

FAREWELL TO NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL? How to Handel Atomic Threats in Europe

MONDAY 3 - WEDNESDAY 5 JULY 2023
Protestant Academy Loccum

The nuclear (dis)order is shifting. Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has further accelerated the erosion of the arms control architecture which started to become brittle some time ago. With Vladimir Putin's announcement to suspend Russia's participation in the New START treaty, many ask if we have to say farewell to nuclear arms control. In parallel, new and old nuclear powers around the world have taken efforts to modernize or even increase their atomic arsenals. Technological trends are posing challenges to strategic stability. On the multilateral dimension opposing views on nuclear weapons and fragmentation upon different approaches of disarmament continues to linger and further nourish the frustration with the implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the inequality of the nuclear (dis)order.

How will Europe handle this situation? This event will bring together arms control experts, practitioners, and activists from across Europe to assess and evaluate the current situation. The conference aims to provide a forum that fosters innovative policy ideas to reduce threats and risks. Thereby, we focus particularly on the European "nuclear non-haves" and ask what role they could play in the future.

The conference is **bilingual** meaning that we provide throughout the sessions **simultaneous German-English interpretation**. The **public event** brings together actors from **different walks of life** who are all united by the fact that they are interested in the subject of the conference. However, this setting requires that we **strictly follow the Chatham House rules**. This is a draft program and may be subjected to change.

Contact: Dr. Thomas Müller-Färber, Program Director
T: + 49 (0) 57 66 81 109 • F: + 49 (0) 5766 81 900 • E: Thomas.Mueller-Faerber@evlka.de

DAY I Monday 3 July

14:00 Words of Welcome & Introduction of the Note-Taking Team

Thomas MÜLLER-FÄRBER, Program Director International Affairs, Protestant Academy Loccum

14:15 **KICKOFF SESSION | Sketching the Broad Picture of Europe's Ongoing Nuclear Crisis**

Even before February last year, the nuclear architecture in Europe has become brittle and showed clear signs of erosion. Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine has further worsened the already complicated situation. This session aims to draw a broad picture of the current nuclear crisis in Europe and throw in some key questions that enrich upcoming debates at the conference.

Oliver THRÄNERT, Head of Think Tank, Center for Security Studies (CSS), Zürich

15:00 Coffee & Cake

15:30 **ORIENTATION PANEL | Mapping Structural Trends of the Nuclear (Dis)Order**

Worldwide, not just in Europe, the nuclear order is shifting. This session will assess major structural drivers, trends, and development that affect nuclear weapons issues now and in the future.

TECH: *The Challenge of Emerging Technologies (AI, Cyber, Space, Hypersonic, etc.)*
Tytti ERÄSTÖ, Senior Researcher, Weapons of Mass Destruction Programme, SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute), Solna

POLICY: *Trends in Nuclear Decision Making & Signaling in a Growingly Multipolar Rivalry*
Oliver MEIER, Director, Policy and Research, European Leadership Network, London/Berlin

17:00 Coffee & Tea Break

17:15 **OUTLOOK TALK | What Future Trajectory for European Nuclear Non-Haves?**

What role will non-nuclear Europeans play in future arms control, non-proliferation, and risk reduction initiatives? What will be their contribution to strategic stability? And how to organize the linkage to normative approaches of disarmament in the upcoming years?

Merle SPELLERBERG, MdP (The Greens), Chairwoman, Sub-Committee on Arms Control, Disarmament, and Nonproliferation, German Bundestag, Berlin/Dresden

Marjolijn VAN DEELEN, EU Special Envoy for Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, European Action Service, Brussels

--- Followed by discussion ---

18:30 Dinner

19:30 **POLICY PERSPECTIVE PANEL | What Future for Nuclear Arms Control?**

As nuclear arms control was eroding in recent years, the demands for its revitalization became more and more urgent and pronounced. With the war in Ukraine, the outlook has become even bleaker. Vladimir Putin's announcement in late February to suspend Russia's participation in the New START treaty has put a big questions mark at the fate of future bilateral arms control initiatives. This "big picture panel" and the following "deepening workshop discussion" (next morning) will address among others the following questions: What structural challenges is arms control facing today in the era of geopolitical rivalry? Is there at all a future for bilateral arms control between the United States and Russia? Would it be possible to engage China in arms control? Will non-traditional/non-treaty-based approaches to arms control have a chance? Etc.

