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UK-EU foreign and security cooperation post-Brexit: Divergence or convergence?

Wednesday 3 June 2026 13:15 (1h 30m)

Panel Abstract:

This panel takes stock of the evolution of UK internal and external security policy post Brexit, encompassing the UK's subsequent relations with the EU, as well as how the UK can achieve its foreign policy goals. In the context of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the UK's position as a key European foreign policy partner becomes critical as Europe addresses steps to push back against Russian aggression and support Ukraine's self-determination, a key European value. It is evident that whilst UK-EU cooperation in this field is necessary and desirable, this cooperation has to be adapted to the post-Brexit environment, incorporating more informalised ties. The papers in this panel focus on various angles of this relationship, from exploring the reason behind variations in internal and external security cooperation, to the adaptation of existing UK security and diplomatic frameworks, highlighted through venue repurposing. Finally, two papers are founded on the idea of the European Defence Ecosystem. The first of these explores the conceptualisation of the term, whilst the second highlights UK-EU defence cooperation as a part of the ecosystem. Overall, the panel introduces novel ideas around how we can explore UK-EU relations at a critical juncture in European security.

Track Classification: European Security Working Group