

ABCD 2019

Disruptive Technologies for Strategic Superiority: Can the West Win the Defence Technology Race?

Jean-Charles Boulat

Twitter: @ASDEurope

Board Member of ASERA; Chairman of the Economic, Legal and Trade Commission of the AeroSpace and Defence Association of Europe



Jean-Charles Boulat is Board Member of ASERA and Chairman of the Economic, Legal and Trade Commission of the AeroSpace and Defense Association of Europe as well as a member of several sectoral associations in the maritime and defence fields (SEA Europe, the Board of EUROYARDS, European Affairs Commission of the GIFAS/CIDEF). He has been Vice President of European Affairs and NATO at Naval Group since 2012. In this capacity, he is in charge of both the Naval Group's strategy of influence with European institutions and its positioning regarding commercial opportunities offered by the different policy makers in Brussels (European Commission, European Defence Agency, NATO). Previously, he worked for Thomson-CSF for 25 years, then Thales, where he held the position of European Governments Contracts Director. He also served, at the beginning of his career, as an armament engineer at the Directorate General of Armaments.

Jean-François Coutris

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President of ASERA



Jean-François Coutris serves as President of ASERA whose membership includes more than 1100 European senior executives belonging to governmental agencies or security and defence industries. From 1971 to 1982 he was with the French Technical Service for Naval Construction as head of Optics and Optronics group where he developed new optronic sensors and was the first to experiment with CO2 laser radar at sea. Simultaneously, he was chairman of NATO Research Study Group 9 on IR Surveillance and, in 1982, joined defence industry developing and promoting new photonics technologies for operational use. He graduated Session Européenne des Responsables d'Armement (SERA) in 1993 and was promoted to Executive VP and COO of Sagem Defence and Optronics in 2004. In 2011 he left Sagem to establish his own company. He has served as President of the Security Commission of GIFAS, VP of GICAT, President of the European Photonic Industry Consortium, EVP of Photonics21, and President of the Security Systems Commission of ASD. He is a Knight of the National Order of Merit and a Knight of the Legion of Honour.

Dr Daniel Fiott

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Security and Defence Editor, EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)



Dr Daniel Fiott is a Security and Defence Editor at the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) where he analyses European defence policy, CSDP, defence capability and industrial issues and hybrid threats. He is the EUISS' representative to the Executive Academic Board of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) and authors the EUISS' annual publication, the *Yearbook of European Security*. Before joining the EUISS, he held research positions with the Research Foundation – Flanders, the Institute for European Studies at the Free University of Brussels and the College of Europe. He is a visiting professor at the Free University of Brussels and the Brussels School of International Studies at the University of Kent.

Dr Ulrike Esther Franke

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Policy Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR)



Dr Ulrike Franke is a Policy Fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) and part of ECFR's New European Security Initiative. Her areas of focus include German and European security and defence, the future of warfare, and the impact of new technologies such as drones and artificial intelligence. She has published widely on these and other topics, among others in *Die Zeit*, *FAZ*, *RUSI Whitehall Papers*, *Comparative Strategy*, *War on the Rocks*, *Zeitschrift für Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik* and co-hosts the *Sicherheitshalber Podcast*, a German-language podcast on security and defence. She holds a double master's from Sciences Po Paris and the University of St Gallen, and a PhD from the University of Oxford. For her PhD thesis, she was awarded the John McCain Dissertation Award by the Munich Security Conference 2019.

Dr Andrea Gilli

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Senior Researcher, Research Division, NATO Defence College



Dr Andrea Gilli is a Senior Researcher at the NATO Defense College in Rome where he works on innovation, technology and operations. In the past, he also conducted research for, or was associated with, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Preparatory Commission for the Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the Royal United Services Institute, the Center for Transatlantic Relations at SAIS/Johns Hopkins University, the EUISS, the Saltzman Institute for War and Peace Studies, the Center for Security Studies at Metropolitan University Prague, the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University (where he remains Affiliated), the U.S. DoD's Office of Net Assessment, and Harvard's Belfer Center. In 2015, he was awarded the European Defence Agency and Egmont Institute's bi-annual prize for the best dissertation on European defence, security and strategy.

