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OTAN

ISTANBUL SUMMIT

ISTANBUL SUMMIT READER'S GUIDE



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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

“We, the Heads of State and Government of the member countries of the North Atlantic Alliance, meet today in Istanbul to renew our commitment to collective defence, and to address together NATO’s response to the security challenges we face at the beginning of the 21st century.”

from The Istanbul Declaration: Our security in a new era

The Istanbul Summit was held during a period of unprecedented activity for the Alliance. NATO is involved in numerous operations and missions from the Straits of Gibraltar to Afghanistan. The Summit took major steps to ensure that Alliance members acquire the military capabilities needed in order to be able to conduct these operations and missions and others in the future. It was the first Summit of NATO leaders from 26 countries, following the accession of seven new members in March 2004, but it reaffirmed that the door remains open for further enlargement while reinforcing other partnerships and creating new ones.

The Summit took place as sovereignty was transferred to the Iraqi Interim Government. At Istanbul, NATO leaders agreed to assist the Iraqi Interim Government with the training of its security forces and tasked the North Atlantic Council to develop ways to implement this decision.

These activities are reflected in the documents issued by the Summit. The texts show the range of missions and partnerships of the Alliance.

This reader’s guide brings together all the official texts and declarations issued or endorsed by the Istanbul Summit. Each text is reproduced in its entirety and represents the formal views of NATO and the countries which participated in the various meetings at Istanbul.

The guide also includes background information to the official texts and declarations. These texts provide the reader with background information and additional explanations of Alliance policies and activities which are addressed in the official texts and communiqués.

The materials contained in this guide are organised thematically, beginning with the Istanbul Summit Communiqué, which outlines point



by point the achievements of the Summit itself. The Summit was built on three pillars – operations and missions, capabilities, and partnerships – to which separate sections of this guide are devoted.

Note: References made in this document to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are marked with an asterisk (*) referring to the following footnote: “Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.”



The Istanbul Declaration: Our security in a new era

issued by the Heads of State and Government participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council, Istanbul 28 June 2004

We, the Heads of State and Government of the member countries of the North Atlantic Alliance, meet today in Istanbul to renew our commitment to collective defence, and to address together NATO's response to the security challenges we face at the beginning of the 21st century.

NATO embodies the vital partnership between Europe and North America. Our Alliance is founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law. Those values, rooted in the principles of the United Nations Charter and the Washington Treaty, underlie the unique character of the transatlantic link.

We celebrate NATO's critical role in fostering the spread of freedom throughout Europe. Today, we welcome seven new members. Their participation in this Summit demonstrates that we remain committed to a Europe whole, free and at peace. We pledge again that our Alliance remains open to all European democracies, regardless of geography, willing and able to meet the responsibilities of membership, and whose inclusion would enhance overall security and stability in Europe.

Collective defence remains the core purpose of the Alliance. But the threats that NATO faces have changed substantially. We remain committed to address vigorously the threats facing our Alliance, taking into account that they emanate from a far wider area than in the past. They include terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. North America and Europe face these threats together. NATO is engaged in fighting terrorism, strengthening security and building stability in many regions in the world. Now as ever, unity within the Alliance is essential, and the principle of the indivisibility of Allied security is fundamental. We are determined to address effectively the threats to our territory, forces and populations from wherever they may come.

The Alliance is adapting to meet these security challenges through its military operations and activities, its engagement with partners and its continued transformation of military capabilities.



Today, we have approved a major expansion of NATO's role in Afghanistan in support of the Afghan Authorities. We will commit the resources needed to make this mission a success.

NATO is also leading military operations in the Balkans and the Mediterranean, and supporting Poland's leadership of the Multinational Division in Iraq. We have also issued a separate statement on Iraq.

The decision to end NATO's nine year mission in Bosnia marks its success in ending the war and keeping the peace in that country. We welcome the decision of the European Union to mount a new operation in Bosnia, and look forward to continued cooperation.

NATO continues to build closer cooperation on common security concerns with the European Union and with states in Europe, including Russia, Ukraine and the states of Central Asia and the Caucasus, as well as with states of the Mediterranean and the Broader Middle East. Today, we have taken decisions aimed at strengthening these relationships further in order to cooperate effectively in addressing the challenges of the 21st century.

NATO is transforming its military capabilities in order to adapt to the changing strategic environment. The new command structure, the NATO Response Force, and the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Defence battalion are progressing. Together, they give NATO much stronger and faster military capabilities. But transformation is a process, not an event. We are therefore committed to continued transformation and to further strengthen our operational capabilities and procedures so that our forces are more deployable and usable. To this end, we invite the Secretary General and the North Atlantic Council in permanent session to take the steps necessary to ensure that the transformation process is fully implemented, and to report to us at the next NATO Summit.

The North Atlantic Alliance has confronted challenge and change throughout its history, yet has always proved resilient in adapting to new situations. As we face a new era of danger and hope, NATO remains our vital multilateral bridge across the Atlantic, complementing a common political approach with its military capabilities. We renew our commitment to consult, deliberate and act together as Allies. We are confident that NATO will remain our indispensable instrument in defending our freedom and security.



Istanbul Summit Communiqué

issued by the Heads of State and Government participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council, Istanbul 28 June 2004

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the member countries of the North Atlantic Alliance, reaffirmed today the enduring value of the transatlantic link and of NATO as the basis for our collective defence and the essential forum for security consultation between Europe and North America. Our 26 nations are united in democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law, and faithful to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. Inspired by the common vision embodied in the Washington Treaty, we remain fully committed to the collective defence of our populations, territory and forces. Transatlantic cooperation is essential in defending our values and meeting common threats and challenges, from wherever they may come.
2. At our last Summit, in Prague in 2002, we agreed to transform our Alliance with new members, new capabilities, and new relationships with our partners. Just a few months ago, seven new member countries – Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia – joined our Alliance in the most robust round of enlargement in NATO's history. Today at our Istanbul Summit, we have given further shape and direction to this transformation in order to adapt NATO's structures, procedures and capabilities to 21st century challenges. We underscore that these efforts should not be perceived as a threat by any country or organisation. Our Alliance is taking on a full range of missions, promoting stability where it is needed to defend our security and our values.
3. Today, we have:
 - decided to expand the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, including through several more Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) and by enhancing our support for the upcoming elections;
 - agreed to conclude the Alliance's successful SFOR operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and welcomed the readiness of the European Union to deploy a new and distinct UN-mandated Chapter VII mission in the country, based on the Berlin+ arrangements agreed between our two organisations;



- confirmed that a robust KFOR presence remains essential to further enhance security and promote the political process in Kosovo;
 - decided to enhance the contribution of Operation Active Endeavour, our maritime operation in the Mediterranean, to the fight against terrorism;
 - decided to offer assistance to the Government of Iraq with the training of its security forces, in conformity with the separate statement that we have issued on Iraq;
 - agreed on an enhanced set of measures to strengthen our individual and collective contribution to the international community's fight against terrorism;
 - decided to further the transformation of our military capabilities to make them more modern, more usable and more deployable to carry out the full range of Alliance missions;
 - reaffirmed that NATO's door remains open to new members, and encouraged Albania, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia(1) to continue the reforms necessary to progress towards NATO membership;
 - taken a number of steps to further strengthen the Euro-Atlantic Partnership, in particular through a special focus on engaging with our Partners in the strategically important regions of the Caucasus and Central Asia; and
 - decided to enhance our Mediterranean Dialogue and to offer cooperation to the broader Middle East region through the "Istanbul Cooperation Initiative".
4. Contributing to peace and stability in Afghanistan is NATO's key priority. NATO's leadership of the UN-mandated International Security Assistance Force demonstrates the readiness of the North Atlantic Council to decide to launch operations to ensure our common security. NATO's aim is to assist in the emergence of a secure and stable Afghanistan, with a broad-based, gender sensitive, multi-ethnic and fully representative government, integrated into the international community and cooperating with its neighbours. Establishing and sustaining peace in Afghanistan is essential to the well-being of the Afghan people and to our shared struggle against terrorism. We remain committed to that cause and pledge to contribute to ISAF the forces necessary for successful completion of our mission in Afghanistan.



5. In consultation with the Afghan authorities, we will continue to expand ISAF in stages throughout Afghanistan, through the establishment by lead nations of additional Provincial Reconstruction Teams. We will continue to coordinate and cooperate with Operation Enduring Freedom, as appropriate. The successful conduct of nationwide elections will be a crucial milestone in the democratic development and peaceful evolution of Afghanistan. In response to President Karzai's request, ISAF is currently supporting the voter registration process and will provide enhanced support to the Afghan authorities in providing security during the election period, within means and capabilities. After the election, it will be for the government of Afghanistan to develop a forward-looking plan that fulfils the vision of the Bonn Agreement to promote national reconciliation, lasting peace, stability, and respect for human rights. ISAF has been assisting in disarming the militias and securing weapons. The Bonn process is on track and legitimate political institutions are developing. Reconstruction projects, security sector reform and other initiatives are improving the daily lives of many citizens. We strongly condemn the increasing attacks on civilian aid workers, who are making a valuable contribution to Afghanistan's future.
6. We call on the Afghan authorities to energetically pursue the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration process, and particularly the withdrawal of military units from Kabul and other urban centres. We will provide appropriate support, within ISAF's mandate, to the Afghan authorities in taking resolute action against the production and trafficking of narcotics. We are prepared to help the Afghan government to build a better future for Afghanistan, together with Operation Enduring Freedom, the UN Assistance Mission to Afghanistan, the European Union, and other international organisations on the ground. We also call on Afghanistan's neighbours to contribute to this effort consistent with the wishes of the Afghan authorities. We commend the role of Canada in ISAF and look forward to the future role of the Eurocorps.
7. The security environment in the strategically important region of the Balkans is stable but remains fragile. The Alliance remains committed to peace and stability in the Balkans, and the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all the countries in the region. We will remain committed until peace and security are firmly established and the progressive integration of all Balkan countries into Euro-Atlantic

structures is achieved. All the countries of the region must assume ownership of, and implement, pressing reforms. Closer cooperation in their own region will help to promote stability and prosperity. While welcoming improvement in cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), where it has occurred, we stress that all countries concerned must cooperate fully with the ICTY, in particular bringing to justice all those who are indicted by the Tribunal, notably Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, as well as Ante Gotovina, in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1503 and 1534.

8. As the security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina has evolved positively, we have decided to conclude the Alliance's successful SFOR operation by the end of this year. We welcome the readiness of the European Union to deploy a new and distinct UN-mandated robust Chapter VII mission in the country, based on the Berlin+ arrangements agreed between our two organisations, and look forward to continued close cooperation. NATO's long-term political commitment to Bosnia and Herzegovina remains unchanged and the establishment of a NATO headquarters will constitute NATO's residual military presence in the country. NATO HQ Sarajevo, which has the principal task of providing advice on defence reform, will also undertake certain operational supporting tasks, such as counter-terrorism whilst ensuring force protection; supporting the ICTY, within means and capabilities, with regard to the detention of persons indicted for war crimes; and intelligence sharing with the EU. The Dayton/Paris Accords remain in force as the basis for peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
9. In Kosovo, a robust KFOR presence remains essential to further enhance security and promote the political process. We reaffirm our commitment to a secure, stable and multi-ethnic Kosovo, on the basis of full implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244, the agreed Standards before Status Policy and the Standards Review Mechanism. We strongly condemn the outbreak of violence resulting in the loss of lives and the destruction of religious and cultural heritage sites in March 2004, and will not tolerate any such actions intended to undermine the political process. We call on all parties to speed up the reconstruction and to create conditions for the safe return of displaced persons. We urge all communities to work constructively towards meeting the internationally endorsed standards,



to engage in dialogue at all levels, and to participate in local civic institutions. We also call on them to conduct, and participate in, the upcoming October elections in a fair and peaceful manner. We welcome the appointment by the UN Secretary General of Mr. Søren Jessen-Petersen as his Special Representative in Kosovo. To further progress, NATO will continue to work with the UN, the EU, the OSCE and other international organisations, as well as the Contact Group, including, as appropriate, attendance at its meetings.

10. NATO's maritime surveillance and escort operation, Operation Active Endeavour, demonstrates the Alliance's resolve and ability to respond to terrorism. In March of this year, the operation was extended to the whole of the Mediterranean. Work is underway to further enhance its contribution to the fight against terrorism, including through the contributory support of partner countries, including the Mediterranean Dialogue countries. We welcome the offers of contributory support by Russia and Ukraine and have invited both countries to discuss the modalities of their participation. All such offers of support, including by other interested countries, will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In reviewing Operation Active Endeavour's mission, NATO may consider addressing, in accordance with international law, the risk of terrorist-related trafficking in, or use of, nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials.
11. We pay tribute to the men and women of all nations serving in NATO-led operations for their professionalism and dedication to the cause of peace and security. We appreciate how much the success of our operations depends on the bonds they build with the governments and peoples in the various theatres of operation. We are profoundly grateful for the sacrifice of those who have lost their lives or been injured in the course of their mission, and extend our deepest sympathies to their families and loved ones.
12. Terrorism and the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery currently pose key threats and challenges to Alliance and international security.
13. We strongly condemn terrorism, whatever its motivations or manifestations, and will fight it together as long as necessary. The Alliance provides an essential transatlantic dimension to the response



against terrorism, which requires the closest possible cooperation of North America and Europe. We are committed to continue our struggle against terrorism in all its forms, in accordance with international law provisions and UN principles. Our approach to terrorism, and its causes, will include the full implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373 on the fight against terrorism, and will continue to be multi-faceted and comprehensive, including political, diplomatic, economic and, where necessary, military means. Continuing terrorist acts, including in Istanbul last year and in Madrid in March of this year, have shown the acute threat which terrorism continues to pose around the world. Defence against terrorism may include activities by NATO's military forces, based on decisions by the North Atlantic Council, to deter, disrupt, defend and protect against terrorist attacks, or threat of attacks, directed from abroad, against populations, territory, infrastructure and forces of any member state, including by acting against these terrorists and those who harbour them. We have accordingly agreed today an enhanced set of measures to strengthen our individual and collective contribution to the international community's fight against terrorism, including the need to prevent WMD from being acquired by terrorists. These measures include:

- improved intelligence sharing between our nations, including through our Terrorist Threat Intelligence Unit and a review of current intelligence structures at NATO Headquarters;
- a greater ability to respond rapidly to national requests for assistance in protecting against and dealing with the consequences of terrorist attacks, including attacks involving chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) weapons and, in this regard, continued robust support for the NATO Multinational CBRN Defence Battalion;
- assistance to protect selected major events, including with NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control Aircraft;
- an enhanced contribution to the fight against terrorism by Operation Active Endeavour;
- a continued robust effort through our operations in the Balkans and Afghanistan to help create conditions in which terrorism cannot flourish;
- enhanced capabilities to defend against terrorist attacks, including through our programme of work to develop new, advanced technologies; and
- increased cooperation with our partners, including through the implementation of our Civil Emergency Action Plan and the



Partnership Action Plan on Terrorism, and with other international and regional organisations, including the active pursuit of consultations and exchange of information with the European Union.

14. The Alliance's policy of support for arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation will continue to play a major role in the achievement of the Alliance's security objectives, including preventing the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and their means of delivery. We stress the importance of all states abiding by, and fully implementing, their arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation commitments, and of strengthening existing international arms control and disarmament accords and multilateral non-proliferation and export control regimes. In this regard, early admission of all NATO members into all appropriate existing non-proliferation regimes would play a positive role. Today, we:
 - underline our commitment to reinforcing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the cornerstone of non-proliferation and disarmament, and ensuring the full compliance with it by all states Party to the Treaty;
 - underline the importance of related other international accords, including the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Hague Code of Conduct against the Proliferation of Ballistic Missiles;
 - strongly support United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540, calling on all states to establish effective national export controls, to adopt and enforce laws to criminalise proliferation, to take cooperative action to prevent non-state actors from acquiring WMD, and to end illicit trafficking in WMD and related materials;
 - resolve to strengthen our common efforts to reduce and safeguard nuclear and radiological material;
 - resolve to prevent and contain proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery, and to work together to achieve these objectives;
 - welcome the adoption by the G-8 of its Action Plan on Non-Proliferation adopted on 10 June; and
 - welcome the discovery and ongoing investigation of the A.Q. Khan proliferation network.

15. The Alliance underscores its strong support for the aims of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) and its Statement of Interdiction Principles to establish a more co-ordinated and effective basis through



which to impede and stop shipments of WMD, delivery systems, and related materials flowing to and from states and non-state actors of proliferation concern. The Alliance welcomes PSI efforts which are consistent with national legal authorities and relevant international law and frameworks, including United Nations Security Council Resolutions. We call on our partners and other countries to join us in supporting and implementing the objectives of the PSI.

16. The Alliance welcomes the steps taken by Libya to implement its decision, announced on 19 December 2003, to dismantle its WMD programmes under international supervision, and to limit its missiles to a range less than 300 kilometres. We look forward to continued progress. At the same time, we urge Libya to respect fundamental human rights.
17. We reiterate our commitment to the CFE Treaty as a cornerstone of European security, and reaffirm our attachment to the early entry into force of the Adapted Treaty. We recall that fulfilment of the remaining Istanbul commitments on the Republic of Georgia and the Republic of Moldova will create the conditions for Allies and other States Parties to move forward on ratification of the Adapted CFE Treaty. We note the progress that was made in 2003 on withdrawal of Russian military forces from the Republic of Moldova. We regret that this progress has not continued in 2004 and that the extended 31 December 2003 completion date, agreed in the framework of the OSCE, was not met. It is essential that efforts be intensified to complete the withdrawal as soon as possible. We will continue, via the OSCE, to monitor and assist in this process. We urge a swift resolution of the outstanding issues between Georgia and Russia as set out in their Istanbul Joint Statement of 17 November 1999, and to this end, call upon the parties to resume negotiations at an appropriately senior level. We welcome the approach of non-CFE Allies who have stated their intention to request accession to the Adapted CFE Treaty upon its entry into force. Their accession would provide an important additional contribution to European security and stability.
18. We welcome the progress made in the transformation of the Alliance's military capabilities. This is a long-term endeavour which must continue if NATO is to be able to perform the full range of its missions in a challenging security environment and respond to its operational commitments and the threats we face today, including terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.



