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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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<b><u>Name of the Event:</u></b>	NATO AND THE NEW STRATEGIC CONCEPT.PRIORITIES FROM THE WIDER BLACK SEA AREA
<b><u>Place:</u></b>	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:** 10 years after the adoption of the previous NATO strategic concept, after 9/11, several rounds of enlargement and new operations out of area, as well as a strong debate about the future of NATO as a global organization, NATO needs a new strategic concept and Romania is interested that this new document will contain several parts of its

proposals, concerns and contributions from the lessons learnt in several operations, as it happens with the other partner countries from the Wider Black Sea Area.

**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 cooperation between EU and NATO is of most interest for Romania, as an Alliance member but also a European Union member. The interest for the development of EU capabilities and the cooperation with NATO capabilities becomes of first interest with the announcement of the priorities of French Presidency of the EU, in the second semester of 2008, where ESDP is in the first places.

The interest is equal to the partner states, at the same time members of the EAPC and of ENP of the EU. 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 –, but EU membership is seen and stated as a future political target, the cooperation between NATO and ESDP would help in legitimizing for the public both the cohesion of the reforms in both directions and the application of the most important Security Sector Reforms, requested for moving closer to both of the organization. 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 interest in knowing the road further for this type of cooperation, the existing and perspectives of such a cooperation, the Alliance perspectives, EU Presidency plans and ESDP new approaches. At the same time, Romanian public is interested to see if Republic of Moldova and Ukraine road to the same values could let to an increase of the public support in NATO, as it is shown by the polls in EU, if this could be a

way in making steps to get closer and cooperate with the Alliance with more support from the population of those countries and if this could be a model to Serbia, once the actual problems are passed and EU would become a target for the Serbian population, so that the approach to NATO membership could be made in such a way.

The project should bring on the table the need for the Romanian civil society, media, academic circles, and parliamentarians to understand the added value of NATO and EU cooperation, the ways that this could be done and the way that this could be used in support of reforms in partner and ENP countries.

**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 underline the added value of the cooperation between EU and NATO in mutually reinforcing efforts for **a stronger and more capable European defense** that could provide capabilities to address the common challenges both NATO and the EU face.

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 successful cooperation between NATO and EU in the Western Balkans, including with EU operation Althea through the **Berlin Plus arrangements**, contributing to peace and security in the region. Showing the credible commitments of both organization that are working side by side in **key crisis management operations** and will continue to do so,
- stimulating NGOs, think tanks and experts from the region to share visions and perspective of the cooperation between NATO and EU, to understand and evaluate how successful could be this future cooperative endeavor, how could be improved **the effectiveness of working together, avoiding unnecessary duplication** in a spirit of transparency, and respecting the **autonomy of the two organizations**,
- proposing to think tanks and experts from the region of **an effective instrument for changing the public opinion** in NATO partner countries, at the same time ENP countries and aspirant to NATO since and the core value of both organizations are the same and the reforms

needed for EU accession - in the ESDP field but not only - are similar to NATO ones. Evaluating the level of the reforms, how deep and how far the Partnership is changing the whole society and is stimulating the reforms in all the sectors of the society, moving the thinks closer to EU Copenhagen criteria,

- stimulating NGOs, think tanks and experts from the region in **proposing improvements** and areas of the cooperation between NATO and EU/ESDP, with the purpose that the Partnership and ENP provisions would focus and **re-enforce one each other** to stimulate the changes and reforms in the societies of those countries, as well as in the public support for both those future membership goals,
- 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 perspective of the 2009 Summit, commemorating NATO's 60<sup>th</sup> 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 (October 23-October 25, 2008):**

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 implemetation 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:
  - ESDP and European Defense and NATO: political positions;
  - NATO/ESDP interoperability
  - Main Issues in NATO/ESDP relations
  - Defense expenditures, regulations in ESDP and NATO.
  - National forces for NATO Response Force and NATO Operations and ESDP/European Operations. Complementarities, Cooperation and Competition
  - Perspectives for NATO and ESDP
  - SSR for NATO PfP and ENP countries: common requests and specifics.
  - NATO and ESDP: views from the partners and aspirant countries.

**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

**EU Representatives:**

- Representative from the Commission
- Representative from the Council
- Representative from the French Presidency

**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
- 3 European Experts in ESDP
- Romanian experts in NATO and ESDP

**Representatives/experts from:**

- Moldova
- Ukraine
- Georgia
- Serbia
- Croatia
- Bosnia
- Macedonia
- Azerbaidjan