



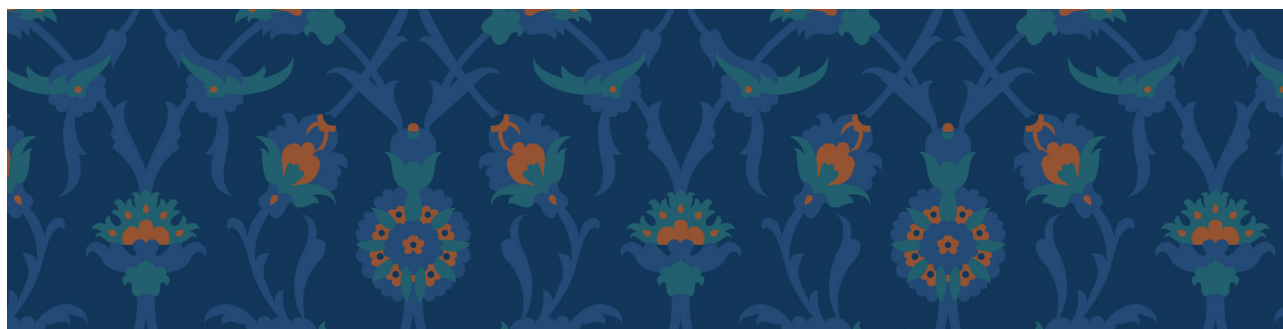
NATO Foundation
Defense College



BLACK SEA AND BALKAN PERSPECTIVES

A Strategic Region

Rome, the 28th of July 2021



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European
Western
Balkans

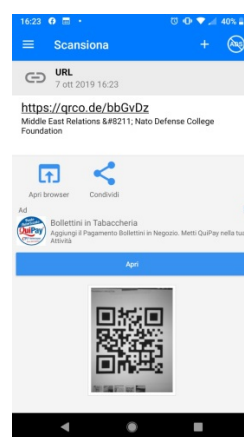
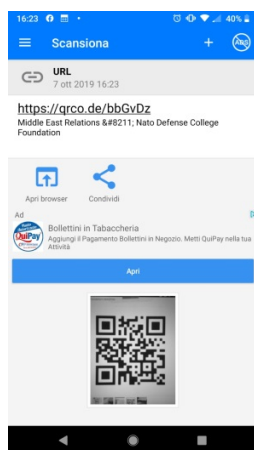


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NATO DEFENSE COLLEGE
ANNIVERSARY
1951 — 2021

BLACK SEA AND BALKAN PERSPECTIVES

A Strategic Region

High-level Conference

Organised by the NATO Defense College Foundation

Under the High Patronage of the President of the Italian Republic

*In co-operation with the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation,
the NATO Public Diplomacy Division, and the NATO Defense College*

Rome, the 28th of July 2021

Venue: Parco dei Principi Grand Hotel & Spa, Via Gerolamo Frescobaldi, 5, 00198 Roma RM

15,00 - 15,30 Participants Registration

15,30 - 15,35 WELCOME REMARKS

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

15,35 - 16,30

SESSION 1

COMPETITION FOR INFLUENCE AMONG GREAT POWERS

Since a long time, the whole area is evidently the object of strategic competition by powers like Russia, Middle Eastern countries and with China quietly structuring multi-bilateral relations with several instruments (FDI, BRI, medical geoeconomics, etc.). At the same time the EU remains the most important economic actor and donor that will carry out its enlargement policy across the next decade.

Chair: **Alexandra von Nahmen**, Chief, Brussels Bureau, Deutsche Welle, Brussels

- **Helena Legarda**, Senior Analyst, China Security Project, Mercator Institute for China Studies, Berlin
- **Dmitri Trenin**, Director, Carnegie Moscow Center, Moscow (Virtual)
- **Amer Kapetanovic**, Political Director, Regional Cooperation Council, Sarajevo

Q&A Session

16,30 – 17,00 Discussion Break

17,00 – 18,00

SESSION 2 THE CHALLENGE OF REGIONAL SECURITY AND INCLUSION

The Balkans and the Black Sea area have some evident concerns, namely the consequences of the illegal annexation of Crimea and the destabilisation of Ukraine, but there is much more than meets the media eye. On the one hand, there are several frozen conflicts that affect regional security from the Adriatic to the Black Sea. On the other, existing and future critical infrastructures need to be protected. The Alliance's versatility and resilience will be essential in preventing future crises.

