



The 18th Annual Baltic Sea Region Forum

Security in Northern Europe and the Arctic

Monday, 4 May 2026 11:30-19:10

10:30-11:30 Registration

11:30-11:50 Opening

Minna Arve, Chair of Board of Directors, Centrum Balticum Foundation, Finland
Jyri Arponen, Member of Board of Directors, Centrum Balticum Foundation, Region Mayor of Southwest Finland

11:50-12:05 The EU in an Era of Geostrategic Rivalries

Taneli Lahti, Deputy Managing Director, European External Action Service, European Union

12:05-12:35 Keynote

Janne Jaakkola, General, Chief of Defence, Finnish Defence Forces, Finland

12:35-13:20 Coffee and Networking Break

13:20-14:45 Strategic Competition in High North

Chair: **Hiski Haukkala**, Director, Finnish Institute of International Affairs, Finland

Panelists:

Klaus Dodds, Senior Research Fellow, Rand Europe

Alexander Gabuev, Director, Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center in Berlin, Germany

Mika Hentunen, Russia Correspondent, Finnish Broadcasting Company YLE, Finland

Valur Ingimundarson, Professor, University of Iceland, Iceland

Antti Kaikkonen, Member, Parliament of Finland, Finland

Juha Kukkola, Associate Professor, National Defence University, Finland

Marc Lanteigne, Professor, The Arctic University of Norway, Norway

14:45-15:30 Coffee and Networking Break

15:30-16:55 Strategic Intelligence and the Region

Chair: **Kasperi Summanen**, Editor-in-Chief, Verkkouutiset and Nykypäivä, Finland

Panelists:

Michael Goodman, Professor, King's College London, United Kingdom
Bjørn Grønning, Deputy Research Director, NORIS: Norwegian Intelligence School, Norway
Norbert Loba, President, Frontline Foundation, Poland
Kira Vrist Rønn, Associate Professor, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark
Ilkka Salmi, Deputy Director General, Security, European Commission
Arnold Sinisalu, Director General, Internal Security Service (2013-2023), Estonia
Olli Teirilä, Dr., Major, Researcher, Defence Command, Finland

16:55-17:25 Coffee and Networking Break

17:25-18:50 Critical Natural Resources and Logistical Infrastructure

Chair: **Jussi Orell**, Editor-in-Chief, Turun Sanomat, Finland

Panelists:

Lars Gjesvik, Senior Researcher, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Norway
Carina Keskitalo, Professor, University of Umeå, Sweden.
Sanna Kopra, Research Professor, University of Lapland, Finland
Olli-Matti Mikkola, Dr., Senior Scientist, Natural Resources Institute of Finland (LUKE), Finland
Ville Niinistö, Member, European Parliament, European Union
Lauri Ojala, Professor, Turku School of Economics, University of Turku, Finland
Benjamin L. Schmitt, Senior Fellow, University of Pennsylvania, USA

18:50-19:10 Concluding Remarks

Juha Martelius, Director, The Finnish Security and Intelligence Service, Finland

19:45-21:00 Reception hosted by the City of Turku

