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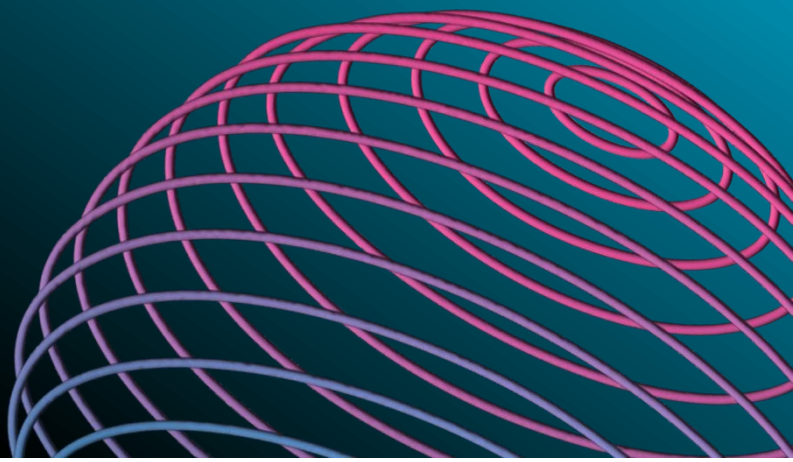
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Munich Security Conference

12 – 14 February 2026

Munich Security Conference

Energy Security Hub @BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt Pavilion

PROGRAM



Thursday, 12 February

15:00
Lower Stage

Opening Impulse | The Politics of Innovation. Europe's Strategic Imperative

A European perspective on the race to scale. This keynote sets the stage for the day, examining how policy, strategy, and vision can align to turn Europe's innovation potential into geopolitical strength - and how leadership at the EU level can shape a more secure, competitive, and climate-resilient continent.

— Wolfgang ISCHINGER, Chairman, Munich Security Conference

15:10
Lower Stage

Opening

— Heba AGUIB, Member of the Board, BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt

15:15
Lower Stage

Opening Conversation | The Electricity Age: The Grid as the Backbone of Energy Security

We have entered the 'Electricity Age', driven by AI's soaring demand and industrial decarbonization. While digital innovation dominates headlines, its future depends on the power grid. The keynote reframes energy security as technological sovereignty and calls the grid a core driver of competitiveness.

— Andreas SCHIERENBECK, CEO, Hitachi Energy

15:30
Lower Stage

Scaleup Spotlights I Engineering Tomorrow's Energy System

Setting the scene on how to systemically advance the energy transition, including concise presentations from seven cleantech scaleups in the RESPOND Scaleup Pilot. The scaleups will position their solutions within the energy system and outline growth milestones, scaling ambitions and their potential for systemic impact through collaboration.

— William CHUEH, Director, Precourt Institute for Energy, Kimmelman Professor, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, of Energy Science and Engineering, and Senior Fellow at the Precourt Institute for Energy

15:55
Upper & Lower Stage

Parallel Conversations | Scaleups Accelerating the Energy Transition and Scaling for Impact

In-depth dialogues bring together leading European scaleups with investors, corporates and policymakers to explore the path from innovation to implementation - scaling finance, building industrial partnerships, navigating policy frameworks and strengthening Europe's competitiveness to deliver tangible impact through collaboration.

Parallel Dialogues

BIOENERGY
Decarbonizing industrial process heat with decentralized bioenergy solutions – how bioenergy can replace fossil-based process heat and increase the resilience of industrial production sites.

Moderation: Marie HUFEN
— Niclas DAVIDSSON, CEO, MEVA Energy
— Robin DUGGAN, Partner, Just Climate

FUTURE FUELS & HYDROGEN
Cost breakthroughs and new production technologies – how next-generation electrolysis and Power-to-X solutions are reshaping the cost curve for hydrogen and e-fuels.

