

# MODEL NATO GERMANY 2024



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# #wearenato

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MODEL NATO  
GERMANY 2024

# WORDS FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON



## Jonathan Ponfick

Dear readers of Model NATO

Germany's 2024 Booklet,

as the 2nd Model NATO Germany came to a close, there are only few things left to do:

First, I want to thank our 96 participants of 30 nationalities, from Canada over Europe to Singapore, and Australia. It was you who made this conference the unforgettable experience that it became!

Secondly, I want to express my gratitude to the 32-person strong team of Model NATO Germany which has worked tirelessly to put the conference together. As a young, German non-profit, we are extremely proud to produce the academic content of our simulation almost on our own. I especially want to thank the German Federal Ministry of Defense and the German Foreign Office for their invaluable assistance in preparing the content of the conference.

This being said, the conference would not have been possible without the support of so many partners & supporters, most importantly the Federal Academy for Security Policy, NATO, the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung! Thank you for your effort and commitment to MNG!

As we embark on the evaluation process of this year's conference, I can say with confidence and pride that Model NATO Germany will continue to pursue its mission with dedication to shared democratic values and academic excellence!







# WORDS FROM OUR MANAGING DIRECTOR

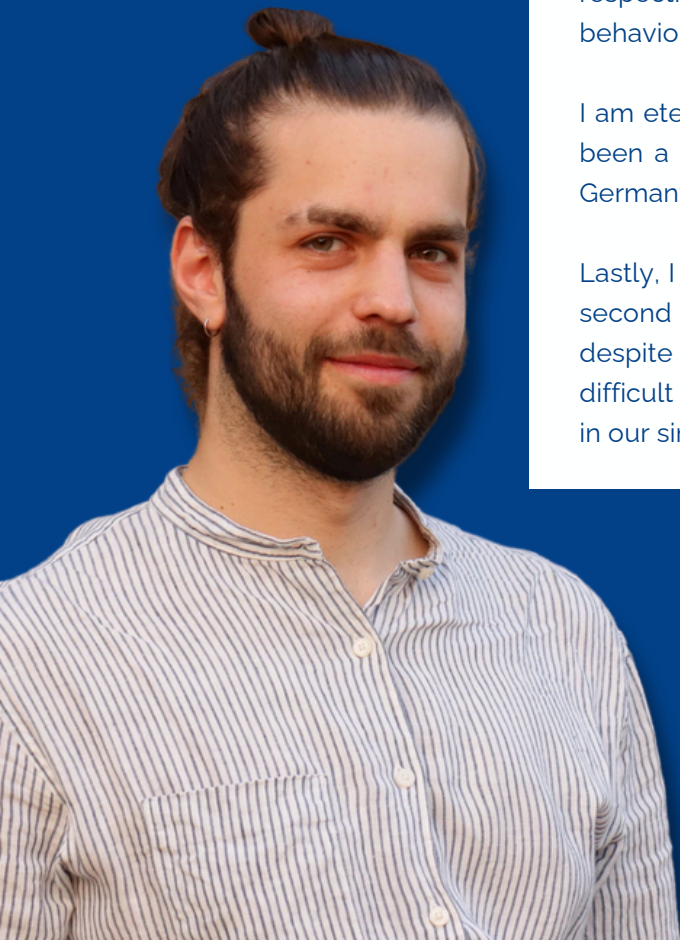
## Jan Johannsmann

The journey to Model NATO Germany 2024 was an intense one. We started into the year carried by great motivation from the successful 2023 conference, but also with pages upon pages of notes and what to improve on. As a consequence, we increased our team size to 34 people, improved our internal organization, and, with the support of our partners, improved the content of our crisis significantly and increased the realism of it.

Our team has put in countless hours of volunteer work, from creating social media posts and print products (like this booklet!), creating an application process and evaluating over 250 applications, acquiring and managing speakers for the opening ceremony, a panel discussion, and a Security Dialogue, to creating and managing an extensive crisis and coordinating the respective home governments responses, adapting to our participants behavior at the conference live.

