



THE KEY TO THE PRAGUE SUMMIT



AN AGENDA FOR CHANGE

Partnership and Cooperation

Key Information

Key Definitions

- Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (**EAPC**) – a multilateral forum where NATO member and partner countries meet on a regular basis to discuss political and security-related issues, including regional issues, arms control, international terrorism, peacekeeping, defence economic issues, civil emergency planning and scientific and environmental issues.
- **Partnership for Peace (PfP)** – a major programme of practical cooperation between NATO and individual partner countries to develop cooperative military relations, enhance interoperability, facilitate transparency in national defence planning and budgeting and ensure democratic control of defence forces, and develop – over the longer term – forces that are better able to operate with those of the members of the Alliance.
- **North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC)** – predecessor of the EAPC – set up in 1991 to encourage dialogue and cooperation between NATO and non-NATO countries in Central and Eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Union.

Key Facts

- The EAPC currently has 46 members¹, comprising 19 NATO member countries and 27 partner countries, each of which participates in the Partnership for Peace.
- The EAPC provides the overarching political framework for the Partnership for Peace. It meets periodically at the level of ambassadors and foreign and defence ministers, and from time to time at the level of Heads of State and Government.
- All EAPC partner countries have missions at NATO Headquarters in Brussels. Most NATO committees and working groups also convene in EAPC/PfP formats.
- Since 1994, the political consultation element of the Partnership for Peace has been strengthened, facilitating greater involvement of partners in PfP-related decision-making and planning. Its operational role has also been developed.

¹ Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan.

Key Dates

- **20 December 1991** – Inaugural meeting of the NACC with the participation of NATO countries and 9 Central and Eastern European Countries.
- **10 January 1994** – Launching of the Partnership for Peace. Publishing of the PfP Invitation and Framework Documents.
- **30 May 1997** – Concluding meeting of the NACC and inaugural meeting of the EAPC.
- **12 September 2001** – The EAPC condemns unconditionally the terrorist attacks on the United States and expresses solidarity with the American people.

Key Documents

- PfP Invitation and Framework Documents, 10 January 1994.
www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/b940110b.htm
- Basic Document of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, 30 May 1997.
www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/b970530a.htm
- Madrid Declaration on Euro-Atlantic Security and Cooperation, 8 July 1997.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/1997/p97-081e.htm
- “An Alliance for the 21st Century” – Washington Summit Communiqué, 24 April 1999.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-064e.htm
- Towards a Partnership for the 21st Century: The Enhanced and More Operational Partnership, Political Military Steering Committee of the PfP, 15 June 1999.
www.nato.int/pfp/docu/d990615g.htm

Key Issues

- The Prague Summit will examine concrete proposals for further developing the PfP and EAPC and intensifying cooperation in order to better serve allies and partners in addressing new security challenges, including terrorism.

More Information

- Birth and Development of the EAPC Idea – comprehensive web module on the EAPC.
www.nato.int/pfp/eapc.htm
- Partnership for Peace – comprehensive web module on the PfP.
www.nato.int/pfp/pfp.htm

Key Quotations

“We have today launched an immediate and practical programme that will transform the relationship between NATO and participating states. This new programme goes beyond dialogue and cooperation to forge a real partnership – a Partnership for Peace. We therefore invite the other states participating in the NACC and other CSCE countries able and willing to contribute to this programme, to join with us in this partnership. Active participation in the Partnership for Peace will play an important role in the evolutionary process of the expansion of NATO.”

From the Partnership for Peace Invitation Document, 10 January 1994.

www.nato.int/docu/basictxt/b940110a.htm

“This Partnership is established as an expression of a joint conviction that stability and security in the Euro-Atlantic area can be achieved only through cooperation and common action. Protection and promotion of fundamental freedoms and human rights, and safeguarding of freedom, justice, and peace through democracy are shared values fundamental to the Partnership.”

Partnership for Peace Framework Document, 10 January 1994, Paragraph 2.

www.nato.int/docu/basictxt/b940110b.htm

“The member countries of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and participating countries of the Partnership for Peace [...] have decided to establish a Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council. In doing so, they reaffirm their joint commitment to strengthen and extend peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area, on the basis of the shared values and principles which underlie their cooperation, notably those set out in the Framework Document of the Partnership for Peace.”

From the Basic Document of the EAPC, Paragraph 1, 30 May 1997.

www.nato.int/docu/basictxt/b970530a.htm

“The Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, as the successor to NACC, will provide the overarching framework for consultations among its members on a broad range of political and security-related issues, as part of a process that will develop through practice. PfP in its enhanced form will be a clearly identifiable element within this flexible framework. Its basic elements will remain valid. The Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council will build upon the existing framework of NATO’s outreach activities preserving their advantages to promote cooperation in a transparent way. The expanded political dimension of consultation and cooperation which the Council will offer will allow Partners, if they wish, to develop a direct political relationship individually or in smaller groups with the Alliance. In addition, the Council will provide the framework to afford Partner countries, to the maximum extent possible, increased decision-making opportunities relating to activities in which they participate.”

From the Basic Document of the EAPC, 30 May 1997, Paragraph 3.

www.nato.int/docu/basictxt/b970530a.htm

“We welcome and endorse the decision [...] to enhance the Partnership for Peace by strengthening the political consultation element, increasing the role partners play in PfP decision-making and planning, and by making PfP more operational.”

From the Madrid Declaration, 8 July 1997, Paragraph 10.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1997/p97-081e.htm

“Through its active pursuit of partnership, cooperation, and dialogue, the Alliance is a positive force in promoting security and stability throughout the Euro-Atlantic area. Through outreach and openness, the Alliance seeks to preserve peace, support and promote democracy, contribute to prosperity and progress, and foster genuine partnership with and among all democratic Euro-Atlantic countries. This aims at enhancing the security of all, excludes nobody, and helps to overcome divisions and disagreements that could lead to instability and conflict.”

From The Alliance’s Strategic Concept, April 1999, Paragraph 33.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm

“The Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) will remain the overarching framework for all aspects of NATO’s cooperation with its Partners. It offers an expanded political dimension for both consultation and cooperation. EAPC consultations build increased transparency and confidence among its members on security issues, contribute to conflict prevention and crisis management, and develop practical cooperation activities [...]”

From The Alliance’s Strategic Concept, April 1999, Paragraph 34.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm

“The Partnership for Peace is the principal mechanism for forging practical security links between the Alliance and its Partners and for enhancing interoperability between Partners and NATO. Through detailed programmes that reflect individual Partners’ capacities and interests, allies and Partners work towards transparency in national defence planning and budgeting; democratic control of defence forces; preparedness for civil disasters and other emergencies; and the development of the ability to work together, including in NATO-led PfP operations.”

From The Alliance’s Strategic Concept, April 1999, Paragraph 35.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm

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“The EAPC provides for interoperability and substantial Partner contributions to all forms of Multinational Peace Support Operations.”

Bjorn Von Sydow, Minister of Defence of Sweden, 7 June 2000.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2000/s000609m.htm

“Today, in four years after the establishment of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, it has become evident that this structure is one of the most successful international innovations of the end of the 20th century in the field of international security.”

Anatoliy Zlenko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, 30 May 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2001/s010530n.htm

“The unique feature distinguishing EAPC from other organisations is its operational nature.”

Girts Valdis Kristovskis, Minister of Defence of Latvia, 7 June 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2000/s020607d.htm

Backgrounder

In May 2002, NATO foreign ministers looked forward to a new, more substantive relationship with partner countries and to intensifying cooperation in responding to new security challenges, including terrorism. They tasked the Council in Permanent Session to continue reviewing the Alliance's partnerships, with a view to presenting Heads of State and Government at the Prague Summit with concrete proposals for further developing the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) and Partnership for Peace (PfP) in order to better serve allies and partners in addressing the challenges of the 21st century.

* * *

The Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council was set up in 1997 to succeed the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC). It brings together the 19 allies and 27 partners¹ in a forum providing for regular consultation and cooperation. It meets at the level of ambassadors and foreign and defence ministers and periodically at Summit level. The EAPC provides a multilateral political framework for the bilateral, individual partnership programmes established between NATO and countries participating in the Partnership for Peace.

EAPC activities complement Partnership for Peace programmes. They are based on a two-year action plan which focuses on consultation and cooperation on political and security-related matters, including regional issues, arms control, international terrorism, peacekeeping, defence economic issues, civil emergency planning, and scientific and environmental issues.

In 1999, the EAPC played a valuable role as a forum for consultation on the crisis in Kosovo. A series of extraordinary meetings was held to keep partners informed of the status of NATO planning and preparations for possible military options in Kosovo and to exchange views on developments during and following the conflict.

An important achievement of the EAPC has been the establishment of the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) at NATO headquarters, following a proposal by the Russian Federation. The Centre was inaugurated in June 1998 as the focal point for coordinating disaster relief efforts of the 46 Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council countries in case of natural or technological disasters. Soon after its inauguration, the Centre became actively involved in the coordination of flood-relief work in western Ukraine. In 1999, the Centre was called upon to support the UN High Commissioner for Refugees by coordinating humanitarian assistance from NATO and partner countries in response to the escalating refugee crisis in Albania and neighbouring countries.

¹ Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan.

EAPC Ambassadors met on 12 September 2001 following the terrorist attacks against the United States and issued a statement expressing solidarity with the people of the United States, condemning unconditionally the barbaric terrorist attacks and pledging to undertake all efforts to combat the scourge of terrorism.

Other EAPC activities include measures to foster practical regional security cooperation through topical seminars such as those held in Georgia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Uzbekistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan. Areas for further practical initiatives can be expected to include global humanitarian action against mines, action to reduce accumulations of small arms and light weapons, and the international fight against terrorism.

