

Call for Papers

Workshop on European defence and defence economics

Brno, Czechia

15-16 June 2026

Co-organized by: Masaryk university, Chaire Economie de défense – IHEDN, Université de Bordeaux, Defence & Security Economics Workshop, and Prague Security Conference

The Hague Pledge: stakes and issues for Europeans

The release of the American National Security Strategy (NSS) has amplified the stakes for Europe, urging Europeans to become substantially involved in their own defence as soon as 2027 - not 2035. This creates immediate pressure on Europeans and their allies in Canada and elsewhere to deliver; yet, the economic reality lags behind this strategic urgency. While NATO countries committed to the 2% GDP target a decade ago, collectively, European countries and Canada only reached this threshold in 2025. Against this backdrop of slow adaptation, the commitments made in The Hague to increase military spending to 3.5% of GDP by 2035 represent a massive hurdle. This is compounded by an additional pledge to spend 1.5% of GDP on "related expenditures."

Fulfilling these new pledges poses a major challenge for a European defence industry emerging from decades of low-rate activity, even for nations that have started investing heavily since 2022. The central friction is clear: How to meet immediate security demands (2027) with long-term industrial ramp-ups (2035). Not only increasing significantly arms production will take time on both sides of the Atlantic on the supply side, but many NATO countries are facing severe obstacles regarding budgets, debt, and resources on the demand side.

This seminar will question the transformative effects of higher military expenditure and the changing place of defence in the industry and the economy at large. How can NATO countries achieve these targets given current debt levels and fiscal constraints? What do the changes mean for individual regional cooperation, for example in the Nordic, Mediterranean or Central and Eastern European countries? How can European countries and Canada use SAFE to fulfil their NATO pledge, especially through a higher level of coordination in defence efforts? What should be the right balance between procurement and other military expenditures (personnel, infrastructure, R&D, etc.) in these efforts? How will the additional 1.5% in "related expenditures" change the structure of European and Canadian economies? What specific spending accounts for this? What are the direct, indirect, and induced consequences of this shift to higher military spending on the wider economy and society?

In order to cover these stakes comprehensively, this seminar expects to gather researchers from all social sciences, provided that economic perspectives are taken into consideration. We aim to understand the high stakes through long-term views and comparative dimensions.

Agenda:

14th June – 19:00 Wine tasting

15th June – 9:00 – 17:00 Seminar + official workshop dinner

16th June – 9:00 – 14:00 Seminar + optional social event + dinner

Important dates:

Abstracts submission – April 3rd, 2026

Acceptance information – April 20th, 2026

Confirmation of attendance – April 30th, 2026

Abstract submission to: centrepeace@fss.muni.cz

Fees and services:

No fees are associated with the workshop. Lunches, refreshments, dinners, and social program kindly co-funded by CENTREPEACE Horizon Project, Masaryk university, IHEDN, and MBDA.

Point of contact

centrepeace@fss.muni.cz

Up-to-date info on website

<https://centrepeace.cz/haguepledgeworkshop>

Venue:

Masaryk university, Brno, Czechia - Komenskeho nam. 2, 602 00 Brno

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/GE5dqZM4bQUgTYNy5>

Brno is easily accessible by train or bus from main international airports.

Workshop venue is in the city center, walkable distance from all major hotels (Continental and International hotels are within 5minutes walking distance).

How to reach Brno:

Brno is easily accessible via flights to Vienna, followed by multiple options of direct airport-to-Brno-city-centre luxury bus, and train connection. Flights are also possible to both Prague, Bratislava, and Brno directly.

From Vienna

By bus

[RegioJet](#) and [Flixbus](#) operate direct buses from Vienna's Schwechat airport directly to Brno city center. Approx 2hrs.

By train

You can also travel from Vienna airport by train - there is a [railway station in front of the arrivals hall](#). The first option is to go by direct train from the airport to Brno, which runs three times a day. You can check the schedule and buy a ticket online [here](#). The second option is to change trains at Wien Hauptbahnhof (the main station). In that case, please check [this page](#), where you can also buy tickets online. Type Flughafen Wien or Vienna Schwechat airport in the "From" field and Brno hl. n. in the "To" field.

From Prague

By bus

There are several bus companies operating buses from Prague to Brno. The yellow [RegioJet](#) buses also leave directly from Prague's Vaclav Havel airport (you will have to transfer at the main bus station Florenc in Prague, but one ticket is valid for the whole journey to Brno by both buses). Direct buses from Prague's Vaclav Havel airport to Brno are also operated by [Flixbus](#).

By train

To get to Brno by train, you will first need to get to Prague's main railway station – you can go by [Airport Express](#), by [public transport](#) or ask for directions at the airport. You can buy your ticket online on the [website of the České dráhy company](#), of the [Regiojet Company](#), or at the train station.

You can find more information to plan your trip [here](#).

The website will be continuously updated with new information.

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