



B | T | D The Balkan Trust
for Democracy
A PROJECT OF THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND



Balkan Networks and Stability
Connecting co-operative and human security
Rome, April 6th-7th 2017



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*Conference organised by
the NATO Defense College Foundation in cooperation with the NATO Defense College,
the NATO Public Diplomacy Division, the Central European Initiative and the
Balkan Trust for Democracy*

ROME, 6th - 7th April 2017

Venue: *Centro Congressi Roma Eventi -Piazza di Spagna, Via Alibert, 5/a, Rome*

THURSDAY, 6TH APRIL 2017

14,00-15,00 Arrival of participants - Registration

15,00 Welcome remarks

- **Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo**, President, NATO Defense College Foundation, Rome
- **František Mičánek**, Dean, NATO Defense College, Rome

SESSION 1

BALKAN POLITICS ON THE RAZOR'S EDGE

After the migrations' shock, the Balkan region has been substantially left to its own in facing enduring challenges: strategic tensions, organized crime, terrorism, potential disintegration and political polarisation. What will be the internal evolution of the countries in the area? How can the region re-network to increase democratic resilience, regional co-ordination and interaction with international institutions like UN, NATO, EU and OSCE?

Chair: **Miro Kovač**, Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of the Republic of Croatia

- **Yannis-Alexis Zepos**, Ambassador and former Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Athens
- **Ivan Vejvoda**, Permanent Fellow, Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna
- **Angelina Eichhorst**, Director for Western Europe, Western Balkans and Turkey, European External Action Service, Brussels
- **Savo Kentera**, President, Atlantic Council of Montenegro, Podgorica

General discussion

16,45-17,15 Coffee/Tea break

SESSION 2

THE REGION AND ITS NEAR ACTORS

The illegal annexation of Crimea by Russia has added further strain on the Balkans, putting them in the unenviable position of a contested zone of influence. What is the real extent of Moscow's activities and how can the region's member states keep a reasonable and sovereign course of integration? Other important external actors?

Chair: **Benoit d'Aboville**, Vice President, Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique, Paris

- **Ahmet Evin**, founding Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Sabanci University, Istanbul
- **Jelena Milič**, Director, Center for Euro-Atlantic Studies, Belgrade
- **Yordan Bozhilov**, President of Sofia Security Forum, Sofia
- **Haakon Blankenborg**, Director of Western Balkans Section/Section for South East Europe, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Oslo.

General Discussion

FRIDAY, 7TH APRIL 2017

10,00-11,30

SESSION 3
SECURITY VERSUS ILLEGAL NETWORKS AND TRAFFICKING

In 1991 the Yugoslav dissolution wars showed to policy makers that security was no more an affair of states and soldiers, but also of militias, criminal networks, small arms proliferation, illegal trafficking and terrorist groups. How can NATO co-operative security and EU collaboration, after the Aegean precedent, be meaningfully developed in the region? Important elements for the revision of the Strategic Concept of NATO?

Chair: **Sorin Ducaru**, Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Challenges, NATO HQ, Brussels

- **Louise Shelley**, Director, Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center Fairfax, Arlington
- **Gordana Delić**, Director, Balkan Trust for Democracy, Belgrade
- **Paul Radu**, Executive Director, Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, Bucharest
- **Florian Qehaja**, Executive Director, Kosovar Centre for Security Studies, Pristina

General Discussion

11,30-12,00 Coffee/Tea break

SESSION 4

THE PATH TO INTEGRATION

The EU has regularly updated its negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia in view of an increased integration. At the same time NATO countries are completing the ratification process for Montenegro, while continuing talks with other countries. How can an overall integration dynamic be pursued and carried on with Euro-sceptic electorates and a deterioration of the conditions in the area?

