



**NORDIC SECURITY CONFERENCE 2017:  
NATO and Russia in a Changing World**

# **NorSec 2017:**

## **Day 1 – Saturday May 6th**

08:30 – 09:00 **Registration and coffee**

### **Session I. European Security Challenges**

09:00 – 09:10 **Welcome and introduction by YATA Norway**

Lea, President - YATA Norway

09:10 – 09:20 **Words of welcome**

Kate Hansen Bundt, Secretary General at the Norwegian Atlantic Committee

09:20 – 09:40 **Opening remarks – Security from a Norwegian perspective**

Øystein Bø, State Secretary at the Norwegian Ministry of Defence

09:40 – 10:10 **A Global Strategy for the EU's Foreign and Security Policy**

Andrew Byrne, Minister Counsellor at the EU Delegation to Norway

10:10 – 10:40 **NATO and Russia – who is the aggressor?**

Lieutenant colonel Palle Ydstebø, Head of Division for Military Strategy and Doctrine at the Norwegian Defence College

10:40 – 11:00 **Coffee and refreshments**

11:00 – 11:30 **No end in sight for the Ukrainian crisis?**

Tor Bukkvoll, Senior Research Fellow at the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment

11:30 – 12:00 **The relationship between EU and Russia – Are the sanctions working?**

Kåre Dahl Martinsen, Professor at the Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies

12:00 – 12:45 **Discussion with following Q&A: Is NATO outdated?**

Moderator: Eirik Løkke, Advisor at Civita

Panel:

Sverre Diesen, Norwegian Military Officer and former Chief of Defence

Maren Garberg Bredesen, Junior Researcher at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs

Espen Amundsen, Senior Advisor at Rud Pedersen Public Affairs and former Major General in the Norwegian Armed Forces

12:45 – 13:30 **Lunch**

## **Session II. Russia's Security Challenges at Home and Abroad**

- 13:30 – 14:00 **A closer look at Putin's challenges at home**  
Geir Flikke, Associate Professor at the University of Oslo
- 14:00 – 14:30 **The de facto state factor in Russian foreign and security policy**  
Jakub M. Godzimirski, Research Professor at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs
- 14:30 – 15:00 **The strategic partnership between Russia and China – A growing threat?**  
Jo Inge Bekkevold, Head of Centre for Asian Security Studies at the Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies
- 15:00 – 15:30 **US – Russia relations in the Trump era - What does this mean for Europe?**  
Kjell Dragnes, former Foreign Policy Editor in Aftenposten
- 15:30 – 16:00 **Russia – A new Great Power in the Middle East?**  
Charlotte Brandsma, Program Officer at the German Marshall Fund of the United States' Mediterranean Policy Program
- 16:00 – 16:15 **Closing remarks**  
Katarina Nordanger, Project Manager.

## Speaker bio's:



**Kate Bundt Hansen - Secretary General at the Norwegian Atlantic Committee.**

Kate Bundt Hansen has been the Secretary General of the Norwegian Atlantic Committee since 2010. She is a political science graduate from the University of Oslo, with additional studies from the Humboldt University in Berlin. Bundt Hansen was a research fellow at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) from 1990–1993. She was Research Director at “Europa-programmet”, an Oslo-based think tank, from 1993–2006, and has worked as an independent researcher, a lecturer, writer, and commentator of European affairs from 2006.

In 2009 Bundt Hansen graduated from the Senior Executive Course at the Norwegian Defence University College. She has been a member of several Government appointed review committees. She has been Chair of the board at NUPI since May 2014, and the vice-president of the Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA) since December 2014.

At NorSec 2017 Kate Bundt Hansen will be delivering words of welcome on behalf of the Norwegian Atlantic Committee, under which YATA Norway is organised.



**Øystein Bø - State Secretary at the Norwegian Ministry of Defence.**

Øystein Bø is an experienced diplomat, army officer, lawyer, politician, and a current State Secretary at the Norwegian Ministry of Defence since 2013. He is a 1989 law studies graduate of the University of Oslo. Mr. Bø has previously filled numerous roles in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1999, including as the Deputy permanent representative of Norway to NATO, Chef de cabinet to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and as Head of the International Department and Permanent Secretary of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence in the Norwegian Parliament (Stortinget). He is a recipient of the United States Department of the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award.