The Partnership for Peace

The Partnership for Peace (PfP) is a major initiative introduced by NATO in January 1994, aimed at enhancing stability and security throughout Europe. The Partnership for Peace Invitation was addressed to all states participating in the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC) and other states participating in the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (later to become the OSCE) able and willing to contribute to the programme.

The invitation has since been accepted by a total of 30 countries. The 1999 accession to the Alliance of the three former PfP countries – the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland – brings the current number of PfP participants to 27. The activities which each partner undertakes are based on jointly elaborated Individual Partnership Programmes (IPP).

The PfP programme focuses on defence-related cooperation but goes beyond dialogue and cooperation to forge a real partnership between each partner country and NATO. It has become an important and permanent feature of the European security architecture. It is helping to expand and intensify political and military cooperation throughout the Euro-Atlantic area, to increase stability and strengthen security relationships based on the practical cooperation and commitment to democratic principles which underpin the Alliance. In accordance with the PfP Framework Document issued by Heads of State and Government at the same time as the PfP Invitation Document, NATO undertakes to consult with any active partner if that partner perceives a direct threat to its territorial integrity, political independence, or security.

All members of PfP are also members of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) which provides the overall framework for cooperation between NATO and its partner countries. However, the Partnership for Peace retains its own separate identity and maintains its own basic elements and procedures. It is founded on the basis of a bilateral relationship between NATO and each one of the PfP countries.

The PfP Framework Document includes specific undertakings to be made by each participant. They are as follows:

- to facilitate transparency in national defence planning and budgeting processes;
- to ensure democratic control of defence forces;

- to maintain the capability and readiness to contribute to operations under the authority of the United Nations and/or the responsibility of the OSCE;
- to develop cooperative military relations with NATO, for the purpose of joint planning, training and exercises, in order to strengthen the ability of PfP participants to undertake missions in the field of peacekeeping, search and rescue, humanitarian operations, and others as may subsequently be agreed; and
- to develop, over the longer term, forces that are better able to operate with those of the members of the North Atlantic Alliance.

The Framework Document also states that active participation in the Partnership for Peace will play an important role in the evolutionary process of including new members in NATO. The Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland were active participants in PfP prior to joining NATO. Aspirant countries participating in the Membership Action Plan are also active PfP participants.

The PfP Framework Document commits NATO to developing with partner countries a planning and review process (PARP), designed to provide a basis for identifying and evaluating forces and capabilities which might be made available for multinational training, exercises and operations in conjunction with Alliance forces.

The PARP has contributed significantly to the close cooperation of partner countries in the NATO-led peace operations in the former Yugoslavia. In addition, the PARP is helping to strengthen the political consultation element in PfP and to provide for greater partner involvement in PfP decision-making and planning. The PARP is also a crucial element in helping aspirant countries to prepare for membership of the Alliance.

In 1997, at their Madrid Summit, NATO countries agreed on enhancements to the PfP based on key principles such as inclusiveness and self-differentiation, with a view to developing closer and further-reaching cooperative ties with partner countries. These enhancements were designed in particular to:

- strengthen the political consultation element in PfP;
- provide for greater involvement of partners in PfP decision-making and planning; and
- develop a more operational role for PfP.

Decisions taken at the 1999 Washington Summit, including the approval of a Political-Military Framework for NATO-led PfP Operations (PMF) and the launching of an Operational Capabilities Concept (OCC), gave further impetus to the PfP process. Both measures were aimed at strengthening the operational role of the partnership.

The Operational Capabilities Concept has been developed to improve the ability of Alliance and partner forces to operate together in future NATO-led operations. It establishes a link between normal cooperation in the context of the Partnership for Peace and the NATO force generation process which is activated in a crisis.

With the adoption of the Alliance's new Strategic Concept at the Washington Summit, the Partnership was recognised as one of the Alliance's fundamental security tasks and acknowledged, along with crisis management, as a vital part of the enhancement of security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area.

Subsequent enhancements to PfP include measures to improve training and education efforts, through a PfP Training and Education Enhancement Programme (TEEP), designed to contribute to improvements in interoperability, to promote greater cooperation and dialogue among the wider defence and security communities in NATO and partner countries and to optimise the use of human and other resources.

PfP is making a substantial contribution to NATO's South East Europe Initiative (SEEI), serving as a model for the development of cooperation activities at the regional level. A South East Europe Common Assessment Paper on Regional Security Challenges and Opportunities (SEECAP) has been negotiated among countries of the region to set out their common perceptions of security risks, with a view to promoting an agenda for cooperative actions to deal with regional challenges. A South East Europe Security Cooperation Steering Group (SEEGROUP) has also been established to strengthen practical cooperation.

In the wake of the 11 September attacks, the North Atlantic Council decided that Partnership for Peace mechanisms and requirements should be reviewed in order to maximise their potential in the context of the fight against terrorism. This decision was subsequently endorsed by the EAPC. The ongoing PfP review focuses on how Partnership should be adapted to meet future requirements, including development of the Partnership's ability to respond effectively to terrorism-related security concerns of allies and partners and to support NATO's own efforts in this regard. The resulting adaptation of the Partnership for Peace programme is likely to be an integral and important part of the decisions taken at the Prague Summit. A Partnership Action Plan against Terrorism is also being developed.

NATO and Russia

Key Information

Key Definitions

- **Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security** – a basic document on NATO-Russia relations signed in 1997.
- **Permanent Joint Council (PJC)** – forum established in 1997 under the Founding Act for regular consultation between NATO and Russia on security issues of common concern. The PJC was succeeded by the NATO-Russia Council in May 2002.
- **NATO-Russia Council (NRC)** – Established at the NATO-Russia Summit in Rome in May 2002 as a mechanism for consultation, consensus-building, cooperation, joint decision and joint action between the NATO member states and Russia on a wide spectrum of security issues, including terrorism, crisis management, non-proliferation, conventional and nuclear arms control and confidence-building measures, theatre missile defence, search and rescue at sea, military-to-military cooperation and defence reform, civil emergencies, and new threats and challenges.

Key Facts

- As signatories of the Founding Act, NATO allies and Russia have been working together since 1997 to strengthen security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area.
- The 11 September terrorist attacks against the United States injected new impetus into the NATO-Russia relationship and led to recognition of the need for greater cooperation in dealing with new challenges and threats.
- The NATO-Russia Council serves as the principal structure and venue for advancing the relationship between NATO and Russia. It has replaced the Permanent Joint Council. In the framework of the NRC, NATO member states and Russia work as equal partners in areas of common interest. The NRC is chaired by the Secretary General of NATO.
- Meetings of the NATO-Russia Council are held at the level of foreign and defence ministers twice yearly and at summit level as appropriate. Meetings of the Council at the level of ambassadors take place at least monthly. Under the auspices of the NRC, military representatives and Chiefs of Staff also meet.

Key Dates

- **22 June 1994** – Beginning of Russia's participation in the Partnership for Peace (PfP).
- **13 January 1996** – Deployment of Russian troops in the NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- **22 March 1996** – NATO and Russia sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Civil Emergency Planning.
- **27 May 1997** – Signature of the Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security between NATO and the Russian Federation. Establishment of the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council.
- **28 May 1998** – NATO and Russia sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Scientific and Technological Cooperation.
- **20 February 2001** – Inauguration of the NATO Information Office in Moscow.
- **13 September 2001** – The Permanent Joint Council condemns the terrorist attacks on the United States.
- **3 October 2001** – President Vladimir Putin and NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson meet in Brussels to discuss ways to enhance NATO-Russia cooperation in the wake of the 11 September terrorist attacks on the United States.
- **21-23 November 2001** – NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson visits Moscow to explore possibilities for a new level of partnership between Russia and NATO.
- **6 December 2001** – NATO foreign ministers task the North Atlantic Council in Permanent Session to develop ways to build on the Founding Act with a view to creating a new NATO-Russia Council.
- **7 December 2001** – The Permanent Joint Council, meeting at the level of foreign ministers, tasks ambassadors to explore and develop new and effective mechanisms for consultation, cooperation, joint decision and coordinated or joint action.
- **14 May 2002** – Foreign ministers of NATO member states and Russia approve a document on the creation of the NATO-Russia Council and submit it for adoption and signature by Heads of State and Government.
- **27 May 2002** – Opening of NATO's Military Liaison office in Moscow.
- **28 May 2002** – Heads of State and Government of NATO member countries and the Russian Federation sign the Rome Declaration on "NATO-Russia Relations: A New Quality", formally establishing the new NATO-Russia Council.
- **6 June** – Defence ministers of NATO member states and Russia hold their first meeting in the framework of the new NATO-Russia Council.
- **20 September 2002** – The NATO-Russia Council agrees on political aspects of a generic concept for future NATO-Russia peacekeeping operations.
- **24 September 2002** – Informal meeting of NRC defence ministers in Warsaw.

Key Documents

- Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security, 27 May 1997.
www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/fndact-a.htm
- “NATO-Russia Relations: A New Quality” – Rome Declaration by Heads of State and Government of NATO Member States and the Russian Federation, 28 May 2002.
www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/b020528e.htm
- Statement by the NATO-Russia Council at the level of Defence Ministers, 6 June 2002.
www.nato.int/docu/comm/2002/0206-hq-0206-hq.htm

Key Issues

- Implementation of the Rome Declaration of 28 May 2002. Intensification of cooperation in areas of common concern, including the development of joint assessments of the terrorist threat to the Euro-Atlantic area.

