



ATLANTIC TREATY ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION DU TRAITÉ ATLANTIQUE

Fall 2010 ATA NEWSLETTER



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Opening article by the President	1
Secretary General's Message	3
Portuguese Atlantic Committee	4
Slovak Atlantic Commission	7
Latvian Transatlantic Organisation	11
Armenian Atlantic Association	14
Euro-Atlantic Council of Macedonia	15
Atlantic Council of Canada	16
Lithuanian ATA	20
Danish ATA	21
Hungarian Atlantic Council	23
JAGELLO 2000	25
Atlantic Council of Croatia	28
Atlantic Council of Ukraine	31
Euro-Atlantic Club of Montenegro	33
AFCA	35
Atlantic Commission of the Netherlands	36
Estonian ATA	39
Afghanistan—are we on track?	40

Dear ATA Members and Friends,

I hope you all had a nice summer and are now well rested and ready to embark on a new successful period for the Atlantic Treaty Association together. It is my pleasure to inform you in this newsletter about the new developments and activities of our organization. I have remained busy throughout the summer break and have been working hard on behalf of the ATA and our shared goals.

Between 6 and 9 September, I visited Hungary's wonderful capital, Budapest, at the invitation of Professor E. Sylvester Vizi, President of the Hungarian Atlantic Council. While there, I witnessed the excellent work being done by the Council and the diverse range of activities in which it is engaged. The programme of events for my visit had been excellently prepared and included talks with Hungarian Foreign Minister Dr. János Martonyi, Minister of Defence Dr. Csaba Hende and the Deputy Chairman of the Defence Committee, Zsolt Csampa, on the future of NATO, its new Strategic Concept and the importance of integrating the public in the NATO process.

I was particularly pleased to see that young people were also involved in the programme of events that marked my visit. For instance, I met members of MIAT (Magyar Atlanti Tanács), the Hungarian Youth Atlantic Council, for in-depth discussions and had the great honour of delivering a speech on the new Strategic Concept to students and guests at the National Defence University, before debating the future of the Alliance

with them. During these talks, I realised once again how important it is not only to bring NATO, its objectives and its values closer to young people but also to face inconvenient questions. Ultimately the young people are the ones who will have to carry forward and develop further the transatlantic relationship. We need to encourage them to broaden their perspective beyond today's concerns and ask themselves where they want to see NATO in the future.

Against this background, I also regard the current debate on the development of NATO's new Strategic Concept as being particularly important. The ATA and its national chapters have shown great commitment throughout the process, organising seminars, holding discussions with NATO representatives and taking an active role in the online discussion forums. For the first time in NATO's history, the majority of the discussions regarding its strategy have not taken place behind closed doors.

Instead, the public has been explicitly invited to let its voice be heard. This offer has met with broad public approval. The events and digital discussion forums have been well received, especially by young people. I therefore believe that the process leading to the development of the new Strategic Concept is just as vital as the concept itself. We must all continue to work towards this end.

A few weeks ago, I organised an event on the new NATO strategy in my home town of Heidelberg, together with the German Atlantic Association. Those invited to attend the event were mainly school children and students. As guest speaker we had the pleasure of welcoming Dr. Friedrich von Ploetz, former Ambassador and now the German representative on the twelve-person Group of Experts for the development of a new Strategic Concept, who discussed the Atlantic Alliance with some 150 guests.

We have also been busy with many other activities which we announced in our last newsletter.

In May, I wrote a letter to the heads of state and government as well as to the

speakers and presidents of the parliaments of all ATA member states proposing the introduction of an annual NATO Day. So far, almost half of the 43 countries have responded, while all of those countries from which we have yet to receive a reply are currently being approached for a second time. Reaction to the proposal has been positive for the most part and we think that there is a good chance of being able to establish and hold a NATO Day as early as next year.

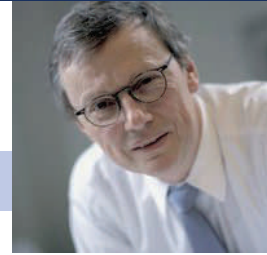
On 19 and 20 November 2010, the summit of the heads of state and government of the NATO member states is due to take place in Lisbon. Key decisions regarding the future of the Alliance will be taken at the summit. For the first time in eleven years, NATO will adopt a new Strategic Concept in order to effectively address the security challenges of the 21st century. For several years now, there has been a fine tradition of holding a NATO Youth Summit with several hundred international participants on the fringes of the main summit. In Budapest in 2008 and Strasbourg in 2009, these events proved to be very successful. We are delighted that another such NATO Youth Summit will be held this year in Lisbon, between 17 and 20 November.

I very much hope that you enjoy reading this edition of our newsletter and wish you all a pleasant autumn with some exciting debates on security policy. I am already looking forward to seeing you again and am always happy to hear your suggestions and new ideas.

All the best,



Dr. Karl A. Lamers MdB; President of the ATA



Dear colleagues and friends,

Welcome to the next season that is going to be full of different events and activities by your Associations, as well. This season has been kicked off with two top level conferences in which I had the chance to participate: the Riga Conference in Latvia and the GLOBSEC Bratislava Security Conference in Slovakia. You can read more about these events and other ATA members' activities in this Newsletter.

In the meantime, the selection process of 60 candidates for the Young Atlanticist Summit in Lisbon that will take place 18th to 20th of November 2010 has been finalized. Several candidates from the ATA chapters have been chosen out of the over 500 excellent applicants that came from various backgrounds such as universities, think tanks, government institutes, private companies, newspapers etc. The summit will be a great opportunity for us to reach out to those 60 young delegates of which many have not been in contact with the ATA before in order to engage them in our activities. It is a very good signal for all of us that young experienced people from all over the world are interested in the activities of NATO and are ready to put in some of their own time.

The Young Atlanticists will have the opportunity to meet with heads of states and senior NATO officials, with whom they will discuss the Strategic Concept and the issues facing the Alliance. You will have a unique chance to engage in discussion with the participants through delegate blog posts and follow photo updates and video coverage of select meetings via the Young Atlanticist Network on Facebook or Twitter. Furthermore, as you already know, we launched the new ATA website which is more attractive and interactive. Please check it regularly for interesting new articles or invitations for upcoming events that are posted daily. In this connection, I would

like to encourage you to send us any relevant articles and event announcements you would be interested to share so that the webpage becomes a hot spot not only for information about ATA activities, but also about NATO and its values that need to be shared with broader public.

I would also like to take the opportunity to let you know about personnel changes in our office in Brussels. We are very happy to welcome a new intern in our team, Mr. Marián Kukučka from Slovakia, who will stay with us until Christmas.

The Director of the Secretariat, Mrs. Charlotte Peters, however has decided after over 4 years with the ATA to take on another challenge that has crossed her career path. I would like to express my gratitude for her excellent work and extraordinary personal input that we have been able to count on at the Secretariat and for all activities and events we organized. Charlotte will leave the ATA by the end of the year.

Finally, I would like to remind you that due to unexpected cuts in funding, the 56th General Assembly that was supposed to be held this autumn in Tirana is postponed to spring 2011 and we will keep you updated on this matter.

I would like to thank all contributing Associations for their submissions to this newsletter. You can find here my article titled: "Afghanistan—are we on track? On the right one?" on the page 40, as well.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Troels Frøling". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Troels Frøling; ATA Secretary General



YOUNG LEADERS
& THE FUTURE OF NATO
2010 YOUNG ATLANTICIST
SUMMIT IN LISBON

NOVEMBER 17-20 | 2010

JEUNES DIRIGEANTS &
LE FUTUR DE L'OTAN
SOMMET DES JEUNES
ATLANTISTES 2010 À LISBONNE

NOVEMBRE 17-20 | 2010

The activities on the margins of the NATO 2010 Summit in Lisbon include a high-level international conference, jointly organized by the Portuguese Atlantic Committee, the Atlantic Council of the United States and the Atlantic Treaty Association, under the sponsorship of the Portuguese Foreign Ministry and NATO Public Diplomacy Division. This event includes, among the participants, several international and Portuguese students and academics.

The Young Atlanticist Summit in Lisbon will bring together top young leaders from NATO, Partnership for Peace and Mediterranean Dialogue countries in conjunction with the 2010 NATO Summit. Here, these Young Atlanticists will meet with heads of state and senior NATO officials, with whom they will discuss the Strategic Concept and the

issues facing the Alliance. Participants will also engage in discussion with one another about their views on NATO and its future.

In addition to these meetings, the delegates will be providing their unique insights on the happenings of the Summit, which they will be sharing throughout the summit. Please check in regularly for delegate blog posts, photo updates and video coverage of select meetings - your inside track to the Young Atlanticist Summit!

If you would like to join the discussion, feel free to comment on posts, or even write your own. You can also follow the Summit on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

For more on the 2010 Lisbon Young Atlanticist Summit, go to www.youngatlanticist.org.



PORTUGUESE ATLANTIC COMMITTEE



COMISSÃO PORTUGUESA
DO ATLÂNTICO

SIMOTAN V



The fifth edition of Simotan took place in the School of Social and Political Sciences of the Technical University of Lisbon, the past 5th to 8th May.

Simotan completed its fifth edition on the past 8th May, the third and last day of the simulation, which took place in the School of Social and Political Sciences of the Technical University of Lisbon.

On this year's Simotan, the emergency meeting of the North Atlantic Council was due to a crisis off the west coast of Africa. The participants, impersonating delegates of 12 NATO member states delegations', had to deal with a pirated Russian merchant ship just outside Senegalese territorial waters.

As time passed and the discussions evolved a lot of news and doubts came up. The pirates were not really pirates, they were

freedom fighters of Casamance. A Russian navy ship became involved and the Americans tried a unilateral solution. The intent of the freedom fighters and that of the Russians were unclear and there was some doubt as to whether the ship had a dangerous cargo such as uranium or weapons.