Chair: **Zoran Jolevski**, Minister of Defence, Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Skopje

- ▣ **Goran Svilanović**, Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council, Sarajevo
- ▣ **Arian Starova**, President, Atlantic Council, Tirana
- ▣ **Brooke Smith-Windsor**, Deputy Head Research Division, NATO Defense College, Rome
- ▣ **Dimitrij Rupel**, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ljubljana

General discussion

Special intervention

Maciej Popowski, Deputy Director General, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Vincenzo Amendola, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy



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Defense College

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SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

REMARKS

Ambassador Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo

President, NATO Defense College Foundation, Rome

A strong focus on strategic outlook in complex issues. High level contacts and negotiations. Special attention on countries of strategic relevance i.e. the Gulf region. Frequent Public Diplomacy activities to discuss policies and open issues. He held the position of Deputy Secretary General of the Atlantic Alliance, between 2001 and 2007. His mandate was mostly carried out in the strategic- political-industrial area, in relations with sensitive countries such as those in the Gulf and the Southern Mediterranean. He is the author of the books: “The road to Kabul”, publisher Il Mulino-Arel (2009) and “A political journey without maps, diversity and future in the Greater Middle East”. (Rubbettino 2013).

František Mičánek

Dean, NATO Defense College, Rome

František Mičánek (Brigadier General Ret) was appointed Dean of the NATO Defense College (NDC) in September 2016. Previously, in the years 1988-2005 he acted in various command and staff positions within air defense units, up to commander of the air defense missile regiment, and later, in position of the Chief of the Army Air Defense Forces. Since 2006 to 2009 he acted as Deputy Director of the MoD Force Planning Division. In 2009-2011 he worked as a mentor at the NATO Defense College, Rome. In 2011 he was appointed Director of the MoD Force Planning Division. Since September 2013 he is employed in the position of a head of the Center for Security and Military- strategic Studies of the University of Defense in Brno.

SESSION 1

Miro Kovač

Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of the Republic of Croatia

He is a Croatian historian, diplomat and politician who served as the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs in the Cabinet of Tihomir Orešković from January 22, 2016 until 19 October 2016. In 1995, Mr Kovač became employed in Office of the President of Croatia in the Department of Information in which he worked until 1999 when he was transferred to the position of the assistant adviser for Euro-Atlantic integration. He started his diplomatic career in 2001 as the Counselor at the Croatian Embassy in Brussels. In 2003, Kovač become Minister Counselor at the Croatian Embassy in Paris. When Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) came to power after 2003 elections, Kovač was named Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, and in 2005 Head of Diplomatic Protocol of the Ministry. In 2006, Kovač was appointed to the position of ambassador. From 2008 until 2013 he served as Croatian Ambassador to Germany.

Yannis Alexis Zepos

Ambassador and Former Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Athens

Former Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he is currently Chairman of the Board of the “Citizens Movement for an Open Society” and a Special Advisor to the “ELIAMEP” think tank. During his career, he served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the Department for Balkan, Central and Eastern European Political Affairs and at the Department for Western European Political Affairs. He also served as Director of the Diplomatic Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (2002-2004). Throughout his career, he was appointed for several missions in Cairo, Lisbon, Greece, Madrid, Chicago, Brussels and New Dehli.

Ivan Vejvoda

Permanent Fellow, Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna

Before joining the IWM as a Permanent Fellow in 2017, Ivan Vejvoda was Senior Vice President for Programs at the German Marshall Fund (GMF) of the United States. From 2003 until 2010, he served as Executive Director of GMF’s Balkan Trust for Democracy, a project dedicated to strengthening democratic institutions in South-Eastern Europe. Vejvoda came to GMF in 2003 after distinguished service in the Serbian government as a senior advisor on foreign policy and European integration to Prime Ministers Zoran Djindjic and Zoran Zivkovic. Prior to that, he served as Executive Director of the Belgrade-based Fund for an Open Society from 1998 to 2002. During the mid-1990s, Vejvoda held various academic posts in the United States and the U.K., including at Smith College in Massachusetts and Macalester College in Minnesota, and the University of Sussex in England.

Angelina Eichhorst

Director for Western Europe, Western Balkans and Turkey, European External Action Service, Brussels

She currently serves as Director for Western Europe, Western Balkans and Turkey at the European External Action Service. Since 1996 she has served with the European Union in Brussels, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, where she was EU Ambassador from 2011 to 2015. From 1989 to 1996 she worked in Egypt, Somalia and New York with the private sector, the United Nations, research institutes and non-governmental organisations.