NATO must be able to field forces that can move quickly to sustain operations over distance and time.

19. In realising the goals we set at the Prague Summit in November 2002:
 - the NATO Multinational CBRN Defence Battalion has just become fully operational;
 - as planned, the operationally flexible NATO Response Force (NRF) will reach initial operational capability later this year;
 - the implementation of NATO's streamlined command arrangements is on track, including the establishment of Allied Command Transformation;
 - the implementation of national Prague Capabilities Commitments (PCC) is progressing, and multinational activities – in strategic sealift and airlift, air-to-air refuelling, and the Alliance Ground Surveillance system – continue to make progress and will enhance our military capabilities in many areas; and
 - we are examining options for addressing the increasing missile threat to Alliance territory, forces and population centres through an appropriate mix of political and defence efforts, along with deterrence. We note the initiation of the feasibility study on missile defence decided at Prague to examine options, and we continue to assess the missile threats.

20. In order to meet today's challenges, we need the right capabilities. In some cases nations could free up resources from no longer needed national force structures and/or capabilities and reinvest them in deployable capabilities. We need greater willingness and preparedness of nations to provide these forces and capabilities. NATO needs to be able to act quickly and is configured to do so. At the same time, we are determined to further enhance our political decision-making process through in-depth consultations facilitating a common sense of purpose and resolve, the definition of clear strategies and objectives before launching an operation, as well as enhanced planning to support nations' contributions to operations – recognising the sovereign right of each of our nations to decide upon the use of its forces.

21. In order to enhance our ability to conduct operations successfully and strengthen the link between political agreement to commence operations and the provision of the necessary forces, we have today:
 - welcomed the commitments made by the seven new Allies in the framework of the Prague Capabilities Commitment, and reaffirmed



our support for it; we welcomed the cooperation between PCC and European Capabilities Action Plan groups; we will give special emphasis in our national plans to overcoming remaining critical shortages, implementing our national commitments, further advancing the multinational cooperation projects in which our countries participate, and making our capabilities interoperable and adapting them to the evolving security environment;

- welcomed the report from our Defence Ministers on further steps to increase the usability of our forces through the adoption in Istanbul of high-level political targets and to supplement such targets through individual national usability targets, and agreed to intensify our efforts, taking account of national priorities and obligations, to structure, prepare and equip land forces for deployed operations under NATO or other auspices;
- welcomed changes to the Alliance's planning processes, making them more responsive to current and future operational requirements. We have directed the Council in Permanent Session to produce for our consideration comprehensive political guidance in support of the Strategic Concept for all Alliance capabilities issues, planning disciplines and intelligence, responsive to the Alliance's requirements, including for forces which are interoperable and deployable, able to carry out major operations as well as smaller ones, to conduct them concurrently if necessary, as well as to operate jointly in a complex security environment. The interfaces between the respective Alliance planning disciplines, including operational planning, should be further analysed;
- welcomed progress in the work to improve the force generation process for NATO-agreed operations and the NATO Response Force, including by moving towards a longer-term and more comprehensive and pro-active approach, and facilitating decisions that are matched at each stage with the requisite military capabilities; and
- directed that work on theatre ballistic missile defence be taken forward expeditiously. In this context we noted the approval of the principle of the establishment of a NATO Active Layered Theatre Ballistic Missile Defence programme; welcomed the willingness of nations to make the tri-national Extended Air Defence Task Force available to the Alliance; and noted ongoing work by the NATO Military Authorities in relation to the defence of deployed NATO forces, including the NRF, against theatre ballistic missiles.



22. With the decisions taken here in Istanbul and the further improvements we have put in train and which we have directed the Council in Permanent Session to pursue, we are ensuring that Allied capabilities will be modern, efficient and flexible, fully appropriate to the challenges we face now and may face in the future.
23. We have invited the Secretary General and the Council in Permanent Session to take the steps necessary to ensure that the transformation process, including on questions of management and funding, is fully implemented. We look forward to the outcome of the NATO Agencies Review which should provide a sound basis for the next decade of support activity. We encourage the Secretary General to carry forward the new NATO Headquarters project in a timely and effective way.
24. NATO's armament activities must meet the Alliance's evolving military needs. We therefore reaffirm the importance we attach to mutually advantageous transatlantic defence industrial cooperation.
25. We celebrate the success of NATO's Open Door policy, and reaffirm today that our seven new members will not be the last. The door to membership remains open. We welcome the progress made by Albania, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ in implementing their Annual National Programmes under the Membership Action Plan, and encourage them to continue pursuing the reforms necessary to progress towards NATO membership. We also commend their contribution to regional stability and cooperation. We want all three countries to succeed and will continue to assist them in their reform efforts. NATO will continue to assess each country's candidacy individually, based on the progress made towards reform goals pursued through the Membership Action Plan, which will remain the vehicle to keep the readiness of each aspirant for membership under review. We direct that NATO Foreign Ministers keep the enlargement process, including the implementation of the Membership Action Plan, under continual review and report to us. We will review at the next Summit progress by aspirants towards membership based on that report.
26. The recent enlargements of NATO and the European Union are a major step towards a Europe whole and free, and a strong confirmation that our organisations share common values and strategic



interests. We are pleased with the progress made in developing the NATO-EU strategic partnership on the basis of and since the conclusion of the Berlin+ arrangements. NATO and the EU continue to cooperate effectively in the Western Balkans, and are committed to assist the countries of the region in their further integration into Euro-Atlantic structures. NATO-EU relations now cover a wide range of issues of common interest relating to security, defence and crisis management, including the fight against terrorism, the development of coherent and mutually reinforcing military capabilities, and civil emergency planning. We are determined to work together to further develop the NATO-EU strategic partnership as agreed by our two organisations, in a spirit of transparency, and respecting the autonomy of our two organisations.

27. Building on the progress made since our Prague Summit, we have today taken a number of steps to further strengthen the Euro-Atlantic Partnership. While taking these steps, we expect all Partners to fulfil their commitments to the protection and promotion of human rights and the other fundamental freedoms and values they have adhered to under the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and the Partnership for Peace. We support the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states in the Euro-Atlantic area.
28. We have launched today a Partnership Action Plan on Defence Institution Building. We encourage and support Partners to make full use of this new instrument to build democratically responsible defence institutions.
29. Military interoperability and transformation are central to the effectiveness of our Partnerships in helping us to meet evolving security challenges and to enable Allied and Partner forces to operate effectively in NATO-led operations. The value of this cooperation to the Alliance, in particular by the Western European Partners, is continuously being demonstrated in the Balkans as well as in Afghanistan. We intend, therefore, to provide our Partners with increased opportunities to enhance their contributions to NATO-led operations, and to help transform their defences in keeping with NATO's own evolving operational roles and capabilities, including through enhancement of the Operational Capabilities Concept. We will seek the earliest possible involvement by troop-contributing nations in the decision-shaping process, including the possibility of



political consultation. NATO's new command structure offers opportunities to increase the participation by Partners, including by offering them appropriate representation in the Allied Command Transformation.

30. NATO has adopted a comprehensive policy to contribute to international efforts to combat the trafficking in human beings, which constitutes a flagrant abuse of human rights and fuels corruption and organised crime. We are also determined to work together with our Partners to support international efforts, where NATO can add value, to combat this and other forms of illegal trafficking.
31. In enhancing the Euro-Atlantic Partnership, we will put special focus on engaging with our Partners in the strategically important regions of the Caucasus and Central Asia. Towards that end, NATO has agreed on improved liaison arrangements, including the assignment of two liaison officers, as well as a special representative for the two regions from within the International Staff. We welcome the decision by Georgia, Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan to develop Individual Partnership Action Plans with NATO. This constitutes a significant step in these countries' efforts to develop closer Partnership relations with the Alliance. We welcome the commitment of the new government of Georgia to reform.
32. We remain committed to partnership with the Republic of Moldova and encourage it to make use of Partnership instruments to take forward its aspirations of promoting stability in the region as a Partner of this Alliance.
33. We look forward to welcoming Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro into the Partnership for Peace once they have met the established NATO conditions. We want them to succeed in joining the Euro-Atlantic partnership and will assist them in this endeavour. We are prepared to assist the countries by including them in selected PfP activities. Each country will be judged on its own merits on the road to PfP.
34. We welcome Bosnia and Herzegovina's significant progress in defence reform, a key condition for PfP membership. We urge continued progress towards achieving a single military force. We have agreed to designate a Contact Point Embassy in Sarajevo to increase



understanding of NATO. We are concerned that Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly obstructionist elements in the Republika Srpska entity, has failed to live up to its obligation to cooperate fully with ICTY, including the arrest and transfer to the jurisdiction of the Tribunal of war crimes indictees, a fundamental requirement for the country to join PfP. We also look for systemic changes necessary to develop effective security and law enforcement structures.

35. Serbia and Montenegro has also shown progress in defence reform, and the government has played a constructive regional role, improving relations with its neighbours. We look forward to further progress in these areas, in particular in relation to the government's engagement on Kosovo-related issues. At the same time, the International Court of Justice cases against several of the Allies still stand. We call on the government to fulfil its international obligations, in particular to cooperate with ICTY and render all necessary assistance to secure the arrest and transfer to the jurisdiction of the Tribunal of war crimes indictees.
36. From its inception in 1994, NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue has greatly contributed to building confidence and cooperation between the Alliance and its Mediterranean partners. In the current security environment there are greater opportunities for effective cooperation with Mediterranean Dialogue partners. Following our decision at Prague to upgrade the Mediterranean Dialogue, we are today inviting our Mediterranean partners to establish a more ambitious and expanded partnership, guided by the principle of joint ownership and taking into consideration their particular interests and needs. The overall aim of this partnership will be to contribute towards regional security and stability through stronger practical cooperation, including by enhancing the existing political dialogue, achieving interoperability, developing defence reform and contributing to the fight against terrorism. Our efforts will complement and mutually reinforce other Mediterranean initiatives, including those of the EU and the OSCE.
37. We have today also decided to offer cooperation to the broader Middle East region by launching our "Istanbul Cooperation Initiative". This initiative is offered by NATO to interested countries in the region, starting with the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, to foster mutually beneficial bilateral relationships and thus enhance security and stability. The initiative focuses on practical cooperation where



NATO can add value, notably in the defence and security fields. This initiative is distinct from, yet takes into account and complements, other initiatives involving other international actors.

38. While respecting the specificity of the Mediterranean Dialogue, the enhanced Mediterranean Dialogue and the “Istanbul Cooperation Initiative” are complementary, progressive and individualised processes. They will be developed in a spirit of joint ownership with the countries involved. Continued consultation and active engagement will be essential to their success.
39. Since its creation two years ago, the NATO-Russia Council has raised the quality of the relationship between the Alliance and Russia to a new level, to the benefit of the entire Euro-Atlantic area. We reaffirm our determination to broaden our political dialogue and are committed to deepening our consultations on key security issues, including Afghanistan and the Balkans, and the fight against terrorism and against the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and their means of delivery. Our practical cooperation has progressed further, including in military-to-military projects. Through our efforts to improve interoperability, we have also laid the groundwork for future operational support to NATO forces, including for potential joint peacekeeping operations. We welcome the progress made in advancing practical cooperation on theatre missile defence, civil emergency planning, the Cooperative Airspace Initiative, and search and rescue at sea. We look forward to making further progress in implementing the Rome Declaration of May 2002, working together as equal partners in areas of common interest.
40. We welcome Ukraine’s determination to pursue full Euro-Atlantic integration. In this context, we reaffirm the necessity to achieve consistent and measurable progress in democratic reform. We encourage Ukraine to accelerate the implementation of the objectives outlined in the NATO-Ukraine Action Plan, particularly regarding the conduct of free and fair elections, the guaranteeing of media freedoms, and implementation of the results of the Defence Review. We are determined to support Ukraine in these efforts, while noting that a further strengthening of our relationship will require stronger evidence of Ukraine’s commitment to comprehensive reform, in particular with a view to the conduct of presidential elections this autumn. We welcome Ukraine’s continued participation in KFOR



within the Polish-Ukrainian Battalion. We note the progress made by Ukraine in defence reform and in strengthening defence and military cooperation with NATO, including in the area of host nation support and strategic airlift. With this understanding, we instruct the Council in Permanent Session to assess NATO-Ukraine relations, with a view to presenting recommendations to Foreign Ministers after the presidential elections.

41. We note the importance of the Black Sea region for Euro-Atlantic security. Littoral countries, Allies and Partners are working together to contribute to further strengthening security and stability in the area. Our Alliance is prepared to explore means to complement these efforts, building upon existing forms of regional cooperation.
42. We welcome the interest shown by several countries who are developing individual, mutually beneficial dialogues on security matters with NATO as contact countries. In this context, we welcome the interest shown by Australia in closer cooperation with our Alliance.
43. NATO and the OSCE have largely complementary responsibilities and common interests, both functionally and geographically. NATO will continue to further develop the cooperation with the OSCE in areas such as conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.
44. We welcome the role of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in complementing NATO's efforts to promote stability throughout Europe. We also appreciate the contribution made by the Atlantic Treaty Association in promoting better understanding of the Alliance and its objectives among our publics.
45. Today's complex strategic environment demands a broad approach to security, comprising political, economic and military elements. We are united in our commitment to such an approach. The Alliance is conducting challenging operations in regions of strategic importance; transforming its capabilities to meet the new threats; and working ever more closely together with partner countries and other international organisations in a truly multilateral effort to address common security concerns. While NATO's transformation continues, its fundamental purpose – based on the common values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law – endures: to serve as an essential transatlantic



forum for consultation and an effective instrument for Europe and North America to defend peace and stability, now and into the future.

46. We express our deep appreciation for the gracious hospitality extended to us by the Government of Turkey and the city of Istanbul. Here in Istanbul, a city that bridges two continents, we have reaffirmed the vital transatlantic link, and extended new offers of cooperation to countries and to regions of strategic importance.

¹ Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE ISTANBUL SUMMIT

On 28-29 June 2004, NATO held the 17th Summit in its 55-year history in Istanbul, Turkey. The Alliance's seventh Summit since the end of the Cold War took place against the backdrop of unprecedented activity for NATO. This activity focused on operations and missions, capabilities, and partnerships, the three pillars the Summit was built on.

The Alliance is involved in operations and missions in the Balkans, the Mediterranean Sea, Afghanistan and Iraq. The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and its expansion beyond the Afghan capital of Kabul was a top priority for the Alliance. At Istanbul, NATO leaders agreed to the establishment of four more Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) in northern Afghanistan. Alliance leaders decided to complete a successful operation, the Stabilisation Force (SFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, by the end of 2004. The European Union will begin a new operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where NATO will retain a military headquarters in Sarajevo. NATO is also maintaining a robust presence in Kosovo with the Kosovo Force (KFOR). In addition, it took on a new mission this year and committed itself to training Iraqi security forces.

Following up on the commitments they made at the November 2002 Prague Summit, NATO members took major steps to ensure they possess the military capabilities needed in order to be able to conduct these operations and others in the future. Allied defence ministers signed a memorandum of understanding on strategic airlift and additional countries signed letters of intent on strategic air- and sealift. Alliance leaders approved an enhanced package of measures for defence against terrorism, including an action plan to develop new anti-terrorist technologies.

At Istanbul, NATO leaders set in motion medium- and long term measures to increase the availability of Alliance member armed forces for future operations. They approved targets for the usability of member ground forces so that more are available for operations and agreed to changes to NATO's defence planning, force generation, operational planning and decision-making processes to make them speedier and more efficient.



The Istanbul Summit was the first attended by leaders of the seven new Alliance members – Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia – since their accession in March 2004. It reaffirmed that NATO's door remains open to new members and encouraged the three countries participating in the Membership Action Plan – Albania, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* – to continue their reform efforts.

At Istanbul, NATO leaders reinforced several of the Alliance's existing partnerships:

- with the Caucasus and Central Asia;
- with Russia;
- with Ukraine; and
- with the Mediterranean Dialogue countries of Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia.

The Summit launched the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative, which seeks to promote practical cooperation in the defence and security fields with the broader Middle East, starting first with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

The package of decisions and initiatives of the Istanbul Summit is an ambitious and united Allied response to the security challenges of the 21st century. It provides a platform for transatlantic cooperation vital for security in the Euro-Atlantic area and beyond.

Official documents and background reading

Go to the electronic version of the reader's guide for clickable links
<http://www.nato.int/docu/rdr-gde-ist>

The Istanbul Summit web module
<http://www.nato.int/docu/comm/2004/06-istanbul/home.htm>



THREE PILLARS

 Operations and missions

 Capabilities

 Partnerships







Statement on Iraq

issued by the Heads of State and Government participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council, Istanbul 28 June 2004

We, the 26 Heads of State and Government of the nations of the Atlantic Alliance, meeting in Istanbul, declare our full support for the independence, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq and for strengthening of freedom, democracy, human rights, rule of law and security for all the Iraqi people.

We welcome the unanimous adoption of Security Council Resolution 1546 under Chapter 7 of the Charter of the United Nations as an important step towards Iraq's political transition to democratic government. We pledge our full support for the effective implementation of UNSCR 1546.

We are united in our support for the Iraqi people and offer full cooperation to the new sovereign Interim Government as it seeks to strengthen internal security and prepare the way to national elections in 2005.

We deplore and call for an immediate end to all terrorist attacks in Iraq. Terrorist activities in and from Iraq also threaten the security of its neighbours and the region as a whole.

We continue to support Poland in its leadership of the multinational division in south central Iraq. We also acknowledge the efforts of nations, including many NATO Allies, in the Multinational Force for Iraq, which is present in Iraq at the request of the Iraqi government and in accordance with UNSCR 1546. We fully support the Multinational Force in its mission to help restore and maintain security, including protection of the United Nations presence, under its mandate from the Security Council.