Chair: **Zoran Jolevski**, former Minister of Defence, Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, Skopje

- **Solomon Passy**, President, Atlantic Club of Bulgaria, Sofia
- **Alina Bârgăoanu**, Member of the High-Level Expert Group on Fake News and Online Disinformation, European Commission, Bucharest (Virtual)
- **Ahmet Evin**, Founding Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Sabanci University, Istanbul
- **Oleksiy Melnyk**, Co-Director, Foreign Relations and International Security Programme, Razumkov Centre, Kyiv (Virtual)
- **Bodo Weber**, Senior Associate, Democratization Policy Council, Berlin

Q&A Session

18,00 – 18,15 Discussion Break

18,15 – 19,05

SESSION 3 ILLICIT THREATS FROM NON-STATE ACTORS

If terrorism captures the headlines, reality on the ground shows that trafficking and organised crime are much more serious and lethal threats, undermining democracy, rule of law, economic development. Moreover, within the grey areas created by frozen conflicts, organised crime tends to network from a safe haven to neighbouring countries. Extending multilateral and regional cooperation, what are the priorities and the most effective choices?

Chair: **Fatmir Mediu**, former Minister of Defence, Government of the Republic of Albania, Tirana

- **Rabië W. Sédarak**, Head, CT Program, Center for Security Research, Skopje
- **Snejana Maleeva**, Director General, Southeast European Law Enforcement Center, Bucharest
- **Walter Kemp**, Director, South East Europe Observatory, Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, Geneva

Q&A Session

19,05 – 19,15

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Piero Fassino, President, Foreign Affairs Committee, Chamber of Deputies, Rome

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BLACK SEA AND BALKAN PERSPECTIVES

A Strategic Region

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

WELCOME REMARKS

Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo

President, NATO Defense College Foundation, Rome

After having served at the Italian Embassy in Washington D.C. and as Commercial Counsellor at the Embassy of Italy in Prague, Ambassador Minuto-Rizzo worked as Head of the External Relations Office of the EEC. In the following years, his career focused on Europe and Space Policy. In 1997 he was appointed Diplomatic Counsellor of the Minister of Defence Beniamino Andreatta, then of his successors Carlo Scognamiglio and Sergio Mattarella. In 2000, Minuto-Rizzo held the position of Italian Ambassador to the Western European Union and to the Political and Security Committee of the EU, of which he was among the founding members. He was Deputy Secretary General of the Atlantic Alliance between 2001 and 2007. His mandate was mostly carried out in the strategic-political industrial area as far as the relations with sensitive countries such as those in the Gulf and the Southern Mediterranean were concerned. His most recent book was “NATO and the Middle East: The Making of a Partnership” (New Academia Publishing, 2018).

SESSION 1

COMPETITION FOR INFLUENCE AMONG GREAT POWERS

Alexandra von Nahmen

Chief, Brussels Bureau, Deutsche Welle, Brussels

Alexandra von Nahmen is Deutsche Welle Brussels bureau Chief. Prior to her current position, she covered the White House during Donald Trump's presidency. She was a member of the White House Press Corps and the president of the White House Foreign Press Group. During her career, she also led the DW reporters' team and worked as Deutsche Welle's senior security correspondent. In that capacity, she reported on the fight against the so-called Islamic State in Northern Iraq and Tunisia and on NATO's Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan. From 2007 to 2012, Ms von Nahmen was Deutsche Welle bureau Chief in Moscow. In 2008, she covered the war in Georgia from both sides of the frontline. In 2014, she travelled to Ukraine to cover the uprising against the regime of Viktor Yanukovych and witnessed the invasion of Crimean and the fighting between Russian-backed separatists and Ukrainian troops. She also worked for CNN in Washington D.C.

Helena Legarda

Senior Analyst, China Security Project, Mercator Institute for China Studies, Berlin

Helena Legarda's research focuses on China's defense and foreign policies, including their domestic sources and drivers, and their geopolitical impact. Dr Legarda coordinates research in the Foreign Relations team at MERICS, and she is also a joint lead of the China Security Project, in collaboration with the International Institute for Strategic Studies. Prior to joining MERICS she gained professional experience at the Delegation of the European Union to China and at research and advisory firm China Policy in Beijing. Dr Legarda holds a Master in Public Policy degree with a focus on International and Global Affairs from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a BA in Chinese Studies from the University of Oxford. She also studied Chinese language at Peking University.

