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# War in Ukraine:

## The battleground for the future of Europe

Tuesday 11 November 2025

### Agenda

- 08:00– 09:00**      **Registration and coffee**
- 09:00 – 09:15**      **Opening remarks by Simon Smith, Chair, Steering Committee, Ukraine Forum, Chatham House**
- 09:15 – 09:45**      **Keynote address by Alistair Carns DSO OBE MC, the Minister for the Armed Forces, the UK**
- 09:45 – 11:15**      **Session 1: Does Europe have what it takes to defend Ukraine, and how can the US help?**

- The ‘coalition of the willing’: who’s in and what’s the plan?
- What security arrangements can protect Ukraine from renewed invasion?
- Is President Trump backing the European vision for how the war must end?
- Can the UK and the EU sustain military assistance to Ukraine without the US?
- Can immobilised Russian assets fund Europe’s defence?

#### Confirmed speakers:

**Robin Brooks**, Former Special Advisor to Vice President Kamala Harris on Europe and Eurasia

**Bertrand Buchwalter**, Advisor to the President of France for Continental Europe and Turkey

**Sir Lawrence Freedman**, Emeritus Professor of War Studies, King’s College London

**Yuliya Ziskina**, Senior Legal Fellow, Razom for Ukraine

**Chair: Natalie Sabanadze**, Senior Research Fellow, Russia and Eurasia Programme, Chatham House

**11:15 – 11:45**      **Refreshment break**

**11:45 – 13:00**      **Session 2: How is the war reshaping Ukraine’s society, politics and governance?**

- How has the existential threat altered the relationship between the Ukrainian state and its citizens?
- Can unity and the wider mobilisation-for-war effort be sustained?
- How has the role of civil society in Ukraine evolved (humanitarian aid, defence procurement and governance support)?
- Does democratic oversight and accountability function under martial law?
- Preparing for election day: too early?

**Confirmed speakers:**

**Olha Aivazovska**, Chair of the Board, Opora Civic Network

**Markus Lux**, Vice President, Special Division Ukraine, Robert Bosch Stiftung

**Inna Pidluska**, Deputy Director, International Renaissance Foundation

**Inna Sovsun**, Member of the Ukrainian Parliament, Golos Party

**Chair: Jaroslava Barbieri**, Research Fellow, Ukraine Forum, Chatham House

**13:00 – 14:00**      **Lunch**

**14:00 – 15:15**      **Session 3. New frontiers of warfare: Military tech innovation**

- Ukraine's military industrial base: what has been the key to its success?
- What military technologies have seen significant acceleration and deployment in Ukraine?
- What role has AI played in accelerating military innovation in Ukraine and what is its potential on this battlefield?
- How has the demand for low-cost systems, particularly drones, reshaped military planning and resource allocation?
- How are NATO members adapting their defence doctrines, R&D priorities and procurement processes in response to the military-tech lessons from Ukraine?

**Confirmed speakers:**

**Eveline Buchatskiy**, Partner, 3D, Dare to Defend Democracy, VC Fund

**Justin Hedges OBE**, Chairman, Prevail Partners

**Major Yevhen Karas**, Commander of the 413th Separate Battalion of Unmanned Systems "Raid", Armed Forces of Ukraine

**Andrii Zagorodnyuk**, Former Minister of Defence of Ukraine (2019–2020)

**Chair: Dominic Nicholls**, Associate Editor, The Telegraph

**15:15 – 15:45**      **Refreshment break**

**15:45 – 17:00**      **Session 4. Beyond the battlefield: Challenges and opportunities for Ukraine's post-war recovery and European integration**

- How successful has Ukraine been so far in rapid rebuilding and adapting its economy for war?
- How have the war and mass displacement affected labour market, mental health, demographic trends, and inter-community relations within Ukraine?
- What will enable the flow of private capital to Ukraine?
- What's the impact of Russia's continued occupation of mineral-rich areas on Ukraine's mining industry and post-war recovery?
- Has the war delayed or accelerated Ukraine's European integration process?

**Confirmed speakers:**

**Davide La Cecilia**, Special Envoy for the Reconstruction of Ukraine

**Daryna Marchak**, Deputy Minister of Economy, Environment and Agriculture

**Alexander McWhorter**, Country Officer and Banking Head Ukraine, Citi

**Oleg Shymanskyi**, Deputy Minister of Veterans Affairs, Parliament of Ukraine

**Chair: Kataryna Wolczuk**, Associate Fellow, Russia and Eurasia Programme, Chatham House

**17:00– 18:00**                    **Closing session. The path ahead: Key principles for a just and durable peace in Ukraine**

- In what ways does Russia’s imperial outlook complicate the prospects for a lasting peace settlement today? What internal arrangements in Ukraine can serve as deterrence?
- What critical support is necessary for human recovery? What role for the state and private sector?
- How can a strong economy and FDIs contribute to winning the peace? What is Ukraine’s added value for European and global prosperity?
- How can Ukraine and its partners deliver justice to victims of war and how would continued impunity affect any peace settlement?

**Confirmed Speakers:**

**Yevhen Hlibovytsky**, Head, Frontier Institute

**Dmytro Koval**, Executive Co-director, Truth Hounds

**Olga Rudneva**, Superhumans Centre, CEO

**Lesia Vasylenko**, Member of the Ukrainian Parliament, Golos Party

**Chair: Orysia Lutsevych OBE**, Head, Ukraine Forum, Chatham House

**18:00 – 19:30**                    **Reception**

*This conference is organised within Ukraine Forum projects supported by the UK government and the Open Society Foundations.*