In response to the request of the Iraqi Interim Government, and in accordance with Resolution 1546 which requests international and regional organisations to contribute assistance to the Multinational Force, we have decided today to offer NATO's assistance to the government of Iraq with the training of its security forces. We therefore also encourage nations to contribute to the training of the Iraqi armed forces.



We have asked the North Atlantic Council to develop on an urgent basis the modalities to implement this decision with the Iraqi Interim Government.

We have also asked the North Atlantic Council to consider, as a matter of urgency and on the basis of a report by the Secretary General, further proposals to support the nascent Iraqi security institutions in response to the request of the Iraqi Interim Government and in accordance with UNSCR 1546.





Statement on Afghanistan

by the NATO Secretary General, Istanbul 28 June 2004

I am pleased to announce that the North Atlantic Council authorised the Supreme Allied Commander, General James Jones, to initiate the further expansion of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan.

This expansion will include in the near future the United Kingdom-led Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) in Mazar-I-Sharif and Meymana, the German-led Provincial Reconstruction Team in Feyzabad and the Netherlands-led Provincial Reconstruction Team in Baghlan. ISAF already commands a PRT in Kunduz.

These five PRTs are part of a progressive process in accordance with the previous decision by the North Atlantic Council to expand ISAF in a flexible manner to include other PRTs in the future.

The North Atlantic Council has also authorised SACEUR to establish near Mazar-I-Sharif a Forward Support Base (a logistics hub) and temporary satellite presences in Sar-e-Pol, Samangan and Sherberghan, as well as to continue the necessary preparations for election support and for further expansion.





NATO'S TRAINING MISSION IN IRAQ

At Istanbul, NATO leaders committed themselves to a new mission. They agreed to assist the new Iraqi Interim Government with the training of its security forces and tasked the North Atlantic Council (NAC) to develop ways to implement this decision. This was in response to a request from the Iraqi Interim Government and followed unanimous adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1546 asking international and regional security organisations to contribute assistance to the Multinational Force in Iraq.

Following this decision, on 30 July 2004, the NAC agreed to establish a NATO Training Implementation Mission in Iraq numbering around 50 military personnel, commanded by Major General Carel Hilderink of the Netherlands and including representatives from Allied Command Transformation in Norfolk, Virginia. The Mission's tasks included:

- establishing liaison arrangements with the Iraqi Interim Government and the Multinational Force;
- working closely with the Iraqi authorities to help them develop their structures, in particular in the Ministry of Defence and Military Headquarters. This includes training selected Iraqi headquarters personnel in Iraq;
- helping to identify Iraqi personnel for training outside of Iraq; and
- working closely with the Iraqi Interim Government and the Multinational Force to develop, on an urgent basis, more detailed proposals for NATO training, advice and cooperation, and report to the Council in this regard by 15 September 2004.

In August 2004, NATO began training and mentoring selected Iraqi personnel inside Iraq and developing a role in coordinating national offers of equipment and training.

Announcing the NAC decision, NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said the Training Implementation Mission “will help the Iraqi authorities to establish their own defence reform priorities.” He added: “Ownership, of course, is of great importance here.”

The NATO Secretary General declared: “All Allies are determined to see a democratic Iraq succeed, and they are united in their commitment to help Iraq provide its own peace and its own security...that day, of



course, must come as soon as possible and this Training Implementation Mission will help to make that a reality.”

The Training Implementation Mission in Iraq is a distinct mission, under the political control of the North Atlantic Council. It is closely coordinated with the Multinational Force, which provides area security for the mission.

Iraqi training centre

Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), General James Jones, presented the Iraqi Training Implementation Mission's report to the North Atlantic Council on 15 September 2004. Within a week, the Council approved support for the establishment of a training centre outside Baghdad. The NATO-supported Iraqi Training, Education and Doctrine Centre will be located at Al-Rustamaniya and will train Iraqi senior officials, senior officers and defence officials. It will focus on leadership training, helping build nation-wide, multi-ethnic security institutions.

The Alliance will also identify Iraqi personnel for training outside Iraq and play a role in coordinating training, equipment and technical assistance provided bilaterally by individual NATO and Partner countries, both inside and outside Iraq, to ensure that the assistance provided is complementary.

The NATO mission is a distinct mission, under the political control of the North Atlantic Council. It is commanded by Lieutenant-General David Petraeus, who is in charge of the Multinational Force's Iraqi training programme. Under a dual-hatted arrangement, he answers to SACEUR, through Joint Forces Command Naples, for NATO training and to General George Casey, commander of the Multinational Force, for the latter's training efforts. The command chain goes through Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Mons, Belgium, which reports to the North Atlantic Council through the Military Committee. SHAPE is supported by Allied Command Transformation in Norfolk, Virginia, which is responsible for coordination of training efforts outside Iraq.

The Multinational Force provides area security in Iraq, while NATO is responsible for close protection under robust rules of engagement.



In addition, NATO continues to support Poland in its leadership of a sector of the Multinational Force. Poland formally assumed command of Multinational Division Central South in Iraq on 3 September 2003. NATO assists Poland in a variety of supporting roles, including force generation, communications, logistics and movement coordination.

Official documents and background reading

Go to the electronic version of the reader's guide for clickable links
<http://www.nato.int/docu/rdr-gde-ist>

Statement on Iraq, 28 June 2004
<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2004/p04-098e.htm>

Statement by the Secretary General of NATO on NATO assistance to Iraq, 30 July 2004
<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2004/p04-115e.htm>

AFSOUTH press release announcing departure of advance party of NATO Training Implementation Mission to Iraq, 7 August 2004
http://www.afsouth.nato.int/releases/2004releases/PR_22_04.htm

Press release giving details on NATO support to Poland, 3 September 2003
<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2003/p03-093e.htm>

Prague Summit statement on Iraq, 21 November 2002
<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2002/p02-133e.htm>

Issue page giving news items, official documents and speeches about NATO and Iraq
<http://www.nato.int/issues/iraq/index.html>





EXPANDING NATO'S ROLE IN AFGHANISTAN

In Afghanistan, where NATO has commanded the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) since August 2003, NATO leaders agreed to continue to expand the Alliance's presence in the war-torn country through the establishment of additional Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) under ISAF leadership, in addition to those PRTs already established under the US-led coalition. These PRTs are mixed teams of international civilian and military personnel working in Afghanistan's provinces to help extend the authority of the government and facilitate development and reconstruction. The first NATO-led PRT was established by Germany in the beginning of 2004 at Kunduz and includes France, Hungary, Romania and Switzerland.

Four new PRTs were set up in advance of the 9 October 2004 Afghan presidential elections:

- Mazar-I-Sharif, led by the UK and including Denmark, Germany, Finland, Norway, Romania and Sweden;
- Meymana, led by the UK and including participation by Norway and Finland;
- Feyzabad, led by Germany; and
- Pul-i-Khumri, Baghlan province, led by the Netherlands.

In addition, Mazar-I-Sharif is the forward support base for the ISAF expansion in northern Afghanistan and temporary "satellite" presences were established in Sar-e-Pol, Samangan and Sherberghan. The expanded ISAF presence covers nine provinces in the north of the country totalling an area of 185,000 square kilometres, in addition to some 3,600 square kilometres in and around Kabul.

At Istanbul, Allied leaders commended the role of Canada in ISAF and looked forward to the future role of Eurocorps, which took over command of the force in August 2004. At the time of the Summit, Canada provided the Force Commander and over 1,500 troops to ISAF.

NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer considers Afghanistan a top priority of the Alliance. NATO aims to help establish a secure and stable Afghanistan with a fully representative government. Based on the December 2001 Bonn Conference, as reflected in UN Security Council Resolutions, the Alliance will remain in Afghanistan with ISAF for as long as it takes to achieve these objectives to help Afghanistan emerge from nearly four decades of authoritarian rule, foreign occupation and civil war.



To support the Afghan government, NATO is working together with Operation Enduring Freedom, the United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan, the European Union, and other international organisations on the ground.

Karzai address at Istanbul

In an address to the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) held at the level of Heads of State and Government, Afghan President Hamid Karzai thanked NATO for its decision to continue to expand ISAF. He said: “The Afghan people keep coming to me from all parts of the country and are asking for increased participation of the International Security Assistance Force. The demand of the Afghan people to have more of the coalition forces and the security forces, especially NATO’s forces in Afghanistan, in parts of the country where they are not [present] is because they trust these forces. It is because they have seen that the presence of these forces in Kabul in the form of ISAF has provided security to the people, has provided the environment for a vibrant economic activity by the private sector and by governmental and NGO activity.”

President Karzai concluded: “The Afghan people have shown their appreciation for the ISAF force in Afghanistan. If we provide Afghanistan with a secure environment that they are asking for today, the tomorrow of our country and the tomorrow of the international community will be a much safer place than what we have today.”

Election support

ISAF assisted the Afghan authorities in providing security for the 9 October 2004 presidential elections. Within its means and capabilities, it supported the voter registration process and provided enhanced support to the Afghan authorities in providing security during the election period in the expanded ISAF area of operations.

For eight weeks starting in September 2004, NATO temporarily deployed extra forces to support the elections. While the Afghan authorities retained primary responsibility for security throughout the election process, ISAF provided support for the presidential elections at two levels in theatre. The first level was the PRTs, which were reinforced to



match the local security situation, as determined by lead nations, in consultation with the commander of ISAF.

The second level consisted of additional units to enable ISAF to react quickly to any security risk if necessary. Spain and Italy provided one battalion each and the United States a rifle company with supporting elements. The Spanish battalion, based in Mazar-I-Sharif, and the US company, in Kabul, were the ISAF Quick Reaction Force and the Italian battalion, also in the Afghan capital, was the in-theatre Operational Reserve Force. This was the first time in Afghanistan that a US rifle company has come under NATO command. The Italian battalion is an element of the third six-month rotation of the NATO Response Force (NRF) until the end of 2004, NRF 3.

These additional forces were supported by:

- six Dutch F-16 combat aircraft, accompanied by a KDC-10 refuelling aircraft, based at Manas International Airport, Ganci Airbase in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan;
- six British Harrier GR7 jump jets based at Kandahar;
- and six C-130 medium-lift transport aircraft provided by Belgium, Canada, Portugal, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States.

In addition, the United States provided a battalion based in Vilseck, Germany, as an over-the-horizon strategic reserve force that could have been deployed to Afghanistan if required.

NATO is also preparing to expand ISAF to the western provinces of Afghanistan, with Herat as the forward support base following the model of the “hub and spoke” expansion to the northern provinces that took place as a result of the Summit.

Security sector reform

ISAF is supporting security sector reform in Afghanistan, which is being conducted under the auspices of the G8 group of nations. This consists of the

- disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration process, which is led by Japan;



- training the new Afghan National Army, led by the United States, with the support of France and the United Kingdom;
- police training, led by Germany;
- reforming the legal system, led by Italy;
- counternarcotics, led by the United Kingdom.

ISAF origins

ISAF was created in accordance with the December 2001 Bonn Conference after the ouster of the repressive Taliban regime. Afghan opposition leaders attending the conference began the process of reconstructing their country by setting up a new government structure, the Afghan Transitional Authority. The concept of a UN-mandated international force to assist the newly established Afghan Transitional Authority was also launched to create a secure environment in and around Kabul and support the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

These agreements paved the way for the creation of a three-way partnership between the Afghan Transitional Authority, the United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan and ISAF.

ISAF is not a UN force, but is a coalition of the willing deployed under the authority of the UN Security Council (four Security Council Resolutions – 1386, 1413, 1444 and 1510 – relate to ISAF). Since 11 August 2003, it has been supported and led by NATO, and financed by the troop-contributing countries.

Initial ISAF tasks

ISAF's tasks are laid out in a Military Technical Agreement established at the Bonn Conference. Its tasks include assisting the Afghan Transitional Authority in the maintenance of security in Kabul and its surrounding areas so that the Transitional Authority and UN personnel can operate in a secure environment.

In more concrete terms, ISAF has been assisting, through its presence, in creating a secure environment, developing Afghan security structures, identifying reconstruction needs, as well as training and building up future Afghan security forces. This has involved helping to train the first units of the new Afghan National Army and national police, rehabilitating schools and medical facilities, restoring water supplies, providing agricultural technical assistance and many other civil-military projects.



ISAF also operates parts of Kabul International Airport (the Kabul International Airport task force) and maintains an Air Liaison Officers Cell, thereby ensuring that ISAF receives the necessary logistical support through an air line of communications back to NATO countries. Furthermore, it has played a role in supporting the removal of heavy weapons in Afghanistan to three cantonment sites near Kabul.

At the beginning of 2004, ISAF assisted in providing security for a major political event, the convening of a constitutional *Loya Jirga*¹, a grand council specific to Afghanistan, which adopted a new constitution.

ISAF structure

ISAF Headquarters provides operation-level direction and planning support to the Kabul Multinational Brigade and conducts operational tasks within its area of responsibility. It also liaises with and assists in the work of the United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan, the Afghan Transitional Authority, and governmental and non-governmental organisations. ISAF Headquarters commands three main components:

- the Kabul Multinational Brigade: ISAF's tactical headquarters, responsible for the planning and conduct of patrolling and civil-military cooperation operations on a day-to-day basis in Kabul and its vicinity;
- Kabul International Airport: ISAF assists the Afghan Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism in the overall operation of the airport;
- PRTs in Baghlan, Feyzabad, Kunduz, Mazar-I-Sharif, and Meymana.

Senior Civilian Representative

Crucial to the success of the Alliance's ISAF mission is the NATO Senior Civilian Representative in Afghanistan, Minister Hikmet Çetin of Turkey. Appointed in November 2003, Mr. Çetin is responsible for carrying forward political-military aspects of the Alliance's assistance to the Afghan Transitional Authority in fulfilling the commitments of the December 2001 Bonn Agreement. He also works closely with ISAF, the United Nations and other coordinating bodies established by the international community, and the Afghan Transitional Authority in Kabul.

¹ Loya is the Pashtun term for "grand" and Jirga is a Persian/Mogholi word meaning "group".



Official documents and background reading

Go to the electronic version of the reader's guide for clickable links

<http://www.nato.int/docu/rdr-gde-ist>

Statement on Afghanistan by the NATO Secretary General, Istanbul
28 June 2004

<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2004/p04-106e.htm>

Final communiqué of NATO Defence Ministers announcing the decision to
expand ISAF beyond Kabul (paragraph 5), Brussels, 1 December 2003

<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2003/p03-148e.htm>

Announcement in the final communiqué of NATO Foreign Ministers in
Madrid, 3 June 2003, of NATO takeover of ISAF (paragraph 3)

<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2003/p03-059e.htm>

NATO in Afghanistan

<http://www.nato.int/issues/afghanistan/index.htm>

Fact sheet on ISAF

<http://www.nato.int/issues/afghanistan/factsheet.htm>

NATO's ISAF mission online

<http://www.afnorth.nato.int/ISAF>

Frequently Asked Questions on ISAF

http://www.afnorth.nato.int/ISAF/Update/media_faq.htm

"The Road to Kabul". NATO Review article (Summer 2003) by Diego
Ruiz Palmer giving a detailed account of the role, functioning and
evolution of ISAF up to the NATO takeover

http://www.nato.int/docu/review/2003/issue2/english/art3_pr.html

"Preparing for the Constitutional Loya Jirga". ISAF news piece by Major
Guy Turpin explaining the origins, functioning and role of this council,
5 December 2003

<http://www.afnorth.nato.int/ISAF/Update/getready.htm>



CONTINUED BALKAN PRESENCE

At Istanbul, Allied leaders reaffirmed their commitment to peace and stability in the Balkans. They agreed to conclude the Alliance's successful Stabilisation Force (SFOR) mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina by the end of 2004. In recognition of the ongoing challenges in the region, NATO continues to be committed to the region with the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and headquarters in Skopje, in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,* and by the end of 2004 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Stabilisation Force will be replaced by a mission led by the European Union (EU) under the Berlin Plus arrangements between the two organisations (see section on NATO-EU relations). Under these arrangements, NATO will help the EU plan the operation from a cell at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Mons, Belgium, and the operational commander of the EU Force (EUFOR) will be the Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (DSACEUR). The EU force will be the same size as SFOR, which has gradually been reduced to 7,000 since the NATO Implementation Force deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina with 60,000 troops starting in December 1995.

NATO in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Despite the successful termination of SFOR, at Istanbul, Allied leaders reiterated NATO's long-term political commitment to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Alliance will continue to have a residual presence in Sarajevo in the form of a military headquarters commanded by a US major general. NATO Headquarters Sarajevo's main task will be to provide advice to the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina on defence reform. It will also have a counter-terrorist role, support the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, within its means and capabilities, and share intelligence with the EU.

NATO has been running a peacekeeping operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina since December 1995 in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1031. This resolution transferred responsibility for military operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina from the United Nations



Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to NATO and mandated the Implementation Force (IFOR) to oversee the implementation of the military aspects of the Dayton Peace Accord.

The Dayton Peace Accord establishes Bosnia and Herzegovina as a single, democratic and multi-ethnic state with two entities: the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska. This peace agreement ended a four-year war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which broke out following the break-up of Yugoslavia into Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,* Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia at the end of the Cold War.

IFOR had a one-year mandate to oversee implementation of the military aspects of the peace agreement – bringing about and maintaining an end to hostilities; separating the armed forces of Bosnia's two newly created entities, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska; transferring territory between the two entities according to the peace agreement; and moving the parties' forces and heavy weapons into approved storage sites. These goals were achieved by June 1996.

IFOR was replaced in December 1996 by the Stabilisation Force (SFOR), with an open-ended mandate to deter hostilities and stabilise the peace, contribute to a secure environment by providing a continued military presence in its area of responsibility, target and coordinate its support to key areas including primary civil implementation organisations, and progress towards a lasting consolidation of peace, without further need for NATO-led forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

NATO in Kosovo

At Istanbul, Allied leaders reaffirmed their commitment to a secure, stable and multi-ethnic Kosovo. KFOR, which currently numbers some 17,500 troops, will continue to have a robust presence in the province. Allied leaders condemned the ethnic violence in the province in March 2004, which triggered the deployment of NATO's operational and strategic reserves sent in order to contribute to the restoration of secure conditions. The unrest underscores the necessity for the continued presence of KFOR. The force works alongside the UN Mission in Kosovo and other international and non-governmental agencies to stabilise the province.