Dmitri Trenin

Director, Carnegie Moscow Center, Moscow

Dmitri Trenin has been Director of the Carnegie Moscow Center since 2008. He joined Carnegie in 1994, after serving in the Russian military from 1972-1993. In 1993, Dr Trenin was the first Senior Research Fellow at NATO Defense College from a non-NATO country. From 1993 to 1997, Dr Trenin held a post as a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Europe in Moscow. He is the author of a number of books, including - in English - "Russia"; "What Is Russia Up to in the Middle East"; "Post-Imperium: A Eurasian Story"; "The End of Eurasia"; and several others.

Amer Kapetanovic

Political Director, Regional Cooperation Council, Sarajevo

Mr Kapetanovic has been working as a career diplomat for more than two decades, serving at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina in different senior ranks. He is currently serving as the Political Director at the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) an inter-governmental organisation based in Sarajevo, where he is in charge of maintaining working cooperation and liaising with 26 countries. He supervises Justice, Home Affairs and Rule of Law portfolio of the RCC - driven regional cooperation, with special emphasis on security cooperation, both in Western Balkans and South East Europe. He has a long experience in journalism as well, having worked as reporter, editor and columnist in leading domestic printed and online media. He was one of the founding members of the Foreign Policy Initiative (FPI), a foreign policy think-tank based in Sarajevo. He is author and co-author of dozens of publications, books and researches.

SESSION 2**THE CHALLENGE OF REGIONAL SECURITY AND INCLUSION****Zoran Jolevski**

former Minister of Defence, Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, Skopje

Professor Jolevski is currently an Advanced Leadership Initiative Fellow at Harvard University and former Minister of Defence of the Republic of North Macedonia. He founded the Ohrid Institute for

Economic Strategies and International Affairs in Skopje. From 1998 to 1999, he worked in various capacities in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. After that, he became Vice Chairman of the UN/ECE Committee on Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development (2005-2007). From 2000 to 2004, Ambassador Jolevski was Chief of Staff to the late North Macedonian (former FYROM) President Boris Trajkovski and served as the Chief Adviser to the Government on World Trade Organization accession. In November 2008, he was appointed the North Macedonian's (former FYROM) Chief negotiator on name differences with Greece. Previously, he served as Ambassador to the United States from March 2007 until June 2014. From June 2014 until May 2017, he was appointed Minister of Defence. Ambassador Jolevski is the Founder and President of the Institute for Strategic Initiatives and Policies.

Solomon Passy

President, Atlantic Club of Bulgaria, Sofia

Dr Solomon Isaac Passy is a Bulgarian scientist, statesman and innovator with a significant career in a variety of fields. He paved the way for Bulgaria's membership both in NATO and the EU, and, as Minister, he signed Bulgaria's Accession Treaties to both organisations. He held a number of institutional and international posts: Minister of the Foreign Affairs (2001-2005); Chairman of the UN Security Council (2002-2003); OSCE Chairman in Office (2004); twice Chairman of Parliamentary Defense and the Foreign Affairs Committees and a member of the Parliament (1990-1991, 2001-2009). Dr Passy holds a PhD in Mathematical Logic & Computer Sciences with still cited publications in world leading journals. Today Dr Solomon Passy is frequent commentator on international affairs, defense and security. He is currently President of the Atlantic Club of Bulgaria, which he founded in 1991.

Alina Bârgăoanu

Member of the High-Level Expert Group on Fake News and Online Disinformation, European Commission, Bucharest

Dr Alina Bârgăoanu is a Romanian communication scholar, Dean of the College of Communication and Public Relations at the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration in Bucharest. She is currently a member of the advisory board of the European Digital Media Observatory, founder and editor of *www.antifake.ro* a fact-checking portal. From October 2018 to March 2019, she was a visiting scholar at Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard University. Since 2018, she has been a member of the High-Level Expert Group on Fake News and Online Disinformation of the European Commission. She has published extensively, both for the Romanian and the English press, on topics related to COVID-19 infodemic, conspiracy theories, public trust and government communications.

Ahmet Evin

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

Professor Evin received his B.A. and PhD degrees at the Columbia University. He is currently founding Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and Professor Emeritus at Sabancı University, serving as Senior Scholar and Board Member of the Istanbul Policy Center. He has previously taught at Harvard, New York University, the 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.