At NorSec 2017 Øystein Bø will be delivering opening remarks on the topic “Security from a Norwegian perspective”.



**Andrew Byrne – Minister Counsellor at the European Union's Delegation to Norway.**

Andrew Byrne is a career official of the European Union (EU). Mr. Byrne is currently the Head of the Political Affairs, Press and Information Section at the EU's Delegation to Norway. He has also served as the European Commission's Deputy Permanent Representative to the International Organisations in Rome and to the United Nations Organisations in Vienna.

Mr. Byrne has held a series of posts at EU Headquarters in Brussels. His most recent work has been on conflict prevention and peace-building issues.

At NorSec 2017 Andrew Byrne will be speaking on the topic "A Global Strategy for the EU's Foreign and Security Policy".



**Palle Ydstebø – Head of Division for Military Strategy and Doctrine at the Norwegian Defence College.**

Lieutenant Colonel Palle Ydstebø is Head of the Division for Military Strategy and Doctrine at the Norwegian Defence College. He is military educated from the Norwegian Air Force, the Norwegian Military Academy (Krigsskolen) and Defence College. Furthermore, he is a graduate in history at the University of Tromsø. Lieutenant Colonel Ydstebø commenced work on his doctorate at the University of Glasgow in January 2016. He has had a long and varied service in the military including the air force and intelligence. He has international experience from postings in Afghanistan, Germany, and the UN forces in South Sudan.

Ydstebø's most recent publication is *Første verdenskrig – operasjoner, myter og innflytelse* (2014), on the first world war's operations, myths and influence.

At NorSec 2017 Palle Ydstebø will be speaking on the topic "NATO and Russia – who is the aggressor?".





**Tor Bukkvoll – Senior Research Fellow at the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment.**

Tor Bukkvoll has studied political developments in Russia and Ukraine since the mid-1990s, especially in the areas of defence and security. He speaks Russian and Ukrainian, and obtained his PhD from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

Mr. Bukkvoll was a visiting research fellow at the Changing Character of War program at the University of Oxford in 2008, worked as an associate professor of international relations at the Norwegian Military Academy 1996-1999, and has previously worked at Fafo Institute for Applied International Studies, and the Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO).

Recent publications: “Military Innovation Under Authoritarian Government – the Case of Russian Special Operations Forces”, 2015, *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 38, No. 5, pp. 602-625, and “Why Putin went to war: ideology, interests and decision-making in the Russian use of force in Crimea and Donbas”, 2016, *Contemporary Politics*, Vol. 22, No. 3, pp. 267-282.

At NorSec 2017 Tor Bukkvoll will be speaking on the topic “No end in sight for the Ukrainian crisis?”.



**Kåre Dahl Martinsen – Professor at the Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies.**

Dr. Kåre Dahl Martinsen is the professor of European Security Policy at the Centre for Transatlantic studies of the Norwegian Defence University College (Forsvarets Høgskole), where he has been a researcher since 1999. He obtained his PhD in political science at Roskilde Universitet, Denmark, in 2000; Master of Literature at the University of Glasgow in 1988.

Dr. Martinsen is an historian and the author of the history books “Alle tiders historie” for Norwegian high school students. He has researched European co-operation before and after the fall of the Berlin wall. Among Dr. Martinsen’s current research interests are: Executive war prerogatives and parliamentary control, transatlantic relations, NATO, and the TTIP. He is a regular contributor to research publications, popular science articles and political commentary.

At NorSec 2017 Dr. Martinsen will be speaking on the topic “The relationship between EU and Russia – Are the sanctions working?”.



**Eirik Løkke - Advisor at Civita.**

Eirik Løkke is an advisor in the Norwegian think-tank Civita. He is a former digital advisor for UNICEF Norway and a campaign advisor for the Norwegian Conservative Party. Mr. Løkke is a master of History, bachelor of Comparative Politics and legal subjects at the University of Bergen. He is a former president of the Student Society in Bergen. Today he serves on the Board of Editors in the liberal online magazine Minerva.