NATO conducted a 78-day air campaign against the regime of President Slobodan Milosevic in 1999 to end the ethnic cleansing of Kosovar Albanians. Tension originally intensified in 1989 when Belgrade removed Kosovo's autonomy, imposing direct control over the province. It then started to oppress the Kosovar Albanian population. In 1998, major violence erupted in Kosovo with the actions of the Serb forces, provoking flows of refugees and internally displaced persons.

KFOR first deployed to the province with 50,000 troops in June 1999 in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1244, which calls for an effective international civil and security presence in Kosovo. The resolution establishes Kosovo as an entity under interim international administration, while a solution is sought for the future status of the province. It also requests the UN Secretary-General to appoint a Special Representative to oversee the implementation of the international civil presence, and authorises member states and relevant international organisations to establish the international security presence.

Official documents and background reading

Go to the electronic version of the reader's guide for clickable links
<http://www.nato.int/docu/rdr-gde-ist>

The General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 14 December 1995
<http://www.nato.int/ifor/gfa/gfa-home.htm>

United Nations Security Council Resolutions and other documents relating to Bosnia and Herzegovina and to Kosovo
<http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/home.shtml>

NATO statement on Kosovo at the Washington Summit, 23-25 April 1999
<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-062e.htm>

EU-NATO agreement on a concerted approach to the Western Balkans, 29 July 2003
<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2003/p03-089e.htm>



NATO's role in Kosovo

<http://www.nato.int/kosovo/kosovo.htm>

Operation Allied Force

<http://www.nato.int/kosovo/all-fnce.htm>

KFOR website

<http://www.nato.int/kfor/welcome.html>

IFOR website

<http://www.nato.int/ifor/ifor.htm>

SFOR website

<http://www.nato.int/sfor/index.htm>

Background information on NATO's role in peacekeeping
(pp.107-135 of the NATO Handbook 2001)

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





OPERATION ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR

Allied leaders decided to enhance the contribution of Operation Active Endeavour, NATO's maritime surveillance and escort operation, to the fight against terrorism. They also welcomed offers by Russia and Ukraine to support Operation Active Endeavour. Work is under way on determining the modalities for the provision of such support. All offers for support from Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council Partners, Mediterranean Dialogue countries and other interested countries will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Operation Active Endeavour demonstrates the Alliance's resolve and ability to respond to terrorism. It began as a direct result of the 11 September 2001 attacks on the United States and the subsequent declaration of Article 5 by the Alliance. Naval forces were deployed to the Eastern Mediterranean on 6 October 2001 to undertake a surveillance mission with the objective of detecting and deterring terrorist activity.

The operation, which was formally named Active Endeavour on 26 October 2001 and is directed from Allied Naval Forces Southern Europe in Naples, Italy, represents a milestone for the Alliance. Together with the deployment of Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft to the United States, it was the first time that NATO assets had been deployed in support of an Article 5 operation.

In March 2003, NATO expanded Operation Active Endeavour by providing escorts through the Straits of Gibraltar to non-military ships from Alliance member states requesting them. In April 2003, NATO again expanded the mission and began systematically boarding suspect ships. These boardings take place with the compliance of the ships' masters and flag states in accordance with international law. In March 2004, Operation Active Endeavour was expanded to cover the entire Mediterranean.

The NATO Standing Naval Force Mediterranean and the Standing Naval Force Atlantic rotate on a three-monthly basis in Operation Active Endeavour. Some NATO nations, mainly Spain, Greece, Turkey and Italy, contribute directly to the operation with naval assets. Escort operations in the Straits of Gibraltar involve the use of fast patrol boats from



Northern European Allies Denmark, Norway and Germany. Spain also provides additional assets in the Straits. Operation Active Endeavour relies heavily on the logistic support of Mediterranean NATO Allies.

As of mid-October 2004, Operation Active Endeavour had hailed approximately 53,000 vessels and conducted 70 compliant boardings. A total of 488 vessels were escorted through the Straits of Gibraltar.

Operation Active Endeavour provided the framework for the maritime component of NATO's assistance to the Greek government to ensure the safe conduct of the 2004 Olympic and Paralympic Games from 2 August until 30 September 2004. Task Force Endeavour conducted surveillance, presence and compliant boarding operations in international waters around the Greek peninsula with Standing Naval Forces surface ships, supported by maritime patrol aircraft and submarines and in coordination with the Hellenic Navy and Coast Guard.

Official documents and background reading

Go to the electronic version of the reader's guide for clickable links
<http://www.nato.int/docu/rdr-gde-ist>

About Operation Active Endeavour
<http://www.afsouth.nato.int/operations/Endeavour/Endeavour.htm>

NATO's contribution to the fight against terrorism
<http://www.nato.int/terrorism/index.htm>



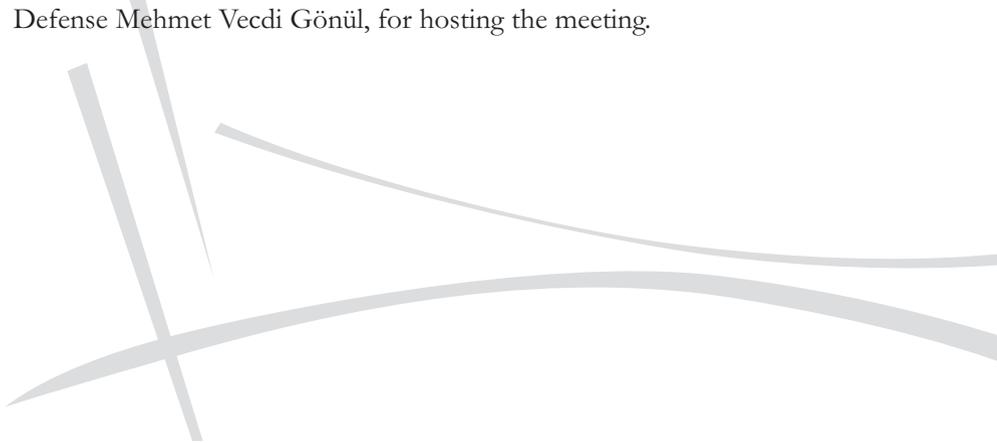
Press Statement for the Meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Defence Ministers Session, Istanbul 27-28 June 2004

The Defence Ministers and Representatives of NATO met in Istanbul, Turkey, in the margins of the Summit Meeting of Alliance Heads of State and Government, to discuss matters of common interest and concern. It was the first meeting of the Council in Defence Ministers Session attended by the Ministers of the seven new Allies since their accession.

The Defence Ministers reviewed the progress made since the Prague Summit in transforming Alliance capabilities, took decisions for their further improvement, and gave directions for additional efforts in this regard. They reviewed work to enhance the Alliance's role in defence against terrorism. They also discussed current Alliance operations and other crisis management issues.

The Ministers welcomed the signature by a number of Allies of agreements related to multinational initiatives on strategic airlift and sealift.

The Ministers expressed their thanks to their Turkish colleague, Minister of Defense Mehmet Vecdi Gönül, for hosting the meeting.





Press Statement for the Meeting of the Defence Planning Committee in Ministerial Session, Istanbul 27 June 2004

The Defence Planning Committee met in Ministerial Session in Istanbul on 27th June in advance of the Summit Meeting of Alliance Heads of State and Government and to conduct business related to NATO's collective defence planning. It was the first meeting of the Committee in Ministerial Session attended by the Ministers of the seven new Allies since their accession.

Defence Ministers adopted new NATO Force Goals for individual Allies to guide the development of their forces up to 2010 and beyond. They also approved proposals for a revised force planning process. Ministers also discussed defence planning related aspects of the transformation of Alliance capabilities.

The Ministers expressed their thanks to their Turkish colleague, Minister of Defence Mehmet Vecdi Gönül, for hosting the meeting.





DELIVERING ON THE PRAGUE CAPABILITIES COMMITMENT

NATO leaders reaffirmed support for the Prague Capabilities Commitment (PCC), a key part of the Alliance's effort to improve its military capabilities, and agreed to give special emphasis to overcoming the remaining critical shortages and to adapt their capabilities to the new security challenges of the 21st century. Implementation of the PCC is progressing, including multinational projects aimed at enhancing military capabilities. At Istanbul, defence ministers signed a memorandum of understanding on strategic airlift and additional countries signed letters of intent on strategic air- and sealift. In a related development, a group of ministers signed a memorandum of understanding on the creation of an F-16 expeditionary air wing.

Strategic lift is important to transport significant forces over long distances. As such, it represents a crucial capability for many operations.

The German-led airlift consortium includes Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Hungary, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Turkey. At Istanbul, defence ministers of these 15 countries signed a memorandum of understanding aiming to achieve an operational airlift capacity for outsize cargo through an on-call availability charter by 2005 using up to six Antonov An-124-100 transport aircraft. In addition, the defence ministers of Bulgaria and Romania signed a letter of intent to join this consortium.

Norway leads the High Level Group on Strategic Sealift which includes Canada, Denmark, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom. The December 2003 agreement that their defence ministers signed in Brussels to implement the June 2003 sealift letter of intent is based on three components:

- assured access to two ships;
- one or two Danish ships; and
- the residual capacity of four British ships.

At the Istanbul Summit, the defence ministers of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Romania and Slovenia signed a supplementary letter of intent on strategic sealift.



The memorandum of understanding on F-16 cooperation, which was signed by Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and Portugal, will result in the creation of a European expeditionary wing, a multinational unit of combat aircraft which could be available to NATO. The Alliance is encouraging the pooling of capabilities by member states.

Progress is also being made on missile defence and the Alliance Ground Surveillance (AGS) system, the multinational cooperative effort to develop and acquire an airborne stand-off ground surveillance system for NATO.

At Istanbul, Allied leaders endorsed the blueprint for a theatre missile defence system. NATO is examining options for addressing the growing missile threat to Alliance territory, forces and population centres through a combination of political and defence efforts, as well as deterrence.

NATO leaders endorsed the April 2004 decision by the Conference of National Armaments Directors (CNAD) on the AGS design and development phase, namely “to move forward expeditiously towards the signing of a contract, by Spring 2005, with the Transatlantic Industrial Proposed Solution (TIPS) consortium (made up of EADS, Galileo Avionica, General Dynamics Canada, Indra, Northrop Grumman and Thales) for the Design and Development of a NATO-owned and operated AGS core.”

Prague Capabilities Commitment

Under the Prague Capabilities Commitment (PCC), member countries made firm political commitments to improve capabilities in more than 400 specific areas in the following eight fields:

- Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defence;
- Intelligence, surveillance and target acquisition;
- Air-to-ground surveillance;
- Deployable and secure command, control and communications;
- Combat effectiveness, including precision-guided munitions and suppression of enemy air defences;
- Strategic air- and sealift;
- Air-to-air refuelling;
- Deployable combat support and combat service support units.



NATO members are improving their capabilities in these eight areas nationally and multinationally through pooling. For multinational projects such as strategic sealift, strategic airlift and air-to-air refuelling, consortia with lead nations have been formed. The consortium on strategic sealift is led by Norway, on strategic airlift by Germany, and on air-to-air refuelling by Spain.

Official documents and background reading

Go to the electronic version of the reader's guide for clickable links
<http://www.nato.int/docu/rdr-gde-ist>

Statement on capabilities issued by NATO Defence Ministers on 1 December 2003

<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2003/p03-149e.htm>

Final communiqué of the Defence Planning Committee and the Nuclear Planning Group held in Brussels on 1 December 2003, reviewing progress on capabilities

<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2003/p03-147e.htm>

Final communiqué of the Defence Planning Committee and the Nuclear Planning Group held in Brussels on 12 June 2003, giving general information on capabilities

<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2003/p03-064e.htm>

Final communiqué at the Prague Summit, comprising text on the Prague Capabilities Commitment, the NATO Response Force and the streamlining of the command structure (paragraph 4)

<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2002/p02-127e.htm>

Statement on capabilities by NATO Defence Ministers, 6 June 2002

<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2002/p02-074e.htm>

Statement on the Defence Capabilities Initiative by NATO Heads of State and Government, 25 April 1999

<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99s069e.htm>



Improving NATO's operational capabilities

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

Background information on the Defence Capabilities Initiative
(pp. 50-53 of the NATO Handbook 2001)

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





ENHANCED PACKAGE OF MEASURES FOR DEFENCE AGAINST TERRORISM

At Istanbul, NATO leaders approved an enhanced set of measures to strengthen the Alliance's contribution to the fight against terrorism. They agreed to improve intelligence sharing through a review of current intelligence structures at NATO and through the Terrorist Threat Intelligence Unit at NATO Headquarters in Brussels. This Unit, which was created after the terrorist attacks against the United States on 11 September 2001, has now become permanent and will analyse general terrorist threats, as well as those more specifically aimed at NATO.

The enhanced package of anti-terrorist measures includes more rapid response to requests by member countries to help deal with terrorist threats or the consequences of terrorist attacks. NATO's Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft and multinational chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defence (CBRN) battalion can be made available to any member country requesting such assistance. The Euro 2004 football championships in Portugal (from mid-June to early July), received AWACS coverage for the duration of the event. NATO AWACS and elements of the CBRN battalion also protected the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Other anti-terror measures taken by the Alliance and Partners include Operation Active Endeavour (see the section of this guide on operations and missions) and the Partnership Action Plan against Terrorism.

The enhanced package of anti-terrorist measures agreed at Istanbul includes a research and technology programme to combat terrorism developed by the Conference of National Armaments Directors, procurement chiefs of NATO member countries, during their last biannual meeting in May 2004. This work programme will focus on eight areas:

- Countering improvised explosive devices, such as car and road-side bombs, through threat detection;
- Reducing the vulnerability of wide-body civilian and military aircraft from man-portable air defence missiles;
- Reducing the vulnerability of helicopters to rocket-propelled grenades;
- Protecting harbours and ships from explosive-packed speedboats and underwater divers;



- Detection, protection and defeat of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons;
- Explosive ordnance disposal;
- Precision airdrop technology for special operations forces and their equipment; and
- Intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and target acquisition of terrorists.

Official documents and background reading

Go to the electronic version of the reader's guide for clickable links

<http://www.nato.int/docu/rdr-gde-ist>

Declaration on terrorism by NATO Foreign Ministers, 2 April 2004

<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2004/p04-057e.htm>

NATO's military concept against terrorism, endorsed at the Prague Summit on 21 November 2002

<http://www.nato.int/ims/docu/terrorism.htm>

Partnership Action Plan against terrorism, adopted at the Prague Summit

<http://www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/b021122e.htm>

NATO Foreign Ministers in Reykjavik declare that to fight terrorism, NATO will act whenever and wherever necessary (paragraph 5), 14-15 May 2002

<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2002/p02-059e.htm>

The eight measures adopted by NATO on the request of the United States, 4 October 2001

<http://www.nato.int/docu/speech/2001/s011004b.htm>

About NATO and terrorism. Issue page giving access to key documents on the subject

<http://www.nato.int/terrorism/index.htm>

A chronology of NATO's response to 11 September 2001

<http://www.nato.int/terrorism/chronology.htm>



NATO RESPONSE FORCE MOVES FORWARD

On the eve of the Istanbul Summit, a ceremony was held to mark the change of command of the NATO Response Force (NRF) from Joint Force Command (JFC) Allied Forces Northern Europe in Brunssum, the Netherlands, to JFC Allied Forces Southern Europe (AFSOUTH) in Naples, Italy.

Speaking at the ceremony, NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said: "The NATO Response Force is at the centre of the Alliance's military transformation. It not only gives us a high readiness and deployable force in which all the Allies will engage together. It is also a hothouse in which advanced technologies and doctrines flourish. And because all Allies have the possibility of contributing forces to the NRF, the benefits will flow throughout the Alliance."

AFSOUTH will command the third and fourth six-month rotations of the force, NRF 3 and NRF 4, until the middle of 2005. The NRF achieved an initial operating capability in October 2004, with some 17,000 troops, and is due to reach a full operating capability by 2006.

Rapidly deployable worldwide

The NRF is a rapidly deployable multinational unit made up of land, air, maritime and special forces components. Numbering some 24,000 troops when it reaches its full operating capability in October 2006, it will be able to start to deploy after five days' notice and sustain itself for operations lasting 30 days or longer if resupplied.

The NRF will be able to deploy worldwide, as and when decided by the North Atlantic Council. At full operating capability, the NRF will consist of a brigade-size land component with a forced-entry capability, a naval task force composed of one carrier battle group, an amphibious task group and a surface action group, an air component capable of 200 combat sorties a day, and a special forces component.

The NRF has different possible missions:

- As a stand-alone force for Article 5 collective defence or non-Article 5 crisis response operations, such as evacuation operations, disaster



consequence management (including chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear events), and support in a humanitarian crisis situation and counterterrorism operations;

- An initial entry force facilitating the arrival of larger follow-on forces;
- To show NATO determination and solidarity to deter crises (quick response operations to support diplomacy as required).

The NRF will be tailored to a specific operation so that a sufficient number of adequate NATO forces are projected when and where necessary. Contributions will be drawn from combat-ready, interoperable units contributed by NATO member countries. This does not exclude support by Partner countries, to be decided by the North Atlantic Council on a case-by-case basis for a specific operation, as is the case for most NATO-led operations.

Six-month rotation

The principle of rotation applies to the NRF. Once nations commit forces to an NRF rotation, they will only be withdrawn under exceptional circumstances.

After a six-month training programme, the force will be certified to the highest standards, especially with regard to capabilities and interoperability. It is then put “on-call” for six months. The units that constitute this joint force are either land, air or naval forces, or have some special function, such as the multinational chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defence battalion.

These force components are replaced every six months by a fresh set of units that have completed the six-month training cycle.

The NRF prototype numbering 9,500 troops was officially inaugurated on 15 October 2003 at the headquarters of Joint Force Command in Brunssum, the Netherlands (AFNORTH). It was used to test the concept and fine-tune the practices of the force.



