

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, Königsaal

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

FINAL 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
Natalia Pouzyreff, Member of the French National Assembly
Hans-Werner Sinn, former President ifo Institute for economic research
Klaus Welle, Chairman Academic Council Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, Board Member EFA
Moritz Schularick, President of the Kiel Institute for the World Economy

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

20.20 EUROPEAN TECHNOLOGICAL SOVEREIGNTY AND DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Panelist: **Anne-Laure De Chammard**, Member of the Executive Board at Siemens Energy
Arancha González Laya, Dean of the Paris School of International Affairs/Sciences Po; former Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation
André Loesekrug-Pietri, Chairman & Scientific Director, JEDI Foundation
Ricardo Mendes, Founder and CEO of Tekever

Moderator : **Julia Reuss**, Member of the Board of United Europe
Followed by open discussion

21.00 CAPITAL MARKETS UNION

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

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

22.00 End of the Conference

Antonella Mei-Pochtler, Board Member Sovereign Europe and Vice-President EFA will moderate through the evening.

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).

Sovereign Europe Forum e.V. is supported by ERSTE Stiftung in cooperation with European Forum Alpbach and United Europe.