Constantly challenged the participants had a lot of trouble coming up with a solution for the problem, dealing with external factors, such as foreign delegations or quick evolutions of the scenario. On the other hand, there were also some internal challenges to overcome, such as coherence and compromise. Some participants had some trouble being true to their represented countries policies as others weren't willing to nudge on their respective countries initial or official policies.

All in all, the discussions went well, and changed from heated, to enjoyable or frustrating at times, thus, fulfilling the goal of Simotan, a simulation which allows you to learn more about the alliance and moreover, to get a taste of how hard international talks can be and how long these processes can be.

Jorge Wahnon Ferreira

Portuguese Atlantic Youth Seminar

On July 24th, 2010, the 15th Portuguese Atlantic Youth Seminar subject to the theme "NATO's New Strategic Concept: The Road to Lisbon" began at Air Base nr. 1 in Sintra. It started off with a Seminar presentation and with a logistics information panel. The Seminar presentation was conducted by the Air Force Commander who welcomed the participants to Portugal and

to the Air Base where the Seminar would be held, and where the participants and the Organization (PAYA) would be staying for the next few days. Marcos Perestrello, the Portuguese Deputy Minister of Defense, also performed a speech for the participants regarding the importance of this type of seminars and comprising a general outlook on Atlanticism. Samuel de Paiva Pires,



president of PAYA, and Giuseppe Belardetti, President of YATA, also had a few words to share with the participants regarding the Seminar itself.

The next morning, Professor Vitor Marques dos Santos gave the participants some insight into Portuguese culture and identity, taking the opportunity to also explore the supposed identity crisis of the country in the current incredibly globalized international setting. Giuseppe Belardetti also spoke about Atlanticism and the Youth during his panel. After the lunch the participants and the Organization had together, the conferences proceeded with two more panels, one on the debate about NATO's core values and the other about Portugal's role in the transatlantic link; Mendo Castro Henriques and Francisco da Cunha Rêgo presented each of these subjects, respectively.

On the 26th the participants listened to a lecture presented by Jaime Nogueira Pinto that consisted of an in-depth analysis of the current security issues and crisis situations in sub-Saharan Africa. Later that morning, Nuno Severiano Teixeira also spoke about Europe's role in NATO'S New Strategic Concept (NSC). After lunch the participants were taken to visit the Air Force Museum and following the tour everyone headed to a beach nearby.

On the morning of the 27th, the participants were able to listen to an engaging and dynamic lecture by Professor Mónica Ferro about UN and NATO interaction as well as NATO's role in the Security System Reform. They were also given insight into how a field of operations in a NATO mission functions by Com. Carvalho Relvas, of the Portuguese Navy Marine Corps. After the usual debate and questions there was a visit to Sintra, which comprised a wide array of activities for all the participants, including a visit to the Pena Palace and a visit of the historical part of the city.

The next morning, the participants were welcomed to the JFCL (Joint Force Command Lisbon) where they were given a briefing regarding NATO's operations and missions across the globe, an insight into the need for the NSC and a tour of the Bunker. Around mid-afternoon, Inês de Carvalho Narciso, member of PAYA, did a presentation about the group of experts report on the NSC. Shortly after, Samuel de Paiva Pires, president of PAYA, presented the participants with his views on the current international environment and the challenges and strategic difficulties that it could bring to NATO.

On the 29th, the lectures proceeded with Ambassador Manuel Tomás Fernandes Pereira and João Pedro Antunes, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, presenting their respective lectures. After lunch, the participants could enjoy free afternoon and night in Lisbon.

July 30th was dedicated to the workshop. The participants were divided into groups and each one had to research on determined countries views and positions on the NSC and on NATO so that they could later present said positions. After the seminar's opinion reports everyone participated in the farewell dinner.

João Freitas





SLOVAK ATLANTIC COMMISSION | SLOVENSKÁ ATLANTICKÁ KOMISIA

GLOBSEC Bratislava Security Conference

The annual GLOBSEC Bratislava Security Conference, which was held on September 13 and 14, was politically even more relevant and medially more attractive than its previous editions. Slovakia has recently assumed the presidency of the Visegrad Group. At the same time, three new governments have been formed in Central Europe – in Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia. Moreover, two Central European countries will assume the EU presidency in 2011 – Hungary and later Poland. This unique political dynamics in Central Europe allowed GLOBSEC to shape the strategic debate in the region at the best possible time, when the priorities of new governments are being outlined.

GLOBSEC 2010 became the first platform for a joint meeting of new foreign ministers, policy shapers and decision makers of the V4 countries. At the same time, Secretary General of the OSCE Marc Perrin de Brichambaut delivered a speech at the GLOBSEC 2010 Bratislava Security Conference and a number of other high-level guests, including members of national parliaments, opinion leaders, experts, academics, representatives of ministries of defence and foreign affairs, security advisors, and journalists, came and discussed the hot topics of the world and regional politics.

Thanks to its high-level format, GLOBSEC conference enjoyed an extensive media coverage in Slovakia and wider European region. Its complex media strategy included focused daily communication with journalists, background briefings, interview intermediation, press release distribution and complex coverage of the conference topics by the conference's media partners. The

media coverage included a special LIVE televised debate broadcasted directly from the conference hall. The organizers used modern technologies to provide the experts as well as public with the up-dated information as well, including live-streaming via the conference website and social networks such as Facebook and YouTube.

The legacy of GLOBSEC 2010 did not stay in the conference premises but continues to spread up until today. The Slovak Atlantic Commission has published a series of short summaries recording the best and most interesting of what was heard in the discussion. The documents include key ideas, findings, recommendations and quotations of speakers. They are a great source of inspiration about the international policy and security issues dominating the world debates. Moreover, full transcripts from the panels, GLOBSEC Paper Series analyses on the conference topics, videos and photographs are all available at the conference website www.globsec.org.

Some of the recommendations included in the GLOBSEC Summary Series:



- So far, no permanent, intensive dialogue between the EU and the USA has been established. We should set up the instruments and mechanism for a mutually well established dialogue on both sides.
- The relationship with two specific neighbours of the European Union, namely Ukraine and Turkey should be directed in a mutually beneficial way, such as the cooperation in the Balkans.
- Eurobonds offer higher stability and could attract foreign investors. Although the Euro zone is not in the position to create solutions for financial stability, its financial sources can be used as a guarantee for different countries in the time of financial shortcomings.
- An Afghan Coordination Unit needs to be set up to harmonize and coordinate efforts of all actors involved.
- Based on the European Treaty, membership perspectives for both Moldova and Ukraine must be clearly stated.
- Build regional North-South interconnectors for gas and electricity between Visegrad countries for both increased energy security as well as more competitive markets and thus lower energy prices.
- The European Union is not playing its role sufficiently; therefore it needs to take more concrete steps to be seen as a relevant security actor.
- While European armed forces need to integrate, they also need to make sure they maintain a broad spectrum of capabilities. Some shrinkage, integration and possibly specialization will be required if the Europeans are to offset the impact of the defence budget cuts.

You are invited to take a look at the complete set of summaries including the key ideas, recommendations and quotations from the GLOBSEC 2010 Bratislava Security Conference at www.globsec.org.



ATA and YATA discussion on the new NATO's Strategic Concept at GLOBSEC 2010

On 14th September, the Slovak Atlantic Commission organised a discussion of Civilian Advisers to NATO GoE on the new Strategic Concept (Steven Flanagan and Camille Grand). The discussion was chaired by Tomáš Valášek, Member of the Board of SAC, and among participants were members of 9 chapters of the Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA) and Youth Atlantic Treaty Association (YATA).

The discussion had represented a unique opportunity for opinion-makers and young leaders from Euro-Atlantic area to discuss process of preparation of the new NATO's Strategic Concept two weeks before NATO Secretary General introduced his draft of the document at the end of September. The discussion also embraced remarks of Amb. Anatoly Adamishin, President of the Association for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation, on the European Security Treaty of President Medvedev in relation to the new Strategic Concept, and remarks of Amb. Jerzy Nowak, Vice-President of the Polish Euro-Atlantic Association. [Report from the discussion](#)



STRATCON 2010 Briefing on the new NATO Strategic Concept to Slovak security community

For the first time, the GLOBSEC Bratislava Security Conference was not only the leading security conference in Central Europe, but also a unique opportunity for decision-makers, experts and young leaders to meet and discuss new NATO Strategic Concept in closed roundtables organised within all-year project of the Slovak Atlantic Commission STRATCON 2010. On 14th September, three Civilian Advisers to NATO GoE (Tomáš Valášek, Steven Flanagan and Camille Grand) met with representatives of the Slovak security community to discuss what the state of affairs of new NATO SC was and what still needed to be cleared. The discussion was chaired by Tomáš Valášek, Chairman of the Slovak GoE on the new NATO SC and Member of the Board of the SAC, and endorsed participation of e.g. Róbert Ondrejcsák, Slovak State Secretary of De-

fense, Amb. Ľubomír Reháč, Political Director of the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Radovan Javorčík, Director of the Department of Defense Policy at the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Photogallery from the discussion is available at both www.globsec.org and [SAC on Facebook](#).



EU Enlargement in the Balkans in 2011 – Make Not Break

On 22 October, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Visegrad countries and the Western Balkans will meet in Bratislava to discuss the future development of the EU enlargement in the Balkans. On the margins of this ministerial meeting, the Slovak Atlantic Commission, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic and the European Stability Initiative, organizes an international conference entitled EU Enlargement in the Balkans in 2011 – Make Not Break. The conference will be organized under the auspices of H.E. Mikuláš Dzurinda, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic.

