

“Security Creates Value”: Exclusive Forum on Europe’s Security Future in Vienna

- Magirus brings together high-level representatives from politics, industry and defence in Vienna
- Fireside chat with Federal Minister Klaudia Tanner on security as a responsibility shared by society as a whole
- Panel discussion on the industrial turning point with Lieutenant General Vodosek, Vice Secretary General Koren and Magirus CEO Veselaj
- Magirus Defense & Security business unit successfully launched

Ulm/ Vienna - 30 April 2026

Geopolitical conflicts, increasing threat scenarios and growing demands for the protection of society and critical infrastructure are fundamentally reshaping Europe’s security landscape. Against this backdrop, Magirus, together with the international business club GPF Global and in cooperation with SEEBDN (Southeast Europe Business Development Network), hosted an exclusive evening on Tuesday, 28 April 2026, at the Ernst Fuchs Museum in the Otto Wagner Villa in Vienna under the theme “Security Creates Value”.

The event brought together senior figures from politics, industry and defence to address a central question: how can security be shaped collectively as a responsibility shared by society as a whole?

Fireside chat with Federal Minister Tanner: security requires a change in mindset

A central highlight of the evening was a fireside chat with Austria’s Federal Minister of Defence, Klaudia Tanner. She emphasised that the evolving security environment requires a fundamental shift in thinking – both in defence policy and across society. Security, she stressed, is not a task that individual actors can address alone.

“A neutral state must be able to defend its neutrality,” said Minister Tanner. “Strengthening security in Europe sustainably requires a joint effort from business, industry, politics and society.”

A turning point: taking responsibility before it is too late

The subsequent panel discussion, titled “A Turning Point for Industry: Security as a Driver of Innovation and Growth”, featured Lieutenant General Harald Vodosek, National Armaments Director of the Austrian Armed Forces at the Federal Ministry of Defence, Peter Koren, Vice Secretary General of the Federation of Austrian Industries, and Fatmir Veselaj, CEO of Magirus.

Veselaj highlighted Magirus’ priorities: “In critical situations, every second counts. That is why everything we develop and produce must focus on the end user – the emergency personnel who rely on our technology in every situation.” At the same time, he underlined the responsibility of industry: “We must not wait for political direction. We need to act now and develop solutions that perform when it matters most.”

He also formulated a clear ambition for both Magirus and the wider industry: “Protection must not become a luxury. Our responsibility is to deliver the highest quality at a fair price.”

Magirus strengthens its Defense & Security business

With the establishment of the Magirus Defense & Security business unit at its Radfeld site, Magirus has successfully completed the acquisition of Achleitner Fahrzeugbau and is now active as a provider of specialised solutions for armed forces, security agencies and operators of critical infrastructure.

The company is thereby positioning itself as an integrated systems provider across the full spectrum of civil protection – from firefighting and disaster response to tactical solutions for protection, mobility and operational capability under the most demanding conditions. The event in Vienna underscored the consistency with which Magirus is pursuing this strategic direction.

For CEO Fatmir Veselaj, dialogue with stakeholders from politics, industry and society is a key element of corporate responsibility. The event in Vienna demonstrated that the pressing challenges of security can only be addressed and managed through collaboration between all actors.

Security is not created in isolation. It emerges where responsibility is shared – for society, and for those who protect it every day.

CAPTIONS (COPYRIGHT MAGIRUS):

Image 1 (f.l.t.r.): H. Vodosek (National Armaments Director, Austrian Armed Forces), D. Gros (Founder, GPF Global), D. Spera (Journalist and Moderator), R. Nowak (Chief Executive Officer, Die Presse), K. Tanner (Federal Minister of Defence, Austria), P. Koren (Vice Secretary General, Federation of Austrian Industries), F. Veselaj (CEO, Magirus Group), F. Kaltenecker (Chairman, SEEBDN) and A. Gros (Founder, GPF Global)

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Image 2: Fireside chat with Klaudia Tanner (Federal Minister of Defence, Austria) at the Ernst Fuchs Museum in Vienna on the topic “Security Creates Value”, moderated by Danielle Spera

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Image 3: Fatmir Veselaj (CEO, Magirus Group) and Klaudia Tanner (Federal Minister of Defence, Austria) in discussion during the event “Security Creates Value” in Vienna

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Image 4: The Ernst Fuchs Museum in the Otto Wagner Villa in Vienna as the venue for the dialogue on “Security Creates Value”

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ABOUT MAGIRUS

Passion and precision, high-tech and craftsmanship. Since 1864, Magirus has stood for the fusion of innovation and tradition – in the service of those who protect our society. As a systems provider for fire and disaster control as well as Defense & Security, Magirus develops integrated solutions along the entire operational chain – from vehicles to technologies and digital systems – for fire services, emergency organisations, security authorities and all those who bear responsibility for protecting our society and critical infrastructure. The portfolio encompasses a broad spectrum of operational vehicles – from firefighting vehicles and turntable ladders to specialised and tactical vehicle solutions – complemented by digital fleet and mission management systems, robotics solutions, high-performance pumps as well as equipment and comprehensive service offerings. With over 1,700 employees at sites in Germany, Italy, France, Austria and Switzerland, Magirus maintains a strong international presence.

ABOUT MAGIRUS DEFENSE & SECURITY

Magirus Defense & Security is the business unit for tactical and protected vehicles as well as solutions in the field of defense and civil security. Building on the long-standing expertise of Achleitner, Magirus Defense & Security develops and produces specialised vehicle solutions for armed forces, security authorities and operators of critical infrastructure. The focus is on protection, mobility and operational capability under the most demanding conditions. The main site is Radfeld in Austria, where over 110 employees are based.

SHORT BIOS

Fatmir Veselaj, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Magirus GmbH

Fatmir Veselaj has been CEO of Magirus since July 2025 and is responsible for the strategic direction and further development of the company. He previously served as Chief Restructuring Officer (CRO), initiating the first key steps to stabilise the company.

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