



Subject: **INVITATION: NATO ANNUAL CIMIC FORESIGHT CONFERENCE 2026**
SYNCHRONISING ACTIVITIES: CIMIC ALIGNMENT WITH REALITY
INCLUDING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATO CIMIC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

When & Where: **14.-17. SEPTEMBER 2026 – THE HAGUE / THE NETHERLANDS**

Annexes: **A. TENTATIVE CONFERENCE AGENDA**
B. BREAKOUT SESSIONS ACFC 26
C. ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

In a security landscape shaped by uncertainty, hybrid threats, and societal fragility, NATO's effectiveness hinges on its ability to operate beyond purely military boundaries. Aligning military action with civilian actors, institutions, and societal dynamics is no longer optional – it is operationally decisive. Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) provides this connective tissue, enabling coherence, enhancing human security, and delivering impact across the full spectrum of competition.

The NATO Annual CIMIC Foresight Conference 2026 (ACFC26) continues this established conference series with a clear focus on bridging strategic foresight and operational reality. Building on insights and lessons learned at previous conferences, ACFC26 will explore how CIMIC's concepts, capabilities, and activities can be effectively aligned with the demands of current and future operational environments.

Through high-level expert panels, facilitated discussions, and interactive breakout sessions, the conference will address critical questions. These include how strategic foresight can be translated into operational practice; how narratives, strategic communication, and disinformation influence Civil-Military interaction; how force protection, civilian safety, and mission objectives can be balanced effectively in high-intensity scenarios; and how the synchronisation of military and non-military activities is evolving toward a comprehensive whole-of-society approach.

Celebrating 20 Years of the NATO CIMIC Centre of Excellence

A special highlight of the ACFC26 will be the 20th Anniversary of the NATO CIMIC Centre of Excellence, celebrated on **15 September 2026**.

Since its establishment in 2006, the NATO CIMIC COE has played a central role in the development, transformation, and institutionalisation of Civil-Military Cooperation within NATO. Over two decades, the centre has contributed significantly to doctrine and concept development, experimentation, lessons learned, education and training, and the promotion of CIMIC as a key enabler for operational effectiveness and human security across the full spectrum of NATO operations.

The anniversary provides an opportunity to reflect on CIMIC's evolution – from crisis response and stabilisation missions to its current role in high-intensity, multi-domain, and whole-of-society contexts – while also looking ahead to future challenges. Marking this milestone within the framework of ACFC26 underlines the enduring relevance of CIMIC and the NATO CIMIC COE's commitment to bridging strategic foresight with operational reality.

The conference dress code will be **Business Casual**. For the 20th Anniversary and the CIMIC Time Machine, we suggest casual (open collar).

The conference fee is **EUR 180.00**, which includes all administrative costs throughout the event and access to the social events. However, attendees are responsible for arranging their own accommodation and transportation to and from the event location.

You are kindly asked to register and pay the conference fee for the event by the following link from now **till the 28th of August**: <https://www.cimic-coe.org/events/annual-cimic-foresight-conference-2026/>

You are also requested to select your breakout session choices as detailed in Annex B.

After the registration is finalised and the payment is confirmed, you will receive a confirmation message with further information.

In case of any questions regarding the event please reach out to the team via ACFC26@cimic-coe.org.

We look forward to welcoming you to the ACFC26 in The Hague and to continuing our collective efforts to strengthen CIMIC in support of NATO operations.