As political leaders of major EU member states reflect aloud on the possibilities of a "break" from EU enlargement, doubts about the EU's commitment to the enlargement

process have risen in the Western Balkans. The upcoming Hungarian and Polish EU Presidencies in 2011, together with the Slovak V4 Presidency, create a unique opportunity to reassess the EU enlargement process in the Balkans and to provide a new momentum, inspired by the accession experiences of the V4. The conference, held only one day before the meeting of the Ministers, aims at a frank examination of the current challenges of the enlargement process in the Western Balkans and to discuss how they can be overcome, how the V4's experiences can be more effectively used and how the Hungarian and Polish EU Presidencies can reaffirm the credibility of the accession process. Respective recommendations will be presented to the Ministers at their meeting the next day.



Visegrad Security Cooperation Initiative

www.vsci.sk

In August 2010, the Slovak Atlantic Commission successfully accomplished the Visegrad Security Cooperation Initiative (VSCI) project, co-organized by its three partners from the Visegrad Group countries: Jagello 2000 (CZ), International Centre for Democratic Transition (HU) and the Euro-Atlantic Association (PL). Through systematic work in the joint expert groups (Trans-Atlantic Security and Energy Security), the project identified shared security and defence interests of the Visegrad Group countries and analyzed the possible means of their common realization. The process resulted in the elaboration of common policy papers that represent the intellectual as well as practical impetus to the political and expert discussions on the common foreign policy strategies.

Recommendations on the two main topics that constitute the core of the policy papers have been already taken into account by the most senior officials and implemented to the policies of the ministries of foreign affairs and defence. According to the Energy Security Policy Paper, cooperation of Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary, not only by the interconnection of gas or electric grids but also by the negotiations of gas prices would be for the sake of Visegrad Region countries and could lead to lower gas prices.

Moreover, the experts (Andrej Nosko, Anita Orbán, Wojciech Paczyński and Jakub Jaroš) concluded that the construction of physical infrastructure and better cooperation would help in functioning of common regional energy market. In particular, the north-south interconnection of gas grids

would improve security of supplies and open up of spot markets and alternative resources supplies. One of the recommendations for governments of the four Visegrad countries is also to strengthen up research and development in energetics. The attention should be paid, for example, to research of environmental-friendly technologies of using coal that the region is oversupplied with, or to biomass research.

The authors of the Trans-Atlantic Security Policy Paper Jaroslav Nad', István Gyarmati, Libor Frank and Tomasz Szatkowski, together with the organizers, agreed on the need of developing common foreign policy strategies in the area of security. According to Tomasz Szatkowski "the recent political changes in Slovakia and Hungary make the case for deeper V4 security cooperation even more relevant". As an example he refers to the "encouraging" model of Nordic countries. Moreover, he continues with the idea that "there is actually at present even greater national security approach affinity within the V4 than within the Nordic countries."

Besides the concrete outcome in form of these policy papers, the project filled the gap in the cooperation among our four countries by establishing a fully functional network of international security experts from governmental and nongovernmental sphere. Joint meetings of Slovak, Czech, Hungarian and Polish experts created not only the atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding among the nations, but the real exchange of information and ideas in the field of security and defence, as well.



Slovak Atlantic Commission
Klariská 14
811 03 Bratislava, Slovakia

Tel: +421 2 544 106 09
Fax: +421 2 544 106 09

sac@ata-sac.org
www.ata-sac.org

The Rīga Conference 2010

On September 10-11, 2010, the Latvian Transatlantic Organisation in cooperation with the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia hosted the 5th annual Rīga Conference, which has become one of the leading security and foreign policy forums in Northern Europe gathering respected world thinkers, policy makers, academics, commentators, journalists, diplomats and politicians from Europe and overseas, and providing a platform for a broad intellectual exchange on the current Transatlantic agenda.



This year the Rīga Conference was attended by more than 270 participants from more than 35 countries, among them Presidents of Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Poland. The live broadcast over the Internet – www.rigaconference.lv – of the conference discussions brought additional audience of more than 1435 people from 28 countries. The broadcast was supplemented by online discussion where participants were able to discuss topics of the conference and post questions to the panelists. The most interesting comments and challenging questions were forwarded to the moderator of discussion panel. The online broadcast program also included discussion panels and additional exclusive interviews – Coffee Break conversations with some of the conference guests for our on-line audience only.

Two days of intensive and vivid discussions were divided into five panel discussions and



two Night Owl Sessions covering such issues as security implications of the global financial crisis for the West, the future perspectives on the development of the Baltic Sea Region, a new Strategic Concept for NATO and a need for reforms, the renaissance of geopolitics in the search for energy resources, a strategy towards Europe's contested neighbourhood, the success of a "reset" policy approach towards Russia, and the future of NATO's mission in Afghanistan.

The Rīga Conference 2010 is supported by the German Marshall Fund of the United States, NATO, Soros Foundation – Latvia, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, European Commission Representation in Latvia and the Embassy of the United States in Riga, Informative support is ensured by LETA, DELFI un Latvijas Avīze.

The conference [discussions](#) and high resolution [photos](#) are available at the official webpage of the Riga Conference.

www.rigaconference.lv



Energy Solutions in Latvia: Perspectives in the Baltic Sea Region

On September 21, the Latvian Transatlantic Organisation in cooperation with the Soros Foundation - Latvia organized a public discussion entitled „Energy Solutions in Latvia: Perspectives in the Baltic Sea Region”. The discussion brought together more than 90 participants, among them – politicians, entrepreneurs, investors, experts, foreign diplomats.

The discussion was divided into two panels; the first panel discussion was dedicated to the current situation and future prospects in the development of the energy sector in Latvia with representatives of the five leading political parties – the party alliance Unity, the party alliance All for Latvia-TB/LNNK, the Union of Greens and Farmers, the party alliance For a Good Latvia and the party alliance Harmony Centre , including the Minister of Economics Mr. Artis Kampars (party alliance Unity) and the Minister of Transport Mr. Kaspars Gerhards (party alliance VL-TB\LNNK).

The second panel discussion entitled “Expectations vs. Realities: Investments in Energy in Latvia” was devoted to the investment policy towards the Latvian energy sector with speakers representing the business sector – owners of biogas pro-



ducing farms, the president of UPB Energy (company produces technologies for cogeneration), the chairman of the management board of Latvenergo AS (energy power supply state enterprise), the Chief representative of the energy company Dalkia in Latvia as well as the head of energy department of the Ministry of Economics of Latvia.

The discussion was organised in the wake of the parliamentary elections and aimed to bring both politicians and the business sector to discuss the current situation and future perspectives in the development of the energy policy in Latvia.



A visit of Russian young leaders to Latvia

On July 6-10, 2010, the Latvian Transatlantic Organisation (LATO) in cooperation with the Open Club „International Dialogue” (Russia) organized a visit of Russian young leaders to Latvia with the aim to facilitate intercultural dialogue between Latvia and Russia.

Latvian counterparts and representatives of Latvian NGOs. On their trip to Liepaja, a closed military city during the Soviet times and now a modern resort town and third largest port of Latvia, Russian young leaders also visited the military diving school of the Baltic States and the former military prison – turned into tourist site.

This visit aimed to enhance a dialogue between Russian and Latvian civil society as well as to break stereotypes about Latvia

“This visit has broken all my stereotypes regarding Latvia”

Twelve Russian young leaders who were: students, journalists, young academics and professionals from the different regions of Russia regions, including Siberia and the North Caucasus, had a chance to discover Latvia in a five days long trip across the country and to meet their Latvian counterparts. For many of them it was the first visit to Latvia. The selection of the participants had been based on their essays. All the applicants had to submit to the Open Club “International Dialogue” a short essay “Why would I like to visit Latvia?”

During the visit Russian youngsters visited three major Latvian cities – Riga, Daugavpils, Liepaja as well as a resort town of Jurmala. They met with some experts from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Latvian Investment and the Development Agency, the Riga City Council, Liepaja City Council, as well as with their

(e.g. “unfriendly fascist country”, “Latvians hate Russians and do not speak Russian” etc.) which are deeply rooted among the Russian society and promoted by the Russian state-control media. Participants of the project discovered a completely different reality in Latvia. “This visit has broken all my stereotypes regarding Latvia”, said one Russian young leader, who works closely with the governing Russian party “United Russia” at the press conference. All the group members were positively impressed by what they have seen and experienced in Latvia and concluded that it was more interesting to spend four days in Latvia than one week at a resort somewhere in Turkey or Egypt.

LATO is eager to continue with the project thus bringing two nations and two countries together.

What is LATO?

LATO is a non governmental organization established on March 21, 2000 with the aim to bring together likeminded individuals who want to promote Latvia`s membership in NATO.



Latvian Academic Library
Rupniecibas str. 10
LV1010, Riga

Tel: +371 67 322883
Fax: +371 67 106214

lato@lato.lv
www.lato.lv

ARMENIAN ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION

NATO week in Armenia



The Armenian Atlantic Association (AAA) organized three videoconferences in the framework of the NATO Week in Armenia, which took place on June 25-29, 2010; the first one took place in Gyumri, followed by Yghegnadzor and Gavar.

Fifty students of Gyumry State University participated in the videoconference with Mr. David Cole from The Atlantic Council of the United Kingdom organized by the AAA on the 25th of June. On the following day students of Yghegnadzor branch of the Armenian State Economic University participated in the videoconference with Mr. David Cole. The third videoconference was held in Gavar for Gavar State University students with Mr. Theodossis Georgiou, President of the Greek Association for Atlantic and European Cooperation.

Almost hundred and fifty young people have discussed issues related to NATO, its essence and historical development, the decision-making principles in NATO, NATO's

new Strategic Concept, NATO transformation and its role in contemporary foreign relations, NATO's peace building and peace keeping activities, its enlargements and partnerships, Armenia-NATO cooperation, as well as issues relating to the activities of the AAA with prominent ATA representatives.

