

# *GSOFF Symposium - Europe*

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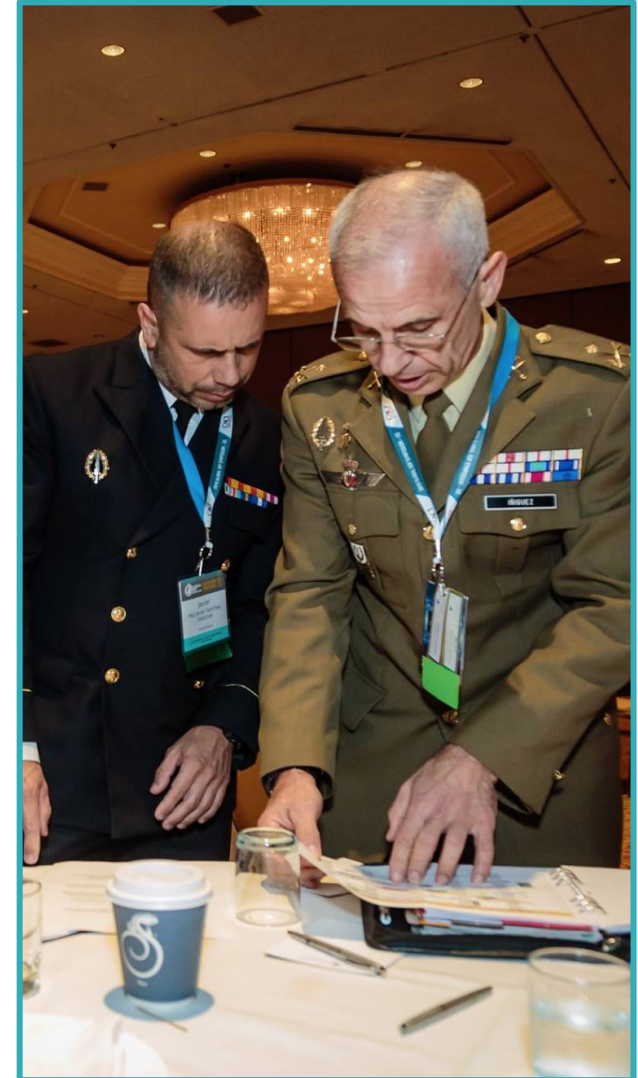
# The Global SOF Foundation

## Overview

- 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
- Based in the Tampa, FL
- Professional association for Special Operations Forces
- Designated a National Military Association by U.S. Department of Defense

## Mission

- Convene the international SOF community on a regular basis (including military, government, commercial, and educational stakeholders)
- Ensure SOF have sufficient resourcing and cutting-edge capabilities



# Participating Nations for Past Events

Albania	Australia	Austria	Bahamas	Bangladesh	Belgium	Belize	Benin	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Brazil
									
Bulgaria	Canada	Chile	Colombia	Croatia	Czech Republic	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	France
									
Georgia	Germany	Ghana	Greece	Hong Kong	Hungary	India	Iraq	Israel	Italy
									
Jamaica	Japan	Jordan	S. Korea	Kuwait	Lithuania	Maldives	Nepal	The Netherlands	New Zealand
									
Nigeria	Norway	Pakistan	Peru	Philippines	Poland	Portugal	Romania	Singapore	Slovakia
									