Oleksiy Melnyk

Co-Director, Foreign Relations and International Security Programme, Razumkov Centre, Kyiv

Mr Oleksiy Melnyk is the Co-director of Foreign Relations and International Security Programmes at Razumkov Centre in Kyiv. From 2015 to 2016, he served as the First Assistant to Minister of Defence of Ukraine and worked for Ukroboronservice. He has twenty-one years of military service (Air Force, Lt Col. Ret.) including participation in the UN peacekeeping operation UNTAES. In 1984, he graduated from Chernihiv Higher Military Air Force Academy, was trained in the US in 1993-94 & 2000-2001 and studied international relations and security at the Royal College of Defence Studies in London (2007). His main areas of research are international security, conflict management, national security, defence governance and reforms, and NATO-Ukraine relations.

Bodo Weber

Senior Associate, Democratization Policy Council, Berlin

Bodo Weber is a Senior Associate of the Democratization Policy Council, a transatlantic policy analysis and advocacy group fostering accountability in Western democracy promotion. Mr Weber is one of the leading Western experts on the Western Balkans. He is a longtime analyst of international policy, Western Balkans policy and society and German foreign policy. He also works as a political consultant for political foundations and international organisations in Germany and the Balkans. In the 1990s, he worked as an editor with *Perspektiven* (Frankfurt/Main) journal and served as a board member of the *Bosnien-Büro Frankfurt*. He has published articles and OpEds in various journals and papers such as *Die Zeit*, *Internationale Politik*, *EUObserver* et. al. and regularly appears as a commentator in Southeast European media.

SESSION 3

ILLICIT THREATS FROM NON-STATE ACTORS

Fatmir Mediu

former Minister of Defence, Government of the Republic of Albania, Tirana

Fatmir Mediu is the Head of the Republican Party of Albania. He is a former Minister of Defence and Minister for the Environment. He has been a Member of the Albanian Parliament for four consecutive terms. Mr Mediu served various times as Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Stability Pact and European Integration, as well as a member of the Parliamentary Committees on Foreign Affairs, Security, and Legal Issues. He has lectured at a number of prestigious international academic institutions on international politics, diplomacy and international security. He is also a member of *Parliamentarians for Global Action*, a non-profit organization in New York, and the Executive Committee of the *East-West Parliamentary Practice Project*, an independent organization in Amsterdam.

Rabië W. Sédrak

Head, CT Program, Center for Security Research, Skopje

Rabië W. Sédrak is the Head of Department for Strategic Research at the Center for Security Research in Skopje. After years of experience in the Middle East, he joined the CSR in early 2017 as a special coordinator for the counterterrorism research program, covering South East Europe. His research interests include illegal migration and counterterrorism, with an emphasis on al Qaeda; ISIS; radicalisation; political Islam, and European Security. In 2012, he designed the Balkan Integration and Immigration Program, a tool assisting Balkan countries to integrate and control immigration flows that hit Europe following the Syrian civil war.

Snejana Maleeva

Director General, Southeast European Law Enforcement Center, Bucharest

In 2017, Mrs Maleeva has been elected Director General by the SELEC Council. Before holding this position, since 2011, Mrs Maleeva has been the Director for Legal and Internal Affairs of SELEC for three consecutive terms. She was a Trainer and a lecturer on *acquis communautaire* at the Bulgarian National Institute of Justice and Visiting Lecturer at the Université de Montreal. Prior to that, Mrs Maleeva was the Head of the European Affairs Department in the Bulgarian Ministry of Interior. She worked actively for the accession of Republic of Bulgaria to the Schengen area. Before that, she was Director of the European Integration Directorate at the Ministry of Justice, being actively involved in the negotiations for the accession of Republic of Bulgaria to the European Union. She has received numerous awards.

Walter Kemp

Director, South East Europe Observatory, Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, Geneva

Walter Kemp is particularly focused on GI's work in South East Europe, and bigger picture issues like dealing with the impact of drugs in urban environments as well as the relationship between crime and conflict. Before joining GI – the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime – Mr Kemp was the Head of the Strategic Policy Support Unit at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Between 2010 and 2016, he worked at the International Peace Institute (IPI) where he led the Institute's "Peace without Crime" project. Previously, he served for four years as Spokesman and speechwriter at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). During his tenure at the OSCE, between 1996 and 2006, he also held the posts of Senior Adviser to the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, to the Secretary General and OSCE Chairmanships. In addition to his work at GI, he is a Special Adviser to the Cooperative Security Initiative. He also teaches at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Piero Fassino

President, Foreign Affairs Committee, Chamber of Deputies, Rome

Piero Fassino is the President of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Italian Chamber of Deputies. Elected for the first time in 1994, he was re-elected in all the following legislatures until 2011- when he became mayor of Turin (2011-2016) - and elected again to Parliament in 2018. He is currently also a Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and Vice President of the Political Commission, President of the Italy-France friendship section of the Inter Parliamentary Union. Undersecretary of State for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1996-1998 in Prodi government) and, in the same period, Undersecretary for European Union Policies to the Prime Minister; Minister of Foreign Trade (1998-2000 in D'Alema government); Minister of Justice (2000-2001 in Amato government). From 1991 to 1996 Honourable Fassino held the role of International Secretary of the Democratic Party of the Left. From 2016 to March 2020, he was President of the Socialist Group and spokesman for the Mediterranean at the Congress of Local Authorities of the Council of Europe.



