Hanns Seidel Stiftung
Europa-Büro Brüssel

Invitation

30. June 2025

17.00h
to 18.30h

Representation of German Industry and Trade
(Haus der dt. Wirtschaft)

Rue Marie de Bourgogne 58
1000 Brussels
2nd floor

Reaping the "collaborative dividend": Towards a Single Defence Market

The year 2025 marks a pivotal moment for Europe's Defence Union. In March, the Commission published its long-awaited White Paper on Defence Readiness 2030, alongside the ReArm Europe plan. Yet the European defence market remains fragmented on both supply and demand sides, with national preferences still undermining European economies of scale.

Two key developments this summer will shape Europe's defence industrial future: the Defence Omnibus package, expected in June, will aim to harmonise rules and remove barriers such as ESG requirements, discriminatory practices, and complex procurement procedures. And on 24–25 June, NATO members will adopt new capability targets in The Hague, defining national defence planning for the next two decades.

Does the EU offer a clear roadmap, as called for in the Letta, Draghi and Niinistö reports?
What impact will the Commission's new Strategic Dialogue have – and which obstacles will the Omnibus address?
Are instruments like SAFE or cohesion funds effective tools for boosting cooperation?
And finally, what should be anchored in the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)?

As a starting point for discussion, we will present IW's recent study ***"Defending Europe: Reflections on the White Paper on European Defence"*** **by Prof. Dr. Hubertus Bardt**, Managing Director of the German Economic Institute.

Programme

16:30	Registration
17:00	Welcome Remarks: **Markus FERBER, MEP**, Chairman, Hanns Seidel Foundation
17:05	Keynote: **Prof. Dr. Hubertus BARDT**, Managing Director, German Economic Institute
17:15	Expert Roundtable: **Prof. Dr. Hubertus BARDT**, Managing Director, German Economic Institute **Dr. Baudouin HEUNINCKX,** Deputy Director and Head of Industry Strategy and EU Policies, European Defence Agency **Michał SZCZERBA**, MEP (EPP, Poland), SEDE & AFET Committee **DG DEFIS Representant,** European Commission Moderation: **Alexander RADUNZ**, German Economic Institute
18:30	Light Dinner Reception