More Information

- NATO-Russia – comprehensive web module on NATO-Russia relations.
www.nato.int/pfp/nato-rus.htm

Key Quotations

“NATO and Russia base their relations on a shared commitment to the following principles:

Development, on the basis of transparency, of a strong, stable, enduring and equal partnership and of cooperation to strengthen security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area;

Acknowledgement of the vital role that democracy, political pluralism, the rule of law, and respect for human rights and civil liberties and the development of free market economies play in the development of common prosperity and comprehensive security;

Refraining from the threat or use of force against each other as well as against any other state, its sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence in any manner inconsistent with the United Nations Charter and with the Declaration of Principles Guiding Relations Between Participating States contained in the Helsinki Final Act;

Respect for sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all states and their inherent right to choose the means to ensure their own security, the inviolability of borders and peoples’ right of self-determination as enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE documents;

Mutual transparency in creating and implementing defence policy and military doctrines;

Prevention of conflicts and settlement of disputes by peaceful means in accordance with UN and OSCE principles;

Support, on a case-by-case basis, of peacekeeping operations carried out under the authority of the UN Security Council or the responsibility of the OSCE.”

From the NATO-Russia Founding Act, May 1997.

www.nato.int/docu/basic/txt/fndact-a.htm

“Russia plays a unique role in Euro-Atlantic security. Within the framework of the NATO-Russia Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security, NATO and Russia have committed themselves to developing their relations on the basis of common interest, reciprocity and transparency to achieve a lasting and inclusive peace in the Euro-Atlantic area based on the principles of democracy and cooperative security. NATO and Russia have agreed to give concrete substance to their shared commitment to build a stable, peaceful and undivided Europe. A strong, stable and enduring partnership between NATO and Russia is essential to achieve lasting stability in the Euro-Atlantic area.”

From The Alliance’s Strategic Concept, April 1999, Paragraph 36.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm

“At the start of the 21st century we live in a new, closely interrelated world, in which unprecedented new threats and challenges demand increasingly united responses. Consequently, we, the member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the Russian Federation are today opening a new page in our relations, aimed at enhancing our ability to work together in areas of common interest and to stand together against common threats and risks to our security.”

“The NATO-Russia Council, replacing the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council, will focus on all areas of mutual interest identified in Section III of the Founding Act, including the provision to add other areas by mutual agreement. The work programmes for 2002 agreed in December 2001 for the PJC and its subordinate bodies will continue to be implemented under the auspices and rules of the NATO-Russia Council. NATO member states and Russia will continue to intensify their cooperation in areas including the struggle against terrorism, crisis management, non-proliferation, arms control and confidence-building measures, theatre missile defence, search and rescue at sea, military-to-military cooperation, and civil emergencies.”

From the Rome Summit Declaration by Heads of State and Government of NATO Member States and the Russian Federation, May 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/b020528e.htm

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“NATO is prepared to change the quality of its relationship with Russia, and Russia is ready for this.”

President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation, 3 October 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/update/2001/1001/e1003a.htm

“What I have found extraordinary and encouraging is the way not just Russia but our NATO partners have embraced the idea of this new relationship in a way again that would have been frankly unthinkable a few years ago.”

UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, 22 December 2001.

www.number10.gov.uk/output/page4163.asp

“We can very clearly see a common threat, a common enemy for perhaps the first time in 60 years – Intensified NATO-Russia cooperation is a central pillar of the global struggle against terrorism.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 4 February 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/update/2002/02-february/e0204a.htm

“I would like to tell women and men in all our countries that what we are achieving here today will guarantee a more peaceful and secure future for them. We are stronger than before, we have done away with the differences between us, done away with the nightmare of two nuclear arsenals facing one another.”

Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy, 28 May 2002.

<http://www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/0205-rome/0205-rome.htm>

“I would like to pay a particular tribute to President Vladimir Putin for his vision and courage in breaking the bonds of old policies and all politics.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 28 May 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020580.htm.

“The NATO-Russia Council offers Russia a path toward forming an alliance with the Alliance. It offers all our nations a way to strengthen our common security, and it offers the world a prospect of a more hopeful century.”

U.S. President George W. Bush, 28 May 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020528e.htm

“NATO and Russia will emphasise what unites them, not what separates them.”

Prime Minister of Belgium, Guy Verhofstadt, 28 May 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020528o.htm.

“The (NATO-Russia) Council will be a success story as long as its existence is filled with substance and mutual trust.

[...] Joined by responsibility and determination to co-operate – NATO and Russia at one table, on equal footing, in the interest of Europe and the world.”

President Aleksander Kwaśniewski of Poland, 28 May 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020528i.htm

“Our generation had intensively experienced the tensions and fears of the Cold War. The collapse of the Berlin Wall and the subsequent development removed these fears. Today we are embarking on a new journey of mutual trust, by completely breaking all walls of suspicion in our memories.”

President Ahmet Necdet Sezer of Turkey, 28 May 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020528j.htm.

“ [...] uniting Europe in freedom, democracy and security is our common endeavour. Making the NATO-Russia Council work is in our common interest.”

José Manuel Durão Barroso, Prime Minister of Portugal, 28 May 2002 .

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020528x.htm

“Today, we are holding our very first meeting at twenty. We hope that our relations with NATO will continue to expand. And our difficult work, which is important to us all, will be built not only on mutual respect, but also on the committed search for new common ground. Only thus can the logic of common interests be transformed into the logic of joint action. And I believe that this is one of the main tasks of the NATO-Russia Council.”

Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, Rome, 28 May 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020528u.htm

“ With the signing of the Founding Act almost exactly five years ago, NATO and the Russian Federation drew the necessary conclusions from the dramatic transformation of the strategic environment after the disappearance of the Iron Curtain and the end of the East-West confrontation. The Founding Act will remain the bedrock of our relations. [...]”

Today, we are going one step further and opening a new chapter in relations between NATO and Russia.”

Gerhard Schröder, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Rome, 28 May 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020528v.htm

Backgrounder

On 28 May 2002, Heads of State and Government of NATO member states and Russia adopted and signed the Rome Declaration, creating the NATO-Russia Council (NRC), a mechanism for consultation, consensus-building, cooperation, joint decision, and joint action on a wide range of security issues in the Euro-Atlantic region. Spurred by the events of 11 September 2001, this decision demonstrates a shared resolve to work closely together as equal partners in areas of common interest and to stand together against common threats and risks to security.

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Building bridges with Russia

Since the end of the Cold War, NATO has attributed particular importance to developing cooperation with Russia, whose involvement is critical for any comprehensive system of European security. A founding member of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council in 1991, Russia joined the Partnership for Peace in 1994 and developed a programme of practical cooperation in specific fields. The basis for the development of a stronger, durable partnership between NATO and Russia was provided by the 1997 Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security, which expressed a joint commitment to build a lasting and inclusive peace in the Euro-Atlantic area.

Under the Founding Act, the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council was created as a forum for regular consultation on security issues of common concern. Its aim was to build mutual confidence and help overcome misperceptions, through dialogue and the development of a substantial programme of security and defence-related cooperation.

A Russian Mission to NATO was established on 18 March 1998 to facilitate communications and cooperation. On 20 February 2001, a NATO Information Office was inaugurated in Moscow to improve public knowledge and understanding of the Alliance in Russia. A NATO Military Liaison Mission was also established in Moscow, on 27 May 2002, to improve transparency and develop practical military cooperation between NATO military authorities and Russia's Ministry of Defence.

One of the most successful areas of cooperation has been the joint commitment to promoting peace and stability in the Balkans. Russian and NATO soldiers have worked together effectively since 1996, both within the Implementation Force (IFOR) and in the subsequent Stabilisation Force (SFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, to support the international community's efforts to build lasting security and stability in the region. Uninterrupted cooperation between NATO and Russia in this crucial field, despite political differences over NATO's 1999 decision to take military action in order to end the conflict in Kosovo, reflects shared goals and joint political responsibility for the implementation of the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords.

Similarly, NATO and Russian forces have jointly contributed to the work of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) established in 1999, following the military campaign undertaken by

NATO to end the violence, ethnic cleansing, and repression of the Albanian minority in Kosovo. Russia played a vital diplomatic role in securing an end to the Kosovo conflict. Its participation in KFOR was the subject of an agreement with NATO signed in Helsinki, following the conclusion of the Military Technical Agreement signed by NATO and Yugoslav military commanders on 9 June 1999 and UN Security Council Resolution 1244 of 12 June, establishing the basis for an international security presence in Kosovo. Russia contributes the largest non-NATO contingent to both SFOR and KFOR.

An extensive programme of cooperation has also led to significant achievements in other spheres. Examples are given below.

Defence-related cooperation

As a result of NATO-Russia cooperation in defence reform, an information, consultation and training centre was established in Moscow on 3 July 2002 to help resettle recently and soon-to-be discharged Russian military personnel. A joint NATO-Russia conference on defence reform was held on 10 October 2002 at the NATO Defense College in Rome.

Civil emergency planning and disaster relief

A Memorandum of Understanding on Civil Emergency Planning and Disaster Preparedness between NATO and the Russian Ministry for Civil Defence, Emergencies and the Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters was signed on 20 March 1996. Its aim is to develop a capacity for joint action in response to civil emergencies, such as earthquakes and floods, and coordinate detection and prevention of disasters before they occur.

Russia actively participates in NATO-led civil emergency planning activities under the Partnership for Peace and has hosted a number of major exercises, seminars and workshops. In 1997, the Senior Civil Emergency Planning Committee, which advises the North Atlantic Council on civil emergency and disaster relief matters, became the first NATO committee to meet in Moscow. In 1997, a joint pilot project was launched on using satellite technology in disaster management.

A Russian proposal led to the creation in 1998 of the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, to help to coordinate assistance among partner countries in response to civil emergencies. The Centre played a key role during the Kosovo refugee crisis.

From 25-27 September 2002, NATO and Russia held their first joint crisis-response field exercise in Noginsk, 70 kilometres outside Moscow. Exercise *Bogorodsk 2002* simulated a terrorist attack on a chemical production facility, involving mass casualties, contamination, collapsed structures, evacuation and a request for international assistance by the Russian Federation.

Search and rescue at sea

The tragic sinking of the Russian nuclear submarine, *Kursk*, on 12 August 2000, led to agreement in December 2000 on a NATO-Russia work programme on search and rescue at sea. Major strides have been made since then in promoting cooperation, transparency and confidence in this area.