Jorn Segers
Colonel, NLD A
Director NATO CIMIC Centre of Excellence

Tentative Agenda – Annual CIMIC Foresight Conference 2026

MONDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2026

11:30 – 17:00	Early-Bird Inprocessing at Majoor Jan Linzel Complex, The Hague
13:00 – 16:00	Interoperability and Synchronisation Working Group (on invitation only)
17:00 – 19:00	Non-Hosted Beer Call at Paresto Bar

TUESDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2026

07:30 – 09:00	Late Inprocessing at Majoor Jan Linzel Complex, The Hague
09:00 – 10:00	Conference opening and Keynote Speech
10:30 – 12:00	Panel Discussion “Strategic Foresight meets Operational Reality”
12:00 – 13:30	Hosted Lunch
13:30 – 16:30	Breakout Sessions
18:00 – 22:00	20th Anniversary of the NATO CIMIC Centre of Excellence at Knus Restaurant

WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2026

09:00 – 10:30	Panel Discussion “Headline versus Ground Truth”
11:00 – 12:00	Breakout Sessions
12:00 – 13:30	Hosted Lunch
13:30 – 15:30	Breakout Sessions
16:00 – 17:30	Panel “Human Security under Pressure”
18:00 – 20:00	The CIMIC Time Machine – the other social

THURSDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2026

09:00 – 12:00	Breakout Sessions
12:00 – 13:30	Hosted Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	Panel “Civil-Military alignment through the Whole of Society”
15:00 – 15:45	Conference Closing
16:00 – 18:00	Conference Check Out – late checkout also available 18 September 2026

Breakout Sessions – Annual CIMIC Foresight Conference 2026

Breakout 1	“From Signals to decisions – How strategic foresight actually informs commanders” University of Applied Sciences
Breakout 2	“When the narrative fails – a CIMIC Story” Global Disinformation Index
Breakout 3	“Human Security in the current world – Who protects what?” UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
Breakout 4	“CIMIC in Multi-Domain Operations – still a Land Creature?” United States Army Europe and Africa, Civil Affairs Div.
Breakout 5	“Whole of Society – Concept or Convenient Buzzword?” Ministry of Defence of the Netherlands
Breakout 6	“Building CIMIC DNA: Skills, Mindset, and Organisational Integration” NATO CIMIC COE

Participants may join 3 out of 6 breakout sessions.

Please indicate your preferred choices during registration.

We will prioritize preferences where possible.

Due to room capacity, alternative allocations may be necessary.

Administrative Details – Annual CIMIC Foresight Conference 2026

Travel and Transportation

Travelling by car

If you travel by car, please use the following address of Majoor Jan Linzel Complex for your navigation system:

Brasserskade 227a

2497 NX Den Haag

The Netherlands

(GPS position: 52°17'23"N 4°21.796"E)

Please note that on-site parking is not available.

Travelling by train, including from Amsterdam Schiphol Airport (AMS)

- a. Travel by train directly to Station Delft
- b. Take bus line 60 with Destination **Nootdorp**
- c. Disembark at bus stop **Defensie** (11th bus stop) just in front of the CCOE's entrance

The railway planner might be a useful tool for you: www.ns.nl/reisplanner

Shuttle Service

Unfortunately, **no shuttle service will be provided**, with the sole exception of a shuttle option from CIMIC Centre of Excellence to Knus restaurant in Delft and back on September 15, the restaurant where the 20th Anniversary celebration will take place

Accommodation

The Hague and Delft provide numerous option for accommodation. The hotel closest to the facility is:

Hotel Riva

Brasserskade 221

2497 NX Den Haag

Hospitality

Lunch at our local restaurant facility (Paresto) will be hosted from September 15 through 17 of the event. Dinner will be hosted at Knus restaurant on September 15 (20th Anniversary celebration), as well as for the *Time Machine* event on September 16.

It is possible to have dinner after “early-bird inprocessing” on September 14 or prior to departure on September 17 at Paresto; please note that these meals are not hosted.

Dress Code

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|--|----------------------------|
| a. Conference: | Business Casual |
| b. 20 th Anniversary celebration: | Smart Casual (open collar) |
| c. <i>Time Machine</i> event: | Casual |

Inprocessing

Inprocessing will take place in the entrance area of the main building. Proceed straight ahead after passing the Majoor Jan Linzel Complex main gate to find the main building entrance.

Valid identification, such as by passport, will be required at the time of inprocessing. You will receive a badge for facility access throughout the conference. Please note that prepayment of the conference fee is required for inprocessing.