



Conference Agenda

The Shadow NATO Summit

Options for NATO: Pressing the Re-Set Button on the Strategic Concept

A Two-Day Civil Society Shadow Conference to Coincide with NATO's 60th Anniversary Summit

Organised by

BASIC – Bertelsmann Stiftung – ISIS Europe – NATO Watch

With the support of:

The Marmot Charitable Trust, UK

31 March – 1 April 2009

Hotel Leopold, 35 Rue du Luxembourg, Brussels (Day 1) and
European Parliament, Room ASP 3 G 2, Rue Wiertz, Brussels (Day 2)

NATO has almost completely lost its way, unable to work out whether it should be reliving the Cold War -- focusing on containing or deterring a potentially resurgent beast- from- the- east (and thereby inevitably encouraging, human nature being what it is, just that kind of behaviour), or rather transforming itself into a cooperative, common-security organization that could, conceptually, embrace even Russia itself as a member, and play a useful role in applying, with Security Council support, the kind of sophisticated enforcement capacity that not just the trans-Atlantic powers but the world as a whole needs.

Extract from Keynote Address by Gareth Evans, President & CEO, International Crisis Group and Co-Chair, International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, to International Dialogue for Funders on Advancing Peace and Security in 2009 and Beyond, Madrid, 20 November 2008

Objectives:

- To bring together senior NATO officials, civil society and policy experts on comprehensive security at a 'shadow summit'¹ to identify, discuss and share ideas concerning the future of NATO, including a new Strategic Concept and innovative solutions to some of the Alliance's most pressing security challenges.
- To launch a 'Citizens Declaration on Alliance Security'—a concise statement of NATO's purpose, possibly serving as a precursor to a new Strategic Concept— an alternative to the official version that is expected to be unveiled by Heads of State at the Summit;
- To explore ways in which civil society groups and parliamentarians within the Alliance could work together more effectively to advance NATO-related policies and actions that are in keeping with the shared democratic and humanitarian values of member states; and
- To initiate a permanent NATO-wide civil society policy network (linked to NATO Watch) and to discuss the scope and nature of such a network.

¹ Modelled on The Other Economic Summit (TOES), which from 1984 to 2004 raised issues such as international debt onto the agenda of the G7 and G8 summits.

Overview:

NATO continues to operate within a Strategic Concept (1999) that is stuck in the last century, and has so far failed to articulate a truly convincing rationale and coherent strategy for this century. Much still needs to be done in terms of the often-cited 'NATO transformation', which has been too narrowly focused on force modernisation, interoperability and membership. This conference will examine present trends in transatlantic security, nuclear weapon proliferation and the attitudes and assumptions underlying current NATO policy. It will take as its starting point the proposition that a new Strategic Concept will be negotiated within the Alliance in 2009-10 and that any review process ought to include a NATO-wide public consultation exercise.

The Co-Hosts:

BASIC (www.basicint.org) is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental research and advocacy organisation. Founded in 1987, it facilitates the exchange of information and analysis of transatlantic security and arms control issues focused on promoting the steps necessary to achieving the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons. With offices, staff, advisors, governing board and patrons on both sides of the Atlantic, BASIC plays a unique role as a transatlantic bridge for policymakers and opinion shapers.

Bertelsmann Stiftung (www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de) is dedicated to serving the common good, in keeping with the longstanding social commitment of its founder, Reinhard Mohn. Its work is based on the conviction that competition and civic engagement are essential for social progress. The foundation aims to identify social problems and challenges at an early stage and develop exemplary solutions to address them. It is formulating new approaches to intergovernmental and international governance, developing strategies for peaceful conflict resolution and supporting those countries making their way toward democracy and a market economy.

ISIS Europe (www.isis-europe.org) is an independent research and advisory organisation that works to increase transparency, stimulate parliamentary engagement and broaden participation in EU and NATO policy-making. Through its publications and events, ISIS Europe facilitates parliamentary and inter-institutional dialogue and provides policy input to strengthen common approaches to conflict prevention, crisis management, peace building, arms control and disarmament. ISIS Europe has worked in Brussels since 1996 and was established as a Belgian not-for-profit legal entity (ASBL) in January 2001.

