



## WHAT COMES NEXT?

### The Future of Euro-Atlantic Security in an Era of Strategic Uncertainty

Balkan SAYS – Security Atlantic Youth Seminar is a high-level international youth security conference organised annually by the Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia. The 2026 edition will take place from **10 to 12 September 2026** in **Ljubljana**, marking its fourteenth consecutive year. The conference represents one of the leading regional youth platforms on regional and Euro-Atlantic security, bringing together young professionals and emerging experts working across security, defence, foreign affairs and diplomacy, academia, and related fields.

The central theme of this year's edition is the future of Euro-Atlantic security in a period of strategic uncertainty. Discussions will examine the future of Europe's security order, the transatlantic bond, NATO and EU adaptation to a changing security environment, and European Allies' efforts to assume greater strategic responsibility by delivering on defence commitments and capabilities amongst other topics. Furthermore, the programme will address hybrid threats, external influence, critical infrastructure and resilience, and the evolving role of diplomacy in an increasingly fragmented world order. A dedicated segment will focus on the Western Balkans as a strategically important part of the wider Euro-Atlantic space. It will explore the region's stability, institutional resilience, external influence, and the implications of EU enlargement credibility for the region's long-term trajectory, reflecting its continued importance for European security and the credibility of the Euro-Atlantic project.

Against this backdrop, the conference fosters informed dialogue between the next generation of security professionals and experts on the future of the Euro-Atlantic area. Through high-level panels, one-on-one talks, and exchanges with senior policy, diplomatic, and security representatives, participants gain insight into contemporary geopolitical and security dynamics while critically reflecting on current and emerging challenges. In addition, they analyse complex security situations through scenario-based workshops and formulate strategic policy-oriented responses, strengthening their analytical skills and critical thinking. These practice-oriented elements will complement the strategic discussions and encourage participants to apply expert insights to realistic policy dilemmas.

Balkan SAYS 2026 will therefore contribute to informed professional debate on key security questions affecting the Euro-Atlantic area and the Western Balkans, while strengthening dialogue, cooperation, and professional networks within the broader transatlantic community.