

## **Report of the workshop**

*“Getting security right in NATO’s wider neighbourhood: does this still matter?*

*The future of NATO’s partnership network.*

*A special focus on the Balkans and Wider Black Sea-Caspian region”*

### *Program*

9,30 -10.00: Registration of the participants

10.00-11.30: Session I *“New perspectives on NATO’s wider neighbourhood”*  
(media allowed)

- moderator Iulian Chifu, director of CPCEW

10.00-10.30: Opening Statement by Catalin Predoiu, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Message of the NATO Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Claudio Bisogniero (transmitted through VTC)

10.30-11.30: Forward address of Mr. Iulian Fota, Presidential Advisor for Security;

11.00-11.30: Debate

### Topics:

- The role of the Eastern Partnership countries and of the Black Sea for the Euro-Atlantic security; NATO’s role in the region;

- The hypothesis of a “win-win” approach of NATO-Russia relation;
- NATO and the security in the vicinity of the Alliance: from the false dilemma of regional instability to the transborder threat assesment and countering.

11.30: Coffee break

- The press is leaving the room

12.00 -13.30: Session II: “*The future of NATO’s partnership network*”  
(closed-door debate, media not allowed)

- moderator Bogdan Aurescu, State Secretary for Strategic Affairs MFA

Positions:

- Ambassador Kim Traavik, Permanent Representative of Norway to NATO
- Ambassador Sorin Ducaru, Permanent Representative of Romania to NATO.

Topics for debate:

- Importance of regional stability;
- Defining the Partnerships (from EAPC to the Mediteranean Dialogue and Global Partnerships);
- NATO’s enlargement policy

13.30 -13.45: Session III: Conclusions

- Presentation Iulian Chifu, director of CPCEW

## **Debates**

1. On October the15th, 2009, the workshop „*Getting right security in NATO’s wider neighborhood: does this still matter? The future of NATO’s partnership network. A special focus on the Balkans and Wider Black Sea-Caspian region*” took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, co-organized with the Center for Conflict Prevention and Early Warning. The workshop was part of the project “NATO and the New Strategic Concept. Romania’s Priorities”, realized with the support of NATO’s Public Diplomacy Division.

2. In the opening statement, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania, H.E. Mr. Cătălin Predoiu, highlighted the fact that the major stakes pursued by Romania with respect to the strategic thinking on NATO’s wider neighborhood refer inter alia to the preservation of values, principles and commitments as the basis for NATO’s cooperation with partners. They also refer to the continuation of the “open door” policy with emphasis on compliance with membership criteria as well as to strengthening NATO's partnerships and cooperation with the EU, UN, and the OSCE and to specific contributions to the building of defense and

security institutions of states and/or organizations. The Minister underlined that Romania has no interest in remaining the Eastern border of the Alliance.

He also stressed that the issue of "a global NATO versus a regional NATO" is only a false dilemma. In terms of geography, the main security challenges for NATO originate from its wide neighborhood.

Under this logic, the wider Black Sea region is an integral part of the European project of consolidating stability throughout Europe through democracy, cooperation and integration. This region is an indispensable component of the Euro-Atlantic community of security, democracy and prosperity. It is also important in terms of diversification of energy supply sources and transport routes. Furthermore, it has also an important stake for the new approach on missile defense.

During a VTC link from NATO HQ in Brussels, Ambassador Claudio Bisogniero, Deputy Secretary General of NATO, pointed out the need for a new Strategic Concept, underlining both the internal transformations of the Alliance and the changes in the strategic environment that occurred since the adoption of the current Strategic Concept. The involvement of the civil society in drafting the guidelines of the new concept will bring added value in terms of legitimacy.

In terms of substance, the NSC will have to address the following issues:

- the need to keep the right balance between art. 5 and non-art. 5 contingencies;
- the meaning of solidarity in an environment that allows countries to be destabilized by non-conventional threats (e.g. cyber attacks, energy insecurity);
- the need for a comprehensive approach, including the cooperation with other international organizations and the private sector;
- the need for NATO to contribute to the general goal of a free and stable Europe, through the continuation of the enlargement process and the strengthening of its partnerships;
- the relation with Russia will continue to be marked by controversies, but it must not be kept hostage to them. It will have to be developed along the lines of the common interests.