I am eternally grateful to have been part of this wonderful team, which has been a pleasure to work with and I can confidently say that Model NATO Germany 2024 was only possible because of you.

Lastly, I want to thank our participants for going on this journey with us. The second ever Model NATO Germany 2024 was much smoother, but even despite that you worked with us throughout any hiccups, engaging in difficult and deep discussions and negotiations. I thank you for your interest in our simulation and in NATO, and the trust you put in us.



# ABOUT US



## The Model NATO Germany Team

**Sebastián Aguilar - Marc Bayerschen - Maria Fernanda Beltran Sierra -  
Matěj Boček - Nina Brändle - Pablo Dufour - Ana Maria Duque Alvira -  
Sarah Fenzl - Kathrin Fiedler - Francesco Fimiani - Alice Frangella -  
Mando Gloger - Paul Gratz - Eva Hager - Alba Hernández Cernuda - Nikita  
Afaik - Jan Johannsmann - Johanna Kleinert - Prisca König - Fabio König -  
Alexander Menter - Jonathan Ponfick - David Reim - Linda Rempis - Lukas  
Schmidt - Julian Schneider - Sofie Serrer - Nick Soestwöhner - Jannik  
Steinwender - Marcel Stolz - Ethan Willick**

The team behind Model NATO Germany consists of 32 individuals from various backgrounds, all sharing the common goal of enabling students from different countries to gain insight into the workings of NATO





# PATRON

Siemtje Möller has been a member of the German Bundestag since 2017 and Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Defence since 2021. Ms Möller is also an assessor on the board of the German Atlantic Society as well as a member of Women in International Security Deutschland e.V. – WIIS.de and Atlantik-Brücke e.V.



**SIEMTJE MÖLLER**

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MODEL NATO GERMANY 2024

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## DR. GERLINDE NIEHUS



# KEYNOTE

Dr. Gerlinde Niehus is an independent NATO and international security expert, author, and speaker. From 2019 until mid-2024, Gerlinde served as Deputy Director for Defence and Security Cooperation with NATO partner countries. In this capacity, she oversaw NATO's practical cooperation with NATO's currently 35 partner nations worldwide. In previous positions at NATO, Gerlinde reformed and managed NATO's Communications Services (2003-2012), where she was responsible for all NATO publishing work online and in print, and NATO's Public Relations Services (2012-2019), where she guided NATO's engagement with audiences in all NATO nations and NATO partner countries across the globe.

# THE PARTNERS



The Federal Academy for Security Policy (German: Bundesakademie für Sicherheitspolitik, BAKS) is the educational center for security policy of the Federal Government of Germany



Federal Academy  
for Security Policy



NATO is a political and military alliance of countries from Europe and North America. Its members are committed to protecting each other from any threat.

The promotion of social justice, democracy, peace and security is our top priority as a partner to German foreign and developmental policy. With an international network of over 100 offices we connect key players to develop comprehensive, transnational concepts, for example in the fields of foreign and security policy or climate and energy policy.



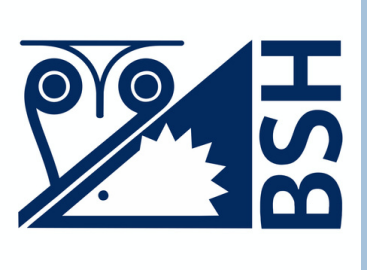
Nationally and internationally, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung is committed to peace, freedom, security, democracy and the rule of law. They promote dialogue and international cooperation with a network of over 100 offices worldwide. Security is one of the core issues. The achievements and challenges of NATO and European integration are main topics.



# OUR SUPPORTERS



The Academic Association for  
Security Studies (BSH)



Aspen Institute Germany

Center for Security Consulting



Deutsche Atlantische Gesellschaft e.V.