At NorSec 2017 Eirik Løkke will be moderating the panel debate "Discussion with following Q&A: Is NATO outdated?".



**Sverre Diesen - Norwegian Military Officer and former Chief of Defence.**

General Sverre Diesen served as Norway's Chief of Defence from 2005 to 2009. He is a graduate of the Norwegian Military Academy, the Norwegian and British Defence Colleges and a civil engineer from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). Diesen has had a multitude of staff and command positions, including as Chief of the Royal Guards, and Head of the Strategy and Longterm Planning division of the Defence High Command. He has published two books, on military strategy and future perspectives for the Norwegian Defence, respectively. Furthermore he is a frequent contributor to military academic publications and Norwegian media in general on defence and security related issues. Diesen is currently a researcher at the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI).

At NorSec 2017 Sverre Diesen will be participating in the panel debate "Discussion with following Q&A: Is NATO outdated?".

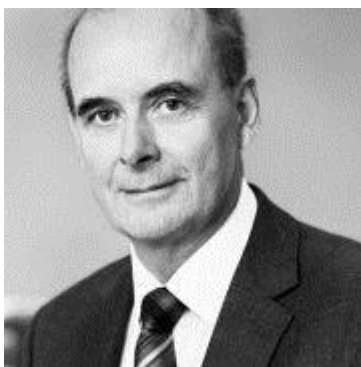


**Maren Garberg Bredesen – Junior Researcher at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs.**

Maren Garberg Bredesen is a junior research fellow at NUPI, working in the Research group for Security and Defence and in the Research group for Russia, Eurasia and the Arctic.

Ms. Bredesen is a graduate of International Relations, War Studies, and Russian. Her academic interests include military theory and strategy, Russia and Eurasia, and security and defence cooperation in the Nordic countries. Ongoing research project: *Nordic security after Crimea: Dilemmas and opportunities in Norwegian-Swedish Defence Cooperation* (2017). The project will conduct a review of Norwegian bilateral defence cooperation with the other Nordics, and in particular Norwegian-Swedish defence cooperation.

At NorSec 2017 Maren Garberg Bredesen will be participating in the panel debate “Discussion with following Q&A: Is NATO outdated?”.



**Espen Amundsen – Senior Advisor at Rud Pedersen Public Affairs and former Major General in the Norwegian Armed Forces.**

Espen Amundsen is a Senior Adviser at Rud Pedersen Public Affairs in Oslo. Amundsen is a retired Air Force Major General with 40 years of service in the Norwegian Armed Forces. He has held many positions within the Armed Forces, and he has been part of the top management team. Amundsen has been Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel, Finance and Management Division in Defence Staff Norway and Chief of Staff, Air Force Staff. Espen has extensive experience cooperating with the Ministry of Defence. From 1988 to 1991 Amundsen served as aide de camp to His Majesty the King of Norway, Olav V.

Amundsen is a graduate of the US Naval Postgraduate School, the Norwegian Staff College and the Norwegian Defence College. He has studied political science and he has a Master of Administrative Science from USA.

At NorSec 2017 Espen Amundsen will be participating in the panel debate “Discussion with following Q&A: Is NATO outdated?”.





**Geir Flikke – Associate Professor at the University of Oslo.**

Geir Flikke is an Associate Professor in the area of Russia, Central Europe and the Balkans, at the University of Oslo. He holds a PhD degree from the University of Oslo (2006), with a thesis on Russia’s democratization movement from the 1990s. He was the Assistant Director of the Norwegian Institute of Foreign Affairs (NUPI) during 2006-2010 and a senior researcher, before assuming his position at the University of Oslo from January 2013. Geir Flikke is currently head of the Norwegian Research Council project “NEPORUS”, analyzing the changing framework for social organization and social mobilization in Russia. Furthermore, he teaches courses in history, nation-building and politics in Russia and Eurasia at the University of Oslo. For more information on the “NEPORUS” project, please see [here](#).