Scientific and environmental cooperation

Since the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between NATO and the Russian Ministry for Science and Technology on 28 May 1998, an extensive programme of cooperation has been developed in the scientific and environmental fields. Under the direction of a Committee on Joint Scientific and Technological Cooperation, the programme focuses on three specific areas of particular interest to Russia, namely plasma physics, plant biotechnology and the forecasting and prevention of natural and industrial catastrophes.

The NATO Science Programme has awarded over 1000 grants to Russian scientists. NATO science fellowships and grants support the training of scientists and researchers as well as collaboration between scientists from Russia and NATO countries on specific research projects.

Combating new security threats

Russia and NATO consult regularly on new security challenges, including terrorist threats, the proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and the spread of ballistic missile technology. In the wake of 11 September, cooperation in these areas has intensified.

NATO and Russia have launched a series of cooperative efforts aimed at combating the terrorist threat, including a regular exchange of views between terrorism experts. A high-level conference on "The Military Role in Combating Terrorism", co-sponsored by NATO and the Russian defence ministry, brought together civilian and military experts at the NATO Defense College in Rome on 4 February 2002. A follow-up conference is planned for December 2002.

Anti-terrorism cooperation has also extended to scientific research. A workshop on "Social and Psychological Consequences of Chemical, Biological and Radiological Terrorism" took place in March 2002.

On the basis of the Rome Declaration of 28 May 2002, NATO and Russia have decided to intensify their cooperation further in this area, including through the development of joint assessments of the terrorist threat to the Euro-Atlantic area.

The road to the Rome Summit and the creation of the NATO-Russia Council

The events of 11 September 2001 were a stark reminder of the need for comprehensive and coordinated action to respond to common threats. In a joint statement after an extraordinary session of the Permanent Joint Council (PJC) on 12 September, NATO and Russia called on “the entire international community to unite in the struggle against terrorism”.

On 3 October 2001, Russian President Vladimir Putin and NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson met in Brussels to discuss possibilities for deepening NATO-Russia cooperation. Further high-level contacts paved the way for the initiative, announced by foreign ministers at the meeting of the PJC on 7 December 2001 in Brussels, to give new impetus and substance to the NATO-Russia partnership by creating a new council to identify and pursue opportunities for joint action.

At the meeting of the PJC in Reykjavik on 14 May 2002, foreign ministers approved a joint declaration on “NATO-Russia Relations: A New Quality”, which was adopted and signed by Heads of State and Government and the Secretary General of NATO at the NATO-Russia Summit meeting in Rome on 28 May 2002. Building on the goals and principles of the 1997 Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security, the Rome Declaration establishes the NATO-Russia Council as a mechanism for consultation, consensus-building, cooperation, joint decision and joint action on a wide spectrum of Euro-Atlantic security issues of common interest.

The NRC works on the principle of consensus and on the basis of continuous political dialogue on security issues designed to identify emerging problems at an early stage and to determine common approaches and, where appropriate, the conduct of joint actions. Meetings are held at least monthly at the level of ambassadors and military representatives; twice yearly at the level of foreign and defence ministers and chiefs of staff; and occasionally at summit level.

Both the former NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council (PJC) and the NATO-Russia Council that replaces it were established on the basis of the Founding Act. As distinct from the PJC, which facilitated consultation and exchange of information between NATO and Russia, the NRC provides a more effective and flexible mechanism for joint analysis, joint decisions and joint actions, operating on the principle of consensus.

The work of the NATO-Russia Council focuses on all areas of mutual interest identified in the Founding Act and seeks to intensify cooperation in a number of key areas. These include the struggle against terrorism, crisis management, non-proliferation, arms control and confidence-building measures, theatre missile defence, search and rescue at sea, military-to-military cooperation and civil emergencies. Further areas of cooperation will be identified.

Substantive progress has been made in implementing the goals of the NATO-Russia Council. Meetings of NRC defence ministers were held on 6 June and 25 September 2002. NRC ambassadors have also met and have agreed on the creation of four new working groups in the areas of terrorism, proliferation, theatre missile defence, and airspace management. The Working Group on Peacekeeping established under the PJC has also been carried over into the NRC framework. In other areas in which NATO and Russia have agreed to develop specific action plans, a number of meetings of experts have been arranged.

NATO and Ukraine

Key Information

Key Definitions

- **NATO-Ukraine Charter on a Distinctive Partnership** – a basic document signed in 1997 establishing the partnership between NATO and Ukraine, which asserts NATO's support for Ukrainian sovereignty and independence, its territorial integrity, democratic development, economic prosperity and status as a non-nuclear state.
- **NATO-Ukraine Commission (NUC)** – a forum established in accordance with the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership for discussion of issues of common interest and ways of further developing NATO-Ukraine cooperation.

Key Facts

- NATO and Ukraine cooperate on a broad range of issues, including the campaign against terrorism, political cooperation on regional security issues, civil emergency planning and disaster preparedness, Ukrainian defence reform, peacekeeping and science and technology. Cooperation in these fields has enhanced Ukraine's security and regional stability.
- A NATO Information and Documentation Centre was set up in Kyiv in May 1997 to distribute NATO-related information and to explain NATO's post-Cold War role and the benefits of the Distinctive Partnership to the Ukrainian public.
- A NATO Liaison Office was established in Kyiv in April 1999 to facilitate Ukraine's participation in the Partnership for Peace and to support Ukrainian efforts in the area of defence reform.
- In the wake of 11 September 2001, Ukraine opened its airspace to allied aircraft involved in the anti-terrorist campaign in Afghanistan and made its military transport aircraft available for the deployment of allied troops.

Key Dates

- **8 February 1994** – Beginning of Ukrainian participation in the Partnership for Peace.
- **7 May 1997** – NATO Information and Documentation Centre opens in Kyiv.
- **9 July 1997** – NATO and Ukraine sign the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership.
- **16 December 1997** – NATO and Ukraine sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Civil Emergency Planning and Disaster Preparedness.

- **23 April 1999** – NATO Liaison Office opens in Kyiv.
- **11 October 1999** – NATO and Ukraine sign an agreement to provide civilian training for retired Ukrainian army officers.
- **14 September 2001** – The NATO-Ukraine Commission condemns the acts of terrorism committed against the United States.
- **15 May 2002** – The NATO-Ukraine Commission, meeting at the level of foreign ministers, agrees to take the Distinctive Partnership to a qualitatively new level, including intensified consultations and cooperation on political, economic and defence issues.
- **7 June 2002** – NATO and Ukraine defence ministers pay tribute to the strategic importance of the Distinctive Partnership between NATO and Ukraine and underline their common desire to develop their relationship to a qualitatively new level.
- **9 July 2002** – NATO and Ukraine sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Host Nation Support regarding the use of Ukrainian military assets and capabilities for NATO exercises and operations.

Key Documents

- NATO-Ukraine Charter on a Distinctive Partnership.
www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/ukrchrt.htm

Key Issues

- NATO and Ukraine are working to deepen and expand their partnership and create a strong framework for cooperation. This will include intensified consultations and cooperation on political, economic and defence issues, with a view to raising the relationship to a qualitatively new level.

More Information

- NATO-Ukraine Relations – comprehensive web module on NATO-Ukraine relations.
www.nato.int/pfp/nato-ukr.htm

Key Quotations

“We attach great importance to tomorrow’s signing of the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership between NATO and Ukraine. The NATO-Ukraine Charter will move NATO-Ukraine cooperation on to a more substantive level, offer new potential for strengthening our relationship, and enhance security in the region more widely. We are convinced that Ukraine’s independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty are a key factor for ensuring stability in Europe. We continue to support the reform process in Ukraine as it develops as a democratic nation with a market economy.

We want to build on steps taken to date in developing a strong and enduring relationship between NATO and Ukraine. We welcome the practical cooperation achieved with the Alliance through Ukraine’s participation with IFOR and SFOR, as well as the recent opening of the NATO Office in Kyiv, as important contributions in this regard. We look forward to the early and active implementation of this charter.”

From the Madrid Declaration, 8 July 1997.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1997/p97-081e.htm

“The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and its member States and Ukraine [...] are committed, on the basis of this Charter, to further broaden and strengthen their cooperation and to develop a distinctive and effective partnership, which will promote further stability and common democratic values in Central and Eastern Europe.”

From the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership, 9 July 1997.

www.nato.int/docu/basicxtxt/ukrchrt.htm

“Ukraine occupies a special place in the Euro-Atlantic security environment and is an important and valuable partner in promoting stability and common democratic values. NATO is committed to further strengthening its distinctive partnership with Ukraine on the basis of the NATO-Ukraine Charter, including political consultations on issues of common concern and a broad range of practical cooperation activities. The Alliance continues to support Ukrainian sovereignty and independence, territorial integrity, democratic development, economic prosperity and its status as a non-nuclear weapons state as key factors of stability and security in Central and Eastern Europe and in Europe as a whole.”

From The Alliance’s Strategic Concept, April 1999, Paragraph 37.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm

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“The Alliance acknowledges that Ukraine has an important and even unique place in the European security order. An independent democratic and stable Ukraine is one of the key factors of stability and security in Europe. Its geographical position gives it a major role and responsibility.”

NATO Secretary General Javier Solana, 7 May 1997.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/1997/s970507a.htm

“Ukraine has played a singular role in Eurasia’s past; its ties with NATO can help play a singular role in Europe’s future.”

U.S. Secretary of State, Madeline Albright, 25 May 2000.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2000/s000525i.htm

“Its size and pivotal strategic role make Ukraine a key to ensuring Europe’s long term stability. That is why NATO has consistently sought to assist Ukraine, as it charts its way into the future.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 5 July 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2001/s10705a.htm

“NATO’s modified task, together with its next phase of enlargement and the new format of relations with Russia create, in our view, a favourable atmosphere for advancing our cooperation.”

