



NATO Foundation
Defense College



Balkan Perspectives Adapting the partnership and integration paths

*Conference organised by
the NATO Defense College Foundation
with the support of the NATO Public Diplomacy Division and the NATO Defense College*

Rome, 16th of May 2019

High-Level Conference

Venue: Aula dei Gruppi Parlamentari, Palazzo Dei Gruppi Parlamentari, Via di Campo Marzio, 78, Rome

16TH MAY 2019

13,30-14,15 *Arrival of participants - Registration*

14,15 *Welcome remarks*

- ❑ **Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo**, President, NATO Defense College Foundation, Rome
- ❑ **Chris Whitecross**, Commandant, NATO Defense College, Rome

Opening remarks

Marta Grande, President, Foreign Affairs Committee, Chamber of Deputies, Rome

14,45-16,00

SESSION 1
BALKAN POLITICS ON THE RAZOR'S EDGE

Two decades after the arrival of KFOR in Kosovo, the Balkan Six have experienced a long peace that has helped healing many of the scars of the war of dissolution. Regional politics are struggling with the paradox of progress, on the backdrop of the ups and downs along the path towards wider integration. In the region are evident risks of authoritarian tendencies and foreign manipulation following a trend "less democracy and more political and economic opacity." How can national societies and governments counter these developments and how can the international community and especially NATO and Partnership for Peace countries assist in an innovative way against hybrid internal and external threats?

Chair: **Haakon Blankenborg**, Director, Western Balkan Section/Section for South East Europe, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oslo

- ❑ **Jelena Milić**, Director, Center for Euro-Atlantic Studies, Belgrade
- ❑ **Zoran Jolevski**, Former Minister of Defense, Republic of North Macedonia, Skopje
- ❑ **Dušan Reljić**, Head of Office, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin

General Discussion

16,00 -16,15 *Coffee break*

16,15 -17,30

SESSION 2
NATO AND EUROPE: THE TORTUOUS INTEGRATION PATH

The prospect of EU/NATO integration remains the main vehicle towards the achievement of regional stability and security. However, the prospective of accession is not sufficient to address all local shortcomings. Montenegro's and Albania's leaderships are put into question, while North Macedonia has to fully overcome the consequences of its past. On the other hand, even if in different ways, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo, risk to be an unfinished job. Conditionality and quid pro quo have been two main suasion instruments, but local elites and societies have difficulties in following this approach.

Chair: **Kai Eide**, Former Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the United Nations in Kosovo, Oslo

- ❑ **Michel Soula**, Head, Operations Section, Operations Division, NATO HQ, Brussels
- ❑ **Maciej Popowski**, Deputy Director General, Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission, Brussels
- ❑ **Ivan Vejvoda**, Permanent Fellow, Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna

General discussion

SESSION 3
SYNERGISING PARTNERSHIPS IN LONG-TERM STABILISATION MISSIONS

As clearly shown by the KFOR mission, NATO's longest and yet most successful, the classic military environment is just part of a more multifaceted co-operative security effort. The Balkan Six are clearly affected by regional threats such as organised crime, trafficking of human beings, corruption, energy security supply and terrorism. Some countries are already NATO members, others are involved in the Partnership for Peace or similar programmes, all need to better co-ordinate resources, efforts and to strengthen regional stability.

Chair: **Søren Knudsen**, Faculty Adviser and Danish Senior National Representative, NATO Defense College, Rome

- ❑ **Ahmet Evin**, founding Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Sabanci University, Istanbul
- ❑ **Paul Radu**, Executive Director, Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, Bucharest
- ❑ **Vladan Joksimović**, Head of Secretariat, Regional Anti-corruption Initiative, Sarajevo

General discussion

END OF THE WORKING DAY

Special thanks to Philip Morris International

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