr Victoria Vdovychenko, associate professor at Kyiv Borys Grinchenko University and visiting fellow at the KU Leuven.

This conference will take place **in English** on **Thursday 15 September 2022 at 17.00 hours in the conference room at campus Renaissance** (entrance: **rue Hobbema 8/Hobbemastraat 8, 1000 Brussels**). A simultaneous interpretation in French and Dutch will be provided in the conference room. We thank you in advance for registering via the following link: www.defence-institute.be. **Registration by Monday 12 September 2022 at the latest is compulsory.**

(Signed)

Filip BORREMANS, MSc Eng
Air Force Colonel GS
Director-General
Royal Higher Institute for Defence

Programme:

16:30: Welcome
17:00: Conference and Q&A
18:30 – 19:30: Reception