Anatoliy Zlenko, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, 15 May 2002.

<http://www.nato.int/docu/comm/2002/0205-icl/0205-icl.htm>

“A sovereign Ukraine is a strategic player in forming Europe’s security landscape [...] Our partnership rests on two very basic premises:

First: the process of building indivisible security in Europe cannot be complete without the full inclusion and participation of Ukraine;

Second: a strong commitment to joint values, the values of the Euro-Atlantic community, and a strong commitment to defend these values when they are challenged.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 15 May 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020515t.htm

Backgrounder

Allied and Ukrainian foreign ministers meeting in Reykjavik on 15 May 2002 underlined their desire to take the NATO-Ukraine relationship to a qualitatively new level by intensifying consultations and cooperation on political, economic and defence issues. They tasked the NATO-Ukraine Commission at ambassadorial level to explore and develop new mechanisms and modalities for a deepened and broader relationship, building on the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership, with a view to defining the basis for a reinforced relationship.

* * *

Since the signing of the 1997 Charter on a Distinctive Partnership, cooperation between NATO and Ukraine, in political, military, economic, scientific, civil emergency and other fields, has been a significant factor in consolidating overall regional stability and security. It has also reinforced Ukraine's standing as a key player in the Euro-Atlantic area. The Charter reflects Ukraine's declared strategy of increasing its integration in European and transatlantic structures and is the basis for NATO and Ukraine consultations in areas of Euro-Atlantic security and stability such as conflict prevention, crisis management, peace support and humanitarian operations.

Ukraine established cooperative relations with NATO immediately after its declaration of independence in 1991. It became an active participant in the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (now the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council) and, in 1994, became the first country of the Commonwealth of Independent States to join the Partnership for Peace (PfP). While Ukraine continues to play an active role within PfP, the signing of the Charter signified a new beginning for NATO-Ukraine cooperation and reflected NATO's recognition of the importance of the strategic role of the NATO-Ukraine relationship.

The North Atlantic Council meets periodically with Ukraine at ministerial and ambassadorial levels in a forum established by the Charter called the NATO-Ukraine Commission (NUC). The role of the NUC is to assess implementation of the Charter and to discuss ways to improve or further develop cooperation. The NATO Military Committee also meets regularly with Ukraine at Chiefs of Staff and Military Representatives levels.

The NATO-Ukraine relationship allows for political consultations on security issues of common concern, including cooperation in defence reform, defence industry restructuring, downsizing and conversion, training and assistance to improve Ukraine's interoperability with NATO, the retraining of retired military officers for civilian jobs, training for active-duty officers and scientific and environmental questions.

A NATO Information and Documentation Centre was established in Kyiv in 1997 to facilitate wider access to information on NATO and, in particular, on NATO's post-Cold War role and on the benefits to Ukraine of the Distinctive Partnership. In 1999, NATO also opened a Liaison Office in Kyiv to facilitate Ukraine's participation in the Partnership for Peace and to support Ukrainian efforts in the area of defence reform.

Peacekeeping

Ukraine has contributed significantly to NATO peacekeeping activities in the Balkans, and in 1996 deployed an infantry battalion of 550 soldiers to work alongside NATO member and partner countries in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the framework of the NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR). Ukraine later contributed a mechanised infantry battalion to the Stabilisation Force (SFOR) and made available a helicopter squadron.

Ukraine also made significant contributions to international peacekeeping activities by providing forces for the NATO-led force in Kosovo (KFOR) and by contributing a mechanised company and helicopter squadron. In July 2000, the newly-created Polish-Ukrainian battalion was deployed to the region and continues to make a significant contribution to the NATO-led peacekeeping operation in Kosovo.

Defence reform and military cooperation

NATO-Ukraine cooperation has helped to identify and develop areas in which further adjustments and reforms are required to enable Ukraine to consolidate its role in Euro-Atlantic security structures. A NATO-Ukraine Joint Working Group on Defence Reform has been established to assist in this process by developing realistic, affordable planning targets and timelines based on Ukrainian requirements. Using the PfP Planning and Review Process, this approach allows the clear identification of priorities linked to financial resources.

Activities of the Joint Working Group also include managing the consequences of defence reform, for example by developing a civilian cadre for the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence and on-the-job training for Ukrainian personnel in NATO capitals. As a contribution to the restructuring of Ukrainian Armed Forces, NATO has organised retraining programmes for military officers, including language instruction and courses on the management of defence planning, human resources, and defence conversion.

Another key aspect of defence-reform cooperation is the identification of surplus munitions and weapons for safe destruction. The creation of a PfP Trust Fund in July 2002 is facilitating the destruction of 400 000 anti-personnel land mines.

Combating new threats to security, including terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, is another major challenge confronting the NATO-Ukraine partnership. Ukraine became the first partner country to declare its support for NATO's invocation of Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty in response to the terrorist attacks of 11 September and subsequently opened its airspace to allied aircraft involved in the anti-terrorist campaign in Afghanistan. Ukrainian airlift capabilities also played a crucial role in transporting allied troops involved in the anti-terrorist operations in Afghanistan.

In July 2002, NATO and Ukraine signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Host Nation Support, which will facilitate further military cooperation between NATO and Ukraine.

Disaster relief

Cooperation in the field of civil emergency planning is an area in which extensive cooperation has taken place between NATO and Ukraine. The disastrous flooding in Kharkiv in 1995 highlighted the need to strength cooperation in this sphere. In response to a request from the government of Ukraine, NATO countries immediately sent personnel and resources to the affected area.

Consultations on the substance and extent of cooperation in the field of civil emergency planning has since become a regular feature of Ukraine's cooperation programmes with NATO. In 1997, a Memorandum of Understanding on Civil Emergency Planning and Disaster Preparedness was signed, establishing this as a major area of cooperation between NATO and Ukraine.

NATO and Ukraine have focused their cooperation on the practical dimensions of civil emergency planning through joint planning and exercises, enabling Ukraine to test its resources and apply the expertise gained from past experiences with flooding and with the management of the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe. The overall objective is to strengthen regional self-sufficiency in managing civil crises.

In November 1998, cooperation in this field was again put to the test when heavy rains led to extensive flooding in the Tisa river basin in western Ukraine. NATO and partner countries provided immediate and effective assistance to the flood-stricken area.

Two years later, a major multinational exercise, *Transcarpathia 2000*, was held in Uzhgorod, in western Ukraine, a region which has experienced significant flooding in recent years. Several aspects of disaster relief were tested during the exercise, including reconnaissance, search and rescue, water purification, and dealing with toxic chemicals.

Science and the environment

Ukrainian participation in cooperative programmes under the auspices of the NATO Science Programme began in 1991. Since then, over 500 grants have been awarded to Ukrainian scientists.

Computer networking grants have also helped to improve the level and quality of communications in Ukraine, providing a number of scientific and educational institutions with access to the internet and creating the basic network infrastructure for enhanced research and education in the country. A NATO-Ukraine Working Group on Scientific Cooperation has been set up to identify new ways to intensify cooperation and to foster increased participation in the programme.

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Meetings of the NATO-Ukraine Commission at ministerial and ambassadorial level have continued to focus on practical cooperation in specific areas and to review progress. In May 2002, the Commission decided to explore ways of developing a deepened and broadened relationship between NATO and Ukraine.

The NATO-EU Strategic Partnership

Key Information

Key Definitions

- **European Security and Defence Identity (ESDI)** – embraces measures taken by NATO since 1996 to strengthen the European pillar of the Alliance.
- **Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)** – policy enshrined in the Maastricht Treaty of 1992 adding a foreign policy dimension to cooperation within the European Union (EU).
- **European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP)** – an integral part of CFSP.
- **Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF)** – a military planning concept adopted by NATO in 1994 designed to improve operational flexibility and mobility for NATO's new missions. The concept provides for separable but not separate deployable headquarters that could also be used for European-led operations and is the conceptual basis for future operations involving NATO and other non-NATO countries.

Key Facts

- At the Helsinki Council meeting in December 1999, the EU established a “Headline Goal” aimed at developing by 2003 military capabilities to permit crisis management operations, drawing on NATO assets, in circumstances where NATO itself is not involved. The Headline Goal seeks to develop the capability to deploy and sustain for at least one year a military force of up to 60 000 troops for the so-called “Petersberg tasks” (humanitarian and rescue tasks, peacekeeping tasks, and tasks of combat forces, including peacemaking).
- Both NATO and the EU are acting to improve “operational capabilities”. NATO launched a Defence Capabilities Initiative at the Washington Summit in 1999 and will launch a new initiative at the Prague Summit focusing on essential capabilities needed to accomplish the full range of its missions. The EU has developed a European Capability Action Plan. Actions taken under these initiatives will be mutually reinforcing and transparent.

Key Dates

- **7 February 1992** – Treaty on European Union (Maastricht Treaty) reflects EU agreement on the development of a Common Foreign and Security Policy “including the eventual framing of a common defence policy which might in time lead to a common defence”. The agreement referred to the Western European Union (WEU)

as an integral part of the development of the European Union and requested the WEU to elaborate and implement decisions and actions of the European Union with defence implications.