Savo Kentera

President, Atlantic Council of Montenegro, Podgorica

He is the President of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro based in Podgorica. He was elected as Vice-president of the Atlantic Treaty Association at the General Assembly held in Berlin in 2008. Mr. Kentera has been President of the Atlantic Council since 2008, and is a Visiting Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School, UK Defense Academy and at the King's College in London. Before joining the Atlantic Council, he directed the Center for International Relations of Montenegro. He directs also an annual intensive educational program in international security for foreign policy professionals of the region. His fields of interest are international relations, security studies and terrorism in particular.

SESSION 2

Benoît d'Aboville

Vice President, Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique, Paris

Vice-President of the “Fondation pour la Recherche Strategique” in Paris, former Ambassador, Permanent Representative to NATO (2000-2005) and Senior Auditor at the French National Audit Court (2005-2011). During his diplomatic career, he has been posted in Washington, Moscow, Geneva,

Madrid (CSCE) and New York. Since 2014, he was member of the Board and Vice President of the “Institute of International Humanitarian Law” in San Remo and Geneva, and chairman of the editorial board of “Revue de la Defense Nationale”.

Ahmet O. Evin

Founding Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Sabanci University, Istanbul

He had received his B.A. and Ph.D. degrees at the Columbia University. He is currently founding Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and Professor Emeritus at Sabanci University, serving as Senior Scholar and Board Member of Istanbul Policy Center. He has previously taught at Harvard, NYU, University of Pennsylvania (where he was director of the Middle East Center), the University of Hamburg and Bilkent University (heading the Political Science department). He has authored and edited several volumes on politics, culture, and development.

Jelena Milic

Director, Center for Euro-Atlantic Studies, Belgrade

She is Director of the Center for Euro-Atlantic Studies in Belgrade and she is among the most influential political analysts in Serbia and the region of the Western Balkans. She worked as a political analyst and researcher for the International Crisis Group and the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia.

Member of the Forum for International Relations, an invitation only think tank, she maintains, as well, an OP/ED column in a leading Serbian daily newspaper, and a blog on one of the most frequently visited online portal in Serbia. Her areas of expertise are: Serbian security sector reform; Serbia – EU relations; Serbia - NATO relations; Russian influence in the Western Balkans; Kosovo; links between non-violent regime changes, transitional justice and security sector reforms.

Yordan Bozhilov

President of Sofia Security Forum, Sofia

He has earned a Master's degree in Political science and Law. He has been a long-lasting government official in the Ministry of defense while being in charge of the international activity of the Ministry. In 2008 he was Chair of the International Managing board of RACVIAC - Center for Security Cooperation in Zagreb, Croatia. He has been at the head of the political cabinet of the Minister of defense during 2010-2013. Mr Bojilov has been invited as a lector to different forums and has publications in the field of security and defense.

Haakon Blankenborg

Director of Western Balkans Section/Section for South East Europe, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Oslo.

Mr. Blankenborg has been director of Western Balkans Section/Section for Southeast Europe in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2011. From 2010 to 2011, he was the senior adviser for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Previously, he served as a member of the Norwegian parliament from 1981 to 2005, and chaired the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Enlarged Committee on Foreign Affairs from 1993 to 2000. In 2005, Blankenborg left the Parliament to become Norwegian ambassador to Serbia (and Montenegro). He holds degrees in history and political science from the University of Oslo.

SESSION 3

Sorin Ducaru

Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Challenges, NATO HQ, Brussels

In his current capacity, Ambassador Sorin Ducaru is responsible for providing support to the North-Atlantic Council and for advising the Secretary General on the evolution of emerging security challenges and their potential impact on NATO's security. To that purpose, he leads the Emerging Security Challenges

Division of the NATO International Staff. Ambassador Ducaru previously served as Romania's Permanent Representative to the North Atlantic Council (September 2006 - September 2013), and from November 2011 he was the Dean of the North Atlantic Council. From 2001 to 2006, he served as Romania's Ambassador to the United States of America and in 2000–2001, was the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations, in New York.