Michael Carl Haas

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Senior Researcher, Centre for Security Studies (CSS) / ETH Zürich



Michael Carl Haas is a Senior Researcher with the Global Security Team at the Centre for Security Studies (CSS). His research interests include innovation in military technology and doctrine, the impact of advanced conventional weapons (e.g. autonomous systems) on military stability, and current developments in air and naval forces. He is also a doctoral candidate at the Institute for Security Policy, Kiel, where he is currently writing a thesis on the military/technological competition between the U.S. and Soviet navies during the Cold War era. Prior to joining the CSS, he was a graduate research assistant at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF) and a teaching assistant at the Department of Political Science, University of Innsbruck.

Giedrimas Jeglinskas

NATO Assistant Secretary General

Twitter: @Giedrimasj



Giedrimas Jeglinskas is NATO Assistant Secretary General for Executive Management. He served as the Vice Minister of National Defence of Lithuania from February 2017 to October 2019. As Vice Minister, he oversaw the procurement and acquisition programmes and worked to modernise Lithuania's defence capabilities, improve readiness, and develop the nation's defence ecosystem. Prior to serving as the Vice Minister, he was as a reserve officer in the Lithuanian Armed Forces where he commanded a platoon of a mechanised infantry battalion and worked as a senior intelligence analyst in Lithuania's defence intelligence and counter-intelligence organisation. He also was the Vice President of Citigroup for Corporate Banking in Warsaw (Poland) and a finance expert for Citigroup in Sidney, Singapore, and Tokyo. In July 2019, he was appointed as NATO's Assistant Secretary for Executive Management and assumed the position in October.

Sylvia Kainz-Huber

Head of Unit Defence 2, DG GROW, European Commission

Twitter: @EU_Growth



Sylvia Kainz-Huber is Head of Unit Defence 2 at DG GROW (Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs) of the European Commission in Brussels where she is mainly responsible for the research component of the European Defence Fund. Prior to working on defence industry matters since 2013, she was Deputy Head of DG GROW's space policy unit dealing with space and security related matters. Earlier in her Commission career, she worked on horizontal industrial policy, inter-institutional relations as well as questions related to access of small and medium-sized enterprises to the EU Research Framework Programme in the Directorate-General for Research and Development. Prior to joining the European Commission in 1995, she worked in the Siemens Central Administration and as a journalist for IT issues.

Kersti Kaljulaid

President of Estonia

Twitter: @KerstiKaljulaid



Kersti Kaljulaid has, since 10 October 2016, been the fifth and current President of Estonia. She is a former state official, serving as Estonia's representative in the European Court of Auditors from 2004 until 2016. In the 1990s she worked in various Estonian companies: first, as the sales manager of telephone switchboards in Eesti Telefon, later in Hoiupank Markets and Hansapank Markets as an associate in investment banking. From 1999 to 2002, she was Prime Minister Mart Laar's Economic Advisor. In addition, she was a member of the Supervisory Board of the Estonian Genome Center from 2001 to 2004. She was also a member of the Advisory Board of the University of Tartu from 2009 to 2011 and the Council Chair of the University of Tartu from 2012 to 2016.

Dr Michaël Krajecki

Director of Artificial Intelligence Project, Defence Innovation Agency,
Ministry of Armed Forces of France

Twitter: @KrajeckiMichael



Since 1 July 2019, Dr Michaël Krajecki has been the Director of the Artificial Intelligence Project at the French Ministry of Armed Forces. As the ministerial AI coordinator, he is the ministry's representative for defence AI matters and organises the overall action via the Defence Artificial Intelligence Coordination Cell (DAICC), created and housed within the Defence Innovation Agency. Previously, he was a professor at the University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne and auditor of the 54th national session "Armaments and Defence Economy" of the Institute for Higher National Defence Studies (IHEDN).