Further details on the NATO Response Force

Issue page on the NATO Response Force

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

The NATO Response Force, SHAPE

http://www.nato.int/shape/issues/shape_nrf/nrf_intro.htm





IMPROVING CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR DEFENCES

The NATO Secretary General used the occasion of the NRF change of command ceremony at the Istanbul Summit to declare the full operating capability of the multinational chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) defence battalion, a month earlier than originally planned to put its six-month rotation cycle in sync with that of the NRF. The CBRN defence battalion achieved its initial operational capability in December 2003.

The multinational NATO CBRN defence battalion is designed to respond to and manage the consequences of the use of weapons of mass destruction and the release of any CBRN agent both inside and beyond NATO's area of responsibility. Under normal circumstances, it will operate within the NATO Response Force, but it may also be committed to other tasks, including helping Allied civilian authorities.

Thirteen NATO member states contributed forces to the first 12-month rotation of the battalion starting in December 2003, which was led by the Czech Republic: Belgium, Canada, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Other countries will participate in or lead subsequent 12-month rotations. Germany will lead the next rotation, followed by Spain.

NATO provided CBRN assistance to the Greek government during the 2004 Olympic and Paralympic Games from 2 August until 30 September 2004. This included the deployment of a task force from the CBRN Battalion to Halkida, Greece.

Further details on CBRN

Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defence battalion, SHAPE
<http://www.nato.int/shape/issues/cbrndb/index.htm>

Video interview with Ted Whiteside, Head of NATO's Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Centre, 22 May 2003

<http://www.nato.int/multi/video/2003/v030522/v030522a.htm>



MATCHING NATO'S MEANS TO ITS AMBITIONS

At Istanbul, NATO leaders set in motion medium- and long-term measures to increase the availability of Alliance member armed forces for future operations. Allies approved targets for the usability of member ground forces so that more are available for operations and agreed to changes to NATO's defence planning, force generation, and operational planning and decision-making processes to make them speedier and more efficient.

Allied defence ministers approved output targets for the deployability and usability of forces to increase the probability that when NATO agrees to conduct an operation, suitable forces will be available. They agreed to usability goals for their respective ground forces of 40 per cent deployability and eight per cent sustainability. This means that member nation armed forces will be restructured so that 40 per cent of their ground forces can be deployed and eight per cent can be supported in Alliance operations at any one time. Nations will work to meet these goals or could even surpass them.

Official documents and background information

Go to the electronic version of the reader's guide for clickable links
<http://www.nato.int/docu/rdr-gde-ist>

Press Statement for the Meeting of the North Atlantic Council in
Defence Ministers Session, 27-28 June 2004
<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2004/p04-100e.htm>

Press Statement for the Meeting of the Defence Planning Committee in
Ministerial Session, 27 June 2004
<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2004/p04-101e.htm>

Issue page on NATO's defence planning process
<http://www.nato.int/issues/dpp>





Chairman's Statement of the meeting of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council at Summit level, Istanbul 29 June 2004

The tenth anniversary year of Partnership for Peace, the Heads of State and Government of the 46 member states of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) met today in Istanbul to discuss current security challenges and how they can best meet them. On the basis of the shared values and principles that underlie their cooperation, they recommitted themselves to pursuing the basic objective of their Partnership – to strengthen and extend peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area.

The EAPC Heads of State and Government met with President Karzai of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan to discuss progress in that country, and the valuable role played by both Allies and Partners who make up the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). All recognised that much remains to be done for Afghanistan to become a peaceful and stable country, fully integrated into the international community. They welcomed the decisions taken by the Alliance to expand ISAF and provide support to the Afghan authorities for the upcoming elections, and pledged to support the operation and its objectives. Allies and Partners alike recognised that their common security was at stake in the success of Afghanistan, and agreed upon the importance of accepting risks and facing responsibilities together.

EAPC Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the commitment of the Euro-Atlantic community to peace, security and stability in the Balkans. They welcomed the presence of the Heads of State of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro at their meeting as observers, and urged them to meet the outstanding conditions set for PfP membership by Allies.

In facing up to these new common threats to security, they reaffirmed the resolve of their states to fight the scourge of terrorism. They took stock of initiatives aimed at increasing the EAPC's contribution to the fight against terrorism and broadly endorsed the further implementation of the Partnership Action Plan against Terrorism, developed by Allies and Partners.



EAPC Heads of State and Government expressed broad support for a major report on the future development of their Euro-Atlantic Partnership, which outlines the core objectives of Partnership - political dialogue and practical cooperation, efforts to promote democratic values and foster democratic transformation across the Euro-Atlantic area, preparing interested Partners for participation in NATO-led operations and continuing through Partnership for Peace to support Partners who wish to join the Alliance.

They reaffirmed their commitment to building a Partnership which would be tailored to the different needs of individual Partners. In this respect, they welcomed NATO's intention to place a special focus on relations with the states of the Caucasus and Central Asia, including the decision by the Alliance to appoint one liaison officer for each region. They also welcomed the launching of the Individual Partnership Action Plan process by several states of the two regions. This process enables individual Partners to establish together with the Alliance a range of reform objectives, upon which the Alliance will provide advice and assistance. They expressed their endorsement of the Partnership Action Plan on Defence Institution Building, which reaffirms the EAPC's conviction that effective and efficient state defence institutions under civilian and democratic control are fundamental to stability in the Euro-Atlantic area, and essential for international security cooperation. This new mechanism aims to support and sustain further development of such institutions across the Euro-Atlantic area.

EAPC Heads of State and Government welcomed the commitment to ensure that as NATO reforms the way in which it develops future military capabilities, how it marshals them for operations and conducts operational planning, it will closely bear in mind the need to ensure that Partners are able to continue making high-value contributions to NATO-led Operations. They also endorsed the NATO Policy on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings developed in consultation with Partners.



The Euro-Atlantic Partnership – Refocusing and Renewal, 23 June 2004

Official document endorsed at the Istanbul Summit

I. ADAPTING OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES OF PARTNERSHIP

1. The New International Environment

1.1. NATO's policy of Partnership and Cooperation and the PfP have lasted for more than 10 years, and during that period the international environment has changed. Democratic transformation in Central and most of South-Eastern Europe has succeeded. NATO and the EU are enlarging. The grounds have been laid for further efforts to secure and stabilise the Balkans and to pursue integration of countries in this region into the Euro-Atlantic structures, including the participation of Serbia and Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina in EAPC/PfP when all the conditions are met. Partners have joined, and contributed greatly to, NATO-led efforts to ensure security in Europe and beyond. NATO's relations with Russia have been put on new and solid foundations. Ukraine is making a growing contribution to stability and security in Europe.

1.2. At the same time, the challenges to Euro-Atlantic security are changing. The evolving threats, including terrorism, have domestic and external sources and a transnational nature. While threats to stability remain in the strategically important region of the Balkans and particularly in Kosovo, events in Afghanistan, where NATO leads the ISAF operation, have demonstrated that threats to our common security increasingly come from the periphery of the Euro-Atlantic area. In this environment, international stability and security will increasingly depend on domestic reform on the one hand, and wide international co-operation on the other. These two imperatives are inseparable, for effective security co-operation is impossible absent basic doctrines and institutions of a fundamentally democratic nature.

1.3. The Allies are determined that the Euro-Atlantic Partnership play an enhanced role in both respects, taking into account the role of international organisations and regional organisations and cooperation in these areas. They will develop it accordingly, in close co-operation with Partners, building upon the founding documents of PfP and EAPC and the



decisions of the Washington and Prague Summits. In doing so, Allies will take account of NATO's continued commitment to Eastern and South East Europe, of the need to bring more stability and security to the Caucasus and Central Asia, and of the valuable contribution that the Western European Partners make to NATO-led operations and Partnership programmes.

2. The Objectives of NATO's Partnership Policy

2.1. Dialogue and Co-operation: NATO will conduct political dialogue and practical co-operation with its Partners on a broad range of international and appropriate domestic issues of common concern, in particular those related to terrorism and other evolving threats to security. NATO will be prepared to develop such dialogue and co-operation in different formats, on a geographical or functional basis, and in agreement with EAPC and PfP principles. The Alliance will encourage and support regional initiatives to address such issues.

2.2. Reform: NATO will enhance its efforts to promote democratic values and foster democratic transformation across the Euro-Atlantic area. To this end, the Alliance will provide interested Partners with political and practical advice on, and assistance in, the defence and security-related aspects of the domestic reform, including armed forces under civilian and democratic control. NATO will also encourage larger policy and institutional reform and support it within its competence and resources, complementing efforts by other international organisations.

2.3. Operations: NATO will continue to prepare interested Partners for participation in NATO-led operations. For this purpose, it will cooperate with all Partners, giving greater attention to their individual abilities and interests, in order to support their efforts to develop military interoperability and transform their defence in keeping with NATO's own evolving operational role and capabilities.

2.4. Enlargement: NATO will continue through Partnership for Peace to support Partners who wish to join the Alliance, consistent with the Open Door policy enshrined in the Washington Treaty and the PfP Invitation Document.



3. Current Priorities

3.1. Geographic Priority – Special Focus on the regions of Caucasus and Central Asia

3.1.1. NATO will continue to engage, and promote democratic transformation in, and regional co-operation between, Partner countries in Eastern and South-East Europe, including the Republic of Moldova. However, in response to the changing international environment, the Alliance will put special focus on engaging with Partners in the strategically important regions of Caucasus and Central Asia. As a result of the accession of seven former Partners to NATO, where possible and appropriate, NATO will refocus existing resources toward these two regions, consistent with NATO's long term strategy to enhance stability across the Euro-Atlantic area by encouraging and supporting reform.

3.1.2. NATO will give priority to these countries in implementing the existing and new co-operation programmes, in particular IPAP, PAP-DIB, PARP and PAP-T. NATO will pay special attention to the individual needs of those Partners who have demonstrated the willingness and commitment to participate in these programmes, will provide enhanced training and education, and will strive to help them manage the consequences of defence reform, including through the PFP trust fund mechanism. IPAP in particular could lead to a qualitatively enhanced political dialogue focused on creating the domestic and external environment specific to each country conducive to domestic reform, assessing Partners' reform progress, and facilitating more targeted Allied assistance.

3.1.3. To improve communication and support work with Partners in the Caucasus and Central Asia, NATO will:

- consider ways to enhance committee and staff support for Partnership activities within existing structures and resources, including through visits from and to these Partners;
- enhance the role of NATO Contact Point Embassies (CPEs), including by expanding their mandate;
- expand the scope of national, committee and staff support to the CPEs;
- intensify work with the Missions to NATO from these countries;
- encourage exchange of information and co-operation with and between national Allied defence or military advisors working as experts in these countries; and



- nominate Secretary General's Special Representative for the Caucasus and for Central Asia from among existing International Staff.

3.1.4. In addition to these steps, Allies will give positive consideration to the requests of Partner countries for enhanced local NATO representation provided that they:

- demonstrate active commitment to principles and goals expressed in PfP and EAPC basic documents, and their readiness to engage in relevant reforms, in particular through the IPAP,
- demonstrate their determination to undertake defence reform along democratic lines as defined in particular in the PAP-DIB,
- manifest the will for substantial practical co-operation with NATO, including in support of NATO operations, and;
- offer to provide resources to host NATO representation in their defence institutions or other office premises.

3.1.4.1. To respond in a balanced way to such requests, and to assist and provide advice to these Partners in implementing co-operation programmes and activities focused on PARP, and relevant aspects of IPAP, PAP-DIB and PAP-T, the North Atlantic Council has decided to appoint one NATO Officer for the Caucasus and one NATO Officer for Central Asia, to be embedded preferably within the appropriate institutions dealing with defence and PfP issues of the host nation. The terms of reference of those officers will be consistent with the General Guidelines on NATO Offices in Non-NATO Countries and their mandate will be reviewed in light of the criteria set out above.

3.2. Substantive Priorities – Meeting the Challenges of Today

3.2.1. Reform – Laying the Foundations for Modern Defence Systems: Pursuing a broad agenda of democratic transformation, NATO will give priority to helping Partner Nations, in particular those in the Caucasus and Central Asia, to develop modern and democratically responsible defence institutions, which will be able to support international security co-operation.

3.2.2. Operations – Enhancing Partner Contributions: Continuing to develop general Partner capabilities important to, and interoperable with, the Alliance, NATO will particularly promote the development of Partner capabilities that provide a unique or high-value contribution, including through a challenging exercise programme.



3.2.3. Dialogue and Co-operation – Fighting against Terrorism: In all co-operative efforts, NATO will pay particular attention to dialogue, exchange of expertise and developing mechanisms and instruments for enabling Partner contributions to the Alliance's response to terrorism and protection of civilian populations against Weapons of Mass Destruction.

II. MATCHING THE ENDS AND MEANS – NEW CO-OPERATION INITIATIVES

4. To ensure substantive progress towards Partnership objectives and priorities, NATO will continue pursuing vigorously the Partnership initiatives undertaken at the Washington and Prague Summits and will encourage Partners to make the full use of all instruments offered in the Comprehensive Review of EAPC and PfP. NATO will also take further steps to develop and complement these initiatives. While taking these steps, NATO expects all Partners to fulfil their commitments to the protection and promotion of fundamental freedoms, human rights and other fundamental values embedded in the basic documents of PfP and EAPC. For its part, NATO will enhance its efforts to encourage and assist Partners to implement these values through the new co-operation initiatives.

4.1. Reform

4.1.1. NATO will support vigorously the implementation of the Partnership Action Plan on Defence Institution Building (PAP-DIB). This Plan offers Allies and all Partners a common political and conceptual platform for bilateral and multilateral co-operation in developing efficient and democratically responsible defence institutions. PAP-DIB will help define objectives and priorities of work in this area, foster resource efficiency, and encourage exchange of experience among all Allies and Partners. IPAP and PARP will serve as primary instruments for pursuing commonly recognised reform objectives formulated in PAP-DIB. Multilateral activities, including in regional context, will complement this work. Possible measures to facilitate and harmonise operational co-operation between Partner security structures will also be considered.

4.1.2. NATO will also enhance support to those Nations engaged in IPAP, including by programming of education and training in defence management and defence reform. Such programming will seek to tap the expertise of Partners and new Allies, which have successfully undertaken



defence reform. NATO will also launch a series of workshops on defence and security economics with Partners participating in IPAP.

4.2. Operations

4.2.1. NATO welcomes continued Partner participation in NATO-led non-Art.5 operations. The Alliance will seek the earliest possible involvement by troop contributing nations in the decision-shaping process. Building on the ISAF experience, NATO could offer political consultations, including in NAC plus format, as a regular feature of non-NATO troop contributing Partners' association with NATO decision-making on operations in which they participate. To further facilitate NNCN's national planning regarding their contributions to NATO-led non-Art.5 operations, NATO will ensure appropriate access to the relevant documentation in accordance with agreed procedures. In the same vein, in addition to the well established interaction with contributing Partners in the Policy Coordination Group (PCG) and MC Working Group on Operations, meetings with non-NATO troop contributors could take place in other appropriate MC Working Groups or, when appropriate, in the Military Committee, as foreseen in the PMF.

4.2.2. NATO will continue to further develop and give more substance to the Training and Education Enhancement Programme (TEEP) and the Military Training and Exercise Programme (MTEP), including exercise activities in the Caucasus and Central Asia. This will support NATO's growing role, increasingly complex operational requirements and Partners' increased participation in operations. This effort will include in particular ADL/simulation and Pfp Training Centres and will strengthen co-operation in the framework of the Pfp Consortium of Defence Academies, in particular with regard to the Education and Training Track. It could also include exercises to prepare military contributions for civil-military operations, including in support for border security activities, and logistics support in and through Partner states. NATO will encourage the creation of Pfp training centres, including those focused on the Caucasus and Central Asia.*

4.2.3. NATO has formulated modalities for encouraging participation of Partners in the Prague Capabilities Commitment (PCC) multinational projects. Allies will apply this pragmatic approach in other areas of defence transformation including with regard to the



NATO Response Force (NRF). While any eventual Partner contributions to the NRF should be supplementary to the requirements established for the force, both the training and exercise programme of the NRF and the PfP training and exercise programmes should provide opportunities for interaction, without diminishing NRF readiness, and more generally promote interoperability between the NRF and Partner forces. Partner contributions could allow for enhanced operational flexibility. In this respect, existing PfP mechanisms, such as the PARP and OCC, need to be exploited to promote the development of appropriate Partner contributions. Transparency will be sought in relations with Partners with regard to criteria for rapid response units, to facilitate the development of their own rapid response forces. In the same context, as part of the implementation of the Operational Capabilities Concept, interoperability standards and related assessments will be harmonised with respective NATO mechanisms.

4.2.4. NATO will use the implementation of the new command structure to increase the value of participation by Partners, including by considering new responsibilities and authorities and by better integrating them in non-article 5 planning as feasible. In addition, Partners will be offered appropriate representation in the Allied Command Transformation at its HQ in Norfolk. The modalities for the PfP Staff Elements will be reviewed, as appropriate and in accordance with NATO Security Policy; including consideration of the establishment of PfP Staff Elements in ACT's subordinate structures, such as the Joint Warfare Centre in Stavanger.

4.2.5. Building upon extensive co-operation on protection of civil populations against WMD, opportunities will be offered to Partners for contributing to military co-operation in this field, including on protection of troops and, as appropriate, the CBRN battalion.

4.2.6. NATO will engage Partners more extensively in defence equipment-related activities in the framework of the CNAD. In particular, Partners will be associated to the greatest possible extent with equipment-related effort to address the Prague Capabilities Commitment and the defence against terrorism.



4.3. Dialogue and Co-operation

4.3.1. The new EAPC Security Forum will enhance high-level political dialogue among Allies and Partners on key security issues of common concern and will open this dialogue to the public and the civil society in Allied and Partner countries.

4.3.2. The Partnership Action Plan against Terrorism (PAP-T) remains the main platform for joint efforts by Allies and Partners in the fight against terrorism. It will be further implemented and developed with a view to enhancing practical co-operation, extending participation, improving co-operation with other international organisations, and developing supporting mechanisms. In particular, co-operation activities will be undertaken, developed, or further considered in a number of areas, including operations and exercises, training, border security and management, exchange of information, consequence management, and small arms and light weapons and man-portable air-defence systems.

