



ENERGY STRATEGIES 2024

Africa, NATO and energy security of supply

Tuesday 16 April 2024, Le Méridien Visconti Hotel, from 2.30pm to 7.15pm
- *Visconti Room, Rome*

[\(via Federico Cesi, 37\)](#)

Conference organized by **NATO Defense College Foundation**
in collaboration with the **NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme**, The **Policy Center for the New South**,
the **Compagnia di San Paolo Foundation**, The **NATO Defense College** and the **Middle East Institute Switzerland**.

As enshrined in the Washington Treaty (1949) - and reiterated in NATO's Strategic Concept - energy and energy security represent a crucial priority for international security, both in the past and in the present.

The recent evolution of fossil energy sources in NATO member countries places the challenge of energy security at the center of attention, requiring an in-depth analysis of three fundamental aspects: changes in energy portfolios; the development of relations between the African Union and NATO and the establishment of a collaborative energy market in Africa, aimed at promoting stability, prosperity and investment attractiveness.

The Conference confirms the interest of the *Foundation* for this multidimensional theme, turning its focus to the African continent and involving **19 international experts**.

The event will be opened by **Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo** (NDCF President), **Max Nielsen** (Commander of the NATO Defense College), **Stefano La Tella** (Office of the Diplomatic Advisor to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers) and **Nouzha Chekrouni** (Senior Fellow del Policy Center for the New South a Rabat).

The first panel will be moderated by **Mehmet Ögütçü** (President of the London Energy Club) and will analyse the opportunities and risks of energy portfolio diversification between Europe and African regional producers, especially in light of current regional conflicts and the EU Green Deal. Experts from various fields will participate in the debate, including **Giuseppe Mistretta** (Director for Sub-Saharan Africa of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation), **Ahmet Evin** (Professor Emeritus at Sabancı University in Istanbul), **Massimo Amato** (Associate Professor at Bocconi University) and **Claudia Gazzini** (Senior Libya Analyst at the International Crisis Group).

The second panel, under the guidance of **Andrea Cellino** (Senior Fellow of the Middle East Institute Switzerland), will examine the gradual cooperation between the African Union and the Atlantic Alliance for energy security, and how this can adapt to the growing needs of the Continent. To address geopolitical and geoeconomic variables, the discussion will feature contributions from **Julian Wiczorkiewicz** (Policy Officer, Climate and Energy Security Section, NATO Headquarters), **Andrea Grazioso** (Senior Analyst of NATO Strategic HUB-South), **Johan van den Berg** (Head of the Secretariat, Africa-EU Energy Partnership) and **Abdellatif Aboualatta** (Permanent Observer of the Permanent Delegation of the African Union to the United Nations).

Moderated by Jessica **Obeid** (Non-Resident Senior Fellow of the Middle East Institute), the third panel will delve into the potential of transforming Africa into an integrated energy market. The discussion will emphasize fostering cooperation between public and private stakeholders to enhance stability and ensure energy security across the region.

The High-Level Conference will conclude with remarks from **Richard D. Hooker**, Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council.

The event will be conducted exclusively in **English** and will be recorded for subsequent broadcast on **YouTube**. Please note that participation will only be possible in person. All the details in the attached **program**.

PARTICIPATION: write to ndcf.pressmediarelations@gmail.com (Lorenza Santarelli, +39 328 02 56 192).

INTERVIEWS: Along with your registration for the event, please indicate any interest in interviewing one or more speakers **by Friday, April 12th**. We will inform the relevant speakers and arrange the interviews accordingly. **It will not be possible to carry out interviews inside the hotel during the conference.**

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