Impulses from a Policy Perspective:

Maurizio ANTONINI, Head of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Rom

Sigurd SCHELSTRAETE, Director Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brussels

20:45 Informal Get Together at the Gallery

DAY II TUESDAY 4 July

08:30 Breakfast

09:15 **1st INTERJECTION | How to Handle “Atomic Angst” and Improve “Nuclear Literacy”**

The Kremlin's extraordinary allusion to use of nuclear weapons has triggered a vivid debate in the Western European public (and in particular here in Germany) about nuclear risks. In this first interjectory session, we will address questions like: Reflecting on recent debates on nuclear threats, what lessons need to be drawn for future public discussions? How to increase the knowledge of nuclear issues among decision-makers and the wider public alike? What are appropriate ways of debating nuclear risk publicly? Etc.

Frank SAUER, Senior Researcher at the University of Bundeswehr Munich and Head of Research of the Institute for Strategy & Foresight (METIS), Munich*

10:00 **ANALYSTS' SESSION | What Future for Nuclear Arms Control?**

In parallel workshop groups we will discuss further the future of arms control and, among other, address impulses, questions, and proposals that were tabled during the “Policy Perspective Panel”. The discussion will be enriched by:

Impulses from an Academia/Think Tank Perspective:

Andrey BAKLITSKIY, Senior Researcher, Weapons of Mass Destruction Programme, UNIDIR (United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research), Geneva

Jonas SCHNEIDER, Senior Researcher, Research Division, International Security, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Berlin

Polina SINOVETS, Head of the Odessa Center for NonProliferation (OdCNP) and Associate Professor at the Department of International Relations, Odessa

11:30 Coffee & Tea Break

11:45 **2nd INTERJECTION | A Forecast on Disarmament Diplomacy – What will happen at the NPT PreCom 2023, the next TPNW State Party Meeting, and beyond?**

In this second interjection discussion, we will address questions like: What's on the to-do list for the next NPT PrepCom in August 2023 and the next TPNW State Party Meeting? What

opportunities and challenges do the involved players face? How will these preparatory processes contribute to the 2026 NPT Review process and the future role of the TPNW?

Federica DALL'ARCHE, Senior Research Associate, Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP) and Advisor to the Italian Foreign Ministry, Vienna

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Optional Sightseeing Tour to the Monastery Loccum (founded 1163)

15:00 Coffee & Cake

15:30 **POLICY PERSPECTIVE PANEL | Strategic Stability – Fit and Secure for the Future?**

Nuclear deterrence never disappeared but receded into the background for a long time. Now, the ear of intensified geopolitical rivalry it regained importance. In this session, we will ask questions: to what degree was the thinking about nuclear deterrence changed due to Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine and the Kremlin's vocal allusion to the use of nuclear weapons? What proposals for nuclear risk reduction are available? How to avoid the danger of deterrence breakdowns? Etc.

Impulses from a Policy Perspective:

Ingeborg DENISSEN, Head, Non-Proliferation, Disarmament and Nuclear Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands, The Hague

François HEISBOURG, Senior Advisor for Europe at the International Institute for Security Studies (IISS) and Special Adviser at the Fondation Pour La Recherche Stratégique (FRS), Paris

Susanne RIEGRAF, Deputy Federal Government Commissioner for Disarmament and Arms Control, Foreign Ministry, Berlin

16:45 Coffee & Tea Break

17:00 **ANALYSTS' SESSION | Strategic Stability – Fit and Secure for the Future? (Part 2)**

In parallel workshop groups we will discuss further the future of strategic stability and, among other, address impulses, questions, and proposals that were tabled during the “Policy Perspective Panel”. The discussion will be enriched by:

Impulses from an Academia/Think Tank Perspective:

William ALBERQUE, Director of Strategy, Technology and Arms Control, IISS (International Institute for Strategic Studies), Berlin

Artur KACPRZYK, Analyst, International Security, Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM), Warsaw

Katarzyna ZYSK, Professor of International Relations and Contemporary History, Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies, Oslo*

18:30 Dinner

19:30 **3rd INTERJECTION | Iran and its Nuclear Program – Inevitable Escalation?**

How is the current state of Iran's nuclear program? Is there still a future for the JCPOA? If there is no nuclear deal, what comes afterwards? How is future non-proliferation policy towards Iran entangled with other crucial issues – namely, the revolutionary uprising in Iran or Teheran's geopolitical ambitions in the region?

