as of May 28th, 2026

INDUSTRIAL FORUM

Defense Capabilities, Industrial Capacity and the Role of Bulgaria and the Bulgarian Industry in the European And Allied Defense Ecosystem

Co-organizers: Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Economy, Investments and Industry, Ministry of Innovation and Digital Transformation

Venue: International Fair Plovdiv, Congress Center, Bulgaria Hall

Date: June 04, 2026, 10:00 – 13:00

Objective:

The strategic environment requires increased attention not only on defense, but also on its relationship with investments, innovations and technologies and with the development of industrial sovereignty.

The event will focus on ways to build defense capabilities in interaction with a broad industrial ecosystem, including start-ups and scientific organizations, in the context of new initiatives for cooperation in the EU and NATO in the field of defense.

The forum will address the level of ambition of Bulgaria with regard to the "Security Action for Europe (SAFE) through the Reinforcement of the European Defence Industry" instrument, the European Defense Industry Program (EDIP), incl. European defence projects of common interest and the European Defence Fund (EDF).

The event will also discuss the capabilities of the European and Bulgarian defence technological and industrial base to meet the growing demand requiring innovation, scalability and sustainability of supply chains. Discussions will also address the role of common procurement of defence products, access to financing and the need for deeper integration within a future single defence market.

Key topics:

- European Defense – The ReArm Europe/Readiness 2030 Plan – policy objectives, defence capabilities and industrial capacity.
- Defense financing – the role of instruments such as SAFE, EDIP, EDF and national programmes with EU funding.
- Common procurement in defense – reducing fragmentation and stimulating cooperation.
- The Bulgarian defese industry – capacity building and development, supply chains, strategic autonomy.

- Innovation and technology – the role of SMEs, start-ups and dual-use companies, connection with R&D.

Agenda

09:30 – 10:00 Registration

10:00 – 10:30 Opening

- Ms. **Katerina Gramatikova**, Deputy Minister of Defense
- Ms. **Mihaela Karadimova**, Deputy Minister of Economy, Investments and Industry
- Ms. **Mira Yosifova**, Deputy Minister of Innovation and Digital Transformation-

10:40 – 11:00 **Keynote speech**

- **Holger Ziegler**, Head of Standardization and Enablement, Defence Industry, Innovation and Armaments Division, NATO

11:00 – 11:40 Discussion panel

The "ReArm Europe/Readiness 2030" Plan – Policy Objectives, Defense Capabilities and Sources of Financing

- Mr. **Krastio Preslavski**, Acting Head of Unit B.1 Defence Industrial Programming Coordination, Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space, European Commission
- Ms. **Violina Kehayova-Borissova**, Head of European Defense Programs and Initiatives, Armaments Policy Directorate, Ministry of Defense
- Ms. **Dilyana Karageorgieva**, Head of NATO and Economic Aspects of Security, Internationally Controlled Trade and Security Directorate, Ministry of Economy, Investments and Industry
- Mr. **Nikolay Karamihov**, Acting Director, Policies and Analyses Directorate, Ministry of Innovations and Digital Transformation

Moderator: Ms. **Plamena Karaivanova-Koburova**, Head of the European Union and International Organizations, Defense Policy and Planning Directorate, Ministry of Defense

11:45 – 12:15 Discussion panel

European Policies and Instruments for Overcoming Fragmentation and Strengthening the EU Defense Capability - Challenges and Opportunities for the Bulgarian Industry

- Mr. **Dian Yordanov**, Regional Director North America, Arsenal-2000
- Mr. **Svetlin Stoyanov**, CEO, MTG-Dolphin
- Mr. **Raycho Raychev**, Founder & CEO, Endurosat
- Mr. **Svilen Rangelov**, Co-Founder and CEO, Dronamix

Moderator: Mr. **Ivan Ivanov**, State Expert, NATO and Economic Aspects of Security Department, International Controlled Trade and Security Directorate, Ministry of Economy, Investments and Industry

12:20 – 12:50 Discussion panel

Innovation and Technology – the Place of SMEs, Start-ups and Dual-Use Companies, Innovation-Research Link

- Mr. **Krasin Dimitrov**, Director, Center for Defense Innovation
- Mr. **Dimitar Dimitrov**, Co-Founder of Wiser Technology
- Mr. **Atanas Dimitrov**, Director, Interuniversity Center for Career Development of the University of National and World Economy
- Representative of the start-up community (to be confirmed)

Moderator: Prof. Dr. Eng. **Georgi Angelov**, Technical University, Sofia

12:50 – 13:00 Closing