Janne Kuusela

Twitter: @jtkuusela

Director-General of Defence Policy Department, Ministry of Defence of Finland



Janne Kuusela has served as the Director General of the Defence Policy Department for the Ministry of Defence of Finland since January 2016 where he oversees defence policy and general national defence capability development as well as conscription, military crisis management, peace support operations and disarmament and arms control. He has had a long and committed career with the Finnish Ministry of Defence where, before serving as Director-General, he headed the Ministry's Corporate Planning Unit (2012-2016) and worked as a Defence Policy Advisor (2000-2006, 2009-2012). He also previously was a Defence Counsellor for the Finnish Minister of Foreign Affairs (2006-2009).

André Loeseckrug-Pietri

Twitter: @eurojedi, @andrepietri

Founding Director of Joint European Disruptive Initiative (JEDI)



André Loeseckrug-Pietri is the Director of the Joint European Disruptive Initiative (JEDI) which brings together the European deeptech ecosystem and aims to accelerate Europe's leadership in disruptive innovations. Before JEDI, he started out as assistant to the CEO of Aerospatiale-Airbus, then spending 15 years in private equity and venture capital, including 10 years with China, investing in European technology companies with global ambitions. In 2017, he paused from the private sector to become Special Advisor to the French Minister of Defence, responsible for European defence policy as well as technology and innovation. He has been named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum, is lecturer at SciencesPo in Paris and a colonel with the French Air Force People's Reserve, and founder of the venture capital firm ACAPITAL.

Jüri Luik

Twitter: @MoD_Estonia

Minister of Defence of Estonia



Jüri Luik was appointed Minister of Defence of Estonia in 2019. His appointment marked his fourth term as the Minister of Defence (he previously served in 1993-1994, 1999-2002, and 2017-2019). Before assuming the position as Minister of Defence in 2017, he worked as the Director of the International Centre for Defence and Security (ICDS) from 2015-2017. He also served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia (1994-1995) as well as Ambassador to Brussels (1996-1999), Washington (2003-2007), NATO (2007-2012), and Moscow (2012-2015).

Dr Mart Noorma

Twitter: @MartNoorma

Science and Development Director of Milrem Robotics



Dr Mart Noorma is the Science and Development Director for Milrem Robotics, a robotics firm founded in 2013 that specializes in the manufacturing of unmanned ground vehicles for security and defence, commercial and industry, and rescue services. He is also a Professor of Space and Defence Technology at the University of Tartu. Before working as a professor and senior research fellow, he served as head of the Space Technology Department at the Tartu Observatory, led the university's Centre for Teaching and Learning, and was Vice Rector for Academic Affairs. He initiated and supervised the Estonian student satellite programme and is a judge on the popular educational TV show "Rocket 69". He has received the Presidential Education Award, the Order of the White Star, and numerous other accolades, including Postimees 2013 Man of the Year and Wikipedia's Friend of the Year 2017.

Florence Parly

Minister for Armed Forces of France

Twitter: @florence_parly



Florence Parly was appointed Minister for Armed Forces of France in June 2017. Before her appointment, she served both as a dedicated civil servant in the public sector and business leader in the private sector. She previously served as Advisor for budget affairs in Prime Minister Lionel Jospin's Office and later was appointed Secretary of State for Budget in 2000. Afterward, she was Mission Head of the France Trésor Agency and Chairwoman of the Regional Development Agency of Ile-de-France, until 2006 when she joined Air France and took up the position of Director for Investment Strategy, then Deputy Director General in charge of Cargo, before becoming Deputy Director General in charge of short-haul activities. She then joined SNCF in 2014, first as Assistant Director General, then as Director General, "SNCF Voyageurs", until 2017.

