

Armenia, Iran Nuclear Deal and more: Latest regional and international developments in the 5th South Caucasus Security Forum in Tbilisi

What to expect from the current developments in and around the South Caucasus – the peaceful protests in **Armenia** which toppled the long-term leader Sargsyan and the decision of the US to terminate the **Iran Deal** – and what are the underlying reasons and driving forces behind these developments?

Regional experts will uncover what to expect ahead and what will be the implications for the South Caucasus in an extra session titled “Armenian Insights” on May 17. The impact of the US decision on the Iran Deal on the wider region and Europe will be debated by experts from Iran, Azerbaijan and Germany in a session “The Future of the Iran Nuclear Deal and Implications for the South Caucasus” on May 16.

Exclusive view on EU Security Policy and Georgian NATO aspirations

What is the relevance of the NATO membership promise to Georgia and Ukraine ten years after the Bucharest Summit? A panel focusing on reaffirming the NATO commitment will include the Minister of Defence of Georgia **Levan Izoria**. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia **David Dondua** will present a view from a high-level policy-making (May 17, morning). High-level research view will be presented by Glen Howard, Director of the Jamestown Foundation (May 16, afternoon).

In a panel on EU security policy in its neighbourhood, the Slovak Ambassador to Georgia Rudolf Michalka will present a view from Central Europe – a bridge between eastern neighbours and old EU members. The panel will be accompanied by a **policy paper presentation** on EU policy gaps towards the Black Sea and South Caucasus. Both on May 16 morning.

New perspectives on key regional topics

The challenges in and around the region remain the same. At the top of the agenda are the **regional conflicts**, undermining cooperation and threatening stability. The conflicts and crises in the South Caucasus and Eastern Europe will be viewed not only by regional experts but also world-class European speakers.

The **sources of Russian foreign policy**, especially after the 2018 election, will be analysed by experts from the outside (US and Finland) but also by Denis Volkov, a Russian expert from the Levada Center, Moscow. Find about the links between Russia’s internal developments and its foreign policy on May 16 afternoon.

Focusing on long-term trends in depth

The Forum emphasizes long-term trends transforming the South Caucasus and the world. Discover the aspirations of China and its Belt & Road initiative. Can China and EU cooperate? And What are the opportunities for South Caucasian countries? The panel “China and the South Caucasus” will present answers from Europe, Georgia and China on May 17 morning.

Other panels will also focus deeply on the region’s Energy Security and long-term sustainable development (May 17 morning) and the Islands of Cooperation in the OSCE area (May 17 afternoon). For the first time, the Forum will include aspiring experts in the **Young Professionals program**.

Find the program at: scsf.stratpol.sk/program ; **speaker bios at:** scsf.stratpol.sk/speakers/

The #SCSF2018 is organised by Stratpol Strategic Policy institute; Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies (Rondeli Foundation) and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Georgia. [More info about the Forum.](#)

The venue of the Forum in **Hotel Holiday Inn, Tbilisi** and it takes place on 16-17 May 2018

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