# PANEL DISCUSSION



## *Striking a balance -*

**Europe's quest for autonomy amidst US dependency**



### **Dr. Christina Krause**

Dr. Krause, the Head of the Department for International and Security Affairs at the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, served as the moderator at the panel discussion.

### **Dr. Karl-Heinz Kamp**

Associate Fellow at the German Council on Foreign Relations, former Representative of the Political Director at the Federal Ministry of Defence until 2023, and former President of the Federal Academy for Security Studies.



### **Dr. John Andreas Olson**

Colonel in the Royal Norwegian Air Force, currently assigned to NATO Headquarters, Professor at the Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies, fellow of the Royal Swedish Academy of War Sciences.,

# SECURITY DIALOGUE



## NATO ACT

**LTC Jamie Beneitez**

Strategic Engagement/Coordination Officer

**Luisa Freutel**

Academic Outreach Coordinator



ACT's Academic Outreach Function and  
Careers at NATO

## EU Commission

**Guillaume Durand**

Trade Officer



EU Trade and Security Strategy

## BAKS/Foreign Office

**Markus Woelke**

Vice-President BAKS

**Dennis Kumetat**

Head of Culture and Communication Foreign Office



Mission of BAKS, Insights into Diplomatic Work  
and Careers at the Foreign Office

## ASPEN Institute

**Tina Bories**

Senior Program Officer

**Sinu Krohner**

Junior Program Officer

**Luise Kienel**

Program Assistant

**Laurent Weißenberger**

Program Assistant



Aspen and Integrated Security: European Integration,  
Digitalization and Transatlantic Relations



# EMBASSY



Sincere thanks to all the embassies and



# VISITS



experts who briefed our delegations!

# THE CRISIS



A cyberattack targeted Romania's Vidraru Dam, which disrupted its automated systems and caused uncontrolled water discharge. This led to catastrophic flooding along the Argeş River, severely impacting Curtea de Argeş with inundated infrastructure and overwhelmed emergency services. Downstream areas face continued threats, including Piteşti, a NATO-relevant city hosting key military facilities. Suspicions link the attack to escalating Romania-Russia tensions following a Romanian law authorizing military interventions abroad.

Simultaneously, heightened activity in the High North reveals Russian naval, aerial, and ground movements near NATO territories, including unannounced fleet exercises and airspace incursions. Further complicating matters, a Russian operative in Norway exploited software vulnerabilities at Svalsat to facilitate a supply chain attack by APT28 (Fancy Bear), a GRU-linked cyber-espionage group. These coordinated threats underscore geopolitical instability and critical infrastructure vulnerabilities, demanding urgent international attention.

# DAY 1

## THE CONFERENCE

The proceedings of Day One commenced with embassy visits for our esteemed delegates, during which they were provided with a comprehensive briefing on their designated country's role within NATO. Subsequently, the event continued at the Federal Academy for Security Policy (BAKS), where the opening ceremony took place, featuring speeches delivered by Ambassador Markus Woelke, Vice-President at BAKS, Siemtje Möller, patron for Model NATO Germany 2024, and a keynote address delivered by Dr. Gerlinde Niehus, Former NATO Deputy Director of Defense and Security Cooperation.

After the opening ceremony, each committee started by establishing their agenda, the delegates deliberated on various agenda items, including strategies to address the Svalbard situation and its broader implications for NATO policies in the High North. At the same time, the Military Committee received an Action Plan from the Supreme Allied Commander, outlining the different military options that were currently envisioned for the crisis at hand.

In the evening, delegates gathered at the facilities of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung for a panel discussion on the topic "Striking a Balance – Europe's Quest for Autonomy Amidst US Dependency." Colonel John Andreas Olson and Dr. Karl-Heinz Kamp, experts in their respective fields, provided valuable insights into the complexities of transatlantic relations and Europe's evolving security landscape. Moderated by Dr. Christina Krause, this panel discussion allowed for in-depth discussions between our delegates and the experts, allowing both parties to learn from each other and expand their horizons regarding Europe's role within NATO and beyond.





