

**1 German-Netherlands Corps**

Münster | Germany



14 May 2025

Dear Ms. Lao.

In November this year, 1 German-Netherlands Corps will organise the Common Effort Conference in Riga Latvia. Common Effort is a civil-military platform to meet and discuss contemporary security challenges. Established 15 years ago, Common Effort aimed to enhance civil-military interaction in the context of stabilisation operations. Based on the changing security landscape, its contemporary focus includes civilian and military preparedness, collective defence and hybrid threats. In this way, Common Effort aims to align civilian capacities with operational military planning.

Common Effort Conference 2025 starts on the 25th of November with an icebreaker event, followed by a two-day program. On the 26th of November, civilian and military professionals focus on operational dilemmas in working groups and can join a scenario-based training related to civil- and military preparedness in the context of warfighting. On November 27th, we feature a strategic event, including keynote presentations and panel discussions.

I kindly invite you to join the conference, contribute as a panellist on the 27th, and join our conference dinner on the 26th. I sincerely hope you will accept my invitation and support Common Effort.

Date: 25-27 November 2025

Location: Radisson Conference and Spa, Riga, Latvia

RSVP: Please reply to this invitation by e-mailing GNC.PVB@1GNC.nato.int before 30 June 2025.

Respectfully,

P. Mirow

Lieutenant General (DEU A)

Commander 1 German/Netherlands Corps

"Together we are Strong!"

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We are honoured to host this year's Common Effort conference in Riga, Latvia, on 25-27 November 2025. This event brings together military and civilian leaders to address today's most pressing security challenges.

In these challenging times, NATO faces its most complex security environment since the end of the Cold War. The war in Ukraine has reintroduced large-scale conflict to the European continent, threatening European stability. Meanwhile, global terrorism, uncontrolled migration, climate change and China's growing global influence continue to challenge NATO's core interests and values. Additionally, hybrid threats, such as cyberattacks and disruptive technologies add unprecedented complexity to the Alliance's need for resilience and adaptability.

1 German-Netherlands Corps firmly believes in the Comprehensive Approach, which recognizes that governmental, civilian, and military actors must align their efforts to manage complexities. This approach is operationalised through Civil-Military Interaction (CMI). CMI aims to foster mutual understanding, trust and collaboration awareness amongst civilians and the military, resulting in strengthened crisis management and conflict resolution efforts.

One of the key platforms driving civil-military collaboration is Common Effort, established 15 years ago to enhance coordination and conceptual development of civil-military coordination in peace-support operations. Today, its focus has expanded to include crisis response, collective defence (deterrence and warfighting), hybrid threats, and resilience-building from a civil-military perspective in peace, crises and war.

This year's conference theme is named: Roads to Resilience. Resilience is the capacity to resist, respond to, and recover from shocks and disruptions. Whether facing natural disasters, conflicts, or cyberattacks, NATO countries must ensure that both military and civilian sectors can continue to deliver essential services. Military operations, especially in warfighting, rely heavily on civilian and commercial infrastructure, including transportation, energy, and communications.

Strengthening resilience in civilian sectors ensures that NATO's military forces have the necessary support to fulfil their missions, even under attack or severe disruption. Consequently, civil preparedness is a cornerstone of the Alliance's collective defence. During the Warsaw Summit in 2016, NATO identified seven baseline requirements for civil preparedness, including: Continuity of government and essential services, Resilient energy supplies, Management of uncontrolled population movements, Resilient food and water supplies, Capacity to handle mass casualties, Resilient civil communications and Resilient civil transportation systems.

The key to the success of Common Effort is participation of a wide variety of organizations and companies in these sectors. Only with your input can we build realistic scenario's and have engaging panel discussions with all different perspectives included. Besides knowledge building and mutual learning, informal connections between civilian and military actors are at most important, only in this way, we can meet our motto;

'Meet each other before you need each other'.