Louise Shelley

Director, Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center Fairfax, Arlington

She is the Director of the Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center . Her areas of interests cover the fields of human trafficking, transnational crime and terrorism with a particular focus on the former Soviet Union, illicit financial flows and money laundering. She is a recipient of many awards including Fulbright, Rockefeller, Guggenheim and others. Her most recent books include *Dirty Entanglements: Corruption, Crime and Terrorism* (Cambridge 2014) and *Human Trafficking: A Global Perspective* (Cambridge 2010).

Gordana Delić

Director, Balkan Trust for Democracy, Belgrade

She is the Director of the Balkan Trust for Democracy, a project of the German Marshall fund of the United States. Ms Delić has the knowledge of both non-governmental and governmental sectors in the Balkans as well as the knowledge of international donor strategies, programs, procedures and operations in the central, eastern, and southern Europe regions. Prior to her employment at the Balkan Trust for Democracy, Delić worked at Freedom House Serbia. Her international experience includes six years of work on different democracy development programs in Slovakia.

Paul Radu

Executive Director, Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, Bucharest

He is Executive Director of the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, co-creator of the Investigative Dashboard concept and co-founder of the platform RISE Project. He has held a number of fellowships, including the Alfred Friendly Press Fellowship (2001), the Milena Jesenska Press Fellowship (2002), the Rosalyn Carter Fellowship for Mental Health Journalism (2007), the Knight International Journalism fellowship as well as a 2009-2010 Stanford Knight Journalism Fellowship. He won several awards including the Knight International Journalism Award and the Investigative Reporters and Editors Award, the Global Shining Light Award, the Tom Renner Investigative Reporters and Editors Award, the Daniel Pearl Award for Outstanding International Investigative Reporting and the 2015 European Press Prize.

Florian Qehaja

Executive Director, Kosovar Centre for Security Studies, Pristina

He is the co-founder and Executive Director of the Kosovar Center for Security Studies - KCSS (Pristina). He serves as an international consultant on security issues cooperating with leading international governmental and non-governmental organisations. Currently he works as a special advisor for the Countering Violent Extremism strategy to the Director of Peacebuilding and Human Rights Programme of Columbia University, where he attended a post-doctoral (SIPA). As a Fulbright Scholar he is a doctor of science on security studies from the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana. He has graduated at the University of Sussex (United Kingdom) in Contemporary European Studies (MA) as an OSI/Chevening grantee whereas, he obtained Bachelor's Degree in Law at the University of Pristina.

SESSION 4

Zoran Jolevski

Minister of Defence, Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Skopje

Current Minister of Defense of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, he was ambassador to the United States from March 2007 until June 2014. After serving in various capacities in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs -from 1988 until 1999- he founded the Ohrid Institute for Economic Strategies and International Affairs (Skopje). He worked as Vice Chairman of the UN/ECE Committee on Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (2005-2007), as well as a Member of Team of Specialists on Internet Enterprise Development at UN/ECE (1999-2003). He has also authored two books and several articles.

Goran Svilanović

Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council, Sarajevo

He took office as the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council on 1st January 2013. As Serbian diplomat and politician, he previously was Coordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (2008-2012). In November 2004, he became Chairman of Working Table I (democratization and human rights) of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, where he remained until the end of 2007. From 2000 to 2004, Mr Svilanović was Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which was renamed to Serbia and Montenegro in 2003. Between 2000 and 2007, he was a Member of Parliament. Mr Svilanović has therefore worked with a number of organizations and committees, such as the Centre for Antiwar Action (1995-1999), the International Commission on the Balkans (2004-2006) and the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights (2007-2008).

Arian Starova

President, Atlantic Council, Tirana

He is a Board member of Albanian Institute for International Studies, but has full engagements in the Atlantic Council of Albania as well as Institute for the

South East Europe Studies in Tirana. Between 1981-1992 he was a Lecturer of Philosophy at the Faculty of Political Sciences and Law, University of Tirana, Albania and from 1992-1997 he occupied the position of Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Albania. During 1997 (12 March-05 August), he was the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Albania. Between 2001 and 2009 he was a Member of the Parliament of Albania. From 2009 until 2013 Arian served as the Deputy Minister of Defense of Albania.