Moderation: Paula SCHMID SCHMIDSFELDEN
— Rotem ARAD, CBO, H2PRO
— Tim BÖLTKEN, Founder and CEO, INERATEC

CIRCULAR INDUSTRY
Co-creating European leadership in sustainable materials through industry–policy collaboration.

Moderation: Juliane DAHM
— Anne LAMP, Founder and CEO, Traceless Materials
— Falk PAULSEN, Business Development Director, Mondi
— Jan CEYSSENS, Deputy Head of Cabinet, European Commission

BATTERY VALUE CHAIN
Building a circular battery ecosystem to reduce dependency on global supply chains

Moderation: Bryan SCHELER
— Gideon SCHWICH, Founder and CEO, Cylib
— Adrian POLEC, Founder and Chairman, Prime Batteries
— Oliver SWEENEY, Principal, Lightrock

INDUSTRIAL HEAT DECARBONIZATION
Topic: Retrofitting existing industrial sites with heat innovation - Scalable models for steel, chemicals, and cement.

Moderation: Verena FINKENZELLER
— Philip KESSLER, Co-Founder & CEO, TURN2X
— Jörgen SANDSTRÖM, Head Transforming Industrial Ecosystems, Centre for Energy and Materials, World Economic Forum
— Robert SCHIELE, Former Global Head of Negative Emissions Technologies, Managing Director, Siemens

16:45

Break

17:15
Lower Stage

Panel | Between Ambition and Reality: Investing in Europe's Next Industrial Era

A frank debate on Europe's competitiveness in the global cleantech race. As Asia accelerates and the U.S. reshapes industrial policy, which forms of innovation offer credible pathways to European industrial leadership? What does it take to turn innovation into bankable, manufacturable impact and take leadership in technology and strategic autonomy?

— Wolfgang FINK, CEO, Goldman Sachs Bank Europe & CEO Goldman Sachs Germany and Goldman Sachs Austria
— Fiona MURRAY, Associate Dean for Innovation, MIT Sloan School of Management & Vice Chair, NATO Innovation Fund
— Yair REEM, Co-Founder & Partner, Extantia Capital
— Siby DIABIRA, Senior Manager, Venture Capital and Private Equity, Europe, International Finance Corporation

17:50
Lower Stage

Closing Conversation I An Innovation Win-Win for Economy and Society

An inspiring talk bridging technology and human purpose, reflecting on how innovation can serve not only technological and economic progress, but also strengthen resilience, foster cooperation across sectors, and contribute meaningfully to the common good.

— Maria LEPTIN, President, European Research Council (ERC)
— Carlos PASCUAL, Senior Vice President for Geopolitics and International Affairs, S&P Global Commodity Insights; former U.S. Ambassador to Mexico and Ukraine

18:00

End

Friday, 13 February

08:00
Lower Stage

Conversation | Rules Without Power? Developing Europe's Geostrategic Capacity

Power politics is back. As global rules fracture and the WTO order fades, Europe risks becoming a rule-taker on trade, AI, energy, and critical resources. This conversation examines what a credible European offer to the world must look like to restore geostrategic agency: modernising Europe's power toolkit and forging global partnerships beyond NATO and the G7 to shape the next global order. In an era of tariffs and weaponised interdependence, Europe must work with global middle powers to avoid being trapped in superpower rivalry. It must evolve from a peace and economic project to a fully-fledged geostrategic actor.

— Jonathan BARTH, Executive Chair, Geostrategic Europe Taskforce; Senior Fellow, Jacques Delors Institute
— Joe KAESER, Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Siemens Energy AG; Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Daimler Truck Holding AG
— Bernhard KOTSCH, State Secretary, German Federal Foreign Office
— Olivia LAZARD, Planetary Fellow, Berggruen Institute; Nonresident Fellow, Carnegie Europe

09:00 Coffee Break

09:30
Upper Stage

Official Opening

— Heba AGUIB, Member of the Board, BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt
— Heike SCHNEEWEIS, Member of the Board, BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt

09:40
Upper Stage

Opening Keynote | The German Pivot: Engineering Sovereignty in a Turbulent World

— Katherina REICHE, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, Germany