BLACK SEA AND BALKAN PERSPECTIVES

A Strategic Region

BACKGROUND POLICY PAPER

Almost thirty years after the dissolution of Yugoslavia, the wars in the Balkans and the collapse of the Albanian communist regime, followed by years of a complex multifaceted recovery, the Balkan region remains deeply divided and only partially integrated in the Western political, economic and security structures.

The integration into NATO is more of a success story than the EU integration. Currently, Slovenia, Albania, Croatia, Montenegro and the Republic of North Macedonia are part of the Alliance, while the biggest military power in the area, Serbia, upholds its policy of neutrality and is not seeking NATO membership. This is at the same time a major factor of stabilisation but also a cause for tensions, when Serbian interests are involved directly or indirectly, as shown by the turmoil in North Macedonia (then FYROM) and Montenegro before their accession. Bosnia and Herzegovina's membership remains stuck due to the anti-NATO hostility of the Bosnian Serb leadership.

Today, 19 years after Balkan countries were offered a so-called "European perspective" at the Thessaloniki Summit, only two of them managed to become full members of the EU: Slovenia and Croatia. The remaining six are currently faced with the enlargement fatigue domestically and among EU members. The process of integration of Serbia and Montenegro is stalled, also due to a lack of reforms and a deterioration of the democratic institutions. Albania and North Macedonia are still waiting for the opening of accession talks, a reason for an increased disillusion of the local population with regards to the European perspective.

In this scenario, already existing fractures were exacerbated in the past years and in particular during the pandemic, threatening the stabilizing role of the EU, the first trade and political partner of the region. Russia, as an energy superpower, and especially China, reinforced their impact in the region, in particular in Serbia, also by supplying vaccines, trying to increase an influence that was already strengthened in the last decade by supplying credits for infrastructures and energy, a strategy widely used in the area also by Turkey and Saudi Arabia. Moreover, the region remains an area of confrontation between regional and global actors, a limbo where many external actors seek influence also by nourishing ethno-nationalist sentiments.

Risks are exacerbated first of all by the economic crisis provoked by the pandemic, latching upon pre-existing fragility factors among which: the brain drain and the demographic collapse, the rise of semi-authoritarian leaders with an attendant democratic backsliding, the flourishing of organized crime and corruption and a returning nationalism.

The Kosovo issue remains unsolved, despite the renewed engagement of the EU and of the USA. Speculations about the redefinition of borders, circulated this year, confirm the existence of potentially disruptive solutions to the lack of European integration of the countries of the Western Balkans.

That said and for obvious political imperatives, regional leaders have shown some willingness to cooperate more intensively, also through common initiatives such as the so-called 'Mini-Schengen' in the 'Balkan six' and the creation of a common economic market. Nevertheless, the only long-lasting solution for the stability of the region remains the inclusion of the entire Western Balkans in the EU.

For too long perceived as utterly separated from the Balkan Six, the Black Sea is part of the historical Balkan region. It hosts vital critical infrastructure including both energy and cyber links of paramount importance for all countries in the region as well as for Europe.

That area, now considered by Moscow as a "Russian lake" after a decade of waning influence, is also affected by NATO Russia tension, further increased by the Ukraine crisis in 2014. Since then, Russian combat aircraft have periodically intercepted US reconnaissance flights, including close flight manoeuvres deemed unsafe by US officials. Although NATO has intensified its presence in the Black Sea, its initiatives are more symbolic than concrete, more political than military.

The Black Sea has witnessed frequent and close confrontation between Russian and Western military forces in recent weeks. In a major incident in late June 2021, Russia declared that a border patrol ship fired warning shots while an Su-24 bomber dropped four bombs on the path of the UK destroyer Defender, apparently to induce the ship to sail out of Russian territorial waters near illegally annexed Crimea. London denied these waters were territorial and that the ship came under warning fire.

