



The 18<sup>th</sup> 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:

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

Robert Hamilton, President, Delphi Global Research Center, USA

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

Valur Ingimundarson, Professor, University of Iceland, Iceland

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:

**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, Maaseudun Tulevaisuus, 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**

