

COcyber Roundtable on Defence- Civilian Synergies in Cybersecurity

Engage with top cybersecurity leaders and help define
the next chapter of European cyber resilience.

April 22, Centre Albert Borschette, Brussels & Online

Find here:

- An overview of the Solvay Brussels School and the COcyber project
- The conference programme
- The speakers' biographies

COcyber roundtable on Defense-Civilian Synergies in Cybersecurity

This event is part of the COcyber project, a European initiative aimed at strengthening cooperation between civilian and defence cybersecurity communities. By fostering knowledge sharing, collaboration, and policy dialogue, COcyber contributes to a more coordinated and resilient European cybersecurity landscape.

It is organised with the contribution of the Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management (Université libre de Bruxelles), which brings its academic expertise in economics, governance, and public policy to support dialogue and knowledge exchange among stakeholders.

Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management

The Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management (Université libre de Bruxelles) is an internationally renowned faculty specialising in economics and management. It is distinguished by the quality of its teaching, its excellence in research and its strong European and international focus.

SBS-EM adopts an interdisciplinary approach, working closely with European institutions, public organisations and the private sector. It contributes to the analysis of major contemporary issues, such as digital transformation, governance and economic and societal challenges.

Through its projects, collaborations and events, the faculty fosters dialogue between the academic world and decision-makers, thereby contributing to a better understanding of complex challenges and the development of concrete and coordinated responses.



COcyber roundtable on Defense– Civilian Synergies in Cybersecurity

Engage with top cybersecurity leaders and help define the next chapter of European cyber resilience.



22 April
12:00 – 18:30 h



Centre Albert Borschette, Rue Froissart 36, Brussels

*Live virtual broadcasting available for remote participants



Funded by
the European Union

REGISTER
NOW

12:00 – 13:00 Networking Lunch & Registration

Master of Ceremony: [Georges Ataya](#), (Professor & Academic Director, Solvay Brussels School and Vice-President, Belgian Cybersecurity Coalition)

13:00 – 13:10 Welcome & Introduction

Speaker: [Georges Ataya](#) (Professor & Academic Director, Solvay Brussels School and Vice-President, Belgian Cybersecurity Coalition)

13:10 – 13:20 Agenda & Objectives of the Day

Speaker: [Palina Shauchuk](#) (Research Manager at Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management - Université Libre de Bruxelles)

13:20 – 14:20 PANEL 1

Building defence together: Strategic synergies for cyber and capability development

[Major General Pierre Ciparisse](#) (Cyber Force Commander Belgian Cyber Command @ Service Général du Renseignement et de la Sécurité)

Col. Davide Dettori (Commander of the Cyber Operations Section Head)

[Carlos De Passos](#) (Project Officer Aviation Cyber, European Defence Agency)

Moderator: [Mario Beccia](#) (Council of the European Union, Director Cybersecurity and associate, Solvay Lifelong Learning)

14:20 – 15:20 PANEL 2

Synergy in EU Research and Education

[Niculae Iancu](#) **On-Line** (Vice-President of the Board of Directors. Chief Training and Education Officer, Maritime Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence, Constanta Maritime University, Romania)

[Giuseppe Zuffanti](#) (Coordinator for Cyber issues at European Security and Defence College (ESDC)- ESDC Executive Academic Board Cyber Configuration support - National Expert - Project Manager and Cyber Training Manager-CSDP-Speaker)

[Ioannis Askoxylakis](#) (Cybersecurity Policy Officer, Cybersecurity Technology & Capacity Building)

[Dirk De Paepe](#) (Senior Cybersecurity Certification Expert at Centre for Cybersecurity Belgium – Involved in the Development of the EU & BE Cybersecurity Certification Scheme)

Moderator: [Georges Ataya](#) (Professor & Academic Director, Solvay Brussels School and Vice-President, Belgian Cybersecurity Coalition)

15:20 – 15:40 Coffee Break

15:40 – 16:40 PANEL 3

Industry and defence: turning dual-use technology into operational advantage

[Eric Viseur](#) (Head of Security Discipline at Thales Belgium- Solution Engineering Manager)

[Cedric Genin](#) (Consulting Director for Aerospace, Defense & Security)

Moderator: [Saskia Van Uffelen](#) (Manager Future Workforce & BeTheChange, Agoria)

16:40 – 17:40 Panel 4:

Digital Infrastructure: turning dual-use technology into operational advantage

[Julien Blanchez](#) (Digital Sovereignty Solution Lead at Google)

[Gaëtan Desclée](#) (Group CEO at Starion Group and Nexova Group)

Moderator: [Roberto Cascella](#) (CTO at European Cyber Security Organisation - ECSO)

17:40 – 18:00 Further actions & reporting

Speaker: [Georges Ataya](#) (Professor & Academic Director, Solvay Brussels School and Vice-President, Belgian Cybersecurity Coalition)

18:00 – 18:30 Networking reception

COcyber roundtable on Defense-Civilian Synergies in Cybersecurity

Biographies of the speakers

Georges Ataya



Georges Ataya is Professor and Academic Director at the Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management.

