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## In Focus Transatlantic News Digest

### Electronic Newsletter of the Atlantic Council of Canada

The Atlantic Council of Canada + 165 University Ave., Suite 701, Toronto, ON M5H 3B8  
Ph.: 416-979-1875 + F.: 416-979-0825 + Email: [info@atlantic-council.ca](mailto:info@atlantic-council.ca)

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#### Newsletter contributors

Chelsea Plante  
[cplante@ballsileeschool.ca](mailto:cplante@ballsileeschool.ca)

Greg McBride  
[Greg.McBride@atlantic-council.ca](mailto:Greg.McBride@atlantic-council.ca)



### **Message from Lisbon Loud and Clear: Russia No Threat to NATO** **By: Chelsea Plante**

Last weekend's NATO Summit has been praised by some as a historic success ([View NATO's New Strategic Concept](#)). Indeed, a few surprising outcomes were achieved in regards to NATO's relationship with Russia moving forward. The adoption of a New Strategic Concept at the Alliance's Lisbon Summit is a development which in many respects affects Russia's interests. Stating clearly that "NATO poses no threat to Russia," the document reflects strategic shifts in NATO's relations with their Cold War enemy.

On Saturday, NATO and Russia vowed to embark on a new era of wide-ranging cooperation, announcing plans to work together on a missile defence and Afghanistan, among other issues. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signaled Moscow's willingness to work with the military alliance and participate in a joint missile defence shield in Europe based on principles of equality and responsibility. Moreover, Medvedev said that Moscow will continue dialogue with NATO on a future missile shield in Europe: "We have agreed with NATO partners – and I have held bilateral talks on the subject with the leaders of a number of European countries, France, Germany, Britain, as well as President Obama – that we will continue our dialogue on all issues related to a European missile shield," added Medvedev after the NATO-Russia Council meeting in Lisbon.

The Lisbon Summit also produced an agreement between NATO and Russia allowing the Alliance to carry supplies, equipment and armored vehicles to and from Afghanistan through Russian territory in Central Asia. Similar routs are already used by the Alliance, but previous arrangements only allowed for the movement of non-lethal supplies like fuel and food. Additionally, discussions are scheduled for the sale of Russian helicopters to Afghanistan, corresponding maintenance contracts, and the training of Afghan pilots and technicians.

"All we wanted to tell each other, but were afraid to earlier, was said today, and this makes me optimistic," Medvedev continued. He commended Portugal for its efforts to create an open and democratic atmosphere for the talks, which he called "absolutely constructive."

The summit talks between the 28-member Alliance and Moscow were the highest level negotiations to take place since Russian troops advanced into Georgia in August 2008.

**Further Reading:** [NATO and Russia to Embark on a new era of Cooperation](#), [Russia Eases Transit Rules for NATO](#), [NATO and Russia to Cooperation on Missile Defence](#), [Resetting NATO-Russia Relations](#), [NATO and Russia Mend Fences after years of tension](#), [Successful NATO Summit increases potential for cooperation with Eastern neighbors](#), [Suspensions remain, but Russia and NATO agree Defence Shield deal](#).

## An Alliance for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: NATO's New Strategic Concept

By: Chelsea Plante

### Core Tasks

At the summit meeting in Lisbon this past weekend, NATO leaders agreed to a new Strategic Concept that will serve as a roadmap for the Alliance over the next decade. In order to fulfill NATO's commitment to maintaining peace and security in the Euro-Atlantic region, the Alliance will continue to perform three core tasks; collective defence, crisis management, and cooperative security.

First, the New Strategic Concept stresses collective defence as a firm and binding commitment and reaffirms the Alliance's responsibility of to defend NATO territories and populations as set out in Article 5 of the Washington Treaty. NATO member states will continue to deter and defend against any threat of aggression which challenges the fundamental security of the Alliance. The second core task is to provide crisis management along the entire continuum of issues facing the transatlantic area. In light of today's diverse threats, this strategy calls for the active use of all political and military resources. Lastly, the Strategic Concept describes cooperative security as a core element of the Alliance. In pursuit of this goal, the Alliance plans to work towards building "partnerships with relevant countries and other international organizations; by contributing actively to arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament; and by keeping the door to membership in the Alliance open to all European democracies that meet NATO's standards." On this point, the New Strategic Concept states that such partnerships will play an important role in the day-to-day work of the Alliance, and that building a stronger relationship with Russia is vital to transatlantic security.