4.3.3. EAPC/PFP Partners, along with Mediterranean Partners and selected triple-non countries, will be invited, in accordance with agreed procedures, taking into account their willingness and capability, and based on operational criteria, to cooperate in Operation Active Endeavour, including through active participation.

4.3.4. In view of the terrorist threat, NATO will enhance co-operation with interested Partners on relevant aspects of Air Defence and Air Traffic Management. This will include exchange of information on civil-military air traffic procedures. Particular stress will be put on involving interested Partners on a case-by-case basis in Air Situation Data exchange.

4.3.5. The NATO Security through Science programme will focus the combined scientific communities of the Partner and NATO countries on key security concerns of common interest, in particular the defence against terrorism.

4.3.6. Maritime and harbour security are important issues for Allies and Partners alike, including all those bordering on the Black and Caspian Seas. NATO will explore, in consultation with interested Partners, whether and how PFP actions could add value to those Partners' co-



operative efforts in these areas. Any such actions would complement other international efforts, and would need to be tailored to the needs of all those Partners and of regional co-operation between them.

4.3.7. The international community is faced with challenges posed by transnational organised crime and its potential links with terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Building on its own expertise, and where it can add value, NATO will explore possibilities for PfP co-operation in the field of border security, particularly in connection with the fight against various forms of illegal trafficking, particularly in arms. NATO's efforts in this field will be regional in nature, will be in line with the constitutional framework of member states, and will be designed to complement the work of police institutions and the initiatives of other organisations, such as the EU and OSCE.

III. ENHANCING SUPPORTING TOOLS

5. NATO will further develop and adapt tools designed to support political dialogue and practical co-operation:

5.1. A targeted Public Diplomacy effort will be essential in informing Partner public opinion about objectives and priorities of Partnership, in particular those related to domestic reform. Effective communication means will be employed, including high-visibility Flagship Events, involving high-level representatives of NATO and Allied nations as well as key personalities and broad audiences in Partner countries. Seminars and conferences in Partner countries will reflect NATO's agreed objectives and priorities for the Euro-Atlantic Partnership. The use of the Contact Point Embassy mechanism in pursuit of Partnership objectives and priorities will also be optimised.

5.2. PARP, in addition to its key role in fostering military interoperability, will be adapted to better correspond to Partnership's overall objectives and priorities, such as to support defence reform, defence institution building and the fight against terrorism.

5.3. Following the decisions to be taken at Istanbul with regard to Partnership, Allies will consider reviewing the EAPC/PfP committee structure to ensure an effective and efficient support to the enhanced Partnership tools.



5.4. The PfP Partnership Work Programme and the EAPC Action Plan will be replaced by a Euro-Atlantic Partnership Work Plan (EAPWP), a single management and information tool, covering all areas of Partnership and providing coherent politico-military guidance on all aspects of Partnership work.

5.5. NATO funding arrangements for EAPC and PfP activities will be harmonised and adapted to increase the flexibility in responding to Partners' individual requests for subsidies and to help ensure a broad participation of Partners in priority events and activities.

5.6. The NATO/PfP Trust Fund policy will ensure greater flexibility and efficiency in helping Partners to manage the consequences of defence reform, including destruction of surplus munitions. This will include Partners taking the lead in developing and implementing PfP Trust Fund projects, in accordance with agreed procedures.

IV. RESOURCES

6. To ensure effective and efficient implementation of Partnership's existing programmes and new initiatives, Allies will review the size and distribution of NATO's budgetary and human resources devoted to the planning and execution of co-operation programmes and activities in NATO HQ and the military headquarters, in the light of Partnership objectives, geographical and substantive priorities, and other outreach programmes pursued by the Alliance. In this regard, re-prioritisation and possible re-allocation of existing resources will become necessary.

7. Bilateral support of, and contribution to, Partnership programmes and activities by Allies and willing Partners will be essential for ensuring the success of the refocusing and renewal of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership.

* Note: There are currently 10 recognised PfP training centres with different focus. The United States has recently designated the US Naval Post-Graduate School at Monterey as a PfP Training Centre to be focused on the Caucasus and Central Asia.



Partnership Action Plan on Defence Institution Building (PAP-DIB), 7 June 2004

Official document endorsed at the Istanbul Summit

1. The Member states of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council reaffirm their conviction that effective and efficient state defence institutions under civilian and democratic control are fundamental to stability in the Euro-Atlantic area and essential for international security co-operation. They agree to establish a Partnership Action Plan to support and sustain further development of such institutions across the Euro-Atlantic area.
2. The Partnership Action Plan on Defence Institution Building (PAP-DIB) aims to reinforce efforts by EAPC Partners to initiate and carry forward reform and restructuring of defence institutions to meet their needs and the commitments undertaken in the context of the Partnership for Peace Framework Document and EAPC Basic Document, as well as the relevant OSCE documents including the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.
3. The PAP-DIB is developed within the EAPC framework and is open to all EAPC Partners. In line with NATO's special focus on the Caucasus and Central Asia, it may have particular relevance for Partners in these two regions, as well as for Moldova. It provides a common political and conceptual platform for bilateral and multilateral co-operation in developing and sustaining efficient and democratically responsible defence institutions including the armed forces under democratic and civilian control. The PAP-DIB will define common objectives for Partnership work in this area, encourage exchange of relevant experience among all Allies and Partners, foster resource efficiency, and help tailor and focus bilateral assistance programmes related to defence and security issues. It will include possible new measures to facilitate and harmonise operational cooperation between security structures including those beyond the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence.
4. In taking this work forward, Allies and Partners will explore opportunities to co-operate with other international organisations and institutions which share a commitment to democratic transformation and security co-operation in the Euro-Atlantic area, in particular the EU and the OSCE.



II. OBJECTIVES

5. PAP-DIB is an integral part of the Partnership for Peace. By agreeing this initiative, Allies and Partners commit themselves to dialogue, exchange of experience, and practical co-operation in pursuing the following objectives considered fundamental to the development of effective and democratically responsible defence institutions:

5.1. Develop effective and transparent arrangements for the democratic control of defence activities, including appropriate legislation and co-ordination arrangements setting out the legal and operational role and responsibilities of key state institutions in the Legislative and Executive branches of Government.

5.2. Develop effective and transparent procedures to promote civilian participation in developing defence and security policy, including participation of civilians in governmental defence institutions, cooperation with non-governmental organisations and arrangements to ensure appropriate public access to information on defence and security issues.

5.3. Develop effective and transparent legislative and judicial oversight of the defence sector, including appropriate arrangements to conduct due legal process.

5.4. Develop effective and transparent arrangements and procedures to assess security risks and national defence requirements; develop and maintain affordable and inter-operable capabilities corresponding to these requirements and international commitments, including those in the framework of Pfp.

5.5. Develop effective and transparent measures to optimise the management of defence ministries and agencies with responsibility for defence matters, and associated force structures, including procedures to promote inter-agency co-operation.

5.6. Develop effective and transparent arrangements and practices to ensure compliance with internationally accepted norms and practices established in the defence sector, including export controls on defence technology and military equipment.



5.7. Develop effective and transparent personnel structures and practices in the defence forces, including training and education, promotion of knowledge of international humanitarian law, arrangements for transparent promotion and career development, and for protection of the civil rights and freedoms of members of the armed forces.

5.8. Develop effective and transparent financial, planning, and resource allocation procedures in the defence area.

5.9. Develop effective, transparent and economically viable management of defence spending, taking into account macro-economic affordability and sustainability; develop methods and policies in order to cope with the socio-economic consequences of defence restructuring.

5.10. Develop effective and transparent arrangements to ensure effective international co-operation and good neighbourly relations in defence and security matters.

III. MECHANISMS

6. This Action Plan will make maximum use of existing EAPC and PfP tools and mechanisms. Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP) and PfP Planning And Review Process (PARP) will serve as primary instruments for pursuing PAP-DIB objectives and PARP will be adapted for this purpose. This may include development of Partnership Goals related to PAP-DIB and tailored to meet the needs and circumstances of individual Partners. Partners who have not made a decision to develop an IPAP or to participate in PARP but who wish to further develop democratic defence institutions and forces may make full use of their IPP to take advantage of specific activities which have been developed in this area of Partnership work. New multilateral co-operative activities, including those offered by Allies and Partners, may also be developed in the EAPC/PfP framework to address common issues of relevance to implementation of the PAP-DIB objectives. In taking forward this initiative, Allies and Partners will draw on the experience and lessons learned in the context of the Membership Action Plan.

7. The International Staff will report periodically to Allies and Partners on the implementation and development of PAP-DIB and on the overall progress in reaching PAP-DIB objectives.



8. To the maximum extent possible, NATO-sponsored multilateral activities will be developed in transparency and co-operation as appropriate, with other international organisations, in particular the EU and the OSCE.

9. Allies and Partners are invited to support and/or contribute to the development and implementation of programmes and activities in support of this Plan. They should be prepared to assist in the development of new EAPC and PfP activities and provide tailored bilateral assistance, including twinning and mentoring initiatives.





Report on the Partnership Action Plan against Terrorism, 23 June 2004

Official document endorsed at the Istanbul Summit

INTRODUCTION

1. The Partnership Action Plan against Terrorism (PAP-T) remains the main platform for joint efforts by Allies and Partners in the fight against terrorism. It serves as a useful tool in facilitating NATO's strategic outreach to Partners, particularly from Central Asia and the Caucasus and, as the first result-oriented action plan, contributes to NATO's general effort to keep Partnership active and relevant in the present security environment.
2. The Istanbul Summit provides an opportunity to review and invigorate the implementation of the PAP-T, in the context of a wider review of the objectives and priorities of Partnership in relation to all threats and challenges to the Euro-Atlantic security, including terrorism.
3. As the overarching document on NATO's relations with Partners and third states on combating terrorism, the PAP-T may provide a framework for some of the terrorism-related components of the new initiatives discussed within the Alliance. Mediterranean Dialogue Partners and other states may participate in these initiatives on a case-by-case basis. The current implementation of the PAP-T may also be enhanced through increased co-operation with international organisations. The following suggestions are offered in this context.

DEVELOPING PRACTICAL COOPERATION

4.1. **Operations and Exercises:** The success and high visibility of Operation Active Endeavour (OAE) has resulted in the NAC tasking the NMAs to develop a package of measures for the involvement of EAPC Partners, MD countries and selected contact countries in the framework of OAE and to provide a roadmap on how to proceed. Any specific offer from EAPC Partners, MD countries and selected contact countries would then be subject to approval on a case-by-case basis as well as the specific measures of support. Such involvement would add substance and visibility to the common fight against terrorism. Collecting and sharing information on suspect vessels is one possible area of co-operation, as stipulated in article



16.1.2. of the PAP-T. In consultation with Partners, the NMAs are currently reviewing potential exercises in the support of PAP-T. It is envisaged that starting from 2004 onwards, the Partnership Work Programme will see a step-by-step introduction of anti-terrorism related training events, mainly as building blocks added to already planned exercises. In this framework, it might be worth considering undertaking an exercise tailored for Partner participation in activities against terrorism. This would be in line with Article 16.2.5. of PAP-T, which allows for the participation of Partners in training opportunities and exercises related to terrorism. The NMAs could be mandated to explore the feasibility of this option.

Action item: The NMAs to provide advice on the organisation of an anti-terrorism exercise, taking into account the Alliance decision regarding Partner participation in Operation Active Endeavour.

4.2. **Border Security and Management:** Borders are one of the first lines of defence against terrorism. At various occasions, a number of NATO nations and Partners noted the need for further efforts to implement the PAP-T with special emphasis on relevant aspects of border management and security. As part of these efforts, consideration should be given to the relevant aspects of the fight against illegal trafficking. In the PfP framework, Partnership Goals for border security are being addressed in the PARP to those countries that seek them. The NATO-initiated Ohrid Border Process has, inter alia, shown the strength of concerted approach by international organisations. With regard to the application of this approach to other regions, such as the Caucasus and Central Asia, lessons could be drawn for further consideration from the Ohrid experience, such as the importance of practical and pragmatic co-operation and a systemic approach through integrated border management. In this respect, a workshop with the Ohrid Partners (OSCE, EU and the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe) could be useful in exploring the possibility of applying elements of this process to other regions. The suggestions by Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan to organise follow-up meetings to the EAPC/SEEGROUP workshop on integrated border management, held in Tirana in January 2004, should be seen as part of a functional approach, which supports the overall importance of border security and management in countering terrorism.

Action item: IS to give support to the workshops planned by Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan.



4.3. Training: The NMAs are currently reviewing potential training activities in support of PAP-T. This could include modifications to existing courses currently open to Partners at the NATO School in Oberammergau. The specific request by Tajikistan for border guard training could also be evaluated by the PMSC, in line with articles 16.3.1 and 16.5.1 of the PAP-T. As with exercises in paragraph 4.1 above, it is envisaged that starting from 2004 onwards, the Partnership Work Programme will see increased anti-terrorism related training opportunities.

Action item: PMSC and NMAs to evaluate Tajikistan's request for Border Guard training and possible other opportunities for training related to the fight against terrorism.

4.4. Partnership Goals: Article 16.2.2. of the PAP-T stipulates that Partnership Goals aiming at improving the capabilities of Partners to participate in activities against terrorism will be identified within PARP and will also be communicated to Partners, which are not participating in this process. The approach to date has been to highlight existing Partnership Goals, which seek capabilities that could also be utilised against terrorism, rather than to create new ones.

Action item: The PMSC and the Partners concerned should give special consideration during the review process for Partnership Goals 2004 to the Partnership Goals, which seek capabilities that could also be utilised against terrorism.

4.5. Security and Threat of Munitions and SALW: SALW, including Man Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS), used by terrorist groups and criminal organisations, originate largely from unsecured excess stocks of national armed forces as well as from grey arms suppliers, diversions and private holdings. PfP tools offer a broad programme of complementary practical measures addressing counter measures and ensuring the safe storage, handling and destruction of munitions and SALW including MANPADS, and other shoulder fired rocket and grenade launchers. Specific activities, including expert visits to assess security procedures and development of destruction plans, including the possible use of Trust Funds are an integral part of on-going work on defence reform and restructuring of armed forces.

Action item: The PMSC, taking into account also the responsibilities of other organisations in this field, to ensure that the harmonised



EAPC/PWP will identify specific activities in support of the PAP-T, such as seminars/workshops and PMSC meetings with Partners focused on efforts to counter threats posed by SALW and MANPADS, including actions being taken to enhance security of aircraft and airfields and efforts to ensure appropriate security including storage, transport and safe destruction. Specific emphasis needs to be given to “awareness”, “registration”, and “export control legislation” and “stockpile security”.

4.6. Anti-Terrorism Related Intelligence Exchanges: Since the establishment of the Intelligence Liaison Unit (ILU) a reasonable quantity of intelligence reports has been exchanged. Several liaison visits were carried out in various PfP countries to provide clarification about ILU's objectives and activities. Since its inception, ILU has greatly helped in promoting co-operation and communication with partners. In early March 2003, the expansion of ILU activities to those Mediterranean Dialogue countries, which have signed a security agreement and have been certified by NOS, was approved. The integration of the terrorism-related functions of the ILU into the Terrorist Threat Intelligence Unit (TTIU), which is expected to be operational by the time of the Istanbul Summit, is also expected to enhance the quality of the co-operation, and provide impetus to the implementation of the PAP-T.

Action item: The IS/IMS and involved Committees to consider ways of further improving the functions of ILU.

4.7. Combating the financing of terrorism: Efforts have been undertaken to address issues related to financing terrorism. A workshop in Geneva on “Combating the Financing of Terrorism” highlighted that cooperation between States, the Private Sector and International Organisations has but started and needs to be further strengthened. There is a need for an integrated and interdisciplinary approach both at the national and international level, and Partnership can make a useful contribution via PAP-T that supports and complements the efforts of other international organisations directly involved in this issue. The NATO Defence College has taken up the issue and will dedicate an October 2004 event to financial and economic aspects of the fight against terrorism. A further workshop, focussing more specifically on the role of the Private Sector, is already being envisaged by Switzerland for spring 2005.

Action item: IS to support the preparations of the planned workshop.



4.8 Consequence management: Substantial work has been undertaken to enhance national capabilities to contribute to consequence management. A Civil Emergency Planning Action Plan for the Improvement of Civil Preparedness for Possible Attacks against the Civilian Population with Chemical, Biological, or Radiological Agents has been approved and updated already twice. There have been achievements like an inventory of national capabilities and work is ongoing in a variety of fields, such as the facilitation of vital cross border transport movements, consequence management following a WMD attack or protection of critical infrastructure, as agreed in the CEP action plan. The role of the EADRCC has been crucial in terms of progress in this area. Consideration should be given to further enhance the role of the EADRCC in the light of this progress. Civil-military cooperation, the coordination of national responses to requests for assistance and the interface with the EADRCC should be emphasised. In this respect, CM exercises to test the decision-making processes and the operational procedures are essential. Consideration should also be given, on a case-by-case basis, to practical cooperation with MD countries.

Action items:

- a) The SCEPC to follow up to the CEP Action Plan, with special emphasis to CM exercises.
- b) The Senior Defence Group on Proliferation is invited to consider elaborating suggestions for appropriate Partner involvement in force protection against WMD attacks.

4.9. EAPC Political Seminar on Terrorism: During the EAPC Ambassadors' meeting on 21 April, several delegations expressed their wish to hold an EAPC seminar on Terrorism, which could serve as a follow-up to previous seminars organised on this subject. Such a seminar could take stock of the work achieved so far, and would serve as an appropriate platform to discuss the implementation of the action items proposed in this paper. Switzerland offered to host such a seminar.

Action item: The PC/PMSC to discuss the specifics about the follow-up Political Seminar on Terrorism taking into account Switzerland's offer.