Dina ESFANDIARY, Senior Advisor, Middle East and North Africa, Crisis Group, London*

Azadeh ZAMIRIAD, Deputy Head of Africa & Middle East Research Division, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Berlin

20:30 Informal Get Together at the Gallery

DAY III WEDNESDAY 5 July

08:30 Breakfast

09:15 **POLICY PERSPECTIVE PANEL | How to Not Lose Sight of Disarmament and Prevent Further Multilateral Fragmentation?**

This session will address the current state of initiatives on disarmament, including the relationship between the TPNW and the NPT as well as ongoing efforts to bridge fragmentation on disarmament issues within the inter- and transnational community.

Impulses from a Policy Perspective:

Francisca Elizabeth Méndez ESCOBAR, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations in Geneva*

Florian EBLENKAMP, Advocacy Director, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Nottingham

10:30 **ANALYSTS' SESSION | How to Not Lose Sight of Disarmament and Prevent Further Multilateral Fragmentation?**

The impulses, questions, and proposals on nuclear disarmament and multilateral fragmentation that were presented in the "bigger picture panel 3" will be discussed in three parallel working groups. The debate will be enriched by the following three experts:

Impulses from an Academia/Think Tank Perspective:

Renata HESSMANN DALAQUA, Head of the Gender and Disarmament Programme UNIDIR (United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research), Geneva

Sascha HACH, Researcher at Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF) and Lecture at the University of the Bundeswehr Munich, Frankfurt a.M.

11:30 Coffee & Tea Break

11:45 Deepening Working Group Discussion Continues

12:15 **Wrap-Up & Words of Farewell**

Thomas MÜLLER-FÄRBER, Program Director International Affairs, Protestant Academy Loccum

12:30 Goodbye Lunch

12:50 Bus Shuttle

FORMAT:

Conferences at the Protestant Academy Loccum provide public forums for open-minded discussions on urgent and pressing issues. They endeavor to establish dialogues between actors from different fields and backgrounds with the intention to provide impetus to "think out of the box". The Protestant Academy Loccum hosts meetings over 48 hours/two nights for between 60 to 80 participants and is open to those with the expertise to share or an interest in the subject.

ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE:

Loccum is located 50 kilometers west of Hanover in Lower Saxony, Germany. The nearest airport is Hanover (HAJ). The nearest train stations are in Wunstorf, Stadthagen, Minden and Nienburg. Detailed travel directions will be sent to all registered participants.

SHUTTLE BUS:

(Please book a seat in advance!): Monday, 3rd July, departing from Wunstorf train station at 12:30 (please follow the station exit marked "ZOB"). Wednesday, 5th July, arriving in Wunstorf at approx. 13:30 p.m.

ACCOMMODATION & FEE

Participants who are not listed as speakers are welcomed to lodge at the conference venue (<http://www.tagungsstätte-loccum.de/>).

- For a two-night stay including all meals (breakfast, lunch, cake, dinner) we charge **195 Euro**.
- For students, we offer a reduced fee of **75 Euro**.

You will receive an invoice from us after the conference, which you should then transfer to the bank account given. As we had to change our payment system, we kindly ask you to transfer the conference fees only after receipt of this invoice. Thank you very much.

REGISTRATION:

Please register via this link: <https://www.loccum.de/tagungsanmeldung/?nummer=2314>

Registrations will be confirmed by email. Should you need to cancel, please contact us as soon as possible.

Cancellations after 22nd June will cause compensation of 25 % of the fee.

THIS CONFERENCE IS FUNDED BY:

Gefördert durch:



Corvinus-Stiftung