### The Contemporary Security Environment

The New Strategic Concept states that if NATO is going to pursue these core tasks, it is going to have to tackle a host of new challenges. The security dynamics of the 21<sup>st</sup> involve more than simply deterring cross-border attacks as was the focus of NATO's Cold War strategy. Contemporary threats such as chemical and biological weapons, long range ballistic missiles, sophisticated cyberattacks, failed and fragile states, and global terrorism exemplify the complex challenges that NATO must face moving forward. This document urges Allies to invest in the capabilities needed to address these threats and agree to develop within NATO the capacities necessary to defend the transatlantic world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. While this document sets the groundwork for this vital transition, the burden now shifts to the allies to unpack and implement these recommendations. The Summit Communiqué states that it is now the task of "the [North Atlantic Council] to develop Political guidelines for the continuing transformation of our defence capabilities...and the military implementation of our New Strategic Concept..."

**Further Reading:** [NATO's New Strategic Concept calls for dramatic change in Alliance priorities](#), [NATO Stresses Global Role Despite Afghan Trauma](#), [NATO's New Look](#), [Charlemagne: Europe and America](#), [NATO's Afghan Commitment](#), [A Tale of one Summit: NATO's New Strategic Concept](#), [NATO's 2014 Afghanistan departure date laden with ambiguity](#).

## The Age of Cyberwar? Stuxnet Designed to Disable Iranian Enrichment Facility

By: Greg McBride

Amid delays in getting the Bushehr Reactor operational, Iranian officials have denied reports that the Stuxnet Virus has contributed to ongoing problems. In a recent interview, the Iranian Vice President Ali Akbar Salehi, who oversees the Iran's Nuclear Program, accused 'westerners' of attempting to sabotage Iran's peaceful energy program.

The Stuxnet Virus, which was first discovered in June of this year by a European antivirus firm, appears to have been constructed to deliberately target Iranian industrial infrastructure. About 60% of all reported infections have taken place inside Iran.

Salehi admitted that Stuxnet had infected the peripheral systems of the reactor and the Natanz enrichment facility, but emphasized that "our young scientists stopped the virus at the very same spot (the West) wanted to penetrate." As such, Salehi claims that critical systems were not affected and that mounting delays are merely the result of technical difficulties in the enrichment process.

Salehi's comments are inconsistent with those of an anonymous source at the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency who argues that it is quite likely that Stuxnet has affected performance of the Natanz facility. Olli Heinonen, former UN Chief Nuclear Weapons inspector, has also acknowledged the possibility that the virus has played a part in undermining the enrichment process. He does however point out that the flawed design of the centrifuges employed in enriching uranium is the most likely cause of the delays.

While there has been much speculation about the origins of the software, the source of this virus has yet to be confirmed. However, Securicon – a firm that specializes in locating the digital fingerprints left behind by malware creators – recently released a report claiming that the number of potential saboteurs with the technical sophistication required to develop this software is very limited. Development of the Stuxnet Virus required extensive knowledge of the systems used in the nuclear power plant as the conditions which trigger the virus's activation are extremely specific.

What is becoming more obvious is what the program was designed to do. Rather than cause catastrophic failure of the reactor, the virus seems to function more subtly. Researchers at Symantec Corporation have determined that the virus is designed to cause fluctuations in the rotation speed of the high power motors but only in facilities that employ a large number of them. These characteristics suggest that the Natanz enrichment facility was the specific target of this attack. A fluctuation in the speed of the centrifuges used in Natanz would effectively halt the enrichment of uranium.

The Stuxnet case is the first known example of a virus which is designed to target and disrupt a specific piece of industrial infrastructure. Whether or not this software was successful, Stuxnet is likely the first of many viruses of this nature as technical expertise becomes more diffuse and monetary barriers are lowered.

Many researchers who have examined the virus argue that only a national government would have the capability and motivation to create such a sophisticated piece of software. From this perspective, it is argued that malicious computer software may soon become a key piece of any state's military arsenal.

**Further reading:** [Delay Hits Iran Bushehr Plant](#), [Worm Can Deal Double Blow to Nuclear Program](#), [Clues Suggest Stuxnet Virus was built for Subtle Nuclear Sabotage](#), [Code Clues Point to Stuxnet Maker](#), [Stuxnet 'Hit' Iran's Nuclear Plans](#), [Iran Denies Stuxnet Disrupted its Nuclear Programme](#)



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The Atlantic Council of Canada + 165 University Ave., Suite 701, Toronto, ON M5H 3B8  
Ph.: 416-979-1875 + F.: 416-979-0825 + Email: [info@atlantic-council.ca](mailto:info@atlantic-council.ca)