NATO Watch (www.natowatch.org) is a new, independent project that will be launched at this conference to collect and disseminating information and research on NATO and Euro-Atlantic security issues. It will be the only independent non-governmental organisation with a remit to monitor and analyse NATO on a daily basis. A web-based information portal is being constructed to provide comprehensive, accurate, reliable and up-to-date information about NATO. Research reports and briefing papers will explore NATO reform.

Agenda

DAY 1: 31 March 2009, Hotel Leopold, 35 Rue du Luxembourg

10.00 – 10.15 Welcome

Giji Gya, Executive Director, ISIS Europe

Paul Ingram, Director, BASIC

Stefani Weiss, Director, Europe's Future / International Governance, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Brussels Office

10:15 – 10.45 Launch of NATO Watch Policy Network and a 'Citizens Declaration on Alliance Security'

Ian Davis, Director, NATO Watch

10.45 – 12.00 Session I: NATO's role and relevance in the 21st Century

Chair: Simon Lunn, Senior Fellow, Geneva Center for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)

This session will examine recent developments in NATO and the extent to which the 'transformation' agenda is moving the Alliance away from its core collective defence mandate.

Speakers:

NATO's political and military transformation – the story so far

- Stefani Weiss, Director, Europe's Future / International Governance, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Brussels Office

Abolition or reform - a perspective from the Netherlands

- Karel Koster, researcher for the Socialist Party, The Netherlands

Collective defence versus winning the peace in far-flung places: Re-balancing NATO's "in area" and "out of area" missions

- Professor Mark Webber, Dept. of Politics, International Relations and European Studies, Loughborough University, UK

NATO, the UN and RP2: future prospects

- Gareth Evans, President of the International Crisis Group

12.00 – 13.30 Lunch (own responsibility – many cafes/restaurants at PI Luxembourg)

13.30 – 15.00 Session II: Afghanistan and beyond

Chair: Giji Gya, Executive Director, ISIS Europe

What is the experience of the military under NATO command in Afghanistan? How has the Alliance worked with NGOs and civilian institutions? Is there an exit strategy in Afghanistan? What are the lessons for NATO's role in the future?

Speakers:

A NATO military perspective

- Tim Foxley, Guest Researcher, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

An Afghanistan perspective

- Selmin Caliskan, Head of Department, Politics and Human Rights, medica mondiale, Cologne

The need for accurate casualty recording in NATO operations

- John Sloboda, Executive Director, Oxford Research Group and Co-director of Iraq Body Count project

15:00 – 15.30 Tea/Coffee Break

15.30 – 17.30 Session III: An open conversation about Article V and Collective Defence – What does it mean today?

Chair: Donald Steinberg, Deputy President (Policy), International Crisis Group, Brussels

How should NATO deliver on its Article V commitments? Are nuclear deterrence and missile defence crucial to collective defence? Why do perceptions differ among Member States? Is the most effective route to collective security through building peace, respect and trust with Russia?

Speakers:

How will France's return to the NATO Military Committee impact on Article V and the future of the European Security and Defence Policy?

- Jean-Pierre Maulny, Deputy Director, Institut de Relations Internationales et Stratégiques (IRIS), Paris

Securing collective defence without missile defence and tactical nuclear weapons – feasible and desirable?