He is also Managing Director at HTP Group and Ataya Partners, working in collaboration with consulting and technology organisations.

He is the founder and Academic Director of digital governance and trust education programmes at Solvay Lifelong Learning.

His professional background includes long-standing involvement in information technology, governance, cybersecurity, and management education, with activities spanning consulting, executive education, and international collaboration.

He also serves as Vice-President of the Belgian Cybersecurity Coalition and has held international leadership roles in organisations such as ISACA.

Palina Shauchuk



Palina Shauchuk is Research Manager at the Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management, Université Libre de Bruxelles.

Her background is in economics and management, with a PhD focused on research and innovation, regional development, knowledge flows, and productivity growth.

She is engaged in research and project-related activities, contributing to studies and initiatives in areas such as innovation, digital technologies, and policy-related analysis.

Ioannis Askoxylakis



Ioannis Askoxylakis is a cybersecurity expert and policy professional currently serving as a Cybersecurity Policy Officer at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT). In this role, he contributes to European cybersecurity strategy, technology policy, and capacity-building initiatives.

He has an extensive academic and research background, having previously been a professor of cybersecurity and Internet of Things at Bournemouth University and École des Ponts Business School, as well as a research fellow in 5G and IoT security. Earlier in his career, he spent over a decade at the Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas (FORTH), where he led the FORTH Computer Emergency Response Team (FORTHcert).

Dr. Askoxylakis has also held key advisory and governance roles, including membership in the Hellenic Authority for Communication Security and Privacy and participation in European cybersecurity bodies such as ENISA's Permanent Stakeholders Group. His work focuses broadly on cybersecurity, network resilience, IoT security, and digital policy, and he has authored numerous scientific publications in these areas.

Major General Pierre Ciparisse



Pierre Ciparisse is Major General and Commander of the Belgian Cyber Force, responsible for leading Belgium's military capabilities in cyberspace.

He has played a key role in the development and evolution of the Belgian Cyber Command, contributing to the establishment of a dedicated cyber force and the strengthening of national cyber defence capabilities.

His background includes experience in telecommunications and military operations, as well as leadership roles within Belgian Defence, where he has been involved in modernising defence capabilities and promoting a "security by design" approach.

His work focuses on protecting critical systems, building cyber resilience, and fostering collaboration between defence, industry, and international partners to address evolving cyber threats.

Col. Davide Dettori



Col. Davide Dettori works at NATO and is handling the growth of the NATO Integrated Cyber Defense Centre.

Carlos De Passos



Carlos De Passos is Project Officer Aviation Cyber at the European Defence Agency.

He has more than 26 years of experience in IT projects, including work in information systems, software, command and control (C2), and air command and control (AirC2) environments.

His experience spans complex technological and defence-related domains, reflecting long-term involvement in aviation and cybersecurity-related initiatives.

Mario Beccia



Mario Beccia is Director Cybersecurity. He is a visionary, former entrepreneur, and technology enthusiast leading technology operations to protect the digital life of the European Union.

He has more than 25 years of experience in information technology, including executing business transformation in both startup environments and large organisations.

His work focuses on cybersecurity, cyber defence, and the development of next-generation capabilities in collaboration with organisations such as NATO and the European Union.

Niculae Iancu



Niculae Iancu is Associate Professor with experience in higher education and research. His profile highlights expertise in areas such as strategic planning, security studies, and intelligence studies.

He is also involved in cybersecurity and maritime security education, contributing to training and academic activities related to these fields.

Giuseppe Zuffanti



Giuseppe Zuffanti is Coordinator for Cyber Issues at the European Security and Defence College (ESDC), where he is also involved in the Executive Academic Board Cyber configuration and serves as Cyber Training Manager.

His role focuses on coordinating cybersecurity-related activities, including training and capacity-building initiatives aligned with European frameworks such as the European Cybersecurity Skills Framework and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

He contributes to the organisation and delivery of cybersecurity courses and seminars for civilian and military personnel, often in cooperation with EU institutions, agencies, and international partners, addressing topics such as cyber defence, international law in cyberspace, and emerging security challenges.

His work also includes supporting collaboration between stakeholders across the EU cybersecurity ecosystem, including initiatives linked to ENISA and broader EU cyber policy and training efforts.

Dirk De Paepe



Dirk De Paepe is Senior Certification Expert at the Belgian Cybersecurity Certification Authority (NCCA), part of the Centre for Cybersecurity Belgium.

His profile highlights extensive experience in cybersecurity certification, including work related to EU and Belgian cybersecurity certification schemes, as well as ISO 27001 implementation and auditing.

