

PREFACE

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The 1999 NATO Economics Colloquium - one of the main events under the Action Plan 1998-2000 of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council - dealt with the link between economic developments, security and stability in Cooperation Partner countries. This thematic approach - demonstrating NATO's awareness of economic factors in its endeavour of projecting security and stability to Central and Eastern Europe - raised great interest among some 150 experts from academia, business, government and international organisations. A particularly strong contribution was made by members of the Economic Committee of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

The conference, chaired by Mr. Daniel George, NATO's Director of Economic Affairs, was opened by Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Sergio Balanzino. The Keynote Speech was delivered by First Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine, Dr. Evhen Bersheda.

In an introductory session special tribute was paid to NATO's 50th anniversary in 1999, commemorating the development and the rôle of the Economics Colloquium over many years.

The conference subject was broken down into a series of concrete case studies highlighting the link between economy and security. Particular attention was paid to developments in South-Eastern Europe, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and the Southern Caucasus. These are regions where economic development on the one hand and political and social stability on the other hand are particularly intimately linked. Various pertinent issues were discussed such as economic performance and reforms in a broader political and social context, crucial sectoral developments, economic risk factors, regional cooperation and short- and medium-term economic outlook on the eve of the 21st century. In a concluding Panel, an overall assessment on the economic dimension of a comprehensive security concept was made.

A concise overview of the presentations and discussions can be found in the Chairman's Summary. Moreover, an Annex includes a bibliography covering the historical series of 29 Colloquium books.

The book contains all the papers submitted at the Colloquium. In a number of cases papers have been up-dated by authors. I would like to thank Peter Sutcliffe of the Economics Directorate who invested considerable work in preparing this book's publication. I also want to thank Ms Kristina Thony

from Germany for her valuable paper on the Colloquium discussions, which helped us to produce a balanced summary report.

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