# DAY 2

## THE CONFERENCE

Before Delegates began their committee sessions on Day 2, they received a new briefing with developments on the crisis situation:

Amid ongoing geopolitical tensions, significant developments unfolded in the High North. A Russian naval task force was detected near Svalbard, moving westward at a slow pace. Several vessels left the group overnight, though satellite coverage limitations hindered complete tracking. In parallel, unidentified drones were observed over Longyearbyen, raising questions about their purpose. The ground activity also came under scrutiny as a social media post revealed the presence of a Chechen Akhmat special unit member near Barentsburg, though details of their arrival remain unclear.

Compounding the situation, Killnet, a pro-Russian hacktivist group, claimed responsibility for a cyberattack on Romania's Vidraru Dam, heightening fears about infrastructure vulnerabilities. This act was accompanied by a statement from the Russian Foreign Ministry, deflecting blame and urging dialogue. Meanwhile, China released findings on the crash of a Norwegian Coast Guard aircraft near Svalbard, citing potential foreign interference without identifying a cause. These incidents underscore the growing instability in the Arctic, a region of strategic and scientific significance.

Apart from the simulation, delegates got the chance to participate in a Security Dialogue at BAKS, which allowed them to discuss relevant geopolitical with experts and professionals in the security policy field.





On the third day of the conference, the Operations Policy Committee and the Military Committee had to complete their military and political advice so that the North Atlantic Council could approve it on Friday. At the same time, delegates had to respond to a new briefing, which escalated the situation in Svalbard.

Tensions in the High North escalated as the Russian naval task force halted near the southern tip of Svalbard, performing practice shots at sea.

Admiral Nakhimov, the fleet's flagship, entered Barentsburg's port to public celebrations, signaling strong local ties. Meanwhile, a subgroup of vessels navigated west around Bear Island, showcasing strategic maritime positioning.

In parallel, a disinformation campaign targeting Norway, Finland, and Sweden surfaced.

OSINT analysts from Bellingcat identified AI-enhanced videos spreading false narratives, including claims of U.S. exploitation of Europe, nuclear attack footage, and fabricated local warnings urging food hoarding. These efforts heightened regional unease.

Unexpectedly, Russian authorities arrested key members of the pro-Russian hacktivist group Killnet following the Vidraru Dam cyberattack. While the arrests were publicized, state media coverage was restrained, and there was no indication of broader action against the group, leaving their network largely intact.

The highlight of the day came as both the OPC and MC were able to vote in favor of a complete recommendations package for the NAC.

## DAY 3

### THE CONFERENCE



# DAY 4

## THE CONFERENCE

On the last day of the conference, the delegates from the North Atlantic Council, with the support of their delegation, had to vote in favor of the recommendations of the OPC and MC and finalize their communiqué. Before this, however, delegates received a final briefing detailing crucial information:

Russian naval activity persisted in the High North as the task force altered its course to head southeast, with Admiral Nakhimov rejoining after its high-profile visit to Barentsburg. Concurrently, vessels that had circumnavigated Bear Island also moved southeast, aligning their trajectory with the main fleet. Amid these developments, a Norwegian submarine uncovered five hydroacoustic sensors on the seabed near Svalbard, in areas previously traversed by the Russian fleet. These sensors, designed for reconnaissance and tracking submarine movements, raise concerns about broader surveillance efforts. Speculation suggests that other ships, including civilian vessels like fishing boats, may have participated in deploying the sensors. Investigations continue to determine the full scope of these activities, further complicating the Arctic security environment.



Despite these developments, delegates swiftly adapted their final communiqué to address the final briefing. As such, and after four days of intense negotiations and debates, the North Atlantic Council voted unanimously on a final communiqué.



