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THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE ALLIANCE



■ KEY INFORMATION

Seven partner countries officially became members of NATO on 29 March 2004: Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, bringing the **total membership of the Alliance to 26**. They had been invited to start accession talks with NATO at the Prague Summit in November 2002.

Since 1999, they have participated in the **Membership Action Plan (MAP)**, which is a programme designed to help aspiring partner countries meet NATO standards and prepare for possible future membership. Participation in the MAP does not prejudice any decision by the Alliance on future membership, however, it greatly facilitates the process. Currently, Albania, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* are members of the MAP.

In accordance with **Article 10** of the North Atlantic Treaty, the door to NATO membership remains open to other European countries that are ready and willing to undertake the commitments and obligations of membership and who are potential security providers.

FORMAL STEPS TOWARDS NATO MEMBERSHIP

Aspirant countries are expected to participate in the Membership Action Plan to prepare for membership and demonstrate their ability to meet the obligations and commit-

ments of membership. They must then be officially invited by NATO to begin accession talks with the Alliance. Once this invitation is issued, the major steps in the process are:

- accession talks with a NATO Team;
- invitees send letters of intent to NATO, along with timetables for completion of reforms undertaken as part of the MAP process;
- accession protocols are signed by NATO countries;
- accession protocols are ratified by NATO countries;
- the Secretary General invites the potential new members to accede to the North Atlantic Treaty;
- invitees accede to the North Atlantic Treaty in accordance with their national procedures;
- upon depositing their instruments of accession with the US State Department - the depository of the treaty - invitees become NATO members.

RECENT SUMMIT AND MINISTERIAL DECISIONS

- Prague, 21-22 November 2002: Seven partner countries are invited to start accession talks - Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia
- Washington, 23-25 April 1999: Presence, for the first time, of the Heads of State and Government of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland at a NATO summit; Launching of the Membership Action Plan
- Madrid, 8-9 July 1997: Three partner countries are invited for accession talks - Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland.

■ CHRONOLOGY

- 2004 28-29 June:** Presence, for the first time, of the Heads of State and Government of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia at a NATO summit, Istanbul.
- 29 March:** Accession of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.
- 2003 26 March:** Signing ceremony of the Accession Protocols of the seven invitees.
- 2002 21-22 November:** Seven partner countries are invited to start accession talks - Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.
- 1999 12 March:** Accession of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland.
- 1995 28 September:** Publication of Study on NATO enlargement.
- 1994 January:** NATO reaffirms that it remains open to the membership of other European countries.
- 1990** With the reunification of Germany, the new German Länder in the East become part of NATO.
- 1982 30 May:** Spain joins the Alliance (and the integrated military structure in 1998).
- 1955 6 May:** Accession of the Federal Republic of Germany.

1952 18 February: accession of Greece and Turkey.

1949 4 April: signature of the North Atlantic Treaty by 12 founding members: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States.



■ OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS AND BACKGROUND READING

*Go to the electronic version of the press kit for clickable links
(www.nato.int/istanbul2004/presskit.htm)*

The North Atlantic Treaty - or Washington Treaty - the founding document of the Alliance (contains 14 Articles)

<http://www.nato.int/docu/basictxt/treaty.htm>

Study on NATO Enlargement issued by the Heads of State and Government participating in the Meeting of the North Atlantic Council, Brussels, 3 September 1995. The study examines the "why and how" of NATO enlargement (contains six chapters)

<http://www.nato.int/docu/basictxt/enl-9501.htm>

Statement by Heads of State and Government that NATO remains open to the membership of other European countries, 11 January 1994

<http://www.nato.int/docu/comm/49-95/c940111a.htm>

Table providing an overview of the ratification process, identifying those NATO countries that have ratified the protocols and the date of ratification

<http://www.nato.int/issues/enlargement/ratification-e.htm>

Official document on the Membership Action Plan

<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-066e.htm>

Further explanations on the Membership Action Plan (pp. 65-67 of the NATO Handbook 2001)

<http://www.nato.int/docu/handbook/2001/pdf/handbook.pdf>

About enlargement. Issue page containing key information on the theme

<http://www.nato.int/issues/enlargement/index.html>

The road to membership. Detailed information on the different steps toward membership of the Alliance

http://www.nato.int/docu/comm/2002/0211-prague/more_info/membership.htm



■ A FEW FACTS AND FIGURES

NATO MEMBER COUNTRIES (26)

Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States

MAP COUNTRIES (3)

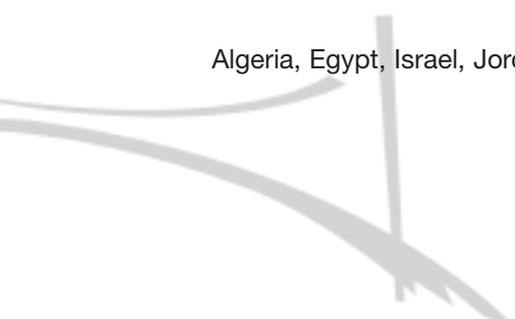
Albania, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*

NATO PARTNER COUNTRIES (20)

Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Croatia, Finland, Georgia, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

MEMBERS OF NATO'S MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE (7)

Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia



Contributions of the 26 member countries to NATO's civil and military budgets and to the security investment programme.

