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NATO Public Information Programs
Co-sponsorship Grants for Seminars and Conferences in NATO Countries
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ROMANIA

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<u>Name of the Event:</u>	NATO'S CAPABILITIES. TERRITORIAL DEFENSE AND EXPEDITIONARY FORCES. BUDGETING FOR A CREDIBLE DEFENSE IN EUROPE
Place:	Region: ROMANIA City: BUCHAREST Venue: Intercontinental Hotel

1. Brief Description of the Project (500-1.000 words):

In addition, please, send us a letter via fax – signed by the person responsible for the project, with the letterhead and the official stamp of your organisation – requesting NATO co-sponsorship for the project. Send the letter to the following fax number: + 32 2 707 54 57.

Brief Description of the Project (500-1.000 words):

MAIN ARGUMENT: NATO Summit in Bucharest as well as the following NATO Defense and Foreign Affairs Ministerial singled out the issues related to the capability gap, the caviots and limitations for the national expeditionary forces involved into NATO operations, especially in

Afghanistan. The same type of debates have been extended to the relations between the expeditionary forces and the territorial defense arriving at the debates about the suitable finance through budgets of a credible defense and security for Europe.

GENERAL ASSESSMENT: Romania held one of the longest borders of NATO with the neighboring states, the biggest part of them being aspirants to membership. Since NATO's main role in the area is projecting regional and global security, this fact is of first importance for Romanian's perception of its security and the security of its neighboring countries

The credibility of the Defense and Security of Europe is of most interest for Romania, as an Alliance member at its border, but also a contributor to its operations. The development of suitable NATO capabilities becomes of first interest with the announcement of the emphasis that NATO puts on a successful mission in Afghanistan, where Romanian troops are fighting. At the same time, Romania is interested in a credible and well furnished territorial defense of the NATO countries that would enable it to be very confident on the discouraging role that those capabilities for any type of direct military threat in the Eastern Europe.

The interest is equal to the partner states, at the same time members of the EAPC and aspiring to join NATO sooner or latter. In the states where the interest for NATO is not so well represented at the public level – specially by the lack of information and the huge propaganda against the Alliance, this debate would help in legitimizing for the public both the cohesion of the reforms and the credible defense of Europe in the region, though a perspective for those countries to enhance their Security Sector Reforms, requested for moving closer to NATO and for becoming net furnishers of security. In the process, mistrust in the Alliance and some reforms could be crossed and public support could be easily obtain for both of the purposes.

In this respect, Romanian public is interested in knowing the road further and at what respect their country could count on the credible defense of its European partners both in a possible military threat and in the case of common operations. At the same time, Romanian public is interested to see if the sense of security given by NATO is read as such by the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, but also by Georgia and Azerbaijan.

The project should bring on the table the need for the Romanian civil society, media, academic circles and parliamentarians to understand the concern and actions of NATO for a credible defense and security in Europe, the sustainability of NATO's operations where Romanian soldiers are participating, in terms of capabilities.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT: The main purpose of the project is to increase the awareness of the Romanian public of NATO's policies and to the suitable budgeting and financing of the defense and security fields so that to ensure enough capabilities to deal both with the territorial defense and the expeditionary forces. It is also the case of having the sense of the shared effort in the European countries for both the territorial defense and expeditionary forces as well as their participation in the NATO operations.

The Project should offer the following tangible results:

- contributing to a deeper understanding in Romania of the NATO's role in projecting regional and global security, as well as to countries in the region,
- providing to the public the good practices of the sense of maintaining a suitable budget at more than 2% of the GDP and a suitable balance between the territorial forces and the expeditionary ones, for a normal level of the capabilities needed for a credible defense and security in Europe.
- stimulating NGOs, think tanks and experts from the region to share visions and perspective of the situations of the capabilities in NATO and on the field, in NATO operations where Romanian soldiers are fighting
- proposing to think tanks and experts from the region of **an effective instrument for changing the public opinion** in NATO partner countries, on the existence of the normal level of capabilities needed for NATO's operations and the belief for a stable and strong organization for defending Europe, with shared costs.
- stimulating NGOs, think tanks and experts from the region in **proposing improvements** in the areas of budgeting, of needed capabilities, of bridging the capability gap in some operations
- inspiring networked activities of the Romanian Think-Thanks and Academic Research with similar organizations from countries

- emerging from the ex-USSR and Western Balkans, in the year of the 2009 Summit, commemorating NATO's 60th Anniversary,
- consolidating the positive approach and the expertise of the Romanian Administration, Academic Research and Civil Society networks, in projecting common security through an active interaction with NATO-PDD.

2. Please, paste a version of the Provisional Program here. If not possible, please attach a copy to this application package:

Regional Conference (June 11-June 13, 2009):

1. Organizing in Bucharest a Regional Conference with duration of 1 working day. This event will be preceded by a period when contacts and regional networks will be established for the implementation of the project.
On the Romanian Side, invitations would be addressed considering: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, National College of Defence, the Parliament, representatives NGOs, and of the Marshall Foundation.
From NATO HQ – International Staff, 2 persons (with possible message from the ASG or SG) will be invited.
A pull from the written media based in Romania, and from the main TV Channels will be invited to attend and cover the workshop, as well as to interview NATO and Romanian invitees.
Total number of participants: 100-120.
2. The Conference agenda, will include topics such as:
 - NATO and budgeting - existing rules;
 - NATO's "security gap"
 - Afghanistan and the situation of NATO's capabilities.
 - Defense expenditures for a credible defense in NATO.
 - Credibility and NATO's image of a defense and security organization in the region
 - NATO's capabilities: views from the partner countries involved in Afghanistan

- The situation of the investments in defense and security in Europe.
- Budgeting the defense in Europe: the link to the security profile of each country.

3. Please, paste a version of the tentative list of participants here. If not possible, please attach a copy to this application package:

NATO representatives:

- NATO PDD
- NATO Operations representative

Romanian representatives from:

- MFA
- MOD
- Romanian Euro-Atlantic Council representatives
- Civil society involved in security programs.

NGO Experts:

- 1 American expert in NATO
- 1 European expert in NATO
- Romanian experts in Operations and capabilities

Representatives/experts from:

- Moldova
- Ukraine
- Georgia
- Serbia
- Azerbaidjan