

## AGENDA: NORTH STAR FORUM 2026

### 08:30 – 09:00 | Registration

### 09:00 – 09:30 | Welcome Address

- Roman Kužel (Mayor of Władysławowo)
- Dr. Wojciech Lieder (Nordic Institute)

### PANEL 1

#### 09:30 – 11:00 | Clean Sea, Safe Land: Redressing Threat Asymmetries in the Baltic Sea Region

- **Panel Overview:** The inauguration of North Star Forum 2026. Connecting the maritime and land domains to map asymmetric hybrid threats across the Baltic Sea basin. From protecting undersea cabling and offshore energy (*Secure Sustainability*), to mitigating "shadow fleet" sabotage, to transforming Baltic ports into a resilient, impenetrable NATO logistical hub.
- **Moderator:** Dr. Wojciech Lieder (Nordic Institute)
- **Panelists:**
  - Lea Berriault (Head of Strategic Advisory at GIS Liechtenstein; Geostrategic Risk Expert)
  - Dr. Julian Pawlak (SWP Berlin, NATO Defense College; Maritime Strategy and Northern Flank Expert)
  - Rüdiger Stempel (Executive Secretary of HELCOM; International Lawyer, Baltic Protection Expert)
  - Lucian Bumeder (IFSH Hamburg; Coordinator of the Young Deep Cuts Commission, former Defense Committee Advisor at the Bundestag)
- **Sample Key Questions:**
  1. What reconnaissance capabilities must we deploy immediately in the Baltic Sea to effectively protect cabling and offshore assets?
  2. Where does the ecological risk of the "shadow fleet" end, and where does deliberate undersea infrastructure sabotage begin?
  3. How can we enforce *Secure Sustainability* market standards to unlock dedicated budgets for maritime asset protection?
  4. In what ways can Baltic ports be transformed into a strategic, resilient logistical hub for Allied forces?
- **Key Topics:** Critical Maritime Infrastructure Protection (Offshore/Cabling), Secure Sustainability (Defense ESG), Hybrid Risk Mitigation (Shadow Fleet), Dual-Use Ports & Logistics.

### 11:00 – 11:30 | Coffee Break & Networking

## PANEL 2

### 11:30 – 13:00 | Digital Wall and Maritime Horizon: AI in Strategic Border Protection

- **Panel Overview:** Building a qualitative edge over the adversary's quantitative force. Strategic integration of AI, autonomous drone swarms, and data fusion into an impenetrable "Digital Wall." The critical intersection of DefenseTech, BigTech, and Venture Capital—breaking procurement barriers and scaling dual-use solutions.
- **Moderator: Dr. Andrzej Kozłowski** (University of Łódź)
- **Panelists:**
  - **Cdr (Ret.) Jukka Savolainen** (Director at Hybrid CoE Helsinki; former Commander of the Finnish Border Guard, former Head of Mission at EUPOL)
  - **Ruben Stewart** (Senior Fellow at IISS London; former NZDF Infantry Officer, Battlefield AI and Tactics Expert)
  - **Dr. Niklas Swanström** (Director of ISDP Stockholm, Johns Hopkins SAIS; Supply Chain Sovereignty and Cyber Warfare Expert)
  - **John Strand** (CEO of Strand Consult; 5G/6G Digital Infrastructure & Chinese Vendor Risk Expert)
- **Sample Key Questions:**
  1. Where do we hold a technological advantage over the adversary today, and how do we build an interoperable "Digital Wall" from it?
  2. How can commercial off-the-shelf technologies (COTS) be rapidly deployed to the front lines while bypassing multi-year procurement cycles?
  3. What will incentivize VC funds and BigTech to channel large-scale capital into dual-use border technologies?
  4. How can public-private partnerships (PPP) be structured to deliver innovation to the armed forces in weeks rather than years?
- **Key Topics:** DefenseTech, BigTech, AI & Data Fusion, Autonomy & Drones (Land/Maritime), COTS (Commercial Off-The-Shelf), Venture Capital & PPP.

### 13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch & Networking

### 14:00 – 14:30 | Special Presentation: Port Poland

### PANEL 3

#### 14:30 – 17:00 | The Baltic Consensus & Strategic Initiative: Hard Architecture and Proactive Defence

- **General Description:** The most comprehensive debate of the North Star Forum 2026. We bridge the worlds of hard geopolitics, military doctrines, and big business. We cover the entire trajectory: from building economic resilience, through securing supply chains and critical infrastructure, to technological proactivity and active deterrence of the enemy in cyberspace.
- **Moderators:**
  - **dr Wojciech Lieder** (Nordic Institute)
  - **prof. Ryszard Machnikowski** (Dean of WSMiP UL, Director of CAiPS UL)
- **Panelists:**
  - **Jan Rafael Lupoměský** (CEO of LupoKorn Advisory, Senior Fellow at Warsaw Institute; former Advisor to the President of the Czech Republic)
  - **prof. Ulrich Schneckener** (University of Osnabrück, Chairman of the German Foundation for Peace Research; EU security expert)
  - **Kamil Sobczyk** (Head of the Analysis Department - Western Desk, National Security Bureau)
  - **Paweł Burek** (Director of the Security Bureau, ORLEN Lietuva)
  - **prof. Timo Hellenberg** (CEO of Hellenberg International; former Advisor to the Prime Minister of Finland, critical infrastructure protection expert)
  - **col. (ret.) Vaidotas Malinionis** (Director of the Lithuanian Defence and Security Industry Association; former Commander in EUBG)
  - **Michael Malm** (Swedish Armed Forces Headquarters; architect of the Swedish Total Defence model)
- **Sample Guiding Questions:**
  - Which international formats in the Baltic region have a real strategic impact, and which constitute merely a diplomatic facade in the face of the necessity to build a regional armaments pact?
  - How to practically implement Friendshoring and supply chain protection (Supply Chain Sovereignty) to completely eliminate Chinese and Russian components from the regional defense industry and energy sector? What is the role of industry leaders here?
  - When does "passive resilience" become a silent acceptance of losses, and how can the defense doctrine of the flank states be effectively shifted toward imposing terms on the adversary prior to kinetic conflict?
  - How to create a stable political and legal climate in the region for multi-billion private investments in DeepTech, and how to utilize Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mechanisms to build critical infrastructure resilience?
  - Are political decision-makers and commanders in the region doctrinally and legally prepared to execute preemptive operations in cyberspace and in the field of cognitive warfare (Cognitive Security)?
- **Key Topics:** Supply Chain Sovereignty, Active Deterrence, Friendshoring / Nearshoring, Public-Private Partnership (PPP), Offensive Cybersecurity, Critical Infrastructure Protection, DeepTech, Defense Industry Consolidation.

#### 17:00 | Closing Remarks