

SEDE

PREPARATION MODULE

MEP BSR – Copenhagen 2024

Committee Presidents

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Committee on Security and Defence (SEDE)

The question of security and defence challenges in the Baltic Sea region

Dear delegates of the Committee on Security and Defence,

We are extremely excited to welcome you to the SEDE Committee, and to this year's MEP BSR session in Copenhagen. The question at hand is the one of security and defence challenges in the Baltic Sea region, something that has become increasingly more relevant considering the way the situation in Europe has been developing. The Prep Module and Fact Sheet we have provided, where we have divided the rather big topic into smaller subtopics, will guide you through your research leading up to and during the session and provide you with the tools necessary to effectively address and discuss the topic of the Committee. The research you do before the session should be akin to the information provided in these documents, but we encourage you to explore and research in your own way, beyond the subtopics we have provided, in order to form a holistic and well-rounded understanding of the interesting but at the same time challenging issue the Committee stands before. Throughout the session in Copenhagen you will be tasked to, under the guidance of your Committee presidents, work together with your fellow delegates to construct a resolution directed to the European Parliament that addresses the Committee's question. It is therefore vital that you prepare and make sure you have a proper understanding of the issue before you arrive in Copenhagen. We encourage you to think about possible problems and solutions within the topic, and how the EU can work towards strengthening its *security* in the region amidst ongoing conflicts and rising tensions.

“The threats we face are real, close-by and likely to get worse. At the same time, everything is in place for a leap forward on EU defence and cooperation.”

Josep Borell - EU High Representative for Security Policy



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Maritime Security

WEBSITES:

European Council – Maritime Security: *The European Council's Maritime security webpage offers information on EU policies and legislative measures related to Maritime security.*

- <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/maritime-security/>

European Maritime Security Agency (EMSA): *The official website of the EMSA provides valuable resources, reports, and information on EU maritime security initiatives.*

- <https://emsa.europa.eu/>

European Commission: *EU updates Strategy to safeguard maritime domain against new threats.*

- https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_1483

ARTICLES:

Maritime Security: *EU updates Strategy to safeguard maritime domain against new threats*

- https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_1483

Safety4Sea - ECSA welcomes the updated EU Maritime Security Strategy

- <https://safety4sea.com/ecsa-welcomes-the-updated-eu-maritime-security-strategy/>

VIDEO/AUDIO:

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Conventional and Unconventional Threats to the Baltic Sea Region - Briefly showcases the most imminent threats and issues in the Baltic Sea

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MmknmWsIcAU&ab_channel=CarnegieEndowment



Border Security

WEBSITES:

European Commission, Migration and Home Affairs, Policy and Regulation

- https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen-borders-and-visa/border-crossing_en

STUDIES, RESEARCH PAPERS, REPORTS:

Risk analysis by Frontex (the European Border and Coast Guard Agency) for 2023/2024 (pages 16-19)

- https://www.frontex.europa.eu/assets/Publications/Risk_Analysis/Risk_Analysis/ARA_2023.pdf

Illegal border crossings into EU up 61% in first two months of 2022

- <https://www.frontex.europa.eu/media-centre/news/news-release/illegal-border-crossings-into-eu-up-61-in-first-two-months-of-2022-gJpxG2>

Eurostat, Immigration law enforcement in the EU: 2022 figures

- <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/w/DDN-20230505-2>

ARTICLES:

The Baltic states and Finland: fencing themselves off from Russia and Belarus

- <https://www.osw.waw.pl/en/publikacje/osw-commentary/2023-09-15/baltic-states-and-finland-fencing-themselves-russia-and>

More EU countries threaten to close Russian borders amid migrant surge

- <https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-baltic-countries-threaten-close-russian-borders-kremlin-migrant-surge-finland/>



Cyber Security

WEBSITES:

European Council – Cybersecurity: *The European Council's Cybersecurity webpage offers information on EU policies and legislative measures related to cybersecurity, including efforts to combat foreign espionage*

- <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/cybersecurity/>

European External Action Service (EEAS) – Cybersecurity: *The EEAS is responsible for the EU's external action, including cybersecurity. Their website provides insights into the EU's foreign policy on cybersecurity and related initiatives.*

- https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/cybersecurity_en

European Commission – Cybersecurity: *The European Commission's Cybersecurity web page provides information on EU policies, strategies, and initiatives to enhance cybersecurity and protect against cyber threats.*

- <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/cybersecurity-policies>

STUDIES, RESEARCH PAPERS, REPORTS:

Cobalt - Impact of war in Ukraine to Cybersecurity in the Baltic Region

- <https://www.cobalt.legal/news-cases/impact-of-war-in-ukraine-to-cybersecurity-in-the-baltic-region/>

Report requested by the SEDE committee - The role of cyber in the Russian war against Ukraine: Its impact and the consequences for the future of armed conflict.

- [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2023/702594/EXP_O_BRI\(2023\)702594_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2023/702594/EXP_O_BRI(2023)702594_EN.pdf)

ARTICLES:



The EU Cyber Solidarity Act - “A step forward after the Joint Cyber Defence Communication (JOIN(2022) 49)”

- <https://www.eu-cyber-solidarity-act.com/>

EU Cooperation with Allies

STUDIES, RESEARCH PAPERS, REPORTS:

NATO - Relations with the European Union, EU and Nato cooperation

- https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_49217.htm

European Union – NATO Joint Declaration: *The Joint Declaration between the EU and NATO outlines the framework for their cooperation, including areas such as crisis management, hybrid threats, and cybersecurity.*

https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts_210549.htm

European Council on Foreign Relations – Europe's Burden-Sharing in NATO: *This report focuses on the EU's burden-sharing efforts within NATO, highlighting the challenges and opportunities for enhancing cooperation between the two entities.*

- <https://www.csis.org/analysis/nato-and-european-union-burden-sharing>



Preparational work questions

In the face of rising tensions and a full-scale war in Europe, the security of the Baltic Sea region has become increasingly unstable and at the same time important. What threats and challenges is the EU facing in the region, and what can be done to strengthen security in the region?

- *What can be done to enhance border protection?*
- *How can the EU enhance and develop its cooperation towards common safety with other allies (e.g. NATO)?*
- *How can we further ensure that the general public can defend themselves against cyber threats? How can we enhance so-called “cyber literacy”?*
- *What can be done to secure critical institutions (hospitals, schools, etc.) from cyber threats?*
- *How are we going to ensure the safe passage of vessels in the Baltic sea?*
- *How can we mitigate risks of hostile groups’ use of cyber warfare and drones for espionage?*
- *How can we deal with a flow of illegal immigration in the region, especially after Russia's invasion of Ukraine?*

As your committee presidents we look forward to fruitful discussions with you all. Our job is to guide you through the discussion and through your work within the SEDE committee and to prepare you with both factual and formal capabilities. We can’t wait to meet you all in Copenhagen and are excited to have a successful session with thought-provoking debates and interesting discussions. Before your arrival we would like to ask all of you to submit a Position Paper (maximum of one page), where you outline your opinion and views on the committee’s topic, in order for us to develop an understanding of how the debate will unfold. Please make sure to do this at least one day before your departure. If you have any further questions do not hesitate to ask either one of us.

Best regards,

Great Aldonytė (LT) & Hugo Mattsson (SE)