The videoconferences aimed at raising awareness of the Armenian youth about the strongest security institution of the North-Atlantic through open discussions. Since 2007, the AAA has been organizing annual education campaigns countrywide. The mission of the AAA is to contribute to promoting the cooperation between Armenia and NATO, in Armenian society through improving the comprehension and awareness of NATO's mission and activities in the changing global environment.

The AAA is a member of the Atlantic Treaty Association since 2001.



19 Sayat Nova str.
375001 Yerevan
Republic of Armenia

Tel: +374 1 582 638
Fax: +374 1 528 321

tevan@euro-atlantic.am
www.euro-atlantic.am



Euro-Atlantic Council of Macedonia



The New NATO: Developing the New Strategic Concept



In light of the strategic determination of the Republic of Macedonia for NATO membership and the efforts made in approaching the Alliance, the Euro-Atlantic Council of Macedonia (EACM) held a one-day conference entitled "The New NATO: Developing the New Strategic Concept" on the 4th of June 2010 at the Stonebridge Hotel in Skopje.

The conference gathered representatives of the Atlantic Associations from the region, regional experts, senior politicians, diplomatic representatives, members of the civil society, the media and students.

The main debate at the conference was the global debate surrounding the new Strategic Concept which is to be adopted in the course of this year at the next NATO Summit. The participants discussed the new role and the mission of the Alliance, the scope of operations and the global partnerships.

The conference was officially opened by the President of the Euro Atlantic Council of Macedonia, Lazar Elenovski; H.E. Kjetil Paulsen, Ambassador of the Kingdom of

Norway to the Republic of Macedonia and Emil Dimitriev, Deputy Minister of Defence of the Republic of Macedonia. The other speakers were Dr. Arian Starova, Deputy Minister of Defence of the Republic of Albania; Mr. Thomas J. Navratil, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the United States of America; Dr. Stevo Pendarovski, University American College Skopje; Mira Krajacic, Head of Department for Political and Security Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia; Mladen Nakic, Member of the Steering Board, Atlantic Council of Croatia; Tijana Andrić, Executive Director of the Atlantic Council of Serbia; Emir Bijelić, Centre for Security Studies, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

There was very fruitful debate taking into consideration the fact that the speakers came from different environment: politics, diplomacy, experts, and the civil society as well as the participants.

The event was open to the public and had broad media coverage. Some representatives of the electronic and printed media from the country were present as well.

The conference was supported by the NATO Public Diplomacy Division and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway in Macedonia.

The Euro-Atlantic Council of Macedonia stays committed to conducting activities in line with its mission for the Euro-Atlantic integration of the country and the implementation of the Euro-Atlantic idea and values to the country.





The Atlantic Council of Canada

Atlantic Council School Initiative

The Atlantic Council's Secondary School Outreach Program officially launched on June 9th 2010 at Bur Oaks Secondary School in Markham. Two grade 10 History classes received a 75-minute presentation on Canada's involvement in NATO, which follows from the Atlantic Council's aim to promote interest in and knowledge of Canada's most important military alliance. Kirsty Hong, Robert Baines, and William Simmons presented on behalf of the Atlantic Council and were extremely successful in providing the high school students with an enthusiastic and informative power point

Canada's role in NATO throughout the organization's history, while also providing the students with informative information about the possibility of participating in non-governmental organizations like the Atlantic Council.

Essential areas of NATO that were focused on in the presentation included the creation of NATO, its activities throughout the Cold War, the emergence of NATO's new identity following the terrorist attacks of September 11th, as well as Canada's and NATO'S involvement in Afghanistan. An important feature of the presentation is that it com-

"This is exactly what our students needed"

presentation that was met with a high level of interest by the students.

Alyssa Chan, the teacher of one of the grade 10 classes stated: "This is exactly what our students needed!" The Bur Oak presentations were a very important first step for the outreach program that plans to be fully in effect for September 2010. Weekly presentations are being planned in high schools across the Greater Toronto Area and York Region. The Atlantic Council's goal is to provide high school students with the opportunity to learn more about

plements the material that is currently being taught in the classes' curriculum.

In association with the outreach program, the Atlantic Council is organizing a teacher's workshop on Oct 13, 2010 that will provide prospective teachers interested in the Outreach Program with a preview of the presentation. The workshop is intended to be an informal event to raise general awareness with interested educators as their participation and cooperation is essential for the program's success.

William Simmons

Senator Segal Appointed to Commonwealth Group



The Atlantic Council of Canada is pleased to announce that one of our directors, Senator Hugh Segal, has been named to the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group (EPG).

"This distinguished Group will set out decisive recommendations on how to strengthen the Commonwealth and fulfill its potential in the 21st century," said Kamallesh Sharma, Commonwealth Secretary-General. "This Group's work will aim to ensure that the

Commonwealth remains relevant to its times and makes the best use of its networks and partnerships to do so."

Also sitting as members of the Group are: Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Chairperson and former prime minister of Malaysia; Patricia Francis of Jamaica; Dr. Asma Jahangir of Pakistan; Samuel Kavuma of Uganda; the Honourable Michael Kirby of Australia; Dr. Grace Machel of Mozambique; the Right Honourable Sir Malcolm Rifkind of the United Kingdom; Sir Ronald Sanders of Guyana; and Sir Ieremia Tabai of Kiribati.

Segal was appointed to the Senate in 2005 by former prime minister Paul Martin. His distinguished political career has spanned four decades, including chief of staff to former prime minister Brian Mulroney. He served as a director of the Atlantic Council of Canada for the past 10 years.

"We are pleased and honoured that Senator Segal has been appointed to this important position," said Julie Lindhout, President of the Atlantic Council of Canada. "I have had the privilege of working with the Senator for a number of years now and am confident that his unique perspective will enhance and strengthen the Commonwealth." Along with Sonja Bata and the Honourable Bill Graham, Segal currently serves as the co-chair of the Canadian Naval Centennial Gala on November 6, 2010 at the Royal York.

Senator Segal is a member of the Order of Canada and holds a honorary doctorate from the Royal Military College of Canada. The EPG will present its recommendations in October, 2011 at the Commonwealth meeting in Perth, Australia.

Sean Palter

The Canadian Navy Combats Maritime Blindness

A Roundtable Speaker Presentation with Cdr. Waddell

On May 26, 2010 the Atlantic Council of Canada, its members, and guests were privileged to welcome Commander Steven Waddell, the Commanding Officer of HMCS Fredericton. Commander Waddell spoke about Canada's leading role in defending the freedom of the seas from the growing phenomenon of piracy in the Horn of Africa as part of its continuing commitment to

international peace and security.

After joining the Canadian Navy in 1990 as a Maritime Surface and Sub-Surface Officer, Cdr Waddell was posted to HMCS Gatineau in 1992 and deployed with NATO to the Adriatic Sea in the early days of the Yugoslav civil war. Following a successful deployment he was afforded the privilege to command and assume his current position in



HMCS Fredericton in January 2009. In October 2009, he deployed on Operation SA-IPH, a six-month mission to the Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, and the Horn of Africa to conduct counter piracy operations with Standing NATO Maritime Group 1 and counter terror operations with Combined Task Force 150.

Since the second wave of the Somali civil war in the early 21st century, piracy in waters off the coast of Somalia has been a threat to international commerce and shipping. As a result, Canada has deployed ships almost three dozen times, since 1991 to the neighbourhood of the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea to carry out counter-terrorism and counter-piracy operations. Commander Steven Waddell and his crew spent the last six months "on-station" with NATO's multinational maritime force off the east coast of Africa under Operation SA-IPH. Here, they worked tirelessly towards preventing and deterring piracy and terrorism to improve the region's security and provide a safer maritime environment. As Captain of the HMCS Fredericton, Commander Waddell provided valuable insight on Canada's leading role in maritime security and discussed the gratification he received for providing security to legitimate mariners overseas as part of the multinational efforts against piracy.

The roundtable event provided ACC members and guests with a rare opportunity to



ACC President Julie Lindhou with
Cdr Waddell

interact with the ship's captain, hear his first-hand accounts and view operational images from this fascinating deployment. Commander Waddell's presentation also addressed the prevailing issue of "maritime blindness." He discussed in detail the lack of awareness among Canadians regarding the navy and the role it plays in today's security environment. The Canadian navy serves an important international purpose and has a significant local relevance. Yet, there is a particular blindness in Canada for issues related to the navy, and the army and air force tend to occupy our collective attention more.

Commander Waddell spoke about the importance of community outreach methods that work towards raising awareness among Canadians who have never seen a warship, and might not understand the significant role the navy plays in Canadian society. In a country with the largest coastline in the world it is of preponderant importance that Canadians understand that we are a Maritime nation that is absolutely dependent on the oceans for our economic wellbeing. Moreover, the navy relies on a well informed Canadian public to ensure that they are well supported into the future.

Amina Yasin



165 University Avenue, Suite 701
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 3B8, Canada

Tel: + 416 979 1875
Fax: + 416 979 0825

info@atlantic-council.ca
www.atlantic-council.ca



The Hon. Bill Graham, PC., QC., Chairman
and the Board of Directors of

THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL OF CANADA

and the Toronto Branch of the

NAVAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

cordially invite you to the

Naval Centennial Gala

1910-2010

At the Fairmont Royal York Hotel

On

Saturday, November 6th, 2010



For More Information Please Contact:

165 University Avenue, Suite 701, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5H 3B8, Tel 416.979.1875, Fax 416.979.0825
info@atlantic-council.ca
www.atlantic-council.ca



LITHUANIAN ATLANTIC TREATY ASSOCIATION
ATLANTO SUTARTIES LIETUVOS BENDRIJA

LATA



LATA camp: Youth and Defence

On the 18th-19th August of 2010, a traditional LATA YC (Lithuanian Atlantic Treaty Association Youth Council) summer camp "Youth and Defence" took place in NCO school in Kaunas, which gathered more than twenty young adventurous and active members of the LATA YC. The camp was organized by LATA in cooperation with NCO school.