- **19 June 1992** – The WEU member states adopt guidelines for the future development of the WEU, including the “Petersberg missions”, consisting of humanitarian and rescue tasks, peacekeeping tasks, and tasks of combat forces in crisis management including peacemaking.
- **11 January 1994** – NATO Heads of State and Government agree to make collective assets of the Alliance available on the basis of consultations in the North Atlantic Council, for WEU operations undertaken by the European allies in pursuit of their Common Foreign and Security Policy.
- **3 June 1996** – In Berlin, NATO foreign ministers agree that the European Security and Defence Identity should be built within NATO as an essential part of the internal adaptation of the Alliance.
- **17 June 1997** – The EU incorporates the Petersberg missions into the Amsterdam Treaty, affirms the role of the WEU as an integral part of the development of the European Union and envisages the possible future integration of the WEU into the EU.
- **3-4 December 1998** – At the British-French Summit at St. Malo, France and the United Kingdom agree that the European Union “must have the capacity for autonomous action, backed up by credible military forces, the means to decide to use them, and a readiness to do so, in order to respond to international crises.”
- **11 December 1999** – EU member states establish the “Headline Goal” for EU military capabilities and creates political and military structures including a Political and Security Committee, a Military Committee and a Military Staff. The crisis management role of the WEU is transferred to the EU. The WEU retains residual tasks.
- **19 September 2000** – The North Atlantic Council and the interim Political and Security Committee of the European Union meet for the first time to take stock of progress in EU-NATO relations.
- **21 November 2000** – Defence ministers of the European Union pledge substantial forces to provide military capabilities to meet the EU “Headline Goal”.
- **7 December 2000** – At the Nice Summit, EU member states agree on measures to strengthen European policies on security and defence and establish arrangements for consultation and cooperation between NATO and the EU.
- **30 May 2001** – First formal NATO-EU meeting at the level of foreign ministers takes place in Budapest.
- **19 November 2001** – Creation of the European Capability Action Plan (ECAP).

Key Documents

- Ministerial Communiqué, Berlin, 3 June 1996.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/1996/p96-063e.htm
- Joint Declaration issued at the British-French Summit, St. Malo, France, 3-4 December 1998.
www.iss-eu.org/chailot/chai47e.html
- Washington Summit Communiqué, 24 April 1999.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-064e.htm
- EU Headline Goal – Helsinki European Council: Presidency Conclusions, Brussels, 11 December 1999.
<http://ue.eu.int/newsroom>
- Statement on Capabilities by NATO Defence Ministers, 6 June 2002.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/2002/p02-074e.htm

Key Issues

- The principal issues involved in the further development of NATO-EU relations with respect to crisis management, referred to as the “Berlin Plus” package are the identification of a range of European command options; presumption of availability to the EU of pre-identified NATO assets and capabilities; the adaptation of Alliance defence planning; EU-assured access to NATO assets and capabilities; and NATO-EU consultations in times of crisis. The Alliance is working towards progress on all aspects of the NATO-EU relationship including the need to find solutions satisfactory to all allies on the issue of participation in EU-led operations by non-EU European allies.

More Information

- NATO-EU Relations – background and analysis of the development of ESDI and ESDP.
www.nato.int/docu/handbook/2001/hb0403.htm
- EU Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP).
<http://europa.eu.int/index>
- Presidency Conclusions of the European Council 1999-2002.
<http://europa.eu.int/council/off/conclu/index.htm>

Key Quotations

“NATO is committed to a strong and dynamic partnership between Europe and North America in support of the values and interest they share. The security of Europe and that of North America are indivisible. Thus the Alliance’s commitment to the indispensable transatlantic link and the collective defence of its members is fundamental to its credibility and to the security of the Euro-Atlantic area.”

From The Alliance’s Strategic Concept, April 1999, Paragraph 27.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm

“The Alliance, which is the foundation of the collective defence of its members and through which common security objectives will be pursued wherever possible, remains committed to a balanced and dynamic transatlantic partnership. The European Allies have taken decisions to enable them to assume greater responsibilities in the security and defence field in order to enhance the peace and stability of the Euro-Atlantic area and thus the security of all allies. On the basis of decisions taken by the Alliance, in Berlin in 1996 and subsequently, the European Security and Defence Identity will continue to be developed within NATO.

This process will require close cooperation between NATO, the WEU and, if and when appropriate, the European Union. It will enable all European allies to make a more coherent and effective contribution to the missions and activities of the Alliance as an expression of our shared responsibilities; it will reinforce the transatlantic partnership; and it will assist the European allies to act by themselves as required through the readiness of the Alliance, on a case-by-case basis and by consensus, to make its assets and capabilities available for operations in which the Alliance is not engaged militarily under the political control and strategic direction either of the WEU or as otherwise agreed, taking into account the full participation of all European allies if they were so to choose.”

From The Alliance’s Strategic Concept, April 1999, Paragraph 30.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm

“NATO embodies the vital partnership between Europe and North America. We welcome the further impetus that has been given to the strengthening of European defence capabilities to enable the European allies to act more effectively together, thus reinforcing the transatlantic partnership.”

Washington Declaration, 23 April 1999, Paragraph 6.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-063e.htm

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“The EU has the clout to force European nations to put their money where their mouths are. NATO has been pressing for more European defence spending for years, with little result. It is good to have the EU on our side. [...] For the foreseeable future, Europe’s strategic “independence” is simply not feasible. Not many people may say that, but everybody knows it. Only NATO has the assets and capabilities that are necessary for larger-scale operations.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 4 April 2000.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2000/s000404a.htm

“Duplication is in the interest of neither NATO nor the EU. On the contrary, complementarity between our two organisations must be the rule to create the right synergies.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 29 January 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2001/s010129a.htm

“Without North America [...] Europe cannot find the equilibrium it needs to complete its grand project of unity.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 29 March 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2001/s010329a.htm

“The emergence of a European Union fully taking its place on the international scene is now an historical fact of life. It is also a factor of greater stability. Yet at the same time the transatlantic bond remains essential, for it is the bedrock of the allies’ collective defence. In this context, a European defence capability is both a necessity for Europeans and an asset for NATO”.

President Jacques Chirac of France, 13 June 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2001/s010613c.htm

“The ESDP is emphatically not NATO’s replacement. However effective Europe becomes as a regional or global actor, we cannot expect to make a real difference without regular, close and systematic co-operation with the U.S.

“ [...] NATO is the principal instrument for sustaining the means for European military collaboration with the U.S.”

UK Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, 8 May 2002.

www.fco.gov.uk/news/newspage/speeches

“NATO [...] stands on two feet – one European and one American. Given the advances in European integration the Alliance must say very clearly how it proposes to resolve the issue – whether to come down on one foot or the other or both.”

President Havel of the Czech Republic, 19 May 2002.

www.hrad.cz/president/Havel/speeches/2002/1905_uk.html

Backgrounder

In May 2002, NATO foreign ministers reaffirmed their commitment to achieving a close, transparent and coherent NATO-EU relationship. They stated that the events of 11 September 2001 had underlined the importance of enhanced cooperation between the two organisations on questions of common interest relating to security, defence, and crisis management, in order to meet crises with the most appropriate military response and to ensure effective crisis management. They expressed their determination to make progress on all the various aspects of the relationship, noting the need to find solutions satisfactory to all allies on the issue of participation by non-EU European allies.

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The European Security and Defence Identity

The Alliance's commitment to reinforcing its European pillar is based on the development of an effective European Security and Defence Identity (ESDI) within NATO which could respond to European requirements and, at the same time, contribute to Alliance security. By assuming greater responsibility for their own security, the European member countries seek to create a stronger and more balanced transatlantic relationship, thus strengthening the Alliance as a whole.

The process leading to the development of a European Security and Defence Identity has taken place progressively over a period of approximately ten years.

By the early 1990s, it became apparent that the time had come for a rebalancing of the relationship between Europe and North America and that steps needed to be taken by the European member countries to assume greater responsibility for their common security and defence. European countries embarked upon a process designed to provide a genuine European military capability without duplicating unnecessarily the command structures, planning staffs and military assets and capabilities already available within NATO, while simultaneously strengthening their contribution to the Alliance's missions and activities. Such an approach was seen as responding both to the European Community's goal of developing a Common Foreign and Security Policy and to the need for a more balanced partnership between the North American and European member countries of the Alliance.

The process of developing the European Security and Defence Identity within NATO is an integral part of the adaptation of NATO's political and military structures. At the same time, it is an important contributing factor to the development of European defence capabilities. Both these processes have been carried forward on the basis of the European Union's Treaties of Maastricht in 1992, Amsterdam in 1997 and Nice in 2000, and decisions taken by the Alliance at successive Summit meetings held in Brussels in 1994, Madrid in 1997 and Washington in 1999.

The Treaty of Maastricht included an agreement by the leaders of the European Union to develop a Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) *"including the eventual*

framing of a common defence policy which might in time lead to a common defence”. This agreement referred to the Western European Union (WEU) as an integral part of the development of the European Union created by the Treaty of Maastricht and requested the WEU to elaborate and implement decisions and actions of the European Union which had defence implications. Following the meeting of the European Union, WEU member states also met in Maastricht and agreed on the need for a genuine European security and defence identity and a greater European responsibility in defence matters.

In January 1994, NATO Heads of State and Government welcomed the entry into force of the Maastricht Treaty and the decisions taken by the European Union on security and defence as a means of strengthening the European pillar of the Alliance and allowing the European members of NATO to make a more coherent contribution to Euro-Atlantic security. They reaffirmed that the Alliance remains the essential forum for consultation among its members and for agreement on policies relating to the security and defence commitments made by allies under the North Atlantic Treaty. They also welcomed the close and growing cooperation between NATO and the Western European Union. They further announced their readiness to make collective NATO assets of the Alliance available, on the basis of consultations in the North Atlantic Council, for WEU operations undertaken by the European allies in pursuit of their Common Foreign and Security Policy.

NATO Heads of State and Government also directed the North Atlantic Council to examine how the Alliance’s political and military structures might be developed and adapted in order to conduct the Alliance’s missions, including peacekeeping operations, more efficiently and flexibly and to reflect the emerging European Security and Defence Identity.

As part of this process, the concept of Combined Joint Task Forces (CJTFs) was developed. The CJTF concept is aimed at providing more flexible and mobile forces able to respond to the new demands of all Alliance missions, as well as facilitating the use of NATO assets for operations undertaken by the European Union.

