# *Resilient Europe* ***2026***

**Crisis Preparedness in an Uncertain Age**

21-22 October 2026 · Kaiserstein Palace, Prague

CENTER FOR AN INFORMED SOCIETY

## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE:

Resilient Europe 2026 is a high-level international conference focused on a single urgent question: how can democratic societies prepare for the next crisis before it arrives?

As Europe faces sustained hybrid pressure and growing geopolitical instability, preparedness has become a strategic priority.

Building on earlier Resilient Europe discussions on hybrid threats and resilience, the 2026 edition centres on whole-of-society preparedness, encompassing governance, communication, economic continuity, public trust, and civil–military coordination. Attention will be paid to lessons from countries with advanced preparedness cultures, notably the Nordic and Baltic states, Poland, Germany, and the United Kingdom, and their relevance for Czechia, Central Europe, the EU, and NATO.

An integral component will be a business-to-business preparedness exchange, enabling companies from highly prepared countries to share practical experience in crisis simulations, continuity planning, stress testing, and public–private coordination.

Resilient Europe 2026 will bring together policymakers, diplomats, EU and NATO institutions, security and crisis-management authorities, business leaders, and civil society to strengthen European preparedness and democratic resilience before the next crisis tests them..

## CONFERENCE FORMAT:

- High-level strategic panels with policymakers and security leaders
- Practitioner-led sessions with concrete case studies
- Side sessions and closed-door expert roundtables
- Business-to-business preparedness exchange
- Practical blackout interactive workshop for companies
- Networking receptions for speakers, selected participants and partners
- The format prioritises actionable insights, trusted exchange, and cross-sector coordination.

## AUSPICES AND PARTNERS:

***Under the auspices of:***



**H. E. Petr Pavel**
President of the Czech Republic

Ministerstvo průmyslu a obchodu

Ministry of Industry and Trade
of the Czech Republic



**H.E. Adam Vojtěch**
Minister of Health
of the Czech Republic

***Partnerships:***

Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG

European Commission

Česko-německý fond budoucnosti

Deutsch-Tschechischer Zukunftsfonds

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada
Embassy of Canada / Ambassade du Canada

British Embassy Prague

Embassy of Sweden Prague

Norwegian Embassy

EUAM UKRAINE

NL Netherlands

NORDIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

BCC BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CZECH REPUBLIC

SP CONFEDERATION OF INDUSTRY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

ČESKÝ ČERVENÝ KŘÍŽ

AHK Deutsch-Tschechische Industrie- und Handelskammer
Česko-německá obchodní a průmyslová komora

EMBASSY OF DENMARK Prague

Embassy of Finland Prague

Embassy of Ukraine in the Czech Republic

Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany Prague

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA PRAGUE

Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Prague

BUSINESS LEADERS FORUM

Byznys & udržitelnost

*This Conference receives financial support from the European Parliament. Sole liability rests with the organizer, the European Parliament is not responsible for the activity.*

PROGRAMME:

# WEDNESDAY, 21 OCTOBER 2026

## 10:00–12:00 Trusted Information Under Pressure

Finland-Czech expert dialogue on information resilience, crisis communication and media preparedness, examining how state authorities and media can maintain trusted information flows during emergencies.

**LIMITED CAPACITY:**
Registration is required. Please register here.

**SPEAKERS:**

**Kaj Backman**
Head of Preparedness for the news and sports unit, YLE Radio, Finland

**Senni Jyrkiäinen**
Head of Preparedness, Mediapooli, Finland

**Karolína Kašparová**
Strategic Development Manager, Czech Radio, CZ

**Jaroslav Valůch**
Crisis communication expert, KRIT Institute

**LOCATION:**
***Residence of the Finnish Ambassador in Prague,***
Sibeliova 6, Prague 6

## 11:30-17:00 BLACKOUT INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

An interactive workshop combining a condensed blackout crisis simulation with practical lessons from Finland and Ukraine. Participants will experience decision-making under pressure and explore how public authorities and businesses can prepare for cascading disruptions, drawing on Finland's model of public-private preparedness and Ukraine's real-world crisis experience. Organized in cooperation with European Union Advisory Mission in Ukraine.