- Dr Oliver Meier, Arms Control Association & Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy Hamburg

A Central and Eastern European perspective on Article V

- Dr Liviu Muresan, EURISC Foundation, Romania

Improving collective defence through improved NATO-Russian relations – a possible road map

- Dmitry Polikanov, Chairman of the Trialogue Club, PIR Centre, Moscow

19.00 – 20.30 Evening Reception: Keynote Speech - Jamie Shea, Director, Policy Planning, Private Office of the Secretary General NATO

Hotel Leopold, 35 rue du Luxembourg, Brussels



The evening reception is co-sponsored by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

DAY 2: 1 April 2009, European Parliament, Room ASP 3 G 2, Rue Wiertz

8.30 Arrive at European Parliament for security clearance

9.30 – 9.45 Opening Remarks

Helmut Kuhne, MEP

9.45 – 11.00 Session IV: Assessing NATO capabilities

Chair: tba

What are the capability gaps that NATO must address in order to match its missions to its means? Is the need for improved capabilities largely a European issue? Are defence budgets being spent on the wrong things? Will NATO's members ever agree on what to do with the NRF? How effective are NATO counter-terrorism operations, such as Operation Active Endeavour in the Mediterranean? Should homeland security be a fundamental NATO mission?

Speakers:

NATO capabilities – shortfalls and surpluses

- Dr Andrew Michta, Professor of National Security Studies, George C. Marshall Center for Security Studies, Germany

NATO and counter-terrorism – effectiveness and accountability

- Daniel Keohane, Senior Research Fellow, The European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), Paris

The NATO Response Force - flagship or shipwreck of NATO transformation?

- Dr Martin Smith, Royal Military Academy Sandhurst UK

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee/Tea Break

11.30 – 12.30 Session V: “NATO-izing” US ballistic missile defence in Europe

Chair: Dr Armand Clesse, Director Luxembourg Institute for European and International Studies

What are the outcomes of NATO's (February 2008) assessment of the political and military implications of the planned missile defence systems in Europe? Will NATO and US missile defence systems be bolted together? Should NATO go ahead with BMD proposals in Europe even in the face of Russian opposition?

Speakers:

The case for

- Peter Flory, Assistant Secretary General for Defence Investment, NATO

The case against

- Professor Dave Webb, The Praxis Centre, Leeds Metropolitan University, UK

12.00 – 13.30 Lunch (own responsibility – many cafes/restaurants at PI Luxembourg)

13.30 – 16.30 Session VI: Pressing the re-set button on the Strategic Concept - Examining potential new headline goals for NATO

13.30 – 14.30 Goal 1: “Affirming collective defence and “moral, muscular multilateralism” (including disaster relief, conflict prevention, counter-and non-proliferation, peacekeeping and anti-piracy missions) as the primary purpose of NATO”.

Discussants:

Ian Davis, Director, NATO Watch; and

Catriona Gourlay, Marie Curie Fellow, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), Geneva

Moderator: Stephanie Blair, Senior Advisor, SSR and Crisis Management, ISIS Europe

14.30 – 15.30 Goal 2: “Eliminating battlefield nuclear weapons from Europe and moving towards the adoption of a non-nuclear weapon security doctrine for the Alliance (including, as interim goals, withdrawal of US tactical nuclear weapons stationed in Europe and the withdrawal of Russian tactical weapons from operational deployment to secure storage) as part of a global leadership strategy in moving towards a nuclear weapon free world”.

Discussants:

Paul Ingram, Executive Director, British American Security Information Council;

Guy Roberts, Deputy Assistant Secretary General for WMD, NATO

Moderator: Giji Gya, Executive Director, ISIS Europe

15.30 – 15.45 Tea/Coffee Break

15.45 – 16.45 Goal 3: “Improving transparency, accountability and value for money within NATO, especially with regard to defence planning and procurement”.

Discussants:

Ádám Földes, Project Manager, Access Info Europe, Madrid

Michael Stopford, Deputy Assistant Secretary General Strategic Communications Services, Public Diplomacy Division, NATO

Moderator: Vibeke Thomsen, Programme Officer, ISIS Europe

16.45 - 17.30 Session VII: Conclusions and Further Reflections on a New NATO Strategic Concept

Audience Feedback on the ‘Citizens Declaration on Alliance Security’ and further discussion on a new NATO Strategic Concept

Concluding remarks:

Ian Davis, Director, NATO Watch

Giji Gya, Executive Director, ISIS Europe

Paul Ingram, Director, BASIC

Stefani Weiss, Director, Europe’s Future / International Governance, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Brussels Office