The mainstream of this traditional LATA YC summer camp is to present to youth the basic structure of the Lithuanian military, to give an opportunity to take a closer look at the profession of a soldier, to empathize into the army's life and to feel the real spirit of Lithuanian military. During the time at NCO school the LATA YC members had not only a chance to meet with professional soldiers, get theoretical knowledge about the tactics, fighting guns, but also to



test their own abilities overcoming a NATO obstacle course and taking part in a tactical practice and demonstrating their shooting skills on the training ground of Kazlų Rūda.

In the final ceremony all participants were congratulated by the chairperson of LATA Gintare Skaiste and the head of NCO school, Colonel Lieutenant Aleksandras Kucharevas and graduated with the certificates of successfully participating in the two days military camp.



Lithuanian Atlantic Treaty Association
Gedimino ave. 1
LT - 01103 Vilnius

info@lata.lt
www.lata.lt

Danish Atlantic Treaty Association



Update on Recent Activities

The Danish Atlantic Treaty Association secretariat has worked full speed since all came back from summer holidays and DATA presents a wide range of activities this autumn.

We have welcomed our new intern Thomas Grützmeier, who will be writing an issue of "Sikkerhedspolitisk INFO", an issue focusing on energy security and climate change. The paper will be released at our 16th Copenhagen Conference, at conference which will include an opening speech from the Danish Climate and Energy minister Mrs. Lykke Friis as well as a wide range of experts in the field of energy. The DATA Copenhagen Conference is held twice each year. We gather approximately 100 people, including students, politicians, young professionals as well as other members of the organization.

From 5th to 11th of July, the Danish ATA hosted its 25th **Danish Youth Atlantic Seminar (DAYS)**. This year we gathered some 41 participants and staff from 21

countries (on the pictures) to a week of lectures, debates, workshops and social activities. The theme of this year's seminar was "Security politics through 25 years and the next 25 years ahead - what does history tell us and what to expect in the future?" The seminar was a great success with 10 different speakers, including the leading IR theorists professor Ole Wæver, University of Copenhagen and Professor Christopher Coker from LSE. Due to budgetary restrictions at NATO, the program didn't include any NATO speakers this year, which we hope will not become an ongoing trend. We were sorry letting participants know that NATO would not take part in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the first ATA Transatlantic Security Forum for young professionals.

Besides this, DAYS was a success on all levels and we are already looking forward to having young people from your countries coming to Denmark next year.





The head of the DATA Secretariat Mr. Søren Hvelplund participated in the GLOBSEC conference and sends his warm thanks to our Slovak partners for an excellent event.

The Danish YATA has already kicked off its activities this autumn with a visit to the German Embassy in Copenhagen with discussions on Afghanistan, the professional army reform in Germany and the New Strategic Concept. Besides that, the new chairman Jens-Christian Overgaard Skov and a group of committed students are working on a plan to revitalize YATA and give the organization a more active profile among the students in Copenhagen. They organized a visit at the Bosnian Embassy on the 13th of October, and are planning a debate meeting on the rise of Turkey as a regional power, a briefing by Per Carlsen, Danish ambassador in Riga and a debate following the adoption of NATO's new Strategic Concept. All YATA activities are free of charge and open to everyone. You can contact yata@atlant.dk for more information.

Fundraising has become much more difficult for the Danish ATA in the post financial crisis. As an indirect consequence of the financial crisis the Head of Secretariat Mr. Ivan Andresen unfortunately had to stop his work in DATA as of June 1. Many thanks to

Ivan for a superb work at home and at DATA/ATA projects abroad and good luck from us all. The staff is now down to an absolute minimum but will continue the good work at the same high level as hitherto. Our new Head of Secretariat Mr. Søren Hvelplund is looking forward to developing contacts with new ATA & YATA colleagues; you can reach him on soren@atlant.dk.



HUNGARIAN ATLANTIC COUNCIL



Dr. Karl Lamers visits Budapest and participates in a full round of discussions with high-level government officials and dignitaries

Dr. Karl A. Lamers, President of the Atlantic Treaty Association, made an official visit to Budapest, Hungary, September 6-8 at the invitation of Prof. E. Sylvester Vizi, President of the Hungarian Atlantic Council.

On his arrival, Dr. Lamers was treated to a reception and formal dinner at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences hosted by the Hungarian Atlantic Council and Prof. Vizi. The event was a cordial meeting with the Vice Presidents of the Council as well. A range of interesting new topics emerged at the dinner, including the possibility of a so-called special NATO lane at airports throughout the world; the aim would be to reduce times for visitors waiting to be processed for entry not only to the United States, but to Europe as well. This would be in addition to existing EU lanes, as suggested by Ms. Reka Szemerkenyi. The idea was so intriguing to Dr. Lamers that he promised to bring it up at the Association's next executive summit. Vice Presidents Ms. Agnes Szentivanyi and Mr. Adam Topolansky also asked about Heidelberg and the

general state of affairs in Baden Württemberg, where Dr. Lamers, Ms. Szentivanyi and Mrs. Topolansky had all spent time in the past.

The most important part of the occasion was Dr. Lamers' visit to the Hungarian Parliament, where he was received by Mr. Zsolt Csampa, Vice President of the Hungarian Parliament's Defense and Security Committee. Later, Dr. Lamers was escorted by Prof. Vizi to meet with the Foreign Minister of Hungary, Janos Martonyi, and Defense Minister, Csaba Hende. In addition to Euro-Atlantic relations, the parties discussed bilateral German-Hungarian relations, a topic in which Dr. Lamers is well-versed due to his experience in the Bundestag.

A prominent stop on the visit was the Zrinyi Miklos National Defense University, where Dr. Lamers delivered a lecture on "The Shaping of NATO's New Strategic Concept" to an audience that included young members of the Hungarian Youth Atlantic Council. In his lecture, Dr. Lamers referred to





playful criticism that NATO “was an old, rusty lady.” In NATO’s defense, Dr. Lamers said that NATO may look like an elegant lady, but it is certainly not rusty or old. Although the organization was founded 60 years ago, it is still full of youthful energy, Dr. Lamers asserted. Furthermore, he said, it is the only functioning security system in the world and, as such, is perhaps just as critical today as a political organization as it is as a military one.

On another important topic, Dr. Lamers referred respectfully to the recently fallen Hungarian heroes in Afghanistan, adding that an exit strategy is being put into place to aim at pulling out forces by 2014.

Both Prof. Vizi and Dr. Lamers pointed out that new security threats have developed in the 21st century since the infamous terror attacks on New York’s World Trade Center in 2001. Among these threats are the possi-

bilities of cyber-crime and the cutting of energy supplies by leading petroleum-producing countries as a means of having demands met.

Dr. Lamers finished his lecture by describing NATO’s expansion from a 19-member organization to a 28-member super-organization. The organization has an open-door policy, which sets the stage for many new countries to join after fulfilling well-defined criteria. Croatia and Albania are the newest members of NATO, and Macedonia may be next.

The conclusion of Dr. Lamers’ visit was a reception in the University’s aula, where foreign military dignitaries from Germany, the United States, and Sweden, as well as Serbia and Russia, joined him.

This summary was compiled by Vice Presidents *Adam Topolansky* and *Gyula Hautzinger*.



JAGELLO 2000

ASSOCIATION FOR EURO-ATLANTIC COOPERATION
a Member of the Atlantic Treaty Association since 2003



NATO Days in Ostrava brought B-52 Stratofortress to the Czech Republic and attracted 185,000 visitors



The presentation of the most modern equipment of security forces, fascinating flying demonstrations of fighter aircrafts, or ground dynamic displays of heavy military weaponry – that and much more was on the menu of the 10th NATO Days in Ostrava – the largest air, military & security show in Central Europe with 185,000 visitors. This event organized by the Jagello 2000 Association, the Czech ATA member, ranks among the most visited shows in the Czech Republic.

Its main highlight was the B-52H Stratofortress - the organizers have succeeded in securing the premiere participation of this aircraft in Central and Eastern Europe after three years work, and the last six months of very intensive preparations. Mošnov Airfield, where the show took place on September 18-19, was only the third in the territory of the former Warsaw Treaty coun-

tries to greet the American strategic bomber – and the NATO Days in Ostrava became the second public show in these countries to welcome the airplane.

The entry to the event is always free, so everyone could come to see not only the B-52, but also other air & ground vehicles and equipment of the army, police, fire fighters, rescue service and many other elite security units from eleven countries and NATO.

The NATO Days in Ostrava also feature an interesting associate program, where visitors have the opportunity to debate on foreign pilots or to see documentary movies with security topics – this year about the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia. For the first time the NATO Days ran in conjunction with the Czech Air Force Days and one of the non-public associate events was the summit of the air force commanders of the Visegrad Four group.

Among official guests the NATO Days welcomed senior military officials from other countries – the UK, Sweden, or Greece, representatives of governments and municipalities and well-known figures such as Barbora Špotáková, a current Olympic champion in women's javelin throw, who belongs to the Czech army sport team.

More information about the event, as well as photos, list of participants and presented vehicles, or which veteran plane commemorated the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain can be found on the official website www.natodays.cz.



Students contested at the Caucasus to win the trip through Poland

The unique student competition Aliante 2010 that focuses on security, international relations, and the North Atlantic Alliance brought forty finalists from eight countries to compete at the Mountain Training School of the Georgian army in the city of Sachkhere in the far Caucasus this year. The most successful students were awarded a fantastic trip through Poland, its tourist's sights and military bases.