**LIMITED ENTRY:**
by invitation or with a valid ticket only.

**LOCATION:**
***Malostranská beseda, 2nd floor (Music and Theater Hall)***
Malostranské nám. 35, 118 00 Prague 1

## 18:00–20:00 Welcome Networking Reception

Welcome evening for speakers, selected participants and partners, organised in cooperation with the Embassy of Sweden in Prague. Upon invitation.

**LOCATION:**

***Residence of the Swedish Ambassador in Prague,***
Úvoz 156, 118 00 Prague 1

# THURSDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2026

The conference will be hosted throughout the day by **Rob Cameron**, former BBC correspondent.

## 08:00–09:00 Registration

## 09:00–09:30 Opening and VIP Keynote

Opening remarks and keynote address.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:**

**H.E. Karel Havlíček**
Minister of Industry and Trade, Czechia



**H.E. Adam Vojtěch**
Minister of Health, Czechia



## *PANEL 1:*

## 09:30–10:30 From Resilience to Readiness: How European States Build Whole-of-Society Preparedness (Main Stage)

Strategic panel on how advanced preparedness cultures translate resilience into concrete responsibilities, planning cycles, budgets, and operational readiness.

**MODERATED BY:**

**Rob Cameron**
former BBC correspondent

**SPEAKERS:**

**Øyvin Rannem Lund**
Senior Adviser, Ministry of Justice and Public Security
Representative, NO

**Michał Staniszewski**
Specialist in the Strategic Communication Unit,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Poland, PL

**Annukka Ylivaara**
Assistant Secretary General, Finnish Security Committee, FI

**10:30–10:50** **Coffee Break & Networking**

## *PANEL 2:*

**10:50–11:50** **Operating Under Pressure: Economic Continuity, Migration and Logistics in Systemic Crises (Main Stage)**

Panel on maintaining economic continuity, logistics, reception systems, and public trust during systemic crises involving migration pressure, disrupted supply chains, and hybrid operations.

**MODERATED BY:**

**Martin Ehl**
Hospodářské noviny

**SPEAKERS:**

**Ana Burkovskienė**
Vice-Minister of the Interior, Lithuania LT

**Eoin Drea**
Chief Economist and Senior Research Officer, WMCES, Ireland

**Stefano Failla**
Director of the EIBM Intelligence Division, Frontex, EU

**Pavla Novotná**
Migration Service, Ministry of the Interior, CZ

## *CLOSED DOORS 1:*

**10:50–11:50** — **From API to ICU: Cutting Europe's Dependence on China and Other Single Points of Failure for Critical Medicines (Side Room in Malostranska Beseda)**

**LIMITED CAPACITY:**
Registration is required to attend the closed door sessions. Please register here.

**MODERATED BY:**

**Zuzana Košková (TBC)**
European Values Center for Security Policy (TBC)

**SPEAKERS:**

**Viktoria Schenkel**
Resilience, Crisis Management, and Disaster Protection Staff Unit, Charité, DE

**Valeriia Soruchan**
Acting Director of the Department of Medical Services, and Head of the Primary Health Care, Emergency Care, and Disaster Medicine Unit at the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, UA

**11:50-12:50** — **Lunch & Joint Networking**

**12:50–13:05** — **Afternoon Opening and VIP Keynote**

**H.E. Hadja Lahbib**
European Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management



## *PANEL 3:*

**13:05–14:00**

## The Preparedness Contract: Public–Private Coordination for Continuity of Essential Services (Main Stage)

Panel on practical coordination models between the state and critical operators, including information sharing, joint risk scenarios, continuity planning and stress testing.

**MODERATED BY:**

**Nikita Poljakov**
e15.cz

**SPEAKERS:**

**Milena Jabůrková**
Vice President for Digital Economy and Education, Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic, CZ

**Šimon Kubrt**
Cyber Security Manager, T-Mobile, CZ

**Heli Tammivuori**
Director for Network Cooperation, National Emergency Supply Agency (NESA), FI

**Scarlett Waitzmanová**
Civil-Military Planning and Crisis Management Expert, CZ

## *PANEL 4:*

**14:00–14:55**

### When the Crisis Is Digital: Cyber, Platforms, and the Continuity of Digital Public Services (Main Stage)

Panel on cyber crisis management, digital public services, NIS2, platform crisis mechanisms under the DSA, and the digital layer of modern crises.