Meetings of NATO foreign and defence ministers in Berlin and Brussels, in June 1996, reaffirmed support for building the European Security and Defence Identity within NATO in order to enable all European allies to make a more coherent and effective contribution to the missions and activities of the Alliance. It would also allow them to act independently while simultaneously reinforcing the transatlantic partnership. Detailed decisions taken by defence ministers in Berlin laid the foundations for future work in this area.

At the Summit Meeting in Madrid in July 1997, NATO Heads of State and Government welcomed the major steps taken with regard to the creation of the ESDI within the Alliance. The North Atlantic Council in Permanent Session was requested to complete its work in this sphere expeditiously, in cooperation with the WEU. By the time of the Summit meeting in Washington in April 1999, that work was essentially completed.

During the course of the next year, significant further developments took place in this context. Most notable among these was the decision by EU and WEU governments that responsibility for the future development of a European security and defence policy and corresponding structures would be assumed by the EU itself. By the end of 2000, the roles and tasks previously assigned to the WEU had thus been transferred

to the EU and arrangements made for handling residual WEU responsibilities in the framework of a much-reduced WEU structure and small secretariat.

At their meeting in Washington in April 1999, Heads of State and Government had set in train work on the further development of the European Security and Defence Identity within the Alliance. Discussions were initiated to address a number of specific aspects, namely:

- means of ensuring the development of effective mutual consultation, cooperation and transparency between the European Union and the Alliance, based on the mechanisms that had been established between NATO and the WEU;
- the participation of non-EU European allies; and
- Practical arrangements for EU access to NATO planning capabilities and NATO's assets and capabilities.

The principles which have formed the basis for further work on the ESDI, set out at the Washington Summit and at subsequent meetings, are as follows:

- The Alliance acknowledges the resolve of the European Union to have the capacity for autonomous action so that it can take decisions and approve military action where the Alliance as a whole is not engaged.
- In taking this process forward, NATO and the EU must ensure the development of effective mutual consultation, cooperation and transparency, building on the mechanisms developed for cooperation between NATO and the WEU.
- Alliance leaders applaud the determination of both EU members and other European allies to take the necessary steps to strengthen their defence capabilities, especially for new missions, avoiding unnecessary duplication.
- They attach the utmost importance to ensuring the fullest possible involvement of non-EU European allies in EU-led crisis response operations, building on consultation arrangements developed within the WEU. Canada's interest in participating in such operations under appropriate modalities is also recognised.
- They are determined that the decisions taken in Berlin in 1996, including the concept of using separable but not separate NATO assets and capabilities for EU-led operations, should be further developed.

The “Berlin plus” arrangements

Based on these principles, these arrangements (referred to as “Berlin plus”), which will respect the requirements of NATO operations and the coherence of its command structure, include issues such as:

- the provision of assured EU access to NATO planning capabilities able to contribute to military planning for EU-led operations;
- the presumption of availability to the EU of pre-identified NATO capabilities and common assets for use in EU-led operations;
- the identification of a range of European command options for EU-led operations and further developing the role of the Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, in order for him to assume fully and effectively his European responsibilities; and
- the further adaptation of NATO's defence planning system to incorporate more comprehensively the availability of forces for EU-led operations.

The origins of NATO-EU relations

Arrangements made for cooperation between NATO and the WEU from 1991 to 2000 laid the groundwork for the subsequent development of the strategic partnership between NATO and the European Union. New impetus for the development of this relationship was provided by the British-French Summit at St. Malo, in December 1998. France and the United Kingdom agreed that the European Union “must have the capacity for autonomous action, backed up by credible military forces, the means to decide to use them, and a readiness to do so, in order to respond to international crises”. They issued a Joint Statement outlining their determination to enable the European Union to give concrete expression to these objectives. This decision opened the way for the adoption of practical measures within the European Union to put it into effect.

In the new climate that prevailed after the St. Malo meeting, further progress could be made. Following the entry into force of the Amsterdam Treaty on 1 May 1999, the European Council met in Cologne in June 1999 and agreed to give the EU itself the means and capabilities needed for the implementation of a common European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). The role previously undertaken by the WEU was progressively assumed by the European Union.

In the intervening period, NATO continued to work with the WEU to complete and implement arrangements to facilitate cooperation between the two organisations in the event of a WEU-led crisis management operation making use of NATO assets and capabilities. Further work was undertaken to refine arrangements for the use of such assets and for information-sharing. Joint testing and evaluation of procedures were undertaken. A joint NATO-WEU crisis management exercise was held in February 2000.

With the transfer of responsibilities from the WEU to the EU, the relationship between NATO and the EU took on a new dimension, reflected in developments within both organisations.

The Helsinki meeting of the Council of the European Union held in December 1999 established a “Headline Goal” for EU member states in terms of their military capabilities for crisis management operations. The objective of the “Headline Goal” is to enable the EU, by the year 2003, to deploy and sustain for at least one year, military forces of up to 60 000 troops to undertake the full range of the so-called “Petersberg tasks” set out in the Amsterdam Treaty of 1997. These consist of humanitarian and rescue tasks; peacekeeping tasks; and tasks of combat forces in crisis management, including peacemaking. Their role will be to undertake military operations led by the EU in response to international crises, in circumstances where NATO as a whole is not engaged militarily.

In addition, the EU decided to create permanent political and military structures, including a Political and Security Committee, a Military Committee and a Military Staff, to ensure the necessary political guidance and strategic direction for such operations. The EU also decided to develop arrangements for full consultation, cooperation and transparency with NATO and to ensure the necessary dialogue, consultation and cooperation with European NATO members which are not members of the EU, on issues related to European security and defence policy and crisis management.

Developments since 1999

The dialogue between the Alliance and the European Union has steadily intensified in accordance with the decisions taken at Washington and thereafter, and in the light of developments within the EU. Meetings of the European Council in Nice and of the North Atlantic Council in Brussels in December 2000 registered further progress. Alliance foreign ministers stated that they shared the goal endorsed by EU member states for a genuine partnership in crisis management between NATO and the EU. Both organisations agreed that consultations and cooperation would be developed between them on questions of common interest relating to security and effective defence and crisis management, so that crises can be met with the most appropriate military response.

In July 2000, NATO and the EU Council Secretariat established an interim security agreement between the two organisations governing the exchange of classified information and both organisations are working towards the conclusion of a permanent NATO-EU security agreement.

In the second half of 2000, Alliance experts began contributing military and technical advice to the work of EU experts on the establishment of a catalogue of forces and capabilities for the EU “Headline Goal”, in preparation of the EU’s Capabilities Commitment Conference held in November 2000.

An exchange of letters took place in January 2001, between the Secretary General of NATO and the Swedish Presidency of the EU, providing for joint meetings at ambassadorial and ministerial levels. Since February 2001, regular meetings of the EU Political and Security Committee and the North Atlantic Council take place. Both organisations are committed to stepping up consultations in times of crisis. The first formal joint meeting of NATO and EU foreign ministers took place in Budapest in May 2001 in the margins of the ministerial meeting of the North Atlantic Council.

Joint NATO-EU Ad Hoc Working Groups have been meeting since mid-2000 to discuss issues such as procedures for the exchange of classified information and intelligence; modalities for EU access to Alliance assets and capabilities; capability goals (including issues relating to the Alliance’s defence planning system); and permanent consultation arrangements.

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Within NATO, work on the principal issues facing the further development of ESDI has continued during 2001 and 2002, in particular the identification of a range of European command options; the presumption of availability of pre-identified assets and capabilities; the adaptation of Alliance defence planning; and NATO-EU consultations in times of crisis.

Cooperation between NATO and the European Union has been developed in a number of fields and specifically in relation to the campaign against terrorism. Direct contacts have increased and, in the wake of the terrorist attacks of 11 September, the Secretary General of NATO participated in the deliberations of the EU General Affairs

Council held on 12 September to analyse the international situation following the attacks. Cooperation between the two organisations has also contributed to the security situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia(*), where NATO is providing security for EU and OSCE monitors of the peace plan. Regular contacts have taken place between the two organisations as well as the OSCE to maximise international support for political reforms in the country and the maintenance of the political process. A joint delegation consisting of the NATO Secretary General, the EU High Representative, the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE and the Supreme Allied Commander Europe visited Skopje on 18 October 2001 for discussions with President Trajkovski and other political leaders.

Discussions of the situation in the Western Balkans have become a regular feature of meetings of the North Atlantic Council and the Political and Security Committee of the EU. Foreign Ministers of NATO and the EU also met in Brussels on 6 December 2001 to review cooperation across the board, and underlined their continued engagement in strengthening the peace process in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia(*) as well as elsewhere in the Western Balkans. Further contacts between the NATO Secretary General and the EU High Representative have continued to contribute to cooperation and, in May 2002, Foreign Ministers of both organisations met again in Reykjavik reaffirming their commitment to achieve a close and transparent relationship.

The situation in southern Serbia has also been the subject of consultations and cooperation, following the need for international intervention in 2001 to defuse the risk of civil conflict in the area and to help to broker a cease-fire. Closer proximity between the Serb and Federal Yugoslav governments and European institutions continues to manifest itself and has been reflected, for example, in the interest shown by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in participation in the Partnership for Peace programme. The strengthening of the political process, for example through the successful conduct of municipal elections in southern Serbia in July 2002, has continued to be a priority concern of both NATO and the EU, each of which has acted to defuse setbacks when these have occurred.

The Mediterranean Dialogue

Key Information

Key Definitions

- **Mediterranean Dialogue** – initiative introduced by NATO in 1994 aimed at creating good relations and better mutual understanding and confidence throughout the Mediterranean, promoting regional security and stability and correcting misperceptions of NATO's policies and goals.
- **Mediterranean Cooperation Group** – established in July 1997 to assume overall responsibility for the Mediterranean Dialogue.