NATO COMMON-FUNDED BUDGETS ADJUSTED COST SHARE ARRANGEMENTS					
	Civil Budget	Military Budget		NATO Security Investment Programme	
Member countries	at «26»	at «26»	at «25»	at «26»	at «25»
Belgium	2.66	3.1364	3.4973	3.1364	3.4973
Bulgaria	0.35	0.3500	0.4063	0.3500	0.4063
Canada	5.35	4.0745	4.9713	4.0745	4.9713
Czech Republic	0.90	0.9000	1.0563	0.9000	1.0563
Denmark	1.41	2.2277	2.4057	2.2277	2.4057
Estonia	0.11	0.1100	0.1277	0.1100	0.1277
France	14.59	13.3368	0	13.3368	0
Germany	15.53	17.8475	20.0207	17.8475	20.0207
Greece	0.38	0.3800	0.4600	1.0000	1.0500
Hungary	0.65	0.6500	0.7629	0.6500	0.7629
Iceland	0.05	0.0400	0.0500	0	0
Italy	5.75	6.8609	7.3856	7.0979	8.8045
Latvia	0.14	0.1400	0.1625	0.1400	0.1625
Lithuania	0.21	0.2100	0.2438	0.2100	0.2438
Luxembourg	0.08	0.1422	0.1508	0.1422	0.1508
Netherlands	2.75	3.5271	3.9130	3.5271	3.9130
Norway	1.09	1.8412	1.9361	1.8412	1.9361
Poland	2.48	2.4800	2.9077	2.4800	2.9077
Portugal	0.63	0.4604	0.5680	0.4604	0.5680
Romania	1.14	1.1400	1.3233	1.1400	1.3233
Slovakia	0.46	0.4600	0.5340	0.4600	0.5340
Slovenia	0.26	0.2600	0.3018	0.2600	0.3018
Spain	3.50	3.3760	3.9812	3.3760	3.9812
Turkey	1.59	1.2627	1.5085	1.2627	1.5085
United Kingdom	16.13	12.2438	14.6572	12.2438	14.6572
United States	21.81	22.5428	26.6683	21.7258	24.7094
	100.00	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000	100.0000

Defence expenditures of NATO member countries (1980-2003) <http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2003/p03-146e.htm>

Video interviews with the Ambassadors of the seven invitee countries during the accession process.

Questions: What does your country bring to NATO? In what way will you contribute to the new military structures and missions of the Alliance?

• **BULGARIA**

Transcript of video interview with Ambassador Emil Valev, Head of the Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria at NATO HQ

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2003/s031027a.htm

• **ESTONIA**

Transcript of video interview with Ambassador Harri Tiido, Head of the Mission of the Republic of Estonia to NATO

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2003/s031027b.htm

Estonia's contribution to NATO

www.vm.ee/eng/nato/kat_359/4245.html

• **LATVIA**

Transcript of video interview with Ambassador Imants Liegis, Head of the Mission of Latvia to NATO

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2004/s040109a.htm

Latvia's contribution to NATO

www.nato.int/invitees2004/latvia/capabilities.htm

• **LITHUANIA**

Transcript of video interview with Ambassador Ginte Damusis, Head of the Mission of the Republic of Lithuania to NATO

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2004/s040116b.htm

Operations abroad: Lithuanian military deployments

www.nato.int/invitees2004/lithuania/ops.htm

- **ROMANIA**

Transcript of video interview with Ambassador Bogdan Mazuru,
Head of the Mission of Romania to NATO

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2004/s040109b.htm

- **SLOVAKIA**

Transcript of video interview with Ambassador Igor Slobodnik,
Head of the Mission of the Slovak Republic to NATO

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2004/s040116a.htm

Slovakia's engagement for peace in the world

www.nato.int/invitees2004/slovakia/peace.htm

- **SLOVENIA**

Transcript of video interview with Ambassador Matjaz Šinkovec,
Head of the Mission of Slovenia to NATO

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2004/s040119a.htm