10:00
Upper Stage

Europe's Energy Mix: Strength Through Diversified Energy Strategies

As Europe races to secure a stable, carbon-neutral energy supply, its member states are not placing the same bets. This session explores strategic divergences between three key EU industrial nations. Poland is accelerating renewables through major investments in onshore and offshore wind, while Sweden is reversing its nuclear phase-out to strengthen energy security and grid stability. Germany, meanwhile, continues to navigate its Energiewende. Bringing together ministers from all three countries, this high-level panel examines whether these differing strategies can be integrated—turning national diversity into collective strength or revealing conflicting visions for Europe's energy future.

— Rafael Mariano GROSSI, Director General, IAEA
— Bogdan-Gruia IVAN, Minister of Energy, Romania; former Minister of Research, Innovation and Digitalization
— Dan JØRGENSEN, European Commissioner for Energy and Housing
— Katherina REICHE, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, Germany

10:45 Coffee Break

11:30
Upper Stage

Edelman Trust Barometer | German Report Launch

This session marks the German launch of the Edelman Trust Barometer 2026, presented by Edelman in cooperation with the Atlantik-Brücke, in the context of the Munich Security Conference. Drawing on 26 years of trust data, the conversation will explore how trust has been shaped by geopolitical disruption, societal polarization and economic uncertainty - and how it can be actively rebuilt. The session will focus on the role of leadership across business, politics and society in restoring confidence, legitimacy and social cohesion in Germany.

— Nils GIESE, CEO Germany, Edelman
— Sigmar GABRIEL, Chairman of Atlantik-Brücke, Former Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs and Vice-Chancellor of Germany
— Stefan WINTELS, CEO, KfW
— Claudia OEKING, Head of Public Affairs Germany, Airbus

12:15 Networking Lunch

13:30
Lower Stage

Investing in Europe: Powering a Secure European Energy Future

Europe's energy independence is an urgent imperative. But achieving it requires capital: massive, strategic and patient. This session explores how Europe can mobilize the investments needed to secure its energy future. Key questions include: How can Europe mobilize its private capital? If Europe wants to be energy independent – can it afford to be financially independent? What would make European energy projects truly investable? And how can the continent leverage partnerships and investments beyond its borders without compromising strategic autonomy?

— Carlos PASCUAL, Senior Vice President for Geopolitics and International Affairs, S&P Global Commodity Insights; former U.S. Ambassador to Mexico and Ukraine
— Julia PRESCOT, Co-Founder, Meridiam; Deputy Chair, National Infrastructure Commission, United Kingdom
— Harald VON HEYDEN, Global Head of Energy and Infrastructure, Norges Bank Investment Management

14:15
Lower Stage

Leap or Lose: The New Industrial Playbook for Europe

What would truly move the needle for European CEOs to stay, invest and grow in Europe?

This session explores where Europe goes next and how industrial leaders and policymakers plan to get there. Europe's CEOs face a defining challenge: remaining competitive amid high energy costs and global realignment. The discussion will outline the scale of this challenge, the strategies being deployed to turn it into opportunity, and the regulatory shifts needed to unlock growth. Bringing together industrial leaders and European policymakers, the session examines how CEOs are driving European competitiveness from the front lines.

— Marie JARONI, CEO, thyssenkrupp Steel Europe
— Markus KAMIETH, CEO, BASF
— Carsten KNOBEL, CEO, Henkel
— Jessika ROSWALL, EU Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy

15:00

Coffee Break

15:30
Lower Stage

Energy Resilience "Made in Europe"

Can Europe trade complacency for "wartime" speed? This session explores how the ERLG is driving re-industrialization through new coalitions of action and "Made in Europe" policies. As the global order shifts, European leaders face a defining challenge: reclaiming strategic sovereignty in energy and technology. Bringing together industrial CEOs, financial experts, and policymakers, the panel will debate the financing, regulatory agility, and local content rules needed to turn energy security into a sovereign competitive engine for growth.

