



Industrie- und Handelskammer
Nürnberg für Mittelfranken

Call for Speakers |

Defence & Security –

Smart | Sovereign | Sustainable Europe



Deadline: January 23rd, 2026

We are excited to announce the *IPEC Defence & Security – Smart | Sovereign | Sustainable Europe* conference, which will take place online on **Tuesday, March 17th, 2026** from **09:00 – 13:00 CET** via **GotoWebinar**. This international event is designed to advance dialogue and collaboration in alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 7, 8, 9, 16, and 17, and **by bringing together leading experts, innovators, policymakers, and industry stakeholders** to discuss the most pressing challenges and opportunities in the defence and security sectors.

We are calling for expert speakers to contribute to the conference by presenting on the following key topics:

Key Topics:

- **Smart Technologies:** Cutting-edge innovations in defence technology and their strategic relevance for strengthening European sovereignty and security.
- **Critical Infrastructure:** Building resilience and safeguarding critical infrastructure in the face of increasingly sophisticated hybrid and physical threats.

- **Cybersecurity & Cognitive Warfare:** Defending against cyber threats and addressing the rising importance of cognitive warfare in a highly networked digital environment.
- **Data Sovereignty & European Clouds:** Strengthening European data sovereignty through secure cloud ecosystems and trusted digital infrastructures.
- **AI in Defence & Governance:** Exploring the role of artificial intelligence in military decision-making, strategic planning, and governance structures.
- **Resilience & Sustainability:** Advancing sustainable defence capabilities and reinforcing societal resilience through innovative technologies and long-term planning.
- **Energy Security & Geopolitical Stability:** Ensuring energy security in a world of rapidly evolving geopolitical landscapes.
- **Civil-Military Cooperation & Crisis Management:** Enhancing civil-military cooperation to improve crisis preparedness, coordination, and response capabilities.
- **Supply Chains & Defence Industry Transformation:** Transforming Europe's defence supply chains in response to global systemic pressures and challenges.

Who Can Apply:

We are looking for experts, thought leaders, policy makers and practitioners from a range of industries, including:

- Defence and Security
- Smart Technologies & AI
- Critical Infrastructure & Cybersecurity
- Data Sovereignty and Cloud Solutions
- Resilience & Sustainability in Defence
- Geopolitical Affairs and Energy Security
- Civil-Military Cooperation

Speaker Format:

- **Keynote Speakers:** 20-minute presentations on strategic themes.
- **Session Speakers:** 10–20-minute presentations in one of the listed key topic areas.
- **Innovative Projects:** Presentations of 5 minutes and 5 slides showcasing innovative projects, start-ups, or collaborations.

Submission Details:

To apply as a speaker, please submit your proposal by **January 23rd, 2026**, including:

- Title of your presentation
- Brief abstract (max. 300 words)
- Key outcomes (3–5 bullet points)
- Speaker bio (max. 200 words) with contact details including affiliation and country/region
- Relevant experience or past speaking engagements

Contact Information:

For any inquiries or to submit your proposal, please contact:

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We look forward to your contributions and to welcoming you to this exciting event!

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