EXTENDING PARTICIPATION

5. Further Involvement of Med Dialogue Partners in PAP-T: The PAP-T envisages the possibility for Mediterranean Partners to participate in



workshops, seminars and other activities on a case-by-case basis. On 28-30 October 2002, the 5th MD International Research Seminar (IRS) was held at NADEFCOL in Rome and co-sponsored by Algeria. (The MD IRS analysed the perspectives of security in the Mediterranean region, especially in regard to terrorism-related issues.) NADEFCOL is ready to continue organising workshops, seminars and other academic activities on terrorism-related topics as directed by the MC. Further, co-operation in the area of counter terrorism is increasing with the extension of the mandate of the EAPC/PfP Intelligence Liaison Unit to include MD countries which have signed a Security Agreement with NATO and which have been certified by NOS. The possibility of involving MD nations in the PAP-T could be further exploited.

Action items:

- a) While the future of the MD is still being discussed by Allies in the run-up to Istanbul, the IS should draw up a consolidated list of co-operation proposals already made by MD Partners related to combating terrorism, to be addressed in due course within the PAP-T framework.
- b) MD countries, which have not done so already, should again be offered the opportunity to conclude a Security Agreement with NATO to benefit from full participation into these activities.

6. **Giving support to regional cooperation:** The main structured regional cooperation set up by the initiative of the Alliance is the South East European Initiative (SEEI). Regional countries and Allies come together to discuss various issues under this initiative in the format of South East European Security Cooperation Steering Group (SEEGROUP). SEEGROUP previously worked on a project on Compendium of Measures adopted against Terrorism and now is discussing a project on “increasing cooperation in the fight against terrorism” in line with the overall aims of the PAP-T. The significance of SEEGROUP also emanates from its inclusion of Serbia & Montenegro and Bosnia & Herzegovina, and this project could be a useful tool in furthering cooperation with these countries in line with the Alliance’s fight against terrorism. Consideration should also be given to including these two countries in PAP-T activities on a case-by-case basis.

Action item: The PMSC to give consideration for possible cooperation with Serbia & Montenegro and Bosnia & Herzegovina in PAP-T activities on a case-by-case basis.



IMPROVING CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

7. Terrorism-related issues have become an important part of NATO's structured dialogue with other international organisations, including the UN, EU and OSCE. Co-operation with these international organisations in the framework of PAP-T may be bolstered through a new set of activities. In such cooperative efforts NATO would need to draw upon its comparative advantages, in particular setting standards for interoperability and preparing appropriate forces and capabilities by high-level training and exercises, but also its commitment to common values and solidarity in their implementation, and its role as 'facilitator' in areas where it does not have a primary responsibility, such as border security or consequence management.

Action item: Representatives of other International Organisations, in particular the UN, EU and OSCE should, to the extent possible, be invited to and their expert advice be sought for in terms of seminars and other activities organised under the PAP-T.

7.1. **NATO-UN:** The UN has a primary role in the international community's response to terrorism and NATO is committed to co-operation with the UN, and in particular with the UN-CTC, in this field. The PAP-T was communicated to the UNSCR as an initial contribution to the implementation of UNSCR 1373. Allies and Partners, in close coordination with the UN Counter Terrorism Committee secretariat could support the implementation of UNSCR 1373 by:

- enhancing co-operation as appropriate where the PAP-T can add value in the fields of border control, economic and financial dimensions of terrorism, WMD-related terrorism, arms control, and SALW, to reflect the priorities established in UNSCR 1373. Activities in these areas could also be specifically tailored to assist Partners/MD countries, within means and capabilities of NATO, in fulfilling their commitments under the Resolution 1373.
- sharing information with the UN-CTC in priority areas established in UNSCR 1373 and other UN Resolutions, and reflected in the PAP-T, following agreed procedures for information exchange.
- supporting the ratification and encouraging the implementation of the UN Conventions against terrorism. NATO Member States and Partners are encouraged to ensure that all requests for information from the CTC are answered fully. A follow-up matrix, by the IS, could help track progress.



- sharing information within the PAP-T in UN-CTC priority areas¹ reflected in the PAP-T could be done through workshops specifically tailored to address these priority areas, like the Geneva workshop, on 27-28 November 2003 on “Combating the Financing of Terrorism”.
- looking for possibilities to enhance cooperation in existing subjects with other UN or UN related organisations like IAEA, WHO and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

Action item: The IS to follow up the five points above in coordination with Allies and Partners through the NATO Committees concerned.

7.2. **NATO-EU:** Allies and Partners might identify a number of areas addressed in the PAP-T, which could be explored jointly with the EU. It is important to avoid dysfunctional duplication and seek complementarity.

Action item: The IS to propose selected PAP-T activities in a NATO-EU co-sponsored seminar on terrorism, which could provide a good opportunity to trigger such co-operation.

7.3. **NATO-OSCE:** NATO-OSCE co-operative activities are open to Partners. Those related to terrorism include work on border control, MANPADS, arms export control and economic and financial aspects of terrorism. In particular, the activities related to border control, as outlined in paragraph 4.2. can be further explored with the OSCE.

Action item: The IS to include the above items into the Staff Talks with the OSCE.

7.4. **NATO-EUROCONTROL:** Co-operation with EUROCONTROL will continue in developing civil-military air traffic procedures in light of the new security environment including consideration of possible procedures to reduce the risks from MANPADS threats to civil and military aviation.

Action item: NATO/EUROCONTROL Air Traffic Management Security Co-ordinating Group (NEASCOG), which is a joint NATO/EUROCONTROL effort under the auspices of NATO Air Traffic Management Committee (NATMC), to explore ways to implement Article 16.2.3. of PAP-T.



7.5 Cooperation with other regional and sub-regional organisations:

Allies and Partners cooperate in various fora on anti terrorism beyond the main international organisations mentioned above, one such case being the Office of the Special Co-ordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe. Both the memberships of these regional and sub-regional organisations and their approach to anti terrorism activities could differ according to the nature of the organisation and the geographical area where they are active. It would therefore be useful to exchange information on their activities, as a first step to evaluation of possibilities of cooperation.

Action item: Allies and Partner nations are encouraged to exchange views on the activities of regional and sub-regional organisations, in which they participate, in the fight against terrorism. Possibilities for cooperation should be considered following such exchanges.

IMPROVING SUPPORTING MECHANISMS

8. **Development of the mentoring mechanism:** As defined in article 16.5.3. of the PAP-T, Allies could further develop the mentoring concept as a mechanism for exchange of experience and thereby for supporting implementation. The UK workshop held in December 2003 is a good example of the mentoring mechanism, where SEE countries were briefed on the obligations imposed by the UN counter terrorism conventions and on the UK's own implementation process. Allies and Partners may take the lead on similar initiatives by sponsoring terrorism-related conference/seminar/workshops to share experiences.

Action item: The PC/PMSC to discuss the areas, which could best be suited for that approach and the way ahead.

9. **Monitoring and Coordination:** The PAP-T remains the main platform for joint efforts by Allies and Partners in the fight against terrorism. Joint meetings of the PC and the PMSC remain the main forum for the stocktaking of the implementation of the PAP-T and for any discussion relating to the Action Plan.

However, taking into account the increasing variety of activities since the launch of the PAP-T, including additional activities that might emanate from this paper and other current initiatives, consideration should be given to whether optimal use is already being made of the range of "EAPC/PfP



mechanisms in accordance with the principles of inclusiveness and self-differentiation...” (PAP-T Art. 12), or whether the possible development of new mechanisms should be examined. Such new mechanisms might, for example, provide input to the joint meetings of PC and PMSC in EAPC format by drawing on more systematic exchanges between interested Allies and Partners, as well as on a wider variety of expertise on anti terrorism to create further dynamics and avoid duplication. Creation of an Ad Hoc Working Group has been mentioned as one way of moving forward for more systematic exchanges between interested Allies and Partners. The development of the Trust Fund mechanism should also be carefully followed in this regard.

On the technical level PRIME could also prove a useful supportive tool for stocktaking of PAP-T related activities. PRIME is currently being upgraded to become the electronic management tool for all event-oriented NATO cooperation programs. The harmonisation of the EAPC Action Plan and the Partnership Work Programme foresees the creation of an area of cooperation “Response to Terrorism” which will support all EAPC and PWP activities pertaining to the PAP-T. Furthermore, the new functionalities of PRIME should be fully employed to take stock of activities undertaken, to collect feedback on results achieved and to gain indications about appropriate future priorities.

Action item: The PC/PMSC to evaluate the follow-up mechanisms needed for the implementation of the PAP-T, including an annual informal review and orientation meeting to be organised at NATO HQ with participation of Allied and Partner counter terrorism experts, possibly back to back with a similar event organised by NOS.

RESOURCES

10. Any exercise to enhance the implementation of the PAP-T must take into account the scarcity of human and financial resources within the IS/IMS.

Recommendations:

11. The North Atlantic Council is invited to:

- approve this report;
- agree the action items and task the relevant committees and bodies for their implementation;



- agree to submit this report to the NAC in HOSG session in Istanbul for endorsement;
- agree to forward the report to the EAPC Ambassadors for endorsement and;
- agree to include this report in the documents for endorsement by the EAPC HOSG in Istanbul.

¹ These issues were highlighted during the address of the Chairman of the UN-CTC, Amb. Arias, to the EAPC on 19 November 2003.



Chairman's Statement of the meeting of the NATO-Russia Council at the level of Foreign Ministers, Istanbul 28 June 2004

On 28 June 2004, Foreign Ministers of the NATO-Russia Council met in Istanbul. Taking stock of two years of accomplishments in the NRC framework, they reiterated their adherence to the goals, principles and commitments contained in the Founding Act, the Rome Declaration and past NRC decisions, and their determination to stand together against shared threats.

Ministers reaffirmed their desire to broaden NRC political dialogue, with a view to promoting common approaches and possible joint actions. In this context, they exchanged views on current international security issues, including the situations in Afghanistan, in the Balkans, and in Iraq, where they welcomed United Nations Security Council Resolution 1546 as paving the way for long-term stabilisation, and declared their full support for the independence, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of Iraq.

Ministers also addressed the concrete, practical contributions made by the NATO-Russia Council to the security of the Euro-Atlantic area.

In particular:

- They expressed their solidarity in standing against the terrorist threat and took note of the broad-based co-operation that has been developed in this area in the NRC framework, in this context, they also welcomed Russia's offer to participate in maritime operations in the Mediterranean Sea in the framework of Operation Active Endeavour, and the decision in principle by the North Atlantic Council that Russia could provide support to this operation according to agreed procedures. They further agreed on the need to intensify efforts to curb the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.
- Welcoming the success of the March 2004 Theatre Missile Defence (TMD) Command Post Exercise in Colorado Springs and noting the successful conclusion of the first phase of the NRC Interoperability Study on TMD, they agreed to initiate the second phase of this flagship NRC project.
- They welcomed the results of the civil emergency planning and response exercise Kaliningrad 2004, hosted by Russia earlier this



month. They also noted progress achieved in the implementation of the NRC chemical, biological and radiological protection capabilities initiative.

- Ministers reviewed progress achieved in enhancing military-to-military co-operation and the interoperability of NATO and Russian forces. In this context, they welcomed the recent establishment of a Russian Military Liaison Branch Office at SHAPE and the enhancement of the NATO Military Liaison Mission in Moscow. Ministers also expressed resolve to overcome remaining practical obstacles to co-operation, in particular to ensure Russia's accession to the Partnership for Peace Status of Forces Agreement by the end of 2004.
- They looked forward to the completion of the NRG Cooperative Airspace Initiative Feasibility Study by the end of 2004.
- Ministers noted the ongoing work of the NATO-Russia nuclear experts consultations and welcomed the Russian offer to attend a field demonstration aimed at demonstrating Russian Federation nuclear weapons incident response procedures.
- They encouraged the Ad Hoc Working Group on Defence Reform to continue ongoing work on interoperability, with a view to completing the Political-Military Guidance towards Enhanced Interoperability between NATO and Russian Forces as a matter of priority for approval by NRC Defence Ministers. They also welcomed ongoing efforts to enhance practical work on military-technical cooperation.
- Ministers reaffirmed their resolve to strengthen cooperation in crisis management. In this regard, they noted with satisfaction the ongoing work on the NATO-Russia Procedural Exercise and agreed to continue to consider practical ways to address operational, military and political-military aspects of the Generic Concept of Joint NATO-Russia Peacekeeping Operations.

Ministers recalled all relevant statements, reaffirmed the 4 June 2003 Statement of NRC Foreign Ministers in Madrid, and recalled NATO's position on providing political assurances of restraint. They also reaffirmed adherence to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) as a cornerstone of European security. Those NRC members who are States Parties to the Treaty reaffirmed their determination to fulfil the commitments reflected in the Final Act of the 1999 Conference of the States Parties to the CFE Treaty. Calling upon all CFE States Parties to promote achievement of this shared goal, the NRC agreed to continue to work co-operatively toward ratification by all the States Parties and entry into force of the Agreement on Adaptation of the CFE Treaty, which

would permit accession by non-CFE states. Ministers welcomed the approach of the four non-CFE member states who have stated their intention to request accession to the adapted CFE Treaty upon its entry into force, and agreed that their accession would provide an important additional contribution to European stability and security. They reaffirmed their readiness to pursue work in the field of arms control and confidence-building measures.

Ministers also highlighted the potential for NRC cooperation on Afghanistan, in this context, they again welcomed Russia's offer to provide practical support to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan and reaffirmed their commitment to further practical cooperation in this regard. They expressed support for the Afghan Transitional Authority (ATA) in the implementation of its National Drug Control Strategy and its defence and security sector reform efforts, as well as for relevant international efforts aimed at stopping the cultivation of opium poppies and the production and transit of narcotics. They agreed that NRC efforts to combat this threat should add value through practical contributions, and should avoid duplicating efforts underway in other international fora and bilaterally, and tasked the NATO-Russia Council in permanent session with organising a meeting, reinforced by appropriate national experts, to generate and develop possible concrete activities and ideas for practical co-operation.





Chairman's Statement of the meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Commission at the level of Heads and State and Government, Istanbul 29 June 2004

The Heads of State and Government of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and Ukraine met today in Istanbul to discuss the contribution of the NATO-Ukraine Distinctive Partnership to peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area, as well as the future prospects of that Partnership in light of the implementation of the NATO-Ukraine Action Plan.

President Kuchma welcomed the participation of the seven new member states of the Alliance in the NUC Summit. He reiterated Ukraine's continuing support of NATO's enlargement and its open door policy as indispensable components of the Euro-Atlantic security architecture. He also welcomed the decisions taken yesterday by the North Atlantic Council Summit aimed at strengthening peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area. He presented his assessment of recent developments in Ukraine, drawing attention to steps which have been taken to implement the objectives of the NATO-Ukraine Action Plan. In this context, he confirmed his country's commitment to implement far-reaching democratic, economic, military and defence reforms. In particular, he reiterated his pledge to strengthen democracy, rule of law, freedom of speech and press, and to ensuring the holding of free and fair presidential elections, all of which are essential pre-conditions to Ukraine's integration in Euro-Atlantic structures, including its stated goal of NATO membership.

NATO Heads of State and Government reiterated their firm commitment to the Alliance's open door policy and underscored the strategic nature of the NATO-Ukraine relationship. They called upon Ukraine's leadership to implement actively and fully the commitments to Euro-Atlantic values at the core of the NATO-Ukraine Action Plan. They stressed the need for Ukraine to implement political, economic, military and defence reforms, placing particular emphasis on the responsibility of Ukraine's leadership to strengthen democracy, the rule of law, and freedom of speech and media. They underlined the importance of ensuring that the ongoing presidential election campaign and the voting process are conducted in a manner which is transparent, free, and fair, as judged by the OSCE. In this context, they also noted their concerns regarding recent events that raise questions about Ukraine's protection of human rights and upholding of democratic values.



Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their conviction that the NATO-Ukraine Distinctive Partnership continues to play a crucial role in the effort to ensure security and stability throughout the Euro-Atlantic area, including through cooperation in the context of NATO's ISAF mission in Afghanistan. Discussing the situation in Kosovo, they praised KFOR for its role in maintaining a secure environment, while also expressing concern over recent outbreaks of violence in the province provoked by radical extremists. Heads of State and Government also welcomed United Nations Security Council Resolution 1546 as paving the way for long-term stabilization in Iraq, to which Ukraine has contributed through its participation in the Polish-led division in south-central Iraq, and they declared their full support for the independence, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of Iraq.

NATO Heads of State and Government commended Ukraine's deployment in, and resolve to remain an active contributor to, the NATO-led KFOR operation in Kosovo, as well as Ukraine's significant contributions to other international peace-support efforts. They noted with appreciation Ukraine's commitment to continue its support to the ISAF operation in Afghanistan, and its more recent decision to offer active support to the Alliance's Operation Active Endeavour in the Mediterranean Sea. They also welcomed the entry into force of the Memorandum of Understanding between Ukraine and the Alliance on Host Nation Support for NATO operations, and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between Ukraine and NATO on Strategic Airlift. Moreover, they expressed appreciation for Ukraine's interest in participating in some of the multinational activities of the Prague Capabilities Commitment, and for Ukraine's progress in carrying out a comprehensive defence reform. They welcomed the development by Ukraine of the Strategic Defence Bulletin until the year 2015 as a major step forward in the defence review process, and encouraged Ukraine to ensure that planned reforms are fully implemented and adequately financed.

Heads of State and Government also agreed on the need for reinforced concerted action to stop the proliferation of WMD, and welcomed the intensification of co-operation on non-proliferation issues. Noting the additional threat to international security, as well as to the safety of the civilian population, posed by the large stocks of munitions inherited by Ukraine as a legacy of the Cold War, they also discussed the proposed launch of a PfP Trust Fund on destruction of surplus stocks of munitions and small arms and light weapons.



Heads of State and Government tasked the NATO-Ukraine Commission in Ambassadorial session to review NATO-Ukraine relations, including possible enhancements in keeping with Ukraine's concrete achievements in implementing the objectives of the NATO-Ukraine Action Plan, with a view to presenting recommendations at the December 2004 meeting of the NUC at the level of Foreign Ministers.