— Nicola BEER, Vice-President and Member of the Management Committee, European Investment Bank (EIB); former Vice-President of the European Parliament
— Christian BRUCH, CEO, Siemens Energy
— Heike FREUND, Chief Operating Officer, Marvel Fusion
— Ann METTLER, Board Member, European Innovation Council
— Tim MEYERJÜRGENS, CEO, TenneT Germany; Vice-Chair, ENTSO-E

16:15

Networking

17:30
Upper Stage

Powering the Future: Securing Europe's Energy Supply in the Age of AI

Artificial intelligence is set to have far-reaching implications for Europe's energy system, as the rapid expansion of data centers and AI infrastructure accelerates electricity demand growth. Meeting this demand securely, affordably, and sustainably will test Europe's energy infrastructure, investment frameworks, and policy coordination.

At the same time, AI has the potential to become a powerful tool for the energy sector, improving system efficiency, optimizing grid operations, and accelerating the integration of new technologies. These benefits are not automatic and will depend on timely investment, regulatory clarity, and the ability to manage new risks, including cybersecurity and supply chain dependencies. This session will explore how Europe can navigate the opportunities and challenges created by AI-driven energy demand through solution-oriented approaches. It will examine the policy choices, investment priorities, and partnerships required to ensure AI strengthens energy security, manages costs, and reinforces industrial competitiveness.

— Michael BRIGL, Head of Central Europe, Boston Consulting Group
— Charles MEYERS, Executive Chairman, Equinix
— Birgitte RINGSTAD VARTDAL, CEO and President, Statkraft

18:30
Upper Stage

Closing Fireside Chat | Europe on the Couch: From Fear's Diagnosis to Future Strength

We live in an era in which political and economic choices are increasingly shaped by worst-case scenarios, from security risks and demographic pressures to climate and technological disruption. But democracies do not endure through crisis management alone. They also depend on confidence, purpose, and optimism. This closing conversation explores the psychological and geopolitical forces shaping Europe's future at a moment of acceleration. As energy security and industrial competitiveness re-emerge as core elements of sovereignty, Europe faces a decisive test: whether it will continue to manage uncertainty reactively or use this moment to design a new, forward-looking model of strength. The session challenges the impulse to replicate past models and instead asks how Europe can forge a new sovereign path, one that aligns scientific excellence, industrial capability, democratic legitimacy, and collaboration. The focus is not on avoiding vulnerability, but on transforming it into a catalyst for long-term resilience and leadership.

— Jason BORDOFF, Founding Director, Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University; Former Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Energy and Climate Change on the Staff of the National Security Council (U.S.)
— Reinhard HÜTTL, Managing Partner and Scientific Director, Eco-Environment Innovation (EEI); former Chairman of the Board, GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences

19:00

Dinner

Saturday, 14 February

08:00
Lower Stage

Breakfast Discussion | Geopolitical Power Brokers: Economic Corridors for Energy Security

A rising cohort of geopolitically influential states is translating great power competition into strategic leverage over energy, technology, and critical supply chains. By balancing relations between Washington, Beijing, and Brussels, states across the Euro Mediterranean region and the Indo-Pacific are shaping economic and energy corridors that are redefining global investment flows and positioning themselves as key connectors between regions. As Europe's energy security becomes increasingly dependent on cross-border electricity, green hydrogen, and diversified supply chains, emerging economic corridors linking the Mediterranean, the Middle East, and the Indo-Pacific are transforming energy and trade flows, consolidating influence over future energy chokepoints, and accelerating low-carbon infrastructure development.

This session examines how Europe can engage proactively with these states and regions to build resilient, low-carbon economic corridors, secure trusted supply chains, and align critical infrastructure investments with long-term energy security and climate objectives.