Kristjan Prikk

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence of Estonia

Twitter: @kprikk, @MoD_Estonia



Kristjan Prikk is the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of Estonia, a position he was named to in August 2018. Before his appointment, he served as Undersecretary for Defence Policy (2017-2018) where he oversaw defence policy planning, international cooperation, and NATO and EU cooperation. He has previously also worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1999-2007), headed the International Co-operation Department within the Ministry of Defence (2007-2010), and served as both the Deputy Director (2013-2015) and Director of the National Security and Defence Coordination Unit of the Government Office (2015-2017). In addition, he previously worked as a Defence Counsellor at the Estonian Embassy in Washington DC (2010-2013).

Martijn Rasser

*Senior Fellow, Technology and National Security Program,
Center for a New American Security (CNAS)*

Twitter: @MartijnRasser



Martijn Rasser is a Senior Fellow for the Technology and National Security Program at the Center for a New American Security (CNAS). Before joining CNAS, he served as a senior intelligence officer for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), where he worked on foreign emerging technologies, tech innovation and weapons R&D. He has also previously served as senior advisor in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, special advisor to a senior military commander in the Middle East, chief counterterrorism liaison to a US military unit in Iraq, and vice chairman of a National Intelligence Council (NIC) working group. He was also Chief of Staff at the investment research firm Muddy Waters focusing on business and accounting fraud and, more recently, as Director of Analysis at the venture-backed AI startup, Kyndi.

John C. Rood

Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, US Department of Defense

Twitter: @DeptofDefense



John C. Rood has been the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy since January 2018. He serves as the principal advisor to the US Secretary of Defense (DoD) for defence policy and leads the formulation and coordination of national security policy within the US DoD. Previously, he was Acting Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, and Assistant Secretary of State for International Security and Nonproliferation. He served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Forces Policy and served twice at the US National Security Council. He also was an analyst at the CIA and a Senior Policy Advisor to U.S. Senator Jon Kyl. In the private sector, he was Senior VP of Lockheed Martin International, VP for Corporate Domestic Business Development at Lockheed Martin, and VP at the Raytheon Company.

Kristīne Rudzīte-Stejskala

Director of Logistics and Defence Investments Policy Department,
Ministry of Defence of Latvia

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Kristīne Rudzīte-Stejskala is the Director of Logistics and Defence Investments Policy Department for the Ministry of Defence (MoD) of Latvia. Before taking up this post in 2015, she served as Counsellor for Defence Resource Policy and Planning for the Latvian Delegation to NATO where she leveraged her expertise in security and defence financing, transatlantic relations, and Baltic defence sector development. Before joining the MoD in 2006, she was an Advisor on Bilateral Defence Cooperation for the US Embassy in Riga where she advised on Latvian political-military developments, acted as a liaison to Latvian government institutions, and managed US-Latvian defence assistance programmes.

Olli Ruutu

Deputy Chief Executive of the European Defence Agency (EDA)

Twitter: @EUDefenceAgency



Olli Ruutu has served as Deputy Chief Executive of the European Defence Agency (EDA) since March 2018. Previously, he served as Deputy National Armaments Director at the Ministry of Defence of Finland and Director of Materiel Unit at the Resource Policy Department. He also chaired the Defence Administration Commercial Board and the Export Control Advisory Group and was Deputy Chairman of the Defence Materiel Steering Group, as well as a member of the Defence Forces' Technology Board and the Defence Administration's Industrial Cooperation Group. His career spans many titles including Deputy Head of Strategy and Policy Unit at the EDA, Defence Counsellor at the Finnish Permanent Representation to the EU, and National Armaments Director's Representative at the Mission of Finland to NATO. He has also held various positions at the Finnish Ministry of Defence and Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Sven Sakkov

Director of the International Centre for Defence and Security (ICDS)

Twitter: @sakkov



Before joining ICDS Sven Sakkov served for two years as the director of the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (NATO CCDCOE), an international knowledge hub specialising in research, training and exercises in the areas of technology, strategy, operations and law. From 2008-2015 he served as Undersecretary for Defence Policy (policy director) of the Ministry of Defence of Estonia. He was responsible for policy planning, threat assessments, NATO and EU policy, international cooperation and arms control. He was also Estonia's representative to the NATO's Senior Officials' Group and High-Level Group. Previously he had served at the Estonian Embassy in Washington and Estonian Mission to NATO, as national security and defence advisor to the President of Estonia and as the director of Policy Planning of the MoD. He is a member of NATO CCDCOE Advisory Board.