Slovenia	Spain	Sweden	Taiwan	Turkey	UAE	Ukraine	United States	United Kingdom	
									



# GSOE Symposium - Europe

## Annual Global SOF Events:



**2016**  
13-14 OCT  
Vilnius, LTU  
276 Attendees  
22 Nations

**2017**  
26-28 SEP  
Bucharest, ROU  
370 Attendees  
22 Nations

**2018**  
25-27 SEP  
Madrid, ESP  
401 Attendees  
30 Nations

**2019**  
1-3 OCT  
Brussels, BEL  
387 Attendees  
23 Nations

**2021**  
26-28 OCT  
Warsaw, POL  
457 Attendees  
28 Nations

**2022**  
4-6 OCT  
Budapest, HUN  
884 Attendees  
28 Nations

2020

*2020 Events Postponed Due to COVID19*

**2023**  
24 - 26 October  
Brno,  
Czech Rep.

**2024**  
October  
Bratislava,  
Slovakia

**2025**  
October  
Thessaloniki,  
Greece

**2026**  
October  
Italy

**2027**  
October  
Sweden



# 2016 Global SOF Symposium - Lithuania

## Location:

- **Symposium, Exhibits & Networking Reception:** LITEXPO
- **Closing Reception:** Vilnius Town Hall Center

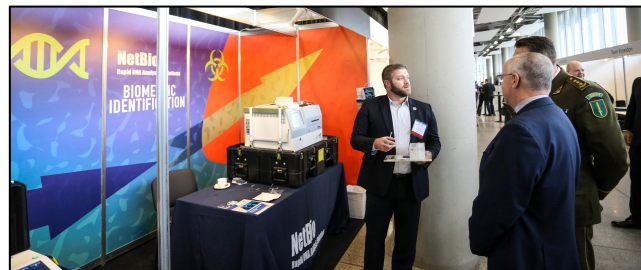
## Key Speakers:

- The Honorable Remigijus Šimašius, PhD, Vilnius City Mayor and Chairman of Lithuanian Liberal Party
- Lieutenant General Joseph L. Osterman, Deputy Commander, USSOCOM
- Ms. Theresa Whelan, Assistant Secretary for Special Operations & Low-Intensity Conflict, US Department of Defense
- Lieutenant General Jonas Vytautas Žukas, Chief of Defense, Lithuania

**Theme:** The Role of Special Operations in Global Security

**Receptions:** Event receptions allow attendees to network and learn, providing a platform for key relationship development between global SOF stakeholders

**Exhibit Hall and SOF Demo:** Engage industry and allow host nation SOF to participate and showcase their capabilities to attendees



# 2017 Global SOF Symposium - Romania

## Location:

- **Symposium, Exhibits & Networking Reception:** JW Marriott Bucharest
- **Closing Reception:** Romanian Military Officers' Circle

## Key Speakers:

- His Excellency Mr. Klaus Werner Iohannis, President, Romania
- Mr. Mihai Fifor, Minister of National Defense, Romania
- MG Marian Sima, Chief of Military Intelligence, Romania
- General Sir James Everard, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, NATO
- MG Mark Schwartz, Commander, USSOCOM-Europe

## Theme: Building Trust

**Receptions:** Closing Reception was at Romania's Military Circle, attended by the Romanian Chief of Defense, and featured the Romanian Military Band.

## Exhibit Hall and SOF Demo:

Engage industry and allow host nation SOF to participate and showcase their capabilities to attendees.



# 2018 Global SOF Symposium - Spain

**Dates:** 25-27 September 2018

## Location:

- **Symposium, Exhibits & Networking Reception:** Marriott Madrid Auditorium
- **Closing Reception:** Casino Madrid

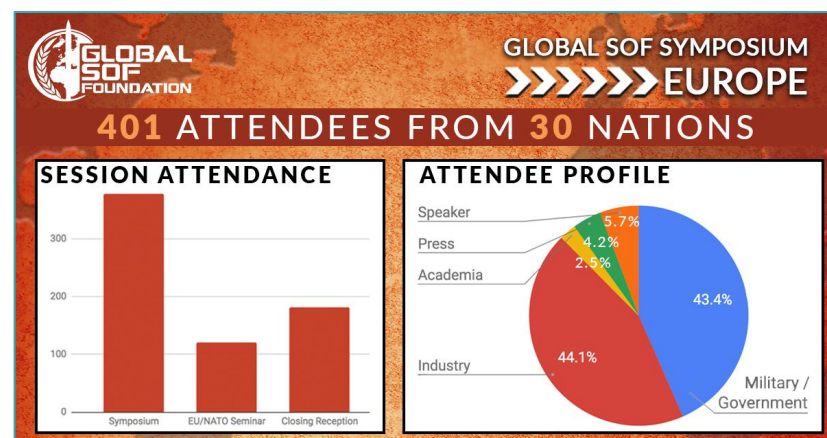
## European Cooperation:

- The EU and NATO SOF “bundled” their Fall meeting with this event
- Spanish SOF provided coordinating support

## Speaker Highlights:

- General Mikhail Kostarakos, Chairman of the Military Committee, European Union
- General Petr Pavel, Chairman of the Military Committee, North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- Major General Jaime Iñiguez Andrade, Commander, Joint Special Operations Command, Spain
- Mr. Abdoulaye Koumare, Ambassador, Embassy of Mali, Madrid
- ADM Kurt Tidd, Commander, U.S. Southern Command
- General Thomas D. Waldhauser, Commander, U.S. Africa Command

**Theme:** Bridging Continents through Trust



# 2019 Global SOF Symposium - Belgium

## Dates:

1 - 3 October 2019

## Location:

Symposium, Exhibits & Networking Reception: The Plaza Hotel

## European Cooperation:

- The EU and NATO SOF “bundled” their Fall meeting with this event
- Belgian SOF provided excellent coordinating support

## Speakers:

- Dr. Antonio Missiroli, Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges, NATO
- Dr Professor Rob de Wijk, Founder, The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies
- General Claudio Graziano, Chairman, European Union Military Committee
- General Marc Compagnol, Chief of Defence, Belgium
- Major General Peter Harling Boysen, Commander, Special Operations Command, Denmark
- Lieutenant General Onno Eichelsheim, Vice Chief of Defence, Netherlands Ministry of Defence
- Ms. Rasa Juknevičienė, Member, European Parliament



# 2021 Global SOF Symposium - Poland

**Dates:** 26-28 October 2021

**Location: Warsaw, Poland**

**Symposium, Exhibits & Networking Reception:** Warsaw Marriott

## European Cooperation:

- MOU Signed with Poland Ministry of Defense
- Close coordination with POLSOCOM

## Speakers Included:

- Major General PHD Piotr A. Błazeusz, Deputy Chief Of General Staff, Polish Armed Forces
- Lieutenant General Pilot Tadeusz Mikutel, Phd. First Deputy Chief Of General Staff, Polish Armed Forces
- Vice Admiral Timothy Szymanski Deputy Commander, US Special Operations Command
- Major General David Tabor, Commander, Special Operations Command Europe
- Brigadier General Branislav Benka, SOF Commander, Slovakia
- Major General Slawomir Drumowicz, Phd. Commander, POLSOCOM
- Major Matija Jazbec, SOF Commander, Slovenia
- Major General Tamás Sándor, Commander, Special Operations Forces - Hungary



# 2022 Global SOF Symposium - Budapest

**Dates:** 4 - 6 October 2022

**Location: Budapest, Hungary**

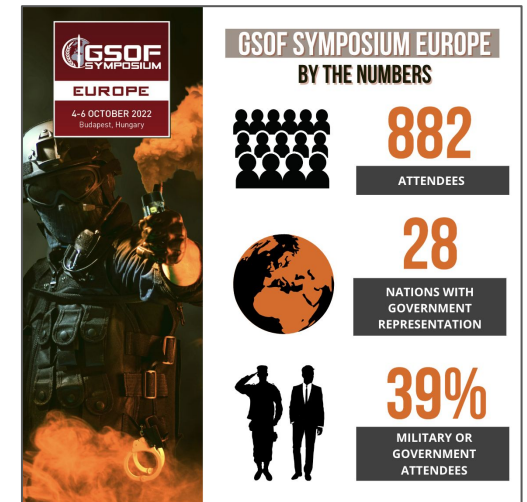
**Symposium, Exhibits & Networking Reception: HUNGEXPO**