— Rania AL-MASHAT, Former Minister of Planning, Economic Development, and International Cooperation, Arab Republic of Egypt
— Dubravka ŠUICA, Commissioner for the Mediterranean, European Commission
— Narendra TANEJA, President, World Energy Policy Summit

09:00

Break

09:30
Upper Stage

The Leapfrog Imperative: Securing the West's Next-Gen Tech Advantage

It is self-evident by now that China and the West are locked in an escalating tech competition, driven by export controls, market restrictions, and digital sovereignty policies, with far-reaching consequences from artificial intelligence to the global green transition. This rivalry has exposed deep mutual dependencies, as supply chain disruptions force companies to adapt to a more uncertain future. As attention shifts to the next generation of general-purpose technologies, the central question is how the West can secure future economic security and competitiveness. While it retains a strong research and development edge, it continues to struggle with commercialization and scale. Ensuring long-term economic resilience will require overcoming today's technological vulnerabilities.

— Gerald BUTTS, Vice Chairman and Senior Advisor, Eurasia Group
— Michael LEWIS, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Sustainability Officer, Uniper SE
— Michelle ROZO, Vice Chair, National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology (NSCEB); Vice President of Technical Capabilities, In-Q-Tel

10:15
Upper Stage

Northern Lights On: Energy Security in a New Era for the Arctic

The Arctic is no longer a remote frontier; it is a central arena for 21st-century energy security. A rapidly changing climate, new economic opportunities, and a fractured geopolitical landscape have thrust the region to the forefront of global strategic stakes.

This new reality presents a major strategic challenge for the European Union and the West, highlighting the urgent need to forge a coherent, forward-looking policy for the region.

This high-level session explores "the new era for the Arctic" by focusing on the profound trilemma at its heart: How to balance the urgent need for stable energy for Europe and the world, the global imperative of the green transition, and the new realities of regional security?

— Leif Johan SEVLAND, CEO, ONS Foundation
— Tore O. SANDVIK, Minister of Defence, Norway

11:00

Break

11:30
Upper Stage

Pipeline-Power: Oil and Gas and the New Energy Shift

The global energy map is undergoing a fundamental structural realignment. As security priorities shift and traditional alliances are tested, the hydrocarbon sector finds itself at the centre of a complex strategic tug-of-war. The future of oil and gas is being shaped by the relationship between the immediate need for reliable fossil fuels and the long-term strategic imperative of defossilization. This session moves beyond the familiar debates to examine the actual mechanics of the new energy order.

— Camilla SALTHE, Executive Vice President, Safety, Security, and Sustainability, Equinor

12:15

Networking Lunch

13:30
Lower Stage

The New York Times Debate: Is Democracy too Slow for the AI Race?

— Stephen DUNBAR-JOHNSON, President, International, The New York Times
— Arancha GONZÁLEZ LAYA, Dean of the Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA), Sciences Po and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Spain
— Andrew PERRY, Director, Energy Transition & Environment, Faculty AI
— Claudia PLATTNER, President, German Federal Office for Information Security (BSI)
— Dmitri ALPEROVITCH, Co-Founder and Chairman, Silverado Policy Accelerator
— Parag KHANNA, Founder and CEO of AlphaGeo
— Wendy CHANG, Senior Analyst, Mercator Institute for China Studies
— Meredith WHITTAKER, President, Signal Foundation

14:30
Upper Stage

In Conversation | Rebuilding Multilateralism

In an era increasingly defined by great power competition and the return of "power politics," the architecture of international cooperation faces a critical stress test. This session explores the strategic necessity of multilateralism—not merely as an ideal, but as a pragmatic tool for global stability.

The conversation will examine how nations and institutions can navigate a fragmented geopolitical landscape to find common ground. Moving beyond rigid alliances, the speakers will discuss the art of compromise and the mechanisms needed to sustain cooperation on economic security and resilience, even when global powers diverge.

— Alexander DE CROO, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); former Prime Minister of Belgium

14:50
Upper Stage

Official Closing & Drinks

For the most updated program please refer to the online version available on our event page.

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