

Warsaw Security Forum 2025: Two Days of Debates on Security, Freedom, Democracy, and Transatlantic Relations

The 12th edition of the Warsaw Security Forum, held on 29–30 September 2025 in Warsaw, brought together hundreds of participants from nearly 90 countries. Politicians, security experts, and international practitioners discussed the most pressing challenges for Europe and the world, including the war in Ukraine, transatlantic security, and the future of NATO and the Central and Eastern European region.

Day One: Politics and Security in Focus

The forum opened on 29 September, with keynote speeches from Prime Minister Donald Tusk and President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky.

In his address, Tusk emphasized the shared responsibility in the face of Russian aggression:

“This war is also ours. Our task is to make the entire transatlantic community aware that a conflict is ongoing. Solidarity and unity within the transatlantic family are essential to defeating its enemies.”

President Zelensky highlighted the interdependence of European security:

“There is no free Poland without a free Ukraine. Ukraine aims to build a joint air defense shield with European partners to protect against threats from Russia.”

The first day featured panels with defense and foreign ministers from across Europe. Key discussions included:

Winning the War Before the War: European Strategies for Ukraine, featuring Ruben Brekelmans (Netherlands), Hanno Pevkur (Estonia), Boris Pistorius (Germany), and Andrius Kubilius (Lithuania).

A meeting of the Weimar Triangle foreign ministers with Ukraine, including Radosław Sikorski (Poland), Adriy Sybiha (Ukraine), Jean-Noël Barrot (France), and Johann Wadephul (Germany).

Other distinguished participants included Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz, General Lloyd Austin, Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze, former President of Georgia Salome Zubirashvili, General Ben Hodges, Sviatlana and Siarhei Tsikhanouski, and Mikhail Khodorkovsky.

The first day concluded with the panel *From Lisbon to Yerevan: Envisioning Europe's Strategy for the Wider Neighborhood*, moderated by Zbigniew Pisarski, from Pulaski Foundation featuring Kęstutis Budrys (Lithuania), Benjamin Haddad (France), and Ararat Mirzoyan (Armenia).

Day Two: Awards, Panels, and International Debates

The second day of the Warsaw Security Forum focused on the future of European security, NATO's role, and honoring leaders dedicated to freedom and democracy.

The guest of honor was Jens Stoltenberg, former NATO Secretary General and former Prime Minister of Norway, who received the Knight of Freedom Award for his outstanding contributions to strengthening NATO's eastern flank and opposing Russian aggression in Ukraine.

Laudations were delivered by Admiral Rob Bauer, former Chairman of the NATO Military Committee and General Lloyd Austin, former U.S. Secretary of Defense, who said:

“Thanks to people like Jens Stoltenberg, we never forget our democratic values. In NATO, we are stronger when we stand together. And we owe this, perhaps most of all, to leaders like Jens Stoltenberg.”

In parallel, the forum hosted numerous panels and discussions with leading experts and policymakers:

Katarzyna Pisarska's conversation with General Keith Kellogg, personal envoy of Donald Trump to Minsk, Moscow, and Kyiv, discussing the challenges and limitations of American diplomacy towards Russia.

A panel on freedom and democracy featuring Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Belarusian opposition leader and 2020 presidential candidate, and her husband Siarhei Tsikhanouski, recently released from a Belarusian prison. The conversation was moderated by Sylvie Kaufman from *LeMonde*.

Strategic discussions with former UK Defense Minister Ben Wallace, Priti Patel, Marcin Przydacz, and former President of Estonia T.H. Ilves.

Awards for outstanding contributions: former U.S. Ambassador to Poland Georgette Mosbacher received the Jacek Strong Award for her exceptional role in developing Polish-American relations.

Participants also attended sessions on European defense cooperation, transatlantic security, and the prospects for stabilization in Eastern Europe. Notable panels included *Building Strength Together: Advancing Pan-Europe's Defence Projects* and the debate *Reset with Russia: What are the Odds of History Repeating Itself?*

The Warsaw Security Forum 2025 concluded by emphasizing the importance of solidarity, transatlantic cooperation, and joint action to ensure security, freedom, and democracy in Central and Eastern Europe.

Summary

Two days of intensive discussions, panels, and meetings allowed participants to exchange views, forge connections, and reflect together on the future of a free and democratic Europe. We extend our sincere thanks to all speakers, guests, business and institutional partners, and media partners.

See you at **WSF 2026!**