

## Invitation to the 19th Security Talk

### «Geopolitical tensions in the Arctic: the battle for resources, trade routes and great power claims»

Dear members, interested parties and guests,

Over the past forty years, the climate in the Arctic has warmed four times as much as the global average. As a result, the extent of the Arctic ice cap has also reached an all-time low, with an area the size of Austria melting away every year. With the melting of the 'eternal ice', new trade routes for international shipping are emerging and the enormous resources of the Arctic are becoming more accessible.

The Arctic is therefore developing into a region of great strategic importance, both for the eight adjacent states and for countries with Arctic ambitions such as China. Three main conflict areas are already emerging in the region: overlapping claims to the continental shelf and the utilisation of the resources available there, sovereignty over the sea routes and overriding great power claims, such as those of Russia, China and the USA. Satellites and other instruments are used to monitor climatological and geographical changes in the Arctic, which are also of great interest from a military and geopolitical perspective.

The conflict in Ukraine has largely hampered cooperation in the Arctic. Experts are now concerned that increasing military activity in the region could raise tensions to an unintentionally dangerous level, particularly through misunderstandings or misjudgments due to growing mistrust. Because of its neutrality, its tradition of good offices and its observer status in the Arctic Council, Switzerland could be considered as a venue for an informal forum to try to relaunch dialogue in the Arctic. Among others, we will discuss the following questions with our experts:

- How can the Arctic be prevented from becoming a theatre of geopolitical rivalries? How can a potential flashpoint be defused before it escalates? What role do satellite reconnaissance and modern monitoring technologies play?
- What impact are the Ukraine war and other armed conflicts having on the Arctic as an area of tension? What does it take to relaunch cooperation in the Arctic?
- What role can Switzerland play in an 'Arctic dialogue'? Would the affected states accept Switzerland as a mediator?

We invite you to discuss this important and highly topical subject with experts at the 19th FSS Security Talk.

We look forward to your participation!

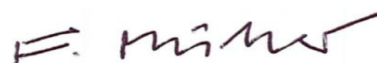
Yours sincerely,



**Hans-Jürg Käser**

President

SWISS SECURITY FORUM (SSF)



**Fredy Müller**

Managing Director

SWISS SECURITY FORUM (SSF)

## Provisional Program

17:30	Arrival of the guests	
18:00	Welcome speech	<b>Hans-Jürg Käser, President SSF</b>
	Input presentation 1	<b>Dr. Michael Paul</b> , Senior Fellow, German Institute for International and Security Affairs and author of the book "Der Kampf um den Nordpol"
	Input presentation 2	<b>Divisional Officer Claude Meier</b> , Former General Staff Officer at the Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP)
19:00	Panel discussion and Q&A session	
	Panel guests:	<b>Dr. Michael Paul</b> , Senior Fellow, German Institute for International and Security Affairs and author of the book "Der Kampf um den Nordpol"  <b>Divisional Officer Claude Meier</b> , Former General Staff Officer at the Geneva Center for Security Policy (GCSP)  <b>Bruno Ehrler</b> , Director Space C5I, RUAG MRO Holding AG
	Moderation:	<b>Fredy Müller</b> , Managing Director SSF
20:00	Apéro	

## Sign up now!

**Admission: CHF 100.-** (free admission for students and persons in training)

**Registration via:** [www.forum-sicherheit-schweiz.ch/kommende-talks](http://www.forum-sicherheit-schweiz.ch/kommende-talks) | +41 (0)44 533 04 00 | or: [sekretariat@forum-sicherheit-schweiz.ch](mailto:sekretariat@forum-sicherheit-schweiz.ch)

We would like to thank our event partners and annual partnerships!



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