International conference

Adapting NATO to the New Challenges

4 October 2016, Hotel Marinela, Sofia, Bulgaria

(Working languages: Bulgarian and English)

With the kind support of NATO PDD

     NATO is facing diverse and dynamic challenges. The NATO 2016 Warsaw Summit discussed a series of issues of strategic importance related to the adaptation of the Alliance to the altering security environment and opened up a platform for debate among security experts. The Alliance has encountered a range of security threats that originate both from the East and from the South; from state and non-state actors; from military forces and from terrorism, cyber, or hybrid attacks. These topics are fundamental to the adjustment of NATO's capacity for meeting new challenges from every direction. At the Summit high-standing officials discussed what appropriate actions should be taken in facing those challenges and how to guarantee general security. They provided political guides for dealing with the changed and evolving security environment.

     This conference aims to contribute to the ongoing security discussion by providing an in-depth analysis on certain courses of action regarding the process of adaptation. The conference also precedes the NATO Defence Ministers Meeting scheduled for late October thus allowing us to come up with policy recommendations and practical solutions that can be considered both on national and international level.

AGENDA

8:30 – 9:15 – *Registration*
9:15 – 9:45 – *Opening of the Conference*
Moderator: **Dr. Monika Panayotova,** Project Manager, Sofia Security Forum
H.E. Nikolay Nenchev, Minister of Defense of the Republic of Bulgaria
H.E. Daniel Mitov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria,
Mr. Thorsten Geissler, Representative for Bulgaria of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung
Mr. Yordan Bozhilov, President of Sofia Security Forum
Q&A

9:45 – 11:15 – Panel 1 - NATO After Warsaw – strengthening and adapting the Alliance for meeting the new challenges

NATO faces a range of security challenges and threats that originate both from the East and from the South; from state and non-state actors; from military forces and from terrorist, cyber, or hybrid attacks. At the Summit in Warsaw NATO leaders approved important decisions which should help deter Russia, enhance the Alliance's efficiency in combating threats emanating from the South and agreed to develop adequate capabilities which are necessary to deter and defend against potential adversaries and the full spectrum of threats that could confront the Alliance from any direction.
Timely implementation of the decisions from Warsaw is necessary for NATO's credibility both in the eyes of the public and potential opponents. It will also be a precondition of further adaptation should this be required by the deterioration of security environment. Among the topics of discussions will be: Does NATO remain on track? Does it have enough resources to fulfil the declared commitments? What investments will be necessary in the coming years?
NATO aims to develop new capabilities and to enhance cooperation to tackle the terrorist threat. Working with the EU, and in particular through military cooperation with partners is a key factor for success. But the larger quest is how to project stability in the region, where NATO itself cannot provide the ultimate answer. What capacities have to be built to face terrorist threats and – first and foremost – how to streamline the cooperation with the EU to achieve a safe and stable neighborhood to the South of Europe?

Moderator: **Mr. Shaun Riordan,** Geopolitical Risk Consulting, Senior Visiting Fellow of the Clingendael Institute
Keynote Speech: **Mr. Andrew Budd**, NATO, Head of Defence Capabilities Section
Speaker: **Mr. Wojciech Lorenz,** Senior Research Fellow, PISM
Speaker: **Dr. Markus Kaim**, senior fellow, SWP, Germany
Q&A, Discussion

11:15 – 11:45 – Coffee break

11:45 – 13:15 – Panel 2 - Strategic Challenges in the Black Sea Region and prospects for a new security architecture

The security situation in the Black Sea region has deteriorated in recent years. The illegal annexation of the Crimea by Russia and attempts to militarize the peninsula have shifted the balance of power in the region and increased tensions. To respond to these challenges NATO agreed to a tailored forward presence in the region, which will include a multinational brigade and division level headquarters. Established formats in the Black sea for security cooperation and information exchange are not working. Furthermore, we observe risky military activities which can lead to military incidents in the Black sea. It is important to analyze the main risks in the region, how to address them and is there a need for establishment of a new security architecture the region. What are Russia's goals in the Black sea and how to engage Russia in the security dialogue? Does the Alliance commit enough attention to the region and what are the options for a strengthened air and maritime presence?

Moderator: **Mr. Yordan Bozhilov**, President of Sofia Security Forum
Speaker: **Dr. Liviu Muresan,** President, EURISC Foundation, Romania
Speaker: **Prof. Mustafa Aydin**, Rector, Kadir Has University, Turkey
Speaker: **Mr. Andrei Kortunov**, Director General of the Russian International Affairs Council /tbc./
Speaker: **Prof. Dr. Rumen Kanchev**, New Bulgarian University, Bulgaria
Q&A, Discussion

13:15 – 14:15 – Lunch

14:15 – 15:30 – Panel 2 - Hybrid Warfare – Can It Threaten the West?

Although hybrid warfare is not a new phenomenon, the technological and information revolution of recent decades has significantly enhanced its efficiency. Irregular and asymmetric operations, as well as cyberattacks, can be employed with or without conventional forces for political messaging, coercion, intimidation and for achieving political and military goals. Not only can hybrid warfare tactics undermine the stability of particular states but it can also threaten the security and cohesion of the Euro-Atlantic area. How to make the best use of NATO potential to counter hybrid warfare? Allies have pledged to strengthen their own cyber defense, and share more information and best practices, but can effective deterrence and defence be achieved in cyberspace? How technological advancement can help in countering the constantly evolving cyber threats and how to secure critical (information) infrastructure in the context of the hybrid threats?
Moderator: **Dr. Antoniy Galabov,** New Bulgarian University
Speaker: **Mr. Henrik Praks**, International Centre for Defense and Security, Estonia
Speaker: **Dr. Marcin A. Piotrowski**, Senior Research Fellow, PISM
Speaker: **Ms. Liisa Past,** NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Centre of Excellence, Estonia
Speaker: **Mr. Andrew Budd**, NATO, Head of Defence Capabilities Section

Q&A, Discussion
15:30 – 16:00 – Coffee break

16:00 – 17:15 – Panel 2 - Strengthening regional security. Georgia and Ukraine – How Can NATO Strengthen Regional Security through Partnerships?

Georgia and Ukraine are two major NATO partners in the Black Sea region, who have stated their intention to join NATO and have been offered significant political and practical support from the Alliance. However, both countries still face numerous challenges to their security, with their territorial integrity being undermined. How effective is NATO's support for Ukraine and Georgia? In what ways can both countries contribute to regional stability and security?

Moderator: **Mr. Martin Sokolov**, Researcher, Sofia Security Forum
Speaker: **Dr. Andriy Karakuts**, National Institute for Strategic Studies, Ukraine
Speaker: **Dr. Nika Chitadze**, Black Sea Region Geopolitical Research Center, Tbilisi
Speaker: **Col. Jörg Kunze**, Course Director SRS, George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies

Q&A, Discussion

Closing the conference