



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, Director for Sustainable Finance, Investment and Jobs, DG International Partnership, European Commission

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

14:45-15:30 Coffee and Networking Break

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

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

Panelists:

Bjørn Grønning, Deputy Research Director, NORIS: Norwegian Intelligence School, Norway

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

Restaurant Grädda, Piispankatu 15, Turku