**SPEAKERS:**

**Rosella Mattioli**
Head of Sector, Crisis Response & Operational Stakeholders Support, ENISA, EU

**Jan Pich**
Head of Cybersecurity Department, Ernst and Young, CZ

**Vladěna Sasková**
Director, Department of International Cooperation and the European Union, NÚKIB, CZ

## *CLOSED DOORS 2:*

**13:30/13:50 –14:50 (TBC)**

### Cascading Failures: Protecting Critical Infrastructure Against Sabotage, Disruption, and Hybrid Threats (Side Room in Malostranska Beseda)

Closed-door roundtable on protecting critical infrastructure against sabotage, disruption, and cross-sector cascading failures.

**LIMITED CAPACITY:**
Registration is required to attend the closed door sessions. Please register here.

**MODERATED BY:**

**Nathalie Vogel**
Research Fellow, Institute of World Politics

SPEAKERS:

**Konrad Gasiński**
Senior Specialist in Hybrid Technology and Resilience, Security Policy Department, MFA, PL

**Daniel J. Lemmen**
Policy Advisor, Poland Office, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, PL

**Andy Pryce**
Principal Consultant, Centre for Information Resilience, UK

**Victoria Vdovychenko**
Analyst, University of Cambridge, UK

**Gunhild Hoogensen Gjørv**
Professor, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, NO

**14:55–15:05 Coffee Break**

## *PANEL 5:*

**15:05–16:10 Trust Is an Infrastructure: Crisis Communication, Psychological Defence, and Information Resilience (Main Stage)**

Panel on crisis communication as an operational capability, including public trust, rumour control, psychological defence, information resilience, and coordination with media, municipalities, and civil society.

MODERATED BY:

**Markéta Boubínová**
Deník N

SPEAKERS:

**Dr. Magnus Hjort**
Director General, Swedish Psychological Defence Agency, SE

**Jan Paťawa**
ex-Director of the Crisis Information Team, MoI, CZ

**Iryna Subota**
Analyst, Centre for Strategic Communication, UA

**Pasi Eronen Watt**
Security Policy and Hybrid Threats Expert, FI

## 15:00–17:00 VR First Aid Training with the Czech Red Cross (Small Room in Kaiserstein Palace)

A comprehensive virtual reality first aid training simulation based on European Resuscitation Council guidelines provides practical, hands-on experience in managing cardiac arrest (CPR). Join us for 15 minutes that could save a life!

# *CLOSED DOORS 3:*

## 15:10–17:10 From the Trench to the Joystick: Czech and German Perspectives on Connecting Gen Z with Military Service (Side Room in Malostranska Beseda)

As modern warfare shifts from trenches to high-tech environments, European militaries must reinvent recruitment for the 21st century. This CZ-DE panel brings together defence experts and representatives of the youth generation to debate whether cutting-edge technology can make military service attractive to Gen Z.

**REGISTRATION IS CLOSED**

**MODERATED BY:**

**Martina Beránková**
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

## *PANEL 6:*

### 16:10–17:10 Mental health as a preparedness capability (Main Stage)

Panel on mental health and psychosocial support as a core preparedness function built into crisis plans, exercised and resourced.

**MODERATED BY:**

**Barbora Chaloupková**
Deník N

**SPEAKERS:**

**Olena Harmata**
Head of the Mental Health Unit, Department of Medical Service, Ministry of Health of Ukraine, UA

**David Pedlar**
Senior Scientist, University of Ottawa Institute of Mental Health Research at The Royal, CA

**Marianne Skjold**
CEO, Danish Mental Health Foundation, DK

**Prof. Robert van Voren**
Professor, Human Rights in Mental Health-FGIP, NL

### 17:10–17:15 Closing Remarks

Short closing reflection and transition to the evening reception.

### Transition to Closing Reception

## 18:00–21:00 Closing Networking Reception

Closing reception organised in cooperation with the Embassy of Norway in Prague. Upon invitation.

**LOCATION:**

***Residence of the Norwegian Ambassador in Prague,***
Na Zátorce 670/20, 160 00 Prague 6

## FINAL NOTE:

This programme is indicative and subject to change.