A more Ambitious and Expanded Framework for the Mediterranean Dialogue

Official document approved at the Istanbul Summit of NATO Heads of State and Government, 28 June 2004

1. NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue was initiated in 1994 with the broad objectives of contributing to regional security and stability, achieving better mutual understanding and dispelling any misconceptions between NATO and its Mediterranean partners. Since then, the Dialogue has evolved at a steady pace in accordance with its progressive character. The number of participating countries has increased from the original five to today's seven while the Dialogue's political and practical dimensions have been regularly enhanced.

2. In the current security environment, and taking into consideration the need to tackle successfully today's challenges and threats including terrorism, there are greater opportunities for effective cooperation with Mediterranean Dialogue (MD) partners. Consequently, at their December 2003 meeting in Brussels, NATO Foreign Ministers looked for additional progress beyond that achieved since the Prague Summit in upgrading the MD. They directed the Council in Permanent Session to consider ways to further enhance NATO's relationship with all MD partners by generating, in consultation with them and by the time of the Istanbul Summit, options for establishing a more ambitious and expanded framework for the MD.

Principles, objectives and priority areas

3. In this process, the following principles should be taken into account:
- the mutually beneficial nature of the relationship;
 - the need to take forward the process in close consultation with MD countries;
 - the importance of being responsive to MD countries' interests and needs;
 - the possibility of self-differentiation, while preserving the unity of the MD and its non-discriminatory character;
 - the need to focus on practical cooperation in areas where NATO can add value;
 - the need to ensure complementarity of this effort with the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative, as well as with other international efforts, especially those of the EU, OSCE and the G-8 as appropriate;



- the possibility of expanding the MD to other interested countries in the Mediterranean region on a case-by-case basis;
4. Based on these principles, NATO offers to elevate the MD to a genuine partnership whose overall aim will be to contribute towards regional security and stability and complement other international efforts through enhanced practical cooperation, and whose objectives would include:
- enhancing the existing political dialogue;
 - achieving interoperability;
 - developing defence reform;
 - contributing to the fight against terrorism.
5. The above-mentioned objectives could be achieved through enhanced cooperation in the following priority areas:
- putting into action a joint effort aimed at better explaining NATO transformation and cooperative efforts;
 - promoting military-to-military cooperation to achieve interoperability¹ through active participation in selected military exercises and related education and training activities that could improve the ability of Mediterranean partners' forces to operate with those of the Alliance in contributing to NATO-led operations consistent with the UN Charter. These could include non-Article 5 crisis response operations such as disaster relief, humanitarian relief, search and rescue, peace support operations, and others as may subsequently be decided;
 - promoting democratic control of armed forces and facilitating transparency in national defence planning and defence budgeting in support of defence reform;
 - combating terrorism including effective intelligence sharing and maritime cooperation including in the framework of Operation Active Endeavour;
 - contributing to the work of the Alliance on threats posed by weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery;
 - promoting cooperation as appropriate and where NATO can add value in the field of border security, particularly in connection with terrorism, small arms & light weapons, and the fight against illegal trafficking;
 - enhancing cooperation in the area of civil emergency planning including the possibility for Mediterranean partners to request assistance from the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC).



A more ambitious and expanded framework for the MD

6. Based on the above-mentioned principles, objectives and priority areas, a more ambitious and expanded framework for the MD should be developed by building upon the current MD programme including the inventory of possible areas of cooperation established at the Prague Summit, and by making extensive use of lessons learned and, as appropriate, tools from PfP with special emphasis on enhanced practical cooperation.

7. In addition to consultations at working and Ambassadorial levels in the format 26+1 and 26+7, the political dimension should be further enhanced through the inclusion of ad-hoc ministerial/HOSG meetings. Furthermore, at the earliest appropriate time, a joint political declaration with all MD countries could be developed in support of practical cooperation in the above-mentioned priority areas.

8. The practical dimension should be further enhanced through greater emphasis on practical cooperation. In addition to existing MD tools such as the annual Work Programme, the possibility of support through NATO Trust Funds in accordance with the NATO/PfP Trust Fund policy and participation in courses at the NATO School and the NATO Defence College, a number of PfP and PfP-like tools could apply to the new initiative. These could include:

- action plans covering a wide range of issues that would form the basis for practical, issue-specific and result-oriented cooperation available to all Mediterranean partners;
- individual cooperation programmes allowing for self-differentiation;
- the use of existing PfP activities and tools to improve the ability of Alliance and Mediterranean partners' forces to operate together in future NATO-led operations, including in the areas of capabilities, education and training, and exercise activities;
- enhanced participation, on a case-by-case basis, in appropriate PfP exercises;
- the use of existing PfP programmes and instruments aimed at cooperation in all the priority areas listed in para. 5 as well as in the area of science and the environment.

9. This should be complemented by the intensification of practical cooperation in areas currently open to EAPC/PfP countries, with special emphasis on interoperability, defence reform, the fight against terrorism, and other activities aimed at ensuring effective partners' participation in NATO-led operations.



Other considerations

10. Appropriate legal arrangements may be needed to facilitate full and effective participation of Mediterranean partners. Security agreements may also be needed.

11. Consideration should be given to the possible setting up of appropriate liaison at NATO HQ and the Partnership Coordination Cell (PCC) at Mons in order to enhance coordination of activities, especially in the military field.

12. Regarding the possible expansion of the MD to other interested countries in the region, the progressive character of the MD makes it possible to add new members on a case-by-case basis, as has been the case with Jordan (1995) and Algeria (2000).

¹ Interoperability requirements constitute firm prerequisites for contributing nations such as the need to communicate with each other, to operate together, to support each other, and to train together.



Istanbul Cooperation Initiative

Official document approved at the Istanbul Summit of NATO Heads of State and Government, 28 June 2004

1. With a transformed Alliance determined to respond to new challenges, NATO is ready to undertake a new initiative in the broader Middle East region to further contribute to long-term global and regional security and stability while complementing other international efforts.
2. In this context, progress towards a just, lasting, and comprehensive settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should remain a priority for the countries of the region and the international community as a whole, and for the success of the security and stability objectives of this initiative. Full and speedy implementation of the Quartet Road Map is a key element in international efforts to promote a two state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in which Israel and Palestine live side by side in peace and security. The roadmap is a vital element of international efforts to promote a comprehensive peace on all tracks, including the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks.
3. NATO's initiative, based on a series of mutually beneficial bilateral relationships aimed at fostering security and regional stability, should take into account the following principles:
 - a. the importance of taking into account ideas and proposals originating from the countries of the region or regional organisations;
 - b. the need to stress that the NATO initiative is a cooperative initiative, based on joint ownership and the mutual interests of NATO and the countries of the region, taking into account their diversity and specific needs;
 - c. the need to recognise that this process is distinct yet takes into account and complements other initiatives including by the G-8 and international organisations such as the EU and the OSCE as appropriate. The NATO initiative should also be complementary to the Alliance's Mediterranean Dialogue and could use instruments developed in this framework, while respecting its specificity. Furthermore, the new initiative could apply lessons learned and, as appropriate, mechanisms and tools derived from other NATO initiatives such as the Partnership for Peace (PfP);
 - d. the need to focus on practical cooperation in areas where NATO can



add value, particularly in the security field. Participation of countries in the region in the initiative as well as the pace and extent of their cooperation with NATO will depend in large measure on their individual response and level of interest;

- e. the need to avoid misunderstandings about the scope of the initiative, which is not meant to either lead to NATO/EAPC/PfP membership, provide security guarantees, or be used to create a political debate over issues more appropriately handled in other fora.
4. Taking into account other international efforts for reforms in the democracy and civil society fields in the countries of the region, NATO's offer to those countries of dialogue and cooperation will contribute to those efforts where it can have an added value: in particular, NATO could make a notable contribution in the security field as a result of its particular strengths and the experience gained with the PfP and the Mediterranean Dialogue.

Aim of the initiative

5. The aim of the initiative would be to enhance security and regional stability through a new transatlantic engagement with the region. This could be achieved by actively promoting NATO's cooperation with interested countries in the field of security, particularly through practical activities where NATO can add value to develop the ability of countries' forces to operate with those of the Alliance including by contributing to NATO-led operations, fight against terrorism, stem the flow of WMD materials and illegal trafficking in arms, and improve countries' capabilities to address common challenges and threats with NATO.

6. Countries of the region might see benefit in cooperation with the Alliance through practical support against terrorist threats, access to training, defence reform expertise and opportunities for military cooperation, as well as through political dialogue on issues of common concern.

Content of the initiative including priority areas

7. The initiative's aim would be essentially achieved through practical cooperation and assistance in the following priority areas, and illustrative menu of specific activities:

- a. providing tailored advice on defence reform, defence budgeting, defence planning and civil-military relations.
- b. promoting military-to-military cooperation to contribute to

interoperability¹ through participation in selected military exercises and related education and training activities that could improve the ability of participating countries' forces to operate with those of the Alliance in contributing to NATO-led operations consistent with the UN Charter:

- invite interested countries to observe and/or participate in selected NATO/PfP exercise activities as appropriate and provided that the necessary arrangements are in place;
- encourage additional participation by interested countries in NATO-led peace-support operations on a case-by-case basis;
- c. fighting against terrorism including through information sharing and maritime cooperation:
 - invite interested countries, in accordance with the procedures set out by the Council for contributory support from non-NATO nations, to join Operation Active Endeavour (OAE) in order to enhance the ability to help deter, defend, disrupt and protect against terrorism through maritime operations in the OAE Area of Operations;
 - explore other forms of cooperation against terrorism including through intelligence exchange and assessments as appropriate.
- d. contributing to the work of the Alliance on threats posed by weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery:
- e. promoting cooperation as appropriate and where NATO can add value in the field of border security, particularly in connection with terrorism, small arms & light weapons, and the fight against illegal trafficking:
 - offer NATO-sponsored border security expertise and facilitate follow-up training in this respect;
 - access to appropriate PfP programmes and training centres.
- f. promoting cooperation in the areas of civil emergency planning:
 - offer NATO training courses on civil emergency planning, civil-military coordination, and crisis response to maritime, aviation, and surface threats;
 - invitations to join or observe relevant NATO/PfP exercises as appropriate and provision of information on possible disaster assistance.

Geographical scope of the initiative

8. Based on the principle of inclusiveness, the initiative could be opened to all interested countries in the region who subscribe to the aim and content of this initiative, including the fight against terrorism and the



proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as described above. Each interested country would be considered by the North Atlantic Council on a case-by-case basis and on its own merit. This initiative would complement NATO's specific relationship with the partner countries of the Mediterranean Dialogue ².

Implementing the new initiative

9. This initiative would carry NATO into a new set of relationships with countries that may have a limited understanding of the Alliance as it has been transformed. Since an underlying requirement of success for the initiative is the development of ownership by countries of the region, it will be necessary to update governments' and opinion-formers' understanding of NATO and the initiative and, in the light of the reactions of the countries concerned, consider a joint public diplomacy effort. Furthermore, in developing and implementing the initiative, the views of interested countries in the region will have to be taken into account through a process of regular consultation.

10. This initiative will be launched at the Istanbul Summit. Subsequently, in consultation with interested countries, NATO would offer a menu of practical activities within the above-mentioned priority areas for possible development with interested countries of the region. The Alliance would engage these countries, on a 26+1 basis, to develop and execute agreed work plans. While doing so, the new initiative could apply lessons learned and, as appropriate and on a case-by-case basis, mechanisms and tools derived from other NATO initiatives such as the Partnership for Peace (PfP). Appropriate legal, security and liaison arrangements should be put in place.

¹ Interoperability requirements constitute firm prerequisites for contributing nations such as the need to communicate with each other, to operate together, to support each other, and to train together.

² Specificity in this respect refers in particular to the composition of this initiative and the Mediterranean Dialogue, as well as the multilateral dimension of the Mediterranean Dialogue.



EXPANDING NATO-EU RELATIONS

On the afternoon of the first day of the Istanbul Summit, the NATO Secretary General held a bilateral meeting with the EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Dr. Javier Solana. The main subject of their discussions was the Allied leaders' decision at the Istanbul Summit to complete the successful mission of the NATO-led Stabilisation Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina by the end of 2004 and the EU's follow-up operation.

At Istanbul, NATO leaders expressed satisfaction with progress achieved in the NATO-EU strategic partnership based on the December 2002 Berlin Plus arrangements and agreed to develop further the partnership. In a speech to the European Policy Centre on 12 July 2004, the NATO Secretary General said that current NATO-EU relations should be broadened beyond the Balkans to exploit their full potential. He described "strong and trusting NATO-EU relations" as a "strategic necessity."

In addition to the Balkans, the two organisations already cooperate in the fields of security, defence and crisis management, including counterterrorism and civil emergency planning. They also coordinate their military capabilities development planning.

Before the organisations' enlargement rounds in Spring 2004, the two organisations had 11 members in common. Following enlargement, they now have 19 members in common. This will undoubtedly lead to increased cooperation and consultations covering the full scope of NATO-EU cooperation. Based on four years of substantial results and in the common interest of NATO and EU member states, the future cooperation will continue to draw on complementarity between the two organisations. Existing synergies could serve as a model for cooperation in other areas.

NATO-EU cooperation

NATO-EU cooperation dates back to 24 January 2001, when then NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson and the EU Presidency exchanged letters defining the scope of cooperation and the modalities of consultation between the two organisations. 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 could be met with the most appropriate military response. These letters also agreed on joint meetings at the ambassadorial and ministerial levels and allowed staff contacts. Since February 2001, regular meetings of the EU Political and Security Committee and the North Atlantic Council have become a normal feature of security cooperation. The first formal meeting of NATO and EU foreign ministers took place in Budapest in May 2001 on the margins of the ministerial meeting of the North Atlantic Council.

Cooperation has accelerated ever since, in particular with the:

- Signing of the landmark NATO-EU Declaration on ESDP (European Security and Defence Policy) on 16 December 2002, which paved the way for the Berlin Plus arrangements;
- Signing of the Agreement on the Security of Information between NATO and the EU on 14 March 2003;
- Adoption of the Berlin Plus arrangements on 17 March 2003, which form the basis for practical work in crisis management between the two organisations.

The NATO-EU Declaration on ESDP not only reaffirmed assured access by the EU to NATO's planning capabilities for its own military operations, but also reiterated the following political principles of the strategic partnership:

- effective mutual consultation;
- equality and due regard for the decision-making autonomy of the EU and NATO;
- respect for the interests of EU and NATO member states;
- respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter;
- coherent, transparent and mutually reinforcing development of the military capability requirements common to the two organisations.

Berlin Plus

Based on the decisions and conclusions of the April 1999 Washington Summit, the Berlin Plus arrangements provide the framework for NATO-EU cooperation in crisis management by allowing EU access to NATO's collective assets and capabilities for EU-led operations. In effect, they allow the Alliance to support EU-led operations in which NATO as a whole is not engaged. They consist of the following major elements and documents:



- a NATO-EU Security Agreement covering the exchange of classified information under reciprocal security protection rules;
- assured EU access to NATO's planning capabilities for actual use in the military planning of EU-led crisis management operations;
- availability of NATO capabilities and common assets, such as communication units and headquarters for EU-led crisis management operations;
- procedures for the release, monitoring, return and recall of NATO assets and capabilities;
- terms of reference for NATO's Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (DSACEUR), who in principle will be the operation commander of an EU-led operation under the Berlin Plus arrangements (and who is always a European) – and European command options for NATO;
- NATO-EU consultation arrangements in an EU-led crisis management operation making use of NATO assets and capabilities;
- incorporation within NATO's long-established defence planning system of the military needs and capabilities that may be required for EU-led military operations, thereby ensuring the availability of well-equipped forces trained for either NATO-led or EU-led operations.

NATO-EU cooperation in the Balkans

Cooperation between the two organisations contributed to the improved security situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,* where NATO provided security for EU and OSCE monitors of the August 2000 Ohrid Framework Agreement until the end of March 2003. The situation in southern Serbia also became 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 broker a ceasefire.

On 31 March 2003, the EU-led Operation Concordia took over the responsibilities of the NATO-led mission, Operation Allied Harmony, in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.* Operation Concordia was terminated on 15 December 2003 and replaced by Operation Proxima, an EU-led police mission.

In line with the Berlin Plus arrangements, DSACEUR was appointed operation commander of this first ever EU-led military peacekeeping mission.



NATO supported the EU on strategic, operational and tactical planning. An EU operation headquarters (OHQ) was set up at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Mons, Belgium, to assist the operation commander. In addition, an EU Command Element was established at Allied Forces Southern Europe (AFSOUTH) in Naples, Italy, which is the NATO Joint Force Command for Balkan operations. The Chief of Staff of AFSOUTH also became Chief of Staff of the new EU Command Element, assisted by an EU Director for Operations.

These dual NATO-EU posts guaranteed the linkage between the EU and NATO operational chain of command during Operation Concordia. This mission was the first in which NATO assets had been made available to the EU.

A few months later, in July 2003, the EU and NATO jointly published a “Concerted Approach for the Western Balkans”, which outlines core areas of cooperation and emphasises the common vision and determination both organisations share to bring stability to the region.

By the end of 2004, following SFOR termination, a new EU-led operation, Althea, using NATO assets and capabilities will be launched in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Similarly to Operation Concordia, NATO’s planning expertise was provided to the EU. DSACEUR has been appointed as Althea’s operation commander and the entire NATO chain of command will be used. The Berlin Plus arrangements provide the framework for a seamless transition in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Relying on NATO collective assets and capabilities, the EU is able to undertake a military operation involving several thousands of troops. This mechanism avoids unnecessary duplication and makes the best use of available resources.

Other areas of cooperation

The 11 September 2001 attacks on the United States provided further impetus for enhancing cooperation between NATO and the EU. Formal contacts and reciprocal participation in meetings increased. On 12 September 2001, the NATO Secretary General participated in the deliberations of the EU General Affairs Council following the attacks. In December 2001, EU and NATO foreign ministers reaffirmed their



willingness to develop closer cooperation to combat terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The institutions have already exchanged information on their activities in the field of protection of civilian populations against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attacks.

Concerted planning of capabilities development and