Kadi Silde

Under Secretary for Defence Policy, Estonian Ministry of Defence

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Kadi Silde has been the Undersecretary for Defence Policy at the Estonian Ministry of Defence (MoD) since January 2019 where she coordinates policy planning, NATO and EU matters, and international cooperation. Prior to this, she was seconded to the European Commission where she worked on the European Defence Fund. She joined the MoD in 2008 and worked on issues in bilateral cooperation, arms control, and NATO policy. She was also responsible for providing advice on collective defence issues, such as NATO's defence and deterrence posture after the annexation of Crimea. From 2014 to 2017, she served first as the Deputy Director and then Director of the Policy Planning Department at the MoD. In 2017 she was the coordinator for the MoD at the

Estonian Permanent Representation to EU, in charge of defence matters during the Estonian EU Council Presidency. She has also been honoured twice with the Estonian Defence Ministry Cross of Merit.

Jaan Tallinn

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Jaan Tallinn is a founding engineer for Skype and Kazaa, co-founder of the Cambridge Centre for the Study of Existential Risk and co-founder of the Future of Life Institute. He was appointed to the Board of Sponsors of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists in 2016. He is also a partner at Ambient Sound Investments, an active angel investor, and has served on the Estonian President's Academic Advisory Board. In addition, he has philanthropically supported other existential risk research organisations and gives high-profile talks highlighting the potential risk stemming from advances in AI.

Tomáš Valášek

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Director of Carnegie Europe



Tomáš Valášek is the Director of Carnegie Europe, where his research focuses on security and defence, transatlantic relations, and Europe's Eastern neighbourhood. Before coming to Carnegie Europe, he was the permanent representative of the Slovak Republic to NATO for nearly four years. Before that, he was President of the Central European Policy Institute in Bratislava (2012–2013), Director of Foreign Policy and Defence at the Centre for European Reform in London (2007–2012), and Founder and Director of the Brussels office of the World Security Institute (2002–2006). In 2006–2007, he served as Acting Political Director and Head of the Security and Defence Policy Division at the Slovak Ministry of Defence.

Dr Bryan Wells

Twitter: @NATO

NATO Chief Scientist



Dr Bryan Wells is the NATO Chief Scientist, where he serves as both the senior scientific advisor to NATO and Chairman of the NATO Science & Technology Board. Before his appointment, he previously served as the UK Ministry of Defence's Head of S&T Policy, Strategic Research and International Engagement. Between 2016 and 2018 he was Chair of the European Defence Agency's Research & Technology Steering Board. He has held a range of other posts in the UK Ministry of Defence, including Assistant Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Defence, Deputy Director of NATO Policy, and Director of Counter-Proliferation and Arms Control. He also worked in UK Department of Justice as Head of Administrative Justice.

Sławomir Wojciechowski

Twitter: @hqmnene

Commander of Multinational Corps Northeast (MNC NE)



Lieutenant General Sławomir Wojciechowski is a commissioned officer of the Polish Land Forces and has been Commander of Multinational Corps Northeast since 12 September 2018. Thanks to his skills, knowledge and experience, he has occupied a number of responsible positions connected with leading and commanding forces in the country as well as abroad. Prior to starting his tenure in Szczecin, he was the Operational Commander of the Polish Armed Forces. Before that, he commanded the 17th Polish Mechanised Brigade and served as Deputy Chief in the Operational Planning Directorate of the General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces, to name but a few of his assignments. He was also deployed on missions both in Iraq and in Afghanistan and holds a PhD in Social Science and Security from War Studies University in Warsaw, Poland.

The Annual Baltic Conference on Defence (ABCD)
engages Allies and partners of the Baltic states
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strategic thinking.

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