



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

STRENGTHENING NATO'S DETERRENT POTENTIAL:

The Eastern allied nations and the Alliance's efforts to guarantee their national security and defence

INTERNATIONAL FORUM

**ORGANIZED BY THE BULGARIAN ATLANTIC COMMUNITY
Sofia, 28 September 2018, Ceremonial Hall, Central Military Club**

08:30 – 09:00	REGISTRATION
09:00 – 09:15	WELCOME ADDRESSES: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- On behalf of the organisers, Prof. Todor Tagarev, co-President of the Atlantic Council of Bulgaria, former minister of defence of the Republic of Bulgaria- On behalf of the Minister of Defence, Mr. Anton Lastardjiev, Permanent Secretary of Defence- On behalf of HE Petar Stoyanov, President of the Republic of Bulgaria, 1997-2002
09:15 – 10:30	PANEL 1: POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC ISSUES OF THE NATO BRUSSELS SUMMIT Moderator: Prof. Todor Tagarev <ul style="list-style-type: none">- HE Rosen Plevneliev, President of the Republic of Bulgaria, 2012-2017- HE Emil Christov, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria- HE Éric Lebedel, Ambassadeur de France en Bulgarie- HE Emma Hopkins OBE, UK Ambassador- HE Konstantin Popov, Chair of the Defence Committee of the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria- VAdm Emil Eftimov, Deputy CHOD, Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Bulgaria Discussion
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break



This event is supported by the NATO Public Diplomacy Division.

11:00 – 12:45	<p>PANEL 2: THE NATO’S BRUSSELS SUMMIT DECISIONS AND THEIR ROLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ALIED DETERRENT POTENTIAL IN THE EASTERN AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Velizar Shalamanov, Atlantic Council of Bulgaria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LTG Dimitar Iliev, Deputy CHOD, Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Bulgaria - Col. Darrell Driver, Director of the European Studies Program of the U.S. Army War College - Brigadier General Vasil Sabinski, Director, CIS Directorate, EU Military Staff: “The Vision of the EU Military Staff on the European Defence Capabilities in Eastern Europe” - Dr. Marcin Terlikowski, Polish Institute of International Affairs: “Readiness and Interoperability in North Eastern Europe in the Framework of the Multinational Corps Northeast and the NATO enhanced Forward Presence” - Captain (RO Navy) Prof. Joan Craciun, Head of Department at the National Defence College of Romania: “Readiness and Interoperability in South Eastern Europe in the Framework of the Multinational Division South East and the NATO tailored Forward Presence” <p>Discussion</p>
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch
13:45 – 14:00	<p>Intervention, followed by Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mariusz Kordowski, Cenzin, Poland, “Prerequisites for effective international capability development and defence industrial cooperation”
14:00 – 15:30	<p>PANEL 3: ALLIES AND PARTNERS IN COUNTERING THE HYBRID THREATS AGAINST THE COUNTRIES FROM THE BLACK SEA AND THE ADRIATIC REGIONS</p> <p>Moderator: Major General (Ret.), Dr. Sabi Sabev, Atlantic Council of Bulgaria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Viorel Cibotaru, former minister of defence of the Republic of Moldova - Mr. Bekim Maksuti, Deputy Minister of Defence of the Republic of Macedonia: “Political Pressure in the Hybrid Activities Toolbox” - Mr. Shota Gvineria, Deputy Secretary of the National Security Council, Georgia - MG (ret.) Olexandr Polischuk, “Maidan Zakordonnuh Sprav,” former Director of Ukraine’s NSC Military Policy Directorate & Ukraine’s Military Representative to NATO - Amb. Iliyan Vasilev, Centre for Balkan and Black Sea Studies: “Economic Tools in the Russian Hybrid Aggression Against the European Countries” - HE Alexander Yordanov, Atlantic Council of Bulgaria and former Speaker of the Bulgarian parliament: “Culture and History as Instruments in the Hybrid Activity against Bulgaria” - Mr. Mihail Naydenov, Atlantic Council of Bulgaria: “Strategies to Counter Hybrid Activity” <p>Discussion</p>



15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break
16:00 – 17:30	<p>PANEL 4: THE BULGARIAN POLITICAL CONSENT AND PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR NATO AFTER 14 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>Moderator: Amb. Peter Popchev, Association of the Officers in the Reserve “Atlantic”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Associate Professor Ognyan Minchev, Director, Institute for Regional and International Studies: “Weak Spots in the Bulgarian NATO Membership Communication Strategy” - Associate Professor Momchil Doychev, Atlantic Council of Bulgaria: “The Hybrid Actions Against Bulgaria Aimed at Promoting Ideas on Alternative Options Regarding the Geostrategic Choice Already Made by the Country” - Prof. Yantrislav Yanakiev, Bulgarian Defence Institute, “Public Support for the NATO Membership of Bulgaria – Public Perceptions Dynamics” - Mr. Anastas Stefanov, TREND Research Centre <p>Discussion</p>
17:30 – 17:40	<p>CLOSING REMARKS</p> <p>Prof. Todor Tagarev</p>



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