It was the first time in the ten-year history of the Aliante competition that the finale

was held in a non-NATO country, which underlined the international dimension and significance of the project that was founded in the Czech Republic in 2001. It has grown to more than ten countries and many thousands of participating students. Because the economic crisis affected the budgets of all involved NGO's, only eight countries took part this year – the Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Montenegro, Poland, and Slovakia.





The number of students who tried their luck and abilities in two knowledge-based competition rounds leading to the international final at the foothills of the Caucasus almost reached three thousands.

Only twenty teams of two were welcomed in Sachkhere by the Georgian Deputy Defence Minister Nodar Kharshiladze, who pointed out that they learnt at school that NATO is their archenemy: "Fortunately, I did not pay much attention so I can now welcome in Georgia the participants of the competition that promotes the ideas of the North Atlantic Alliance."

The main theme of the final was international cooperation on which participants competed in four-member international teams. The disciplines that awaited them were testing their ability to cooperate, their intelligence, physical strength and endur-

ance. Seven teams won and were offered a very attractive prize – a trip through Poland that cannot be bought at any travel agency. They had the opportunity to visit bases of the Polish Navy, Army and Air Force, to take a look into a real submarine, or experience the flight on board a C-295 military transport plane .

The Aliante competition is organized by Jagello 2000 from the Czech Republic, with important support of many other ATA members who serve as national coordinators in their countries.

More information about Aliante can be found on the official website www.project-aliante.org.



Jagello 2000
Výstavní 8
709 00 Ostrava, CZ

Tel: +420 597 479 208
Fax: +420 596 639 253

jagello@jagello.org
www.jagello.org



ATLANTSKO VIJEĆE
HRVATSKE
THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL
OF CROATIA

International Summer School Šipan 2010



The Atlantic Council of Croatia and the Croatian Association for International Studies organized the 9th International Summer School on the Island of Šipan in the framework of which the following International Scientific Conferences took place:

1. Security in South East Europe, 29th June - 3rd July in cooperation with NATO PDD
2. New Strategic Concept of NATO and SEE, 6th -10th July in cooperation with the Royal Danish Embassy
3. NATO in the 21st Century- Challenges and Opportunities (climate changes, ecology, energy, security), 23rd -28th August in

cooperation with Hanns Siedel Stiftung, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and Eduardo Frei Foundation

On a small Mediterranean island, in a relaxed and informal atmosphere, young academics, political leaders and high school teachers were given the opportunity not only to discuss these issues together with the lecturers from academic circles, international organizations, NGOs as well as high ranking political officials and diplomats (president of state, ministers, ambassadors, military leaders), but also to meet their colleagues and establish professional and private contacts needed in their future professional development thus broadening the Šipan Summer School Network.

The first conference gathered high school teachers from the region of South East Europe who are teaching social subjects in elementary and secondary schools. For years we have been feeling that there is a big gap in the political proclamations and the practical knowledge in the security field in the region, particularly connected with NATO.





School teachers are the basis for the introduction of security studies in the schools, thus we believe that by informing them we will reach a young and wide audience in the region. The conference gave general knowledge to the participants starting with the creation of NATO, phases in its development, organizational structure, new missions and the question of the enlargement, then it focused more specifically on the new Strategic Concept, as well as regional ties with NATO. Plenty of time was reserved for

to give young leaders the broader picture of the process behind the formulation of the Concept, special emphasis was put on the report of the Group of Experts, NATO members states policy on the issue as well as on expectations coming from the region.

The third conference which gathered young political leaders from the region was broader, covering contemporary issues from energy security, the role of ecology in security politics, the importance of regional cooperation with the focus on

“During the last nine years International Summer School Šipan has gathered more than 1600 speakers and participants”

discussion, presentation of the actual problems which NATO is facing, as well as for the simulation game “The role of the International Community in Afghanistan in 2010”.

Inspiration for the project came from the fact that there is a lack of literature and adjusted school programs dealing with Croatian NATO membership and aspirations of other countries in the region to become NATO member states. Our intention is to make this program a starting point in developing more adjusted educational programs about NATO in the region.

The second conference, a continuation of our cooperation with the Danish Embassy, was mainly dealing with the new Strategic Concept of NATO and its implications for the region of South Eastern Europe. Trying

Danube countries, civil emergency planning and critical infrastructure, the global economic crisis, to dealing with the posttraumatic stress disorder of the soldiers engaged in NATO missions.

During the last nine years the International Summer School Šipan has gathered more than 1600 speakers and participants from the following countries: Albania, Austria, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iran, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Serbia, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine and the USA; as well as representatives of various international organizations, such as NATO, the European Union, the ATA,



the Council of Europe, RACVIAC and relevant NGOs from the region.

The aim of the Šipan International Summer School is to reflect upon and analyze the complexities present in South East Europe, to provide a forum for exchange of thoughts and perceptions between the members of the younger generation, and to foster independent approaches to these issues through workshops and case simulations, constantly seeking for new suggestions on how to solve numerous and complex problems of this part of Europe in a most efficient manner.

The interest for these courses bears witness to the fact that the Šipan Summer School has found its place among the similar international summer schools, that has proven its value and reputation and that by entering into its 10th year of existence the summer school in Šipan is gaining institutional value.

The time of crisis that is being felt in all countries has not stopped our activities. Again, it has been proven that even in the toughest time, with strong will on the organizer's side and interest for certain topics, it is possible to continue to work in spite of all the difficulties. The so called Western Balkans continue to be an area of special interest, with plenty of room for discussion and education within all pending strategic processes. And this is exactly the primary

goal of the International Summer School: to continue supporting this spirit of a democratic and free dialogue that represents the only road towards new relations in the region.

Contrary to some predictions saying that the Atlantic Council of Croatia's activities would subdue, or even become obsolete in the time after Croatia became a full NATO member and it is preparing to join the EU, the ACC is proving them wrong, notably through the work of this summer school – the work that has been recognized internationally and domestically. This motivates us further to continue with this work and to become a center of promotion of the Euro-Atlantic idea in this part of Europe. In this we hope that we can count on full support of our existing partners as well as new ones that are yet to join us.



The Atlantic Council of Croatia
Lepusiceva 6
10000 Zagreb, Croatia

Tel: +385 1 465 52 94
Fax: +385 1 465 53 16

Atlantic Council of Ukraine

It is worth to be mentioned that despite the change of the Euro-Atlantic integration goal declared by the new Ukrainian authorities in favor of the continuity of a constructive and pragmatic Ukraine-NATO partnership, the number of our activities has been even growing in recent months. This is due to the interest of Ukrainian society to discuss current controversial developments for Ukraine. We are thankful to our national and international partners who share these concerns with us and support us.

Although we already feel the lack of moral support, for instance because of the recently abolished state institutions in charge for Euro-Atlantic integration, we should start learning how to work with the state authorities in a slightly different atmosphere. We continue our partnership with the MFA, the MOD and others in the framework of the Annual National Program of Ukraine-NATO cooperation, which the President and Government support and to the preparation of which they have already been invited by Ukrainian and NATO authorities for 2011. We are also working on a celebration day for the Euro-Atlantic partnership, according to the ATA's NATO Day initiative adopted at the Kiev GA, which is scheduled for May 30 2011, commemorating that this day in 1997 Ukraine became co-founder of the Council for Euro-Atlantic partnership.

We confirm our interest in bilateral cooperation with the ATA and its members as our experience has been very positive so far:

The joint Polish-Ukrainian project "Measures aiming to the increase of Ukraine's civil society awareness on Euro-Atlantic cooperation issues", initiated by the Institute of strategic studies in Krakow, with

the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland, in partnership with the Ukraine-NATO Civic League and the Atlantic Council of Ukraine, was carried out in the period of April to September 2010.

The project took into account the tasks and experience of the Annual National Program and Plan of activities relating to Ukraine's cooperation with NATO in 2010.

Taking into consideration Ukraine's reality today, the project emphasized the authorities' policy of non-block status on maintenance and development of constructive partnership with NATO, but also highlighted the start of discussions about entering the CSTO and other structures that work as an alternative to European integration.

The target groups in Ukraine were school and university teachers, academics, journalists working in regional mass media and interested representatives of nongovernmental organizations and public institutions related to informational and educational activities who represent mainly the Central, Eastern and Southern parts of Ukraine.

The project was carried out in two stages: the first one gave the possibility to familiarize with the experience of Poland to 75 participants from Ukraine, forming 5 professional target groups. At the second stage it carried out interactive educational activities and gave participants the opportunity to promote NATO related experience and information in their home regions.

The project thus gave the possibility to unite the representatives of different regions of Ukraine and strengthen the collaboration of all involved target groups both between all participants and within groups in particular.

The project focused on successful international, and in particular Polish, experience

of the European and Euro-Atlantic integration, and thus encouraged to follow it.

One of the practical results of the project were suggestions and recommendations prepared and transferred to the interested public institutions, in particular in the framework of the Plan of activities of the Annual National Program in 2011.

Participation in the joint Polish-Ukrainian project strengthened the NGO network and helped promote general and specified suggestions in academic and educational spheres, with the aim to increase public knowledge and awareness of the constructive NATO-Ukraine partnership.

The following measures were suggested amongst others:

Informative measures aiming

1. To increase information resources and their availability, to provide all interested representatives with various (visual, printed, electronic, photo, and others) infor-

Measures in educational sphere

1. To promote an active use of innovative methods and technologies in educational processes at educational institutions, debates and euroclubs, creation of on-line tutorials with the use of video-films, web sites etc., related to the current international issues and processes.