Brooke Smith-Windsor

Deputy Head Research Division, NATO Defense College, Rome

Deputy Head and a founding member of the NATO Defense College (NDC) Research Division where he covers the Atlantic Alliance's approaches to cooperative security (global partnerships), crisis management (comprehensive approach) and maritime strategy. Prior to his current appointment, Dr. Smith-Windsor was the Director of Strategic Guidance at the Canadian Department of National Defense where he served for 13 years and co-authored Leadmark: The Navy's Strategy for 2020 as well as two transformational defense policy White Papers.

Dimitrij Rupel

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ljubljana

Founder of the Slovenian Democratic Party, Dimitrij Rupel joined the Government and became first Slovenian Foreign Minister (1990-1993). Then, he served as Mayor of Ljubljana and Ambassador to Washington. He was re-elected Foreign Minister from 2000 till 2008, and was responsible for Slovenian memberships in EU and NATO. In 2005, he was Chairman in office of the OSCE. In 2008 he was in charge of General Affairs and External Relations Council of the EU. Minister Rupel has published several literary and academic books - on literature, politics and foreign relations. He teaches at the European Faculty of Law (Ljubljana, Nova Gorica) and the Faculty of State and European Studies (Kranj).

SPECIAL INTERVENTION

Maciej Popowski

Deputy Director General, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, Brussels

Maciej Popowski was appointed Deputy Secretary General of the European External Action Service in 2010. He previously served as Head of Cabinet of European Parliament President, Jerzy Buzek, from 2009 to 2010 and as a Director in DG Development of the European Commission from 2008 to 2009. Mr. Popowski previously had a distinguished career in the Polish Diplomatic Service. He played a central role in Polish accession negotiations, serving as deputy head of Poland's representation to the EU, and, after the 2004 EU enlargement, he served as the first Permanent Representative of Poland to the EU's Political and Security Committee for more than five years.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Vincenzo Amendola

Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy

Mr. Amendola is the current Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. From 2009 to 2014, he has been member of the National Secretariat of the Democratic Party, covering several positions such as Coordinator of Regional Conference of the Democratic Party Secretaries in 2009, PD leader in III Commission for Foreign and Community Affairs in 2013 and Delegate to the Foreign and European Affairs and Relations with the European Socialist Party in 2014.



Balkan Networks and Stability

Background Policy Paper

The Balkan region, broadly considered, is a key element for the stability of the entire continent and beyond. Reality seems to be contradictory; several economic, cultural and political factors determine a context of cooperation but often also of coldness. The legacy of a 25 years' period of deep transformations and changes has seen various phases and is not easy to explain. The present situation looks fragile after the economic crisis, a refugee shock, a loss of international visibility accompanied by the emergence of other priorities.

The end of the cold war entailed a complete revolution of the balances in the region. The transition from a centralized political system to a democratic and pluralistic environment happened incredibly quickly leaving inevitably several issues unresolved. Issues of borders, nationalities, alliances, and interaction with international institutions have influenced the relationship among countries and their position towards external actors.

On the one hand, many in the region invested their resources in the transition towards a democratic and liberal system. This complex and often chaotic process caused several problems and unbalances to be dealt with, but marked an overall positive advance.

During this process the region seemed to have an unambiguous point of reference in what was called the western world, starting with the "open door" policy of the Atlantic Alliance and the European integration process.

On the other hand, it is not to be forgotten that a relevant part of the Balkans had remained involved in catastrophic conflicts involving parts of former Yugoslavia.

Today we seem to be in a situation not yet stabilized and ambiguities remain: a fragile statehood in some cases, the presence of minorities, the difficult control of the borders, the presence of organized crime organizations, and lately the danger of a terrorist presence are all threats to the stability of the region.

The recent phenomenon of the Balkan route of migrants that crossed various countries has put at risk already fragile regional balances both at the internal and at the international level. The illegal border crossing on the Western Balkans route rose from 3.090 persons in 2009 to 764.038 in 2015 and 122.779 in 2016 (FRONTEX data).