Recent publications include “The Sword of Damocles. State Governability in Putin’s Third Term” in *Problems of Post-Communism*, 2017; and “Russia’s special path in the relation between state and nation”, in Christian Gottlieb (ed.), *Russia and the Nordic countries*, 2016.

At NorSec 2017 Geir Flikke will be speaking on the topic “A closer look at Putin’s challenges at home”.



**Jakub M. Godzimirski – Research Professor at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI).**

Mr. Godzimirski has been working in the field of Russian foreign and security policy issues at the NUPI for more than 20 years, paying special attention to the role of energy resources in Russian grand strategy.

In addition, Mr. Godzimirski has worked on European policy and its impact on developments in Central and Eastern Europe, including relations with Russia. He is currently working on a collaborative research project between NUPI and the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM), entitled “Security in Europe – Polish and Norwegian Perspectives”, which has the main goal of mapping the Polish and Norwegian approaches toward various types of security related challenges in the European and regional context.

At NorSec 2017 Jakub M. Godzimirski will be speaking on the topic “The de facto state factor in Russian foreign and security policy”.



**Jo Inge Bekkevold – Head of Centre for Asian Security Studies at the Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies.**

Jo Inge Bekkevold is the Head of Centre for Asian Security Studies at the Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies (IFS). His research focuses on China’s rise, Asian Security, China – Russia relations and naval developments in Asia.

Mr. Bekkevold’s publications include: *International Order at Sea: How it is challenged. How it is maintained* with Geoffrey Till (Palgrave Macmillan, London, 2016), *China in the Era of Xi Jinping: Domestic and Foreign Policy Challenges* with Robert S. Ross (Georgetown University Press, 2016), *Security, Strategy and Military Change in the 21st Century: Cross-Regional Perspectives* with Ian Bowers and Michael Raska (CASS Military Studies Series, Routledge, London, 2015) and *Arctic: Commerce, Governance and Policy* (Routledge, London, 2015).

Mr. Bekkevold is a former diplomat, with several postings to East Asia for the Norwegian Foreign Service.

At NorSec 2017 Jo Inge Bekkevold will be speaking on the topic “The strategic partnership between Russia and China – A growing threat?”.



**Kjell Dragnes – Former Foreign Policy Editor in Aftenposten, correspondent and freelancer.**

Kjell Dragnes is a former foreign policy editor for the major Norwegian newspaper Aftenposten, and a freelancer since 2014. He is a former correspondent in both Moscow and London with more than 40 years experience in the news business.

Mr. Dragnes graduated from the University of Oslo in 1973 with cand.mag in Russian, English, Geography and Political Science. He also attended the Norwegian National Defence College 1992-93. Among his special fields are: energy politics, security and defence, Russian affairs, the Arctic, as well as East-West relations. Kjell Dragnes is a Knight First Class of the Order of the Lion of Finland.

At NorSec 2017 Kjell Dragnes will be speaking on the topic “US – Russia relations in the Trump era – What does this mean for Europe?”.



**Charlotte Brandsma – Program Officer at the German Marshall Fund (GMF) of the United States’ Mediterranean Policy Program.**

Charlotte Brandsma joined the GMF of the US in 2011. Based in Brussels, she coordinates GMF’s work on the Mediterranean region, mainly focusing on EU and US relations with the Mediterranean, NATO’s Mediterranean Dialogue, China’s presence in the Mediterranean, and energy security in the Mediterranean and Middle East.

Among other, Ms. Brandsma manages GMF’s Eastern Mediterranean Energy Project, which aims to promote the conditions for the peaceful development of new energy opportunities in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Charlotte Brandsma is a member of the OSCE New-Med network and an Associate Scholar at the Mediterranean Seminar research network. Prior to joining GMF, Charlotte worked for the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Brussels on the European Neighbourhood Policy, human rights and migration policy.

At NorSec 2017 Charlotte Brandsma will be speaking on the topic “Russia – A new Great Power in the Middle East?”.