Mr. Iulian Fota, Presidential Advisor for National Security, reminded that NATO has been and continues to be a factor that decisively contributes to the unification of Europe. NATO continues to be a credo for a strong transatlantic relation. He expressed the opinion that the new Strategic Concept must also contribute to a greater goal: to help NATO "keep the West united". In this respect, although the security environment has become more complicated, no one nation should be left alone in tackling the problems triggered by the globalization process. The issue of complementarity of tasks is also important: we should not expect a "global NATO", but a "NATO with global partners".

At the end of the first session, the questions and comments of the participants underlined that:

- NSC must cover the new meanings of "solidarity" concept, to include e.g. the answer to new threats. Cyber attacks and energy insecurity are most obvious, likely to paralyze a country without moving a single soldier. The cooperation with other international organizations is also of paramount importance.

- The issue of public support is very important, both in the member states and in the partner countries. In this respect, the elaboration of the NSC is going to be one of the most inclusive processes in the history of the Alliance.

- NATO and the EU should both contribute in complementarity to the stability and democracy in Europe and in the neighborhood. Both the competition and the overlaps would be counter-productive. Multidimensional and multi-layer partnerships can help the Alliance to better perform its tasks.

3. The second session (with closed doors) was moderated by Mr. Bogdan Aurescu, State Secretary for Strategic Affairs, Romanian MFA.

The presentations and the discussions underscored several main ideas:

- One of the important challenges of the Alliance is finding the right balance between the security of the members' territory and the out-of-area operations. NATO needs essentially the same capabilities for expeditionary missions as those available to act on the territory of the Alliance.

- NATO's core remains the Art. 5 of the Washington Treaty.

- The partnerships proved their usefulness as instruments to project stability outside the territory of the Alliance, as well as an important contribution to the fulfillment of NATO's tasks. One should remember that 15 countries out of those contributing to ISAF are not NATO members. The principle of self-selection in partnerships should be maintained and strengthened.

- Inside NATO, it was mentioned, the interest for, and awareness of, different geographical regions are uneven. Certain challenges are specific to certain areas. Therefore the focus of some nations on their regions of interest brings an important contribution to the general situational awareness of NATO, which is in the interest of all Allies.

- Despite persistent disagreements, NATO's relation with Russia is now on a positive trend. NATO should maintain its dual-track approach. In this respect, the relation should be focused both on pragmatic approach of common security threats and challenges and on upholding common values.

- Strategic partnerships with other organizations, such as the EU and the UN, should be further developed. The participation of the president of the EU Commission and the UN Secretary General at the Bucharest NATO Summit created a good political momentum in this sense.

4. Conclusions:

- The process of developing the New Strategic Concept should be both a NATO internal exercise and an opportunity for better informing the public on NATO's future role. It will have to determine the manner in which the Alliance will interact and cooperate with other actors and the way NATO will adjust its ideas, processes and capabilities, in order to be compatible with other organizations.

- The process of upgrading NATO's Strategic Concept provides an opportunity for underscoring the profile of NATO's partnerships and for highlighting the need for NATO to

contribute more to strengthening security in its neighborhood - the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, the wider Black Sea-Caspian region, Central Asia, Mediterranean and others.

- The Black Sea region is part of the European project of consolidating stability throughout Europe through democracy, cooperation and integration. It is an indispensable component of the Euro-Atlantic community of security, democracy and prosperity, also important in terms of diversification of energy sources and transport routes and with a special stake for the new approach on missile defense.

- NATO enlargement to countries of Central and Eastern Europe was a remarkable success for the transatlantic Alliance. It proved to be a very powerful tool in stabilizing regions, encouraging reforms and consolidating Europe. Due to this process, NATO continues to play a special role in unifying a continent divided for nearly half a century. And that is why NATO should continue to promote tailored partnerships to foster greater stability throughout the Euro-Atlantic area.

- The allied countries situated, in geographical terms, at the border of the Alliance might be more aware of certain challenges. Their regional focus on High North, Strategic South or the Black Sea area contribute to a better answer of the Alliance to specific threats and, at the same time, provide opportunities for strengthening cooperation in those particular regions.

- Security in the Black Sea region is part of the Euro-Atlantic security. The area is not immune to new risks and their potential for proliferation. That is why due attention should be paid to reflecting new challenges in this area, and NATO should continue to support, as appropriate, efforts based on regional priorities and dialogue among the Black Sea states and with the Alliance.

17 October 2009