2. To increase the number of people, who are involved in internships both in Ukraine and abroad, next to leaders and teachers of higher educational institutions, and also granting such possibility to the best students and those who work in this field.

3. To continue the international exchange of experience between the representatives of the interested professional groups, i.e. realization of their joint training and studies.

4. To continue to study and use the experience of the "third sector" development in Central Europe, in particular on NATO related issues understanding promotion.

“The project gave possibility to unite the representatives of different regions of Ukraine and strengthen the collaboration of all involved target groups”

mation materials, including the use of modern facilities (digital, video, etc.) on the above mentioned questions.

2. To carry out interactive professional events: meetings, round tables, debates, competitions related to Ukraine-NATO issues (teachers with teachers, leaders with leaders, students with students and other formats) involving experts and specialists to provide more objective information.

3. To promote the exchange of experience and cooperation of journalists from Ukraine and NATO countries, to prepare joint mass-media programs on vital security issues.

Measures in the academic sphere

1. To form and present a scientifically approved public position on the Ukrainian society's development based on the European & Euro-Atlantic perspective;

2. To study and take into account international experience of social implications related to Ukraine-NATO cooperation.

3. To support and continue practice of joint projects between NGOs of Ukraine and neighboring countries aiming to study and use fruitful international experience and promote cooperation on these issues.





Euro-Atlantic Club of Montenegro



Communicating NATO Working Together to Raise Awareness in Montenegro

The aim of the conference was to provide clear recommendations towards improvement of the Communication Strategy on the Euro-Atlantic integration of Montenegro. More specific, this conference was intended to give clear suggestions on how the Communication Strategy should be redesigned and implemented in order to effectively contribute to public awareness of NATO. Besides, the purpose of the conference was not to declare who supports NATO and who is against it, but with an active participation in discussion, to bring precise points regarding the way of informing citizens about advantages and disadvantages of Montenegro joining the Alliance. Following this approach all necessary conditions were created in order to be able to take decisions in the future concerning the question whether Montenegro should be an integral part of NATO or not.

Representatives of the Government of Montenegro, leaders of governmental and opposition political parties in Montenegro, NGO representatives, experts and officials from the region attended the conference. The discussion was also attended by the leaders of the diplomatic corps, PR

agencies and the media pointing out the problems that exist inside the Strategy, as well as its implementation.

The conference was opened by Mr. Savo Kentera, President of the Euro-Atlantic Club of Montenegro; Mr. Uroš Zver, Public Diplomacy Division NATO HQ; H.E. Mrs. Cate Knight-Sands, Ambassador of the United Kingdom in Montenegro and Mr. Boro Vučinić, Minister of Defence of Montenegro.

Minister Vučinić estimated that the level of public debate on NATO was very high, and he has announced more intensive activities. Minister Vučinić said, "only a man, who is prone to a big fantasy or a total ignorance can imagine a secure Montenegro without membership in NATO."

In his address to the participants of the conference Mr. Zver pointed out that applying Communication Strategy is very important in order to properly present all the benefits of the membership in NATO to the citizens, and that it is necessary to increase direct communication with citizens. Mr. Zver said, "it is essential that the Government meets its objectives in Public Diplomacy as part of an annual action plan. It is important to involve the public, to approach the undecided and those who oppose membership in NATO. It is necessary to strengthen direct cooperation with citizens. You need to find people who can infiltrate citizens to change their attitude. Research shows that the President of the country enjoys the greatest confidence. He could directly contact as many people as possible to increase the support for membership in NATO".

British Ambassador Cate Knight-Sands said that NATO embodied defence of common values, but the message was not sent out the right way. She explained that Euro-



Atlantic integration was the best way for regional stability, and it was condition for progress and development.

The conference was closed by Minister Duško Marković. He stressed that NATO was the best and safest choice for Montenegro and its citizens, and that this was not in the interest of the Government only, but for the benefit of the whole society in order to guarantee progress and prosperity. He concluded by saying that the campaign for membership was a campaign for equal opportunities but that all opponents were free to voice their opinion without restrictions.

In this way, the decision for membership in NATO would have the full democratic legitimacy. Minister Marković promised that the implementation of the Communication Strategy would be carried out in accordance with the conclusions reached at that conference.

Presenting the conference conclusions and recommendations to decision makers in Montenegro, the President of the Euro-Atlantic Club of Montenegro Mr. Savo Kentera said that the Government should have no monopoly over the process of Euro-Atlantic Integration. „Communication Strategy cannot be the monopoly of the Government. Involvement of politicians and parliamentarians should be at much higher level than it is now. We should involve all parties in the process and introduce and present it as a state project, not as a project of the Government, or particular individuals“. Mr. Kentera also said that the aim of the Communication Strategy should be educating people. The target groups must be deeply defined and media should be classified as very important partner. The President of the Euro-Atlantic Club stressed particularly that communication should be mutual, because communication is dialogue. The conclusions reached by a joint discussion are:

- the Government shouldn't have the monopoly over the Euro-Atlantic integration.



- the involvement of politicians, members of Parliament, must be at much higher level than it is now. All parties should be involved in this process and present it as a state and not as a project of Government.

- The aim of the Communication Strategy should be educating the public (communication is a dialogue) rather than propaganda.

- Target groups must be clearly defined and media should be classified as very important partner in this process.

- The goal must be clearly defined.

- Creation of an expert team that will be available to the media and citizens.

- Messages must be clear, precise, and understandable to ordinary citizens.

- The question is how to convey that message to ordinary people, should we use all available means? The recommendation is that we must think of significant use of the internet, the website of the Government and the website of the Communication Team is not enough.

- Messages that have to be emphasized are: safety, protection of territorial integrity, economic prospects (higher level of confidence in the country), belonging to the elite and the society's most powerful democratic nations in the world, there are no wars – only professionals go to a war.

- The Government should continue to be an active promoter of these ideas, but people and institutions with credibility beyond the world of politics (such as economists, analysts, academics, experts from various fields, athletes, actors, singers, ordinary people) should be introduced to the debate.





Activités de l'AFCA

Comme le savent nos amis fondateurs ou nouveaux de l'ATA, l'AFCA traverse depuis quelques années des difficultés récurrentes dont les causes nous sont connues : relatif désintérêt d'une partie de l'opinion publique à l'égard de l'Alliance, en dépit du rôle de troisième contributeur financier mais aussi et surtout militaire assuré par nos Forces des trois Armes en Afghanistan, soutien des Pouvoirs Publics drastiquement frappés par les économies budgétaires, et, sur un autre plan, difficultés dans le recrutement et l'animation d'étudiants de sciences politiques «nouvelle génération» trop peu attirés par les problèmes de sécurité et de défense collective dans le cadre interallié.

Difficultés, oui, mais découragement non ...

- Nous maintenons en activité un bulletin d'information diffusé depuis six ans quatre fois par an à une sélection de «faiseurs d'opinion» qui atteint directement ou indirectement environ 5000 lecteurs. En accord avec la Diplomatie Publique de l'OTAN, avant sa modification dans la structure interne de l'OTAN- nous diffusons textes et images sur notre site internet, mais les analyses de consultations confirment que le public de notre pays, sans être peuplé uniquement des descendants d'Astérix, est parfois un peu rétif au changement.

- Il faut savoir que l'opinion publique a enregistré d'une manière très positive la réintégration définitive de la France dans le Commandement Suprême, et la nomination du Général Abrial à la tête du Commandement Transformation à Norfolk et du Général Drouart comme chef d'Etat Major Ac-

tion à Evere .

- Nos correspondants en Province dans plus de dix villes importantes manquent de moyens mais pas de bonne volonté pour relayer dans leurs milieux l'information et l'argumentation en faveur des idées que nous partageons tous.

- Sur l'invitation très courtoise du Président Toms Baumanis, au nom de la Latvian Transatlantic Organisation, le Président C G Marcus et François Moreau de Balasy ont participé avec le plus grand intérêt à la 3ème conférence de Riga les 10 et 11 Septembre dont Troels Froling rend compte dans ce bulletin. Comme lui, sans doute, pensons que nos amis Lettons ont démontré une intelligence politique, un sens de l'ouverture intellectuelle, une perception de la perspective historique et une chaleur humaine exceptionnels. Nous avons pu, lors d'une réunion, à l'Ambassade de France avec une délégation de l'Institut des Hautes Etudes de Défense Nationale qui visitait la Lettonie et en présence de l'Ambassadeur Michel Foucher, ancien Ambassadeur à Riga et Directeur des Etudes de l'Institut, nous féliciter du rôle de l'ATA dans l'approfondissement des liens de toutes natures rétablis depuis quelques années avec les pays baltes qui après tant d'années ont recouvré une indépendance réelle tant espérée.

- Dans ce même domaine, nous signalons la sortie d'un livre écrit par le Colonel Dominique Dubarry, membre de notre Comité Directeur et connaisseur exceptionnel de l'histoire de la vie politique et sociale dans les Pays baltes, sous le titre «France-Pays baltes».



C/O Marie du 16ème Arrondissement

71 avenue Henri Martin
75116 Paris, France

Tel: +33 01 420 198 71

Fax: +33 09 594 213 42

contact@afcatlantique.fr

www.afcatlantique.fr



US Mid-term Elections 2010

Issues, Prospects, Impact

On Thursday 16 September, the Netherlands Atlantic Association organized a debate on the upcoming U.S. Mid-term Congressional Elections in Amsterdam, with Darrell M. West (Vice President and Director of Governance Studies, Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.) and Ruth Oldenziel (Fellow van het Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences).

Darrell West discussed the current difficulties that President Obama is experiencing. Difficulties that will almost certainly influence the outcome of the upcoming Congressional elections, which will redefine the balance of power between Democrats and Republicans in the American Congress. Widespread discontent with the economic malaise will almost certainly cause the Democratic Party to lose both their majority within the House of Representatives, as well as a number of seats in the U.S. Senate.