While the numbers are undoubtedly very impressive, the reaction by the countries involved highlighted a lack of collaboration and solidarity; each one managing the crisis independently and often following national interests.

Together with the migration crisis, the unsolved problems related to regional fragmentation and uncompleted reforms remain there. With a combination of traditional weaknesses and new threats, like the diffusion of criminal networks dealing with illegal trafficking and smuggling of persons, drugs, and weapons.

A determined and coordinated effort is therefore required in order to defeat permanently this state of affairs.

A new threat jeopardizing the security of the region is the possible diffusion of jihadist radicalism. In the last months, a growing number of foreign fighters was identified, especially in Bosnia - Herzegovina and Kosovo. The fight against the potential spread of terrorism in the Balkans is a demanding challenge for the region that must be supported from the international community, friendly institutions and concerned governments.

In order to face this kind of complexity, a regional network is essential, above all to increase democratic resilience and regional coordination. The interaction with international institutions like UN, NATO, EU and OSCE is fundamental.

The EU has regularly updated negotiations with Serbia, Bosnia - Herzegovina, Kosovo, FYROM, Montenegro in view of an increased integration and future membership. At the same time, NATO countries are completing the ratification process for the access of Montenegro, while continuing talks with Bosnia- Herzegovina and FYROM (where the name issue remains unsolved).

The objective of integration into the European mainstream and the Atlantic Alliance must be pursued and carried on at every level and we must be supportive of this effort.

This why the NATO Defense College Foundation has a special focus on the Balkans: because we strongly believe in this cause and we think that a good reading of facts and a clever analysis of causes can be a valid support in finding the good solutions.

Valerio Cartocci, *Scientific Advisor*



NDCF Conference Concept

The security and stability of Western Balkans, already affected by still unsolved internal problems, has been put severely to test by the consequences of the humanitarian tragedies or the difficult living conditions throughout Europe. In addition, the ongoing massive wave of migrants has essentially left the Balkans to their own devices. Immediate answers have been characterised by measures restricting the freedom circulation of travellers and by divisive political discourses.

The lull in the migration flows adds to a set of enduring challenges for the region: strategic tensions between Russia on the one hand and EU and NATO on the other, organized crime, terrorism and potential further political disintegration and polarisation. The non-state actors that emerged during the Yugoslav dissolution wars are still present and sometimes even more powerful than in the past.

On the other hand, the Balkan region is of strategic importance to the entire continent, it is of a primary importance both to the European Union and the Alliance. We see that the process of integration and reforms is at risk, that Russia is trying to expand its influence, that terrorism may proliferate.

This view is largely shared and therefore we are encouraged to launch a project giving the Balkan region the visibility it deserves at this point in time.

Following this context, the conference is structured into four panels. The first panel discusses on how these troubled countries can be reconnected in a common political discourse and security network within a multilateral context. The second panel will not only sketch the existing regional security landscape marked by criminal networks, small arms proliferation, illegal trafficking and

terrorist groups, but also see how NATO and EU as security providers can better combine initiatives, resources and operations in order to blunt and neutralise these challenges.

The third panel considers Russia's influence, the different national positions and the options in order to deal and negotiate jointly and effectively visa-vis the comeback of this geopolitical actor. The last panel will conduct a critical evaluation of NATO's integration activities and of European enlargement plans in order to take into account the changing political climate within member countries and to plot a new Euro-Atlantic common course.



Balkan Network and Stability artwork – Matteo Marsini

The NATO Foundation

The NATO Defense College Foundation was established in 2011. It grew out from a common intuition of the President Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo and the NATO Defense College top decision makers who understood the value of a non-profit NGO that could work beyond usual and institutional outreach, training, communication and scientific research activities.

While the tradition of stability and well-being is embodied by the principles of the Washington charter, the triple upheavals of the fall of the Soviet Union, the global economic crisis and the Arab Revolutions required a more focussed, agile and innovative approach.

Therefore the NDCF strives at considering relevant issues not just in a descriptive or prescriptive way, but by catching the sense of events and the essential vectors of future developments. In a word: Charting ahead.

Contacts:

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Partners



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Central European Initiative

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Notes