



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

Christophe Schiltz, 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
Brando Benifei, S&D-PD
Elena Donazzan, ECR-FdI
Danilo Della Valle, The Left-M5S
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

