



Parlamento europeo
Ufficio in Italia



“L’Ucraina e la Difesa dell’Europa”

24 February 2026

Rome

Esperienza Europa - David Sassoli
Piazza Venezia 6C

The role of the event

The event aims to serve as a high-level platform for strategic reflection and public debate on European defense at a critical juncture for the Union. Marking the fourth anniversary of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, it will bring together institutional leaders, security and defense experts, industry representatives and policymakers to assess the lessons learned, the evolving security landscape, and the concrete steps needed to strengthen Europe’s capacity to act. By fostering informed discussion between decision-makers and opinion leaders, the event seeks to contribute to a clearer understanding of the European Parliament’s role, responsibilities and strategic choices in the field of defense.

Time:

Details:

9:00 – 9:45

Preparatory meeting and accreditation of journalists

9:45 – 10:15

Institutional greetings

Carlo Corazza, Head of the European Parliament Office in Italy
Claudio Casini, Head of the European Commission Representation in Italy

Oksana Amdzhadin, Embassy of Ukraine
Yiorgos Christofides, Ambassador of Cyprus, Presidency of the Council of the EU
Jan Kohout, Ambassador of Czech Republic
Nele Hollo, Deputy Ambassador of Estonia
Benjamin Hanna, Deputy Ambassador of Germany
Aelita Cakure, Deputy Ambassador of Latvia
Dalia Kreivienė, Ambassador of Lithuania
Dominique Chevolet, Deputy Ambassador of Luxembourg
Ryszard Schnepf, Ambassador of Poland
Karin Höglund, Ambassador of Sweden

- 10:15 – 10:45 **EP Plenary Session on Ukraine (live feed from Brussels)**
Roberta Metsola – EP President
European Parliament group leaders
- 10:45 – 11:50 **The Democracy Shield**
Pina Picierno – EP Vice-President (live from Brussels)
- Videomessages from the European Commissioners**
Raffaele Fitto – EC Executive Vice-President
Andrius Kubilius – Commissioner for Defence and Space
- Italy and the defence of Europe**
Lorenzo Guerini – COPASIR President
Interviewed by Christian Rocca, Editor-in-Chief of Media partner Linkiesta
- The Eastern Front**
Yuliia 'Taira' Payevska, Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought 2022
Interviewed by Gabriele Carrer, journalist of Media partner Linkiesta
Serhii Petrovych Lysak, Head of the Odesa city military administration (videomessage)
- 11:50 – 12:45 **The evolution of the concept of defence**
Debates with MEPs (live from Brussels)
Salvatore De Meo, EPP-FI
Nicola Zingaretti, S&D-PD
Brando Benifei, S&D-PD
Nicola Procaccini, ECR-FdI
Elena Donazzan, ECR-FdI
Moderated by Christian Rocca and Gabriele Carrer of Media partner Linkiesta
- 12:45 – 13:00 **Presentation of the 'Regala Emozione' project**
Larysa Levchun, President of National Congress of Ukrainian Associations in Italy
Olena Tolstokora, coordinator 'Regala Emozione' project
- Ukrainian and Italian schools participating in the '100x100: Bridges of Education' project follow the event via live stream*

Linkiesta

