



# EuropaInstitut

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RECHT BERATUNG WEITERBILDUNG

 Public Lecture

## Kęstutis Budrys

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

### Response to Europe's Defence Challenges: Homework rather than Lamenting

Wednesday, 06 May 2026, 18:30 – 19:45, KOL-F-101, at the University of Zurich



# Response to Europe's Defence Challenges: Homework rather than Lamenting



**Kęstutis Budrys**

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

## Time & Place

Wednesday, 06 May 2026

18:30 - 19:45 in the lecture hall KOL-F-101, at the University of Zurich  
Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zurich

## Topic of the Lecture

Too often responsibility for tensions in Transatlantic relations is put on the US, blaming the US prevails, calls for European autonomy come without further practical steps. Instead, Europe's political leaders should recognize that we were free-riding for a few decades, should actively communicate that to our societies, should muster political will to increase investment into defence significantly. Experience of Lithuania proves that doing one's homework in defence provides for strong bilateral Transatlantic ties and confidence in allied partnership.

## Speaker

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, Kęstutis Budrys has served as the Chief National Security Adviser to the President of the Republic of Lithuania, Head of the National Security Group. He also was the Secretary of the State Defence Council and Chairman of the Intelligence Coordination Group. He took up his duties at the beginning of 2022. He has more than 20 years of experience in national security. He served for six years as Deputy Director of the State Security Department, the civilian intelligence and security service. He was responsible for technological intelligence disciplines, intelligence analysis, and threat prevention. From 2009 to 2015, Mr Budrys was Advisor to the President of the Republic of Lithuania on intelligence and defence policy. Until 2009, he held leading positions in the field of intelligence analysis. Kęstutis Budrys studied at the Institute of International Relations and Political Science of Vilnius University and holds a BA in Political Science and MA in International Relations. He has also had internships at universities in the USA and Canada.

## Registration

Free entry. Registration recommended. Limited seating capacity.



### More Information

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