## European Cooperation:

- MOU Signed with Hungarian Ministry of Defense
- Close coordination with HUNSOF

## Speakers Included:

- Mr Kristóf SZALAY-BOBROVNICZKY, Minister of Defence, Hungary
- Lieutenant General Romulusz RUSZIN-SZENDI, Commander, Hungarian Defence Forces
- Lieutenant General Antonio "Tony" FLETCHER, Commander, NATO Special Operations Headquarters
- Lieutenant General Edwin "John" DEEDRICK, Jr., United States Military Representative, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Military Committee
- Major General Tamás SÁNDOR, Commander, Special Operations Forces, Hungary
- Major General Richard E. ANGLE, Commanding General, 1st Special Forces Command (Airborne), U.S. Army
- Major General Peter BOYSEN, Commander, Special Operations Forces, Denmark
- Brigadier General Viktor KHORENKO, Commander, Special Operations Forces, Armed Forces Ukraine
- Dr. László PALKOVICS, Minister of Innovation and Technology, Hungary
- Mr. Jim SMITH, Acquisition Executive, USSOCOM SOF AT&L



# 2023+ Global SOF Symposium - Europe

## Host Nation Roles & Responsibilities:

- Identify a primary Point of Contact (“POC”) for coordination/ planning with GSOF
- In conjunction with GSOF, develop an appropriate theme for the symposium
- In conjunction with GSOF, develop conference content (i.e., agenda) to ensure Host Nation interests are served
- Provide/recommend government speakers and panel members; extend invitations to speak and participate to key government/military leaders
- Identify and provide contact information for all government and international SOF personnel to be invited
- Participate in In-Progress Reviews (“IPRs”) as required
- Provide biographical information for introductions of Host Nation personnel serving as speakers/panelists
- Identify conference physical and personal security requirements
- Perform personal security and protocol functions related to official visit/ participation of Host Nation dignitaries and special command guests
- Participate in a post-event “hot wash” and/or “after action review” to capture successes and lessons learned for improving future events



# 2023+ Global SOF Symposium - Europe

## Global SOF Foundation Roles & Responsibilities:

- Identify a primary POC to coordinate with Host Nation POC
- In conjunction with Host Nation, develop an appropriate theme for the symposium
- Develop GSOF agenda and content, with input from Host Nation
- Invite all speakers and panel members; provide speaker gifts
- Plan, coordinate, and participate in IPRs as required
- Plan, coordinate, and execute administrative and logistics functions necessary to produce a conference such that it will achieve both government and industry intent
- Ensure and obtain adequate liability insurance for the conference
- Collect and pay all expenses incurred by actions of GSOF employees, offices, and agents associated with the planning and execution of the conference
- Submit a conference plan of execution 45 days after the Effective Date to include the milestones that must occur to effectively execute the conference on the planned date to include dates when Host Nation-provided information is required
- Provide all conference attendees and presenters with badges that allow the wearer's name to be easily read to readily distinguish their roles during the conference



# 2023+ Global SOF Symposium - Europe

## Event Format:

We recommend the following format for the event week to ensure optimum participation and attendee satisfaction:

- **Monday**  
Travel Day
- **Tuesday**  
Government Only Day, with NATO and EU SOF  
Evening Icebreaker Reception for all Attendees
- **Wednesday**  
Day 1 of Symposium Sessions  
Evening Networking Reception for all Attendees
- **Thursday**  
Day 2 of Symposium Sessions  
Closing Reception for all Attendees
- **Friday**  
Travel Day



# 2023+ Global SOF Symposium - Europe

## Agenda Development:

The agenda and speaker Invite list is up to the host nation, but the GSOF is happy to provide recommendations to help ensure success.

## Speaker Ideas:

- European Defense Leaders
- SOF Leaders
- Political Influencers

## Format Options:

- Fireside Chats
- Moderated Panels
- Keynote Addresses
- SOF Slams (similar to TED Talks)



# LEARN MORE

**Global SOF Foundation:**

[www.gsof.org](http://www.gsof.org)

**Global SOF Symposiums:**

[www.gsofsymposium.org](http://www.gsofsymposium.org)

**Contact:**

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