

11 NATO-RUSSIA RELATIONS



■ KEY INFORMATION

The **NATO-Russia Council** (NRC) is the principal mechanism for NATO-Russia cooperation. In that forum, NATO Allies and Russia participate as equal members and develop cooperation in different areas of common interest.

In the framework of the NRC, NATO Allies and Russia are developing a continuous political dialogue on current security issues. Constructive exchanges have taken place in this area, including discussions on the situation in the Balkans, Afghanistan, Georgia, the Mediterranean and the wider region, concept and the threat posed by Afghan narcotics to the Euro-Atlantic area. The NRC is also looking at ways to translate political dialogue into concrete political initiatives.

The NRC has also achieved serious progress in practical cooperation. Key areas of cooperation include the fight against terrorism, crisis management, theatre missile defence, non-proliferation, military-to-military cooperation and defence reform. Russia also cooperates with NATO in airspace management, civil emergency planning, scientific cooperation and environmental security.

Regarding **the fight against terrorism**, cooperation has taken the form of regular exchanges of information, in-depth consultation, joint threat assessments, civil emergency planning for terrorist attacks, and the exploration of the role of the military in combating terrorism. NATO Allies and Russia also cooperate in areas indirectly related to terrorism such as border control, non proliferation, air-

space management, nuclear safety etc. Workshops and high-level conferences have also been held on the military's role from which concrete proposals for cooperation are drawn. The third, and most recent one, took place in Norfolk, Virginia on 5 April 2004.

Intensive cooperation is underway also in the area of crisis management. The NATO-Russia Council is currently developing a **generic concept for joint peacekeeping operations**. Up to 2003, Russia contributed the largest non-NATO contingent to the NATO-led peacekeeping forces in the Balkans. It has offered to provide support in Afghanistan, which NATO is considering. Russia participates in PfP military exercises and Russian officers cooperate with NATO officers within the Partnership Coordination Cell at the Supreme Allied Command Europe, Mons.

In the area of **theatre missile defence**, a study was launched in 2003 to assess the possible levels of interoperability among the theatre missile defence systems of NATO Allies and Russia. Both parties are also looking into the protection against the use by terrorists of ballistic missile technology and nuclear, biological and chemical agents. Work continues on developing procedures for cooperation in crisis response operations.

NATO Allies and Russia are preparing a joint assessment of global trends in the **proliferation of weapons of mass destruction** and their means of delivery and will set up further joint projects. A workshop was held, 11-13 December 2003, in Poland to explore opportunities for practical cooperation in the protection against chemical and biological weapons.

In view of possible joint operations, the NATO-Russia Council is also running a programme to develop **interoperability** between NATO and Russian forces. Potential areas of cooperation in this field include training and exercises, logistics cooperation, and

search and rescue at sea. A framework agreement on cooperation in search and rescue at sea was signed in February 2003. NATO and Russia are also expected to conclude soon a Status of Forces Agreement in the framework of the PfP. A Russian Military Branch Office of the Russian Mission to NATO, together with the enhanced NATO Military Liaison Mission in Moscow, will contribute to further improving liaison and coordination between NATO and the Russian military leadership.

A number of initiatives have also been launched in the area of **defence reform** to focus on the management of human and financial resources, macro-economic, financial and social issues, and force planning. An illustration of this is the opening of a centre for the retraining of retired military officers in July 2002, which has since been expanded.

The Allies and Russia do not always agree on everything and differences remain on some issues, such as NATO's enlargement process and possible stationing of foreign forces in the territory of new member states, the CFE Treaty, the OSCE Istanbul Summit commitments by Russia vis-à-vis Georgia and Moldova, and Chechnya. However, the driving force behind the new spirit of cooperation is the realisation that they share strategic priorities and face common challenges.

RECENT SUMMIT AND MINISTERIAL DECISIONS

- 28 May 2002: Creation of the NATO-Russia Council, in Rome
- 27 May 1997: In Paris, signing of the Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security between NATO and the Russian Federation

■ CHRONOLOGY

2004 7 April: Signing of agreements in Moscow establishing Russian military liaison offices at Allied Command Operations in Mons, Belgium, and Allied Command Transformation in Norfolk, Virginia, United States.

6 April: Third high-level NATO-Russia conference on the role of the military in combating terrorism, Norfolk, Virginia.

8-12 March: First joint NATO-Russia Council Theatre Missile Defence computer-assisted exercise in Colorado Springs, Colorado, US.

12 January: NATO Secretary General, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, makes first call on hotline set up with Russian Defence Minister, Sergey Ivanov.

2003 23 July: NRC Statement on defence reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2 July: Russian troops leave the NATO-led force - KFOR - in Kosovo.

14 June: Russian troops leave the NATO-led force - SFOR - in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

13 May: First meeting of the NATO-Russia Council in Moscow.

22 April: The NATO-Russia Centre for the Retraining of Discharged Military Personnel, Moscow State University of Economics, Statistics and Informatics, expands into the regions.

2002 9 December: Second high-level NATO-Russia conference on the role of the military in combating terrorism, Moscow.