It is evidently a way to assert sovereignty over Crimea also vis-à-vis powers who do not recognise it. Secondly, Russia does not want to have any NATO military presence in the Black Sea and is aggressively harassing any Western ship also in international waters. When Russians captured Crimea, they also captured a lot of oil rigs and gas drilling installations in the Black Sea, which reach up to the Romanian shore, and they are very aggressively policing them.

Given the strategic importance of Ukraine's remaining Black Sea ports, there is a significant risk that Russia may decide to block maritime traffic in order to bring the Ukrainian economy to its knees. This is thought to be militarily feasible. Indeed, Russia already has sufficient warships in the Black Sea to attempt such an operation. Such a Russian escalation would inevitably elicit significant international condemnation. If this would entail a concrete Western blockade breaking action, remains, upon previous experience, an open issue.

The times where the Black Sea could be considered controlled mainly by the Turkish NATO ally and thus a peripheral space are clearly passed, not only for Russia's aggressive stance, but also due to the effects of Chinese investments linked to the great Belt and Road Initiative. China is promoting trade and investments to achieve significant diplomatic and political leverage in the region, besides acquiring footholds for trade, investments or scientific cooperation.

In this scenario, Turkey remains determined to be the region's pivotal power. The discovery of a 320 billion cubic meter natural gas field in the Black Sea by Ankara, as well as the construction of energy

infrastructures and the creation of new Exclusive Economic Zones, are part of a strategy to become an energy hub for the Old Continent.

NATO and the European Union need to reconsider their strategic assumptions in order to guarantee their main objectives of peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

Stefano Giantin

Western Balkans Chief Analyst, NATO Defense College Foundation

Journalist based in the Balkans since 2005, he covers Central- and Eastern Europe for a wide range of media outlets, including the Italian national news agency ANSA, and the dailies La Stampa and Il Piccolo.

Matteo Bressan

Emerging Challenges Analyst, NATO Defense College Foundation

Teacher at the Italian Society for the International Organisation, he is author of various books concerning terrorism and focused on Eurasia geopolitics, jihadism and hybrid wars. International relations professor at LUMSA University.



BLACK SEA AND BALKAN PERSPECTIVES

A Strategic Region

CONCEPT

The Balkan region has been, since the Yugoslav wars of dissolution during the end of the past century, limited just to the Western Balkans and more precisely to the Balkan Six, after a period of rejection of the very term of “Balkans”, considered as ideally outside of Europe. Times are ripe to pick up a more concrete and strategically founded vision of the region: a peninsula delimited by the Adriatic, Aegean and Black seas, whose security is inevitably interconnected and interdependent.

Well-founded historical considerations apart, these countries, notwithstanding their different positions or integration stages in the Euro-Atlantic community, share the same strategic interests: the viability and sustainability of their economies; the demographic decline and youth emigration often due to bad governance; the urgency to recover from the pandemic-induced depression; the need to diversify energy sources, especially the more polluting ones; the threat by organised crime; the importance of a balanced relationship with big external powers like China and Russia and of recovering stability and security in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

The security landscape has been particularly affected by: a negative combination of frozen and active conflicts on the shores of all three seas (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Syria, Transnistria, Ukraine, Georgia for instance); renewed tensions among allies (also on the backdrop of some visible democratic backsliding) and by the effects of an increased global powers’ competition.

The general political climate in the Euro-Atlantic community is marked by a widespread will to rebuild on a better foundation ties that not only are enduring, but that still provide a solid and shared protection, while continuing to project stability. Therefore, the first panel will sketch the evolution of big powers competition in the region and its consequences for the security and prosperity of the region.

The second panel will reconsider NATO’s possible role the area also vis-a-vis regional actors like Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova and NATO allies, taking into account the issues of hybrid operations, freedom of navigation, protection of critical infrastructures against the pandemic backdrop.

Powerful non-state actors, often helped by external organised groups, especially those dealing in trafficking and organised crime, are a distinct threat to the security in the region (arms, drugs, money laundering, migrant exploitation, etc.). The third panel will assess the possibility of an increasingly effective response to the threat, better leveraging regional cooperation fora, that often work already on terrorism.

THE NATO FOUNDATION

The NATO Defense College Foundation, the only existing think-tank bearing the name of the Alliance, was established in Rome 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.

The principles stated in the preamble to the Washington Treaty of 1949 are our heritage.

Our mission is to promote the culture of stability and well-being in the North Atlantic area and in NATO partner nations.

Our aim is to meet the highest standards in contributing to public debate and future deliberations on strategic, security and geopolitical issues.

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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