

Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann

Royal Irish Academy

Seminar on the Commission on the Defence Forces

Being held online on

Wednesday, 7 April 2021

09:00–13:00 IST

Chatham House Rule applies

PROGRAMME

09:00 Registration

09:15 Welcome

Professor Andrew Cottey, Chair, RIA Standing Committee for International Affairs (SCIA)

09:20 Opening

Aidan O'Driscoll, Chair, Commission on the Defence Forces

09:30 Panel 1: Small States Defence Forces

Particular defence challenges faced by small states, comparisons with other small states and the roles of the reserve Defence Forces will be addressed. These issues will be examined for learnings on how other countries develop their national defence policies and reflect EU/UN/NATO demands currently and into the future.

Chair Dr Ken McDonagh, Dublin City University

09:30 Introduction to panel session and panellists by the Chair

Panellists

09:35 Professor Dr Sven Biscop, Egmont Institute, Belgium

09:45 Dr Anna Powles, Massey University, New Zealand

09:55 Dr Björn von Sydow, Chairman of the Swedish Defence Commission

10:05 Panel discussion and Q&A

10:35 Break

10:40 Panel 2: Irish Defence Forces—Threats and Roles

This session will include discussion on the context of threats and security challenges; the role of the Defence Forces and level of ambition of military taskings; the geo-political and cyber environment; and international peacekeeping operations.

Chair Professor Andrew Cottey, Chair SCIA

10:40 Introduction to panel session and panellists by the Chair

Panellists:

10:45 Elisabeth Braw, American Enterprise Institute

10:55 Professor Paul Cornish, Visiting Professor, LSE Ideas, London School of Economics

11:05 Dr Donna O'Shea, Munster Technological University

11:15 Panel discussion and Q&A

11:45 Break

11:50 Panel 3: Envisaging the Irish Defence Forces out to 2030 and beyond

The focus of this session will be forward looking and aim to envisage how the Defence Forces might look in 10-20 years hence and how that will differ from today. The role of the Reserve Defence Force in a future joint-force construct will be included in the discussion, which will deal with the topic, such as structure, staffing, land, maritime and air defence.

Chair Clodagh Quain, Policy Analyst, IIEA

11:50 Introduction to panel session and panellists by the Chair

Panellists

11:55 Dr Brendan Flynn, NUI Galway

12:05 Dr Cornelia Baci, University of Hamburg

12:15 Dr Ed Burke, University of Nottingham

12:25 Panel Discussion and Q&A

12:55 Closing

Aidan O'Driscoll, Chair, Commission on the Defence Forces

13:00 Ends



Coimisiún um Óglaigh na hÉireann
Commission on the Defence Forces