25-27 September: NATO and Russia hold a civil emergency exercise in Noginsk, Russia.

- 20 September:** The NATO-Russia Council agrees on political aspects of a generic concept for future NATO-Russia peacekeeping operations.
- 2 July:** Opening of a joint NATO-Russia centre to help discharged Russian military personnel return to civilian life.
- 28 May:** Signing of the Rome Declaration on "NATO-Russia Relations: A New Quality", formally establishing the new NATO-Russia Council.
- 27 May:** Opening of NATO's Military Liaison office in Moscow; 5th anniversary of the signing of the Founding Act.
- 8 February:** NATO and Russia sign a submarine rescue agreement.
- 4 February:** First high-level NATO-Russia conference on the role of the military in combating terrorism, Rome.
- 2001** **6-7 December:** Foreign ministers at the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council decide to create a new council by May 2002.
- 21-23 November:** NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson visits Moscow.
- 3 October:** President Putin and Secretary General Lord Robertson meet in Brussels to discuss ways to enhance NATO-Russia cooperation in the wake of the 11 September terrorist attacks against the US.
- 13 September:** The NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council condemns the terrorist attacks on the US.
- 20 February:** Inauguration of the NATO Information Office in Moscow.
- 2000** **12 August:** Sinking of the Russian submarine, "Kursk"
- 15-16 February:** NATO Secretary General, Lord Robertson, visits Moscow.

- January:** Putin succeeds Yeltsin as President of the Russian Federation.
- 1999** Moscow ceases cooperation with NATO in a number of areas because of the Kosovo campaign.
- 1998** **3 June:** Inauguration of NATO's Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre, of which Russia is one of the initiators.
- February:** Opening of the first NATO Documentation Centre in Moscow.
- 28 May:** NATO and Russia sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Scientific and Technological Cooperation.
- 1997** **27 May:** Signing of the Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security between NATO and the Russian Federation, acknowledging that they are no longer adversaries and marking the beginning of a new era in relations.
- 1996** **20 March:** Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Civil Emergency Planning between NATO and Russia.
- 20-21 March:** NATO Secretary General Javier Solana visits Moscow.
- 13 January:** Deployment of Russian troops in support of the NATO-led force - IFOR - in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- 1995** **31 May:** Russia formally accepts the Individual Partnership Programme at a meeting of foreign ministers in Noordwijk, the Netherlands.



- 1994 22 June:** Beginning of Russia's participation in the Partnership for Peace (PfP).
- 1993 Spring:** SACEUR visits Moscow and agrees a specific cooperation programme with the Russian MoD.
- 1992 24-25 February:** First visit of a NATO Secretary General - Manfred Wörner - to Moscow.
- 1991 20 December:** Inauguration of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council with the participation of 25 countries, including Russia.
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■ OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS AND BACKGROUND READING

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

Statement by ministers of defence at the NATO-Russia Council meeting, 1 December 2003, outlining areas of cooperation
<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2003/p031201e.htm>

NATO-Russia Council statement on defence reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 23 July 2003
<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2003/p030723be.htm>

The NATO-Russia Summit in Rome - basic texts and other related documents, 28 May 2002
<http://www.nato.int/docu/comm/2002/0205-rome/0205-rome.htm>

Statement by the NATO-Russia Council at the level of Defence Ministers, listing different areas of cooperation, 6 June 2002
<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2002/p020606e.htm>

Foreign Ministers at the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council decide to create a new council, 6-7 December 2001
<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2001/p011207e.htm>

The NATO-Russia Summit in Paris - basic texts (including the Founding Act itself) and other related information such as the evolution of NATO-Russia relations, 27 May 1997
<http://www.nato.int/docu/comm/1997/970527/home.htm>

Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on civil emergency planning and disaster preparedness, 20 March 1996
<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/1996/p96-044e.htm>



About NATO-Russia relations. Module containing key facts and texts

<http://www.nato.int/issues/nato-russia/nato-russia.htm>

"Combating terrorism: a key objective". Article published by General Kujat in *Krasnaya Zvezda* on 25 December 2002, giving a detailed assessment of military-to-military cooperation in the following areas: the struggle against terrorism, defence reform, search and rescue at sea, exercises and training, and logistics

<http://www.nato.int/docu/articles/2002/a021225a.htm>

"Ballistic Missile Threats: A NATO-Russia Strategic Challenge". Article by the then Assistant Secretary General for Defence Support, Robert Bell, published in *Krasnaya Zvezda* on 27 February 2003

<http://www.nato.int/docu/articles/2003/a030227a.htm>

"A New Russian Revolution: Partnership with NATO". Speech given by NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 13 December 2003, giving a short history of NATO-Russia relations

<http://www.nato.int/docu/speech/2002/s021213a.htm>

"Peacekeeping: Achievements and next steps". Speech given by General James Jones, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, 3 July 2003

<http://www.nato.int/docu/speech/2003/s030703a.htm>

Creation of the NATO-Russia Centre for the Retraining of Discharged Military Personnel, 2 July 2002

<http://www.nato.int/docu/update/2002/07-july/e0702b.htm>

The Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre

<http://www.nato.int/eadrcc/home.htm>

