

**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 Gonzáles 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-Pietri, Beat Wittmann).

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

[www.sovereign-europe-forum.org](http://www.sovereign-europe-forum.org)