He brings over 35 years of operational and leadership experience across government-related environments.

His work is closely connected to initiatives such as CyberFundamentals (CyFun®), supporting organisations in improving cybersecurity maturity and aligning with frameworks such as NIS2.

Cedric Genin



Cédric Genin is Consulting Director for Aerospace, Defense & Security at Sopra Steria Next, based in Brussels.

He has more than 25 years of experience in IT and consulting, with expertise in digital transformation, from the launch of transformation initiatives to their implementation.

He joined Sopra Steria in 2018 to develop the consulting practice for the public sector in Belgium and European institutions, and was later appointed Deputy Director of the Consulting & Cybersecurity competence centre for Sopra Steria Benelux.

Since 2023, he has been leading consulting activities for Defence, Security, and Aerospace at Sopra Steria Belgium, focusing on strategic and technological transformation in these domains.

Saskia Van Uffelen



Saskia Van Uffelen is Manager Future Workforce & BeTheChange at Agoria and Digital Skills Leader for Belgium, focusing on boosting digital skills and jobs for all.

She has more than 25 years of experience in the information and communication technology (ICT) sector, having held national and international sales and marketing roles in companies such as Xerox, Compaq, HP, Arinso, Bull, and Ericsson.

Since 2012, she has been appointed as “Digital Champion” for Belgium, representing the European Commission and working to promote the Digital Agenda across areas such as digital economy, infrastructure, security, and skills.

Her work strongly emphasizes digital inclusion, lifelong learning, and workforce transformation, with a focus on enabling people and organisations to adapt to the changing digital environment.

Julien Blanchez



Julien Blanchez is Digital Sovereignty Solution Lead at Google, based in Brussels.

He has extensive experience at Google, working across Europe and internationally on topics related to security, compliance, and digital sovereignty, supporting organisations in navigating regulatory and technological requirements.

In addition to his professional role, he serves as an Advisory Board Member of the Permanent Stakeholders Group at the ENISA, contributing to the development of the agency’s work programme and stakeholder engagement.

His background includes experience in global strategy and technology environments, and he holds a degree from Université Catholique de Louvain.

Ben Crampton



Ben Crampton is Director of European Government Affairs at Microsoft. His profile highlights expertise in government relations, multilateral negotiations, geopolitics, and strategy.

He previously served in public sector and diplomatic roles, including as Chief of Staff to the EU Special Representative for the Horn of Africa, and has experience working with European Union institutions.

Before joining Microsoft in 2021, he spent around two decades as a diplomat, working across international organisations such as the European Union and the United Nations, with a focus on conflict and post-conflict contexts.

Gaëtan Desclée



Gaëtan Desclée is Group CEO at Starion Group and Nexova Group. He is an experienced global leader with a strong track record in transforming, scaling, and turning around organisations across international markets.

He brings more than 25 years of senior leadership experience in business-to-business and business-to-government environments, particularly in the space, defence, and security sectors.

Before joining Starion, he held executive roles at companies such as Serco and Securitas, where he led initiatives focused on growth, operational optimisation, and long-term strategic positioning.

In addition to his executive responsibilities, he is also a guest lecturer at HEC Paris Business School.

He holds a Master’s degree in Management Science and Business Administration and an Executive MBA.

Roberto Cascella



Roberto Cascella is Chief Technology Officer at the European Cyber Security Organisation (ECSO), based in Brussels. In this role, he leads technological strategy and contributes to the advancement of European cybersecurity initiatives.

He has been actively involved in ECSO for several years and was promoted to CTO after contributing to the organisation's growth and innovation efforts in cybersecurity.

His work includes coordinating technical working groups focused on cybersecurity research and innovation, trusted technologies, and resilient supply chains at the European level.

He also represents ECSO in key European cybersecurity committees, including those related to the EU Cybersecurity Act, contributing to strategic discussions on certification and policy development.

Roberto Cascella holds a Ph.D. in ICT, as well as advanced degrees in telecommunications engineering, reflecting a strong academic background supporting his leadership in cybersecurity and technology.

Eric Viseur



Eric Viseur is a cybersecurity architect and engineering leader currently serving as Head of Security Discipline at Thales Belgium. With a strong background in IT and IP networks, he specializes in designing and implementing secure communication systems and cybersecurity solutions for critical environments.

He began his career as a system engineer, contributing to the development, integration, and deployment of complex security infrastructures, before advancing into leadership roles focused on team development and secure-by-design practices.

Eric holds a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering from Faculté Polytechnique de Mons and has been recognized for his work in telecommunications and cybersecurity, including awards such as the FITCE Young ICT Personality.

Passionate about cybersecurity and innovation, he is also actively engaged in STEM outreach and knowledge sharing, contributing to the next generation of engineers and security professionals.