Key Facts

- **Participating countries** – Algeria - Egypt - Israel - Jordan - Mauritania - Morocco - Tunisia.
- **Activities** – The Dialogue provides for political discussions and develops an annual programme for practical cooperation with participating countries focusing on security and defence-related areas, information, civil emergency planning and science.

Key Dates

- **1 December 1994** – NATO foreign ministers declare their readiness “to establish contacts, on a case-by-case basis, between the Alliance and Mediterranean non-member countries with a view to contributing to the strengthening of regional stability”.
- **8 February 1995** – The North Atlantic Council initiates a direct dialogue with Mediterranean non-member countries. Invitations are extended to Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Israel and Mauritania to participate.
- **5 December 1995** – Jordan joins the Mediterranean Dialogue.
- **15 January 1996** – Prince El-Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan visits NATO for discussions with Secretary General Solana in the context of the Alliance's Mediterranean Dialogue.
- **8 July 1997** – The Mediterranean Cooperation Group is established.
- **24-26 February 1999** – NATO Ambassadors and representatives of the Mediterranean Dialogue Countries meet jointly for the first time in Valencia.
- **14 March 2000** – Algeria joins the Mediterranean Dialogue.
- **12 April 2000** – Visit to NATO by King Abdullah II of Jordan.

- **20 December 2001** – Visit to NATO by President Abdelaziz Bouteflika of the People's Republic of Algeria.

Key Documents

- Final Communiqué, North Atlantic Council, 1 December 1994.
<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/1994/p94-116e.htm>
- Mediterranean Dialogue Work Programme 2002.
www.nato.int/med-dial/2002/mdwp-2002.pdf

Key Issues

- In May 2002, NATO foreign ministers announced their decision to upgrade the political and practical dimensions of the Mediterranean Dialogue, *inter alia* through consultations with Mediterranean partners on security matters of common concern, including terrorism-related issues, with the aim of strengthening and giving fresh impetus to the Dialogue by the time of the Prague Summit.

More Information

- The Mediterranean Dialogue – a comprehensive web module on the Dialogue and Mediterranean security issues.
www.nato.int/med-dia/home.htm

Key Quotations

“We reaffirm the importance we attach to developments around the Mediterranean. At our meeting in Athens we encouraged all efforts for dialogue and cooperation which aim at strengthening stability in this region. In this context, we welcome the recent positive steps in the Middle East peace process, which will help remove the obstacles to a more constructive relationship between the countries of the region as a whole. The NATO Summit in January reiterated the conviction that security in Europe is greatly affected by security in the Mediterranean. As agreed at our meeting in Istanbul, we have examined proposed measures to promote dialogue and are ready to establish contacts, on a case-by-case basis, between the Alliance and Mediterranean non-member countries with a view to contributing to the strengthening of regional stability. To this end, we direct the Council in Permanent Session to continue to review the situation, to develop the details of the proposed dialogue and to initiate appropriate preliminary contacts.”

North Atlantic Council Communiqué, 1 December 1994.

www.nato.int/docu/comm/49-95/c941201a.htm

“The Mediterranean region merits great attention since security in the whole of Europe is closely linked with security and stability in the Mediterranean. [...] We endorse the measures agreed by NATO foreign ministers in Sintra on the widening of the scope and enhancement of the Dialogue and on the basis of their recommendation, have decided today to establish under the authority of the North Atlantic Council a new Committee, The Mediterranean Cooperation Group, which will have the overall responsibility for the Mediterranean Dialogue.”

From the Madrid Declaration by NATO Heads of State and Government, July 1997, Paragraph 13.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1997/p97-081e.htm

“The Mediterranean is an area of special interest to the Alliance. Security in Europe is closely linked to security and stability in the Mediterranean. NATO’s Mediterranean Dialogue process is an integral part of NATO’s cooperative approach to security. It provides a framework for confidence building, promotes transparency and cooperation in the region, and reinforces and is reinforced by other international efforts. The Alliance is committed to developing progressively the political, civil, and military aspects of the Dialogue with the aim of achieving closer cooperation with, and more active involvement by, countries that are partners in this Dialogue.”

From The Alliance’s Strategic Concept, April 1999, Paragraph 38.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm

“We applaud the unambiguous stand taken by our Mediterranean Dialogue partners, which have unreservedly condemned these attacks. We reaffirm our willingness to provide assistance, individually or collectively, as appropriate and according to our capabilities, to allies and other states which are or may be subject to increased terrorist threats as a result of their support for the campaign against terrorism”.

NATO Foreign Ministers statement on terrorism, 6 December 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/pr/2001/p01-159e.htm

* * *

“The Mediterranean Initiative [...] reflects the Alliance’s view that security in Europe is indivisible, and that NATO can play a constructive part in enhancing security and stability more widely in Europe and its neighbouring regions through programmes of outreach, cooperation and partnership”.

NATO Secretary General Javier Solana, 10 November 1997.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/1997/s971110a.htm

“As NATO’s policy of engagement and partnership was bringing Europe together, we wanted to send a strong signal to our neighbours: you are part of the whole – we do not want the Mediterranean to become a new divide.

[...] After September 11, NATO and its Mediterranean neighbours can no longer afford to neglect each other. Instead we must redouble our efforts to move closer together – to become real partners in facing real, common challenges, such as terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 29 April 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s020429a.htm

Backgrounder

In May 2002, NATO foreign ministers announced their decision to upgrade the political and practical dimensions of the Alliance's Mediterranean Dialogue with the aim of giving fresh impetus to the Dialogue by the time of the Prague Summit. They made reference in particular to consultations with Mediterranean partners on security matters of common concern, including terrorism-related issues.

* * *

Origins of the Mediterranean Dialogue

The Mediterranean Dialogue is an integral part of the Alliance's cooperative approach to security. It is based on the recognition that security in Europe is closely linked with security and stability in the Mediterranean and that the Mediterranean dimension is an important component of Europe's security structures. The aim of the Dialogue is to contribute to security and stability in the Mediterranean, to achieve a better mutual understanding, and to correct misperceptions about NATO among Mediterranean Dialogue countries.

The Dialogue has its origins in the Brussels Summit Declaration of January 1994. NATO Heads of State and Government referred to positive developments in the Middle East Peace Process as "opening the way to consider measures to promote dialogue, understanding and confidence-building between the countries in the region" and encouraged "all efforts conducive to strengthening regional stability".

At their meeting in December 1994, NATO foreign ministers declared their readiness "to establish contacts, on a case-by-case basis, between the Alliance and Mediterranean non-member countries with a view to contributing to the strengthening of regional stability". To this end, they directed the Council in Permanent Session "to continue to review the situation, to develop the details of the proposed dialogue and to initiate appropriate preliminary contacts". This resulted, in February 1995, in invitations to Egypt, Israel, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia to participate in a dialogue with NATO. Subsequently, invitations were extended to Jordan in November 1995 and to Algeria in February 2000.

The 1997 Madrid Summit added a new and more dynamic direction to the Dialogue by establishing a Mediterranean Cooperation Group (MCG) in which all NATO member states are represented. This is the steering body for all questions related to the Dialogue and its further development.

At the Washington Summit in April 1999, Alliance leaders decided to enhance both the political and practical dimensions of the Dialogue. This created further opportunities to strengthen cooperation in areas where NATO can bring added value, particularly in the military field, and in other areas where Dialogue countries have expressed interest.

The Dialogue has both a political and a practical dimension involving participation in specific NATO activities. The political dialogue involves regular bilateral political dis-

cussions between the North Atlantic Council and the ambassador of each Mediterranean partner country, under the chairmanship of NATO's Secretary General. These meetings provide an opportunity to share views on the security situation in the Mediterranean region, as well as to discuss the current status and future development of the Dialogue itself. Multilateral meetings between the North Atlantic Council and the seven Mediterranean partners are also held to provide briefings on NATO's activities and to exchange views on topical events, usually after each NATO Ministerial or Summit meeting, or when exceptional circumstances arise. One such meeting took place, for example, in October 2001, to inform Mediterranean partners about NATO's response to the 11 September terrorist attacks against the United States, including the decision to invoke Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty.

Practical cooperation

The practical dimension of the Dialogue involves activities in areas such as civil emergency planning, science and information, as well as a military programme. This includes invitations to Dialogue countries to observe and participate in military exercises, attend courses and seminars at NATO schools, and visit NATO military bodies. The military programme also includes in-country training activities by NATO expert teams and port visits to Mediterranean Dialogue countries by NATO's Standing Naval Forces.

The practical dimension of the Mediterranean Dialogue has expanded significantly since it was launched and now covers most activities in which other NATO partner countries participate. In 2001, NATO offered the seven Mediterranean Dialogue countries the possibility of signing an agreement on the protection of information in order to facilitate the exchange of classified information required to participate in certain activities. Several countries have taken up this offer and others are expected to do so in the future.

The development of the Dialogue has been based upon five principles:

- The Dialogue is progressive in terms of participation and substance. This flexibility allows the number of Dialogue partners to grow and the content of the Dialogue to evolve over time.
- It is primarily bilateral in structure. However, it also allows for multilateral meetings to take place on a regular basis.
- The Dialogue is non-discriminatory. All Mediterranean partners are offered the same basis for cooperation activities and discussion with NATO. Dialogue countries are free to choose the extent and intensity of their participation.
- It is designed to complement and reinforce other international efforts to establish and enhance cooperation with Mediterranean countries. These include the European Union's "Barcelona Process" and initiatives by other institutions such as the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).
- In principle, activities within the Dialogue normally take place on a self-funding basis. Financial assistance in support of participation by Mediterranean partners in the Dialogue may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

Decisions were taken by NATO foreign ministers in May 2002 to seek to strengthen consultations with Mediterranean partners on security matters of common concern, including terrorism, with a view to upgrading the political and practical dimensions of the Dialogue in the lead up to the Prague Summit.



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