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## The Membership Milestone: “TEN YEARS IN NATO, TEN YEARS AHEAD”

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**Bulgarian trans-Atlantic society’s anniversary conference**

**Sofia, 28 March 2014**

**Tarjestvena hall, 2-d floor, Central Military club**

09:30	<p><b>Official opening</b></p> <p><b>Welcome remarks:</b> MG (ret.) Sabi Sabev, President of the Association of the Officers in the Reserve ‘Atlantic’, former J3 and J5 of the General Staff of the Bulgarian Armed Forces and Military Representative to NATO</p> <p><b>Keynote addresses:</b> - HE Rosen Plevneliev, President of the Republic of Bulgaria (tbc) - HE Andres Fogh Rasmussen, NATO Secretary General/Ambassador Alexander Vershbow, NATO Deputy Secretary General (tbc)</p>
10.30 – 12.30	<p><b>The Wiseman Forum:</b></p> <p><b>Christopher Donnelly</b>, former Special Adviser to the NATO Secretary General on Central and Eastern European Affairs, currently with the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom, Co-Director of the newly formed Institute for Statecraft and Governance.</p> <p><b>Robert Kennedy</b>, Professor in the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs, a foreign affairs officer with the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, Dwight D. Eisenhower Professor of National Security Studies at the U.S. Army War College, Civilian Deputy Commandant of the NATO Defense College in Rome, Italy, Director of the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, chairman of the Consortium of Defense Academies and Security Studies Institutes, but before everything else – an U.S. Air Force pilot.</p> <p><b>Q &amp; A</b></p>
12:30 – 13:00	Coffee and sandwiches

13:00 – 14:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The political forum:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Building the Bulgarian Consensus for NATO and Europe</b></p> <p>Bulgaria’s internal policy of political confrontation and “transition” between 1990 and March 1997 left the country’s society and institutions far away behind any serious debate about the nation’s European and Euro-Atlantic perspective. The Government’s decision of February 17, 1997 to begin an active process of joining NATO put an end to the inconclusive debate about the country’s position on its European and Trans-Atlantic perspective. Bulgaria is no longer the “particular case” in Europe. The leadership of the country has passed from unclear and non-committed statements of previous governments to a period of intensive conceptual, political and practical work for Bulgaria’s integration in the European and Euro-Atlantic institutions.</p> <p><b>Moderator: Prof Plamen Pantev</b>, Director, Institute for Security and International Studies</p> <p><b>Discussants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Dr Ognyan Minchev</b>, Director, Institute for Regional and Security Studies, author and editor of <i>Bulgaria for NATO in 2002</i></li> <li>- <b>Dr Vladimir Shopov</b>, CEO of <i>Sophia Analytica Ltd.</i></li> <li>- <b>HE Anyu Angelov</b>, Defence Minister, January 2010-March 2013</li> <li>- <b>Dr Krasen Stanchev</b>, Co-founder and Chairman of the Institute for market economy</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>
14:30 – 15:00	Coffee break
15:00 – 16:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The political-military forum:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NATO as an Instrument for Change</b></p> <p>Over the years after the end of the Cold War, NATO proved its value as a vital instrument in the joint endeavour of the transatlantic community of Allies to promote freedom, stability and security. And Bulgaria proved itself as a reliable Ally – benefiting from the security provided by NATO, but also making—relevant to its capacity—political and military contributions to the Alliance’s effectiveness. Did NATO membership turn into a common denominator of both Bulgarian foreign policy and internal social and economic transformation? What are the achievements after ten years as a NATO member; what more could have been done? Did Bulgaria utilize the full potential of its contribution to the Alliance’s missions and operations and the opportunities for development of capabilities?</p> <p><b>Statement: HE Boyko Noev</b>, Defence Minister in Bulgaria’s Caretaker Government (1994) and in the period December 1999-June 2001 (tbc)</p> <p><b>Moderator: MG (res.) Sabi Sabev</b></p> <p><b>Discussants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Dr. Filipp Fluri</b>, Deputy Director of The Geneva Center for the Democratic</li> </ul>

	<p>Control of Armed Forces (tbc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Dr Charles van Bebber</b>, Professor at the <i>U.S. Army War College</i>, member of the LTG Henry Kivenaar's study group as of 1998-99 (tbc)</li> <li>- <b>Colonel (res.) Bojidar Borisov</b>, Commander of the infantry battalion in Iraq (2004)</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>
16:30 – 17:00	Coffee break
17:00 – 18:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The future forum:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NATO for the Future of Europe; Bulgaria for the Future of NATO</b></p> <p>In an unpredictable world, NATO remains an essential source of stability. Against the background of an economic crisis, the spread on instability in the European neighbourhood, and the reviving religious-based terrorism NATO continuous its adaptation to meet the demands of a fast-moving security environment. While NATO is now more effective and efficient than at any time in its history, we will need to maintain the momentum of transformation. What role Bulgaria has and should play in this perspective? What relevant political, military and operational ambitions Bulgaria can stand for?</p> <p><b>Statement: Mr Frank Boland</b>, Director, Force Planning, NATO (tbc)</p> <p><b>Moderator: Dr Todor Tagarev</b>, Defence Minister (March-May 2013)</p> <p><b>Discussants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Mrs. Assya Davidova</b>, Deputy-minister of defence(March-May 2013), General Director, Political Affairs, <i>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i></li> <li>- <b>Prof John Kriendler</b>, George C. Marshall Center of European Security Studies (confirmed)</li> <li>- <b>Dr. Velizar Shalamanov</b>, Director, Demand Management, NATO Communications and Information Agency, former deputy defence minister for policy and planning (November 1998 – June 2001)</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>
18:30	<b>Celebrating the next ten years</b>