

SOVEREIGN EUROPE FORUM 2026

The European Defense Union is the base.

12 February 2026 from 19.00 to 22.00 h
at Hotel Bayerischer Hof, Königssaal

An official side event of the MSC 2026
Co-hosted by United Europe, European Forum Alpbach and
Sovereign Europe Forum

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

19.00 WELCOME

José Manuel Durao Barroso, Former President of European Commission
Othmar Karas, Former Vice-President European Parliament, President EFA
Günther H. Oettinger, Former Commissioner, President United Europe

19.20 EUROPEAN DEFENSE UNION

Keynote: **Andrius Kubilius**, EU Commissioner Defense & Space

Panelists: **Andrius Kubilius**, EU Commissioner Defense & Space
Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann, Chair of the Committee on Security and Defence at the European Parliament (invited)
Moritz Schularick, President of the Kiel Institute for the World Economy
Klaus Welle, Chairman Academic Council Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, Board Member EFA

Moderator: **Gabor Steingart**, Founder and Publisher of The Pioneer
Followed by open discussion

20.20 EUROPEAN TECHNOLOGICAL SOVEREIGNTY AND DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Keynote: **Hans-Werner Sinn**, former President of ifo Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (invited)

Panelist: **Francesca Bria**, Innovation Economist, Project Leader Eurostack (invited)
Gundbert Scherf, CEO Helsing
Christian Klein, CEO SAP (invited)
André Loesekrug-Pietri, Chairman & Scientific Director, JEDI Foundation

Moderator: **Julia Reuss**, Director Public Policy Central Europe Meta
Followed by open discussion

21.00 CAPITAL MARKETS UNION

Panelist **Philippe Oddo**, Managing Partner of ODDO BHF
Philipp Hildebrand, Vice-Chairman Black Rock
Andreas Treichl, Chairman Erste Foundation
Martin Blessing, Personal Representative of the Federal Chancellor for Investments in Germany

Moderator: **Beat Wittmann**, Co-Founder, Partner and Chairman Porta Advisors

21.40 CLOSING & Sovereign Europe RECOMMENDATION announcement

A **Sovereign Europe Recommendation 2026** will be presented including outcomes and key findings of the panels.

José Manuel Duaro Barroso, Former President of European Commission
Klaus Regling, Former Managing Director of ESM
Martin Schoeller, Board Member of Sovereign Europe and the Bavarian Family Entrepreneurs

22.00 NETWORKING

The event takes place under Chatham House Rules.

The event itself is co-hosted by **United Europe** (President: Günther H. Oettinger), the **European Forum Alpbach** (President: Othmar Karas; Vice-President: Antonella Mei-Pochtler) and **Sovereign Europe Forum** (Co-Founder: Martin Schoeller, Antonella Mei-Pochtler, Andreas Treichl, Klaus Regling, José-Manuel Barroso, Jürgen Großmann, Patrick Adenauer, André Loesekrug-Petri, Beat Wittmann).