Perhaps the most curious development in the run-up to the Congressional elections, is a series of victories of the populist and conservative wing of the Republican Party in the Congressional Primaries, which may be ultimately beneficial to President Obama and the Democratic Party.

Nevertheless, Obama's popularity at home has dropped to an all-time low since his inauguration, due to various measures deemed unpopular by large segments of the American public: Health Care Reform, Economic Stimulus Package, and the financial emergency stimulus to the American automobile industry have been heavily criticized.

Financial Regulation has been met with equal cynicism, at least partly due to traditional dislike amongst the American public regarding government interference in the American society.

Although the approval rate of President Obama has remained virtually the same on the European continent, his foreign policy record is met with mixed enthusiasm. Whereas Obama stuck to his election campaign promise to draw back American troops from Iraq, this decision has become overshadowed by the decision to increase American troop levels in Afghanistan.

Darrell West stressed that – with a breakthrough in domestic policy seemingly highly unlikely – the second half of Obama's first Presidential term will most likely be aimed at improving the Administration's foreign policy record.

Nevertheless, there remains an ample challenge in securing a second Presidential term.

Arno Hamar de la Brethonière



A New Transatlantic Bargain

On Friday September 24 the Netherlands Atlantic Association organized a meeting with Stanley R. Sloan (founding Director of the Atlantic Community Initiative, a Visiting Scholar at the Rohatyn Center for International Affairs at Middlebury College, and President of VIC–Vermont) on Transatlantic Relations in the 21st century, entitled “A new Transatlantic Bargain”. Throughout the meeting, Sloan emphasized the thesis of his most recent publication “Permanent Alliance? NATO and the Transatlantic Bargain from Truman to Obama” in which the six decades of NATO’s existence are examined and potential reforms that will equip the Alliance more adequately for security challenges in the 21st century are explored.

Stan Sloan underlined that the Transatlantic bond, despite having been strained throughout various periods since the inception of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in 1949, remains pivotal in the 21st century. Nevertheless, different perceptions on both sides of the Atlantic of when and how to respond to international security challenges, and perhaps more importantly who will bear the main burden of a response, will remain omnipresent. Whereas the Europeans predominantly relied on and entrusted the United States with Europe’s territorial defense, the Americans have displayed a certain degree of reluctance to become too involved in security affairs on the European continent.

Notwithstanding current and past differences, and even actual crises over Suez or Iraq for example, the Transatlantic Alliance remained very much alive, not least because there simply is no alternative to what NATO has to offer, although an army of critics argues otherwise. The strength of the Transatlantic Partnership, according to Sloan, lies to a great extent in its shared values – democracy, individual freedom and the rule of law – which causes a natural



inclination to cooperate amongst NATO members. In addition, cooperation, culminating in a joint response to a security challenge at hand, of course, provides the all-important international legitimacy for the respective collective response.

With regard to NATO’s posture in the international security realm of the 21st century, Stan Sloan looked ahead at the NATO Summit in Lisbon, where the Alliance’s New Strategic Concept will be presented. He argued that the new strategic document will most likely resemble the existing status-quo rather than revolutionary altering the Alliance’s current course. Sloan nevertheless stressed the possibility that, against the backdrop of both the terrorist attacks against the United States in 2001, and the cyber attack in Estonia in 2006, the collective defence clause – Article 5 – might be stretched to include formulating a collective response to a cyber attack committed against a NATO member state.

However, notwithstanding the importance of Article 5, Stan Sloan stressed that the Transatlantic community will be increasingly confronted with economic, diplomatic and other non-kinetic and asymmetric challenges, requiring other responses than provided by the collective defence clause. According to Sloan, it is merely logical that the importance of consultation – Article 4 – both between NATO-partners, between NATO and the European Union, and between NATO and NGO’s present in the Theatre of Operations, will increase in the years to come.

Raimond van Engelen

Between the Polder and a Hard Place? The Netherlands and Defence Planning Challenges for Smaller European Countries

In February 2009 the Dutch government fell over whether to extend the deployment of Dutch forces in Afghanistan. As a new government in The Hague is formed they will need to confront urgently three simple but pivotal questions: how big should the armed forces be, what should be their purpose, and above all how much should they cost? This Whitehall Report explores those questions in depth and considers the defence planning challenges for all smaller European countries in light of the Dutch experience. The pivotal issue of defence affordability runs through the report and how best to strike a critical balance between effectiveness and efficiency. To that end, the report calls for the return to sound military strategy if tight defence investment is to properly support the main effort. And, a fundamental re-organisation of the structure of the Netherlands armed forces to better meet the challenges of the age. Above all, the report calls for consistency and stability so defence planning can be conducted systematically. The core message of the report is thus clear: a new strategy is needed but once established it must be adhered to with the political short-termism that has so marked the past twenty years and brought swiftly to an end. Failure to do so will merely transfer risk onto the Dutch young men and women who will be called on again to fight. They deserve better than that. These are lessons for all Europeans – be they big or small.

Speakers: Julian Lindley-French (Eisenhower Professor of Defence Strategy at the Netherlands Defence Academy; Special Professor of Strategic Studies, University of Leiden, Senior Associate Fellow of

the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom and Senior Scholar at the Centre for Applied Policy at the University of Munich; and a member of the Atlantic Council's Strategic Advisors Group; and Anne Tjepkema (a retired Royal Netherlands Air Force pilot, is an Associate Professor at the Netherlands Defence Academy. Colonel Tjepkema was involved in the drafting of the 2009 Dutch Strategic Defence Review (Verkenningen)).

Date: Monday, 8 November 2010

Time: 12.00-14.00 (12.00 sandwich lunch, 12.30-14.00 hrs (introduction, interview, followed by Q&A))

Location: Perscentrum Nieuwspoor, Lange Poten 10, Den Haag

Registration: info@atlcom.nl





Afghanistan

women, peace and security

Estonia is pleased to host the international forum: "Women, Peace and Security - the Afghan View" on 11 – 12 November, 2010 in Tallinn, Estonia.

The conference will focus on the issue of women, peace and security from the perspective of Afghanistan, including the cooperation between civil and military actors. Its aim is to give an overview of the main achievements and challenges facing the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Afghanistan and discuss the way forward in the immediate aftermath of the deliberations and possible further steps by the UN Security Council on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of UNSCR 1325. The aim of the conference is to provide a forum for high-

level discussion between policy makers and experts from states, international organizations, and civil society organizations.

Confirmed speakers are: Stefanie Babst, Annelise Ebbe, Ella van den Heuvel, Urmas Paet, Elisabeth Rehn, Sarah Rose- Sender, Najia Zewari, and others.

The conference language is English. Updated information, agenda and registration are available at <http://forum1325.eata.ee>.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the conference team (tel: +372 6840681, e-mail: info@eata.ee).

The conference is organized by the Estonian Atlantic Treaty Association and the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Estonian Atlantic Treaty Association
Toom-Rüütli 12-6
Tallinn 10130, Estonia

Tel: +372 6 949 333
Fax: +372 6 949 332

eata@eata.ee
www.eata.ee



Atlantic Treaty Association

Quartier Prince Albert
Rue des Petits Carmes, 20
B-1000 Bruxelles
Tel: +32 2 502 31 60
Fax: +32 2 502 48 77

info@ata-sec.org
www.ata-sec.org

The ATA would like to thank all contributing Associations for their articles, essays, and pictures.



NATO's New Strategic Concept

Afghanistan - are we on track? On the right one?

In the media, as well as in our national ATAs and YATAs, the question - "Afghanistan - right or wrong?" comes up every day. Are we on the right track? Pessimism dominates the media on the subject in their story telling, which undermines support for our troops and support for NATO's staying power. President Obama's Afghanistan strategy of December 2009 has just started to work for all civilian and military resources in place on the ground, as of this very month.

When a classroom is burned down by Taliban, when civilians and our young men and women in uniform are killed, they pay the highest price. Should we stop, give in to the dark forces of men, of terrorists who misuse their religion? The ISAF Counterinsurgency strategy of General Petraeus includes broad variety of dimensions of civilian, military, diplomatic and development tracks. Building up security paves the way for schools, education, jobs, growth, health etc. This is the intended synergy effect.

When Afghan children can go to school it is our investment into the future of Afghanistan. Today more than 7 million children, out of which 36% are girls, go to school. In 2002 the number was 700.000. Does it make a difference?

Are we then on the right track in trying to stabilize Afghanistan? There are three reasons that make me say we aren't.

First challenge: the war cannot be won militarily. The ISAF troops shall be used to train Afghan security forces. The Marjah offensive in the Helmand province is not a success. The Taliban are still active. The Afghan police is weak and no local civic organizations are up and running. Counterinsurgency cannot work with lack of local support.

Next challenge: the announcement by President Obama to start withdrawal of US troops by July 2011. Consequences are as one would expect demands in all NATO countries to start withdrawal of national troops. It is too early. Who believes today that the takeover by Afghan military and police by 2014 is a realistic option? It is also a question of finding a political solution by 2014.

Finally – the support of donors for building up Afghan authorities and structures is far from the promises given by the donor countries.

We are on the right track only if we stick to the overall plan - all of our countries – both as to military and civilian activities. This requires political leadership in our countries. The Lisbon summit will show whether NATO members agree on strategic commitments so much needed in Afghanistan.

In our ATA and YATA organizations we should as a minimum use the voice of the civil society to discuss, analyze, challenge and suggest policy on Afghanistan for our political leaders. We owe this as citizens to our young fellow citizens in uniform or civilians fighting and working for a better Afghanistan, for a more secure future.

Troels Frøling, ATA Secretary General