# MNG IN NUMBERS

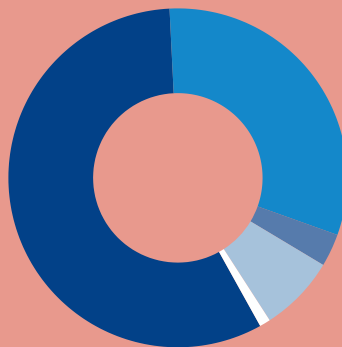


Out of the 96 participants..



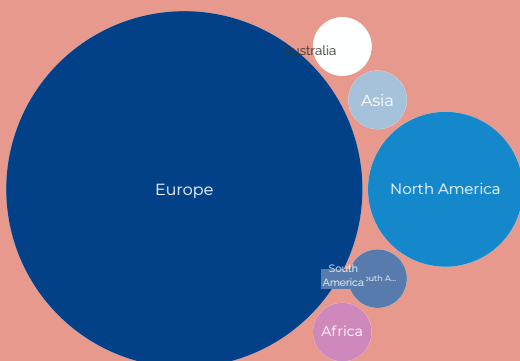
**50 were Women and 46 were Men**

among the organizers 14 were  
Women and 18 were Men



**their current occupation is...**

- 57** Bachelor students
- 30** Master students
- 1** PhD student
- 7** Young Professionals
- 1** Assistant Professor



They are from **30 countries**  
between **6 continents**



# CHAIRS



Being a crucial part of Model NATO Germany, the chairs oversee the flow of debate around our crisis, maintain order within their respective committee, allocate speaking time, and mediate any conflicts that arise among delegates. Chairs also guide delegates in drafting the different components of the final communique to address the crisis, and ultimately contribute to the overall success and realism of the simulation by maintaining a fair and balanced environment for diplomatic negotiation.



**Nick Soestwöhner - Jannik Steinwender**  
North Atlantic Council



**Paul Gratz - Alice Frangella**  
Operation Policy Committee



**Marcel Stolz - Ana Maria Duque Alvira**  
Military Committee



# COMMITTEES



## North Atlantic Council



## Military Committee



## Operations Policy Committee



# PARTICIPANTS FEEDBACK



## Crisis scenario

I loved the **Crisis scenario** and how it was unrevealed. I was amazed at how believable it was and also how many **aspects** the whole crisis scenario team was able to involve. Hands down, it was an exciting and sometimes nerve-wracking experience. As a first-timer, it gave me so much. It **will push me** to do more with NATO back home or be a part of such Models in the future.

## Social Events

Very **informative** and **fun** at the same time. Speakers were great, so were the topics. The bar hopping was very fun and a **good balance** to all the serious stuff



## MNG 2024

It was an **awesome** and **unique** experience to participate as a delegation of several people. This enabled me to put more weight and emphasis on the arguments I put forward without worrying about straying from the actual country stance. You feel a lot more secure.





# Want to Join?

## THERE IS DIFFERENT WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

If you and your organization would like to become a **partner** of Model NATO Germany, support us monetarily or with academic support at the next conference in 2025, please feel free to get in touch at **contact@modelnatogermany.de!**

Would you like to gain more insight into the **organizational work** that goes into Model NATO Germany as a private individual? Become part of the team! You can find the next Call for Support on our Social Media Profiles or our Website.

Do you want to **support us**, do not have the time for the organizing the simulation, but still would like to have a say in where our organization is headed, join our organization as a member - the membership is free! Just fill in the form on our website.

You want to **participate in the next Model NATO Germany** ? Stay tuned for the next Call for Applications, which will be published in Q2/Q3 of this year.

A black and white photograph of a hand holding a pen and writing on a piece of paper. The hand is wearing a dark sleeve. The background is dark and out of focus.

**We are looking forward  
to hearing from you!**



**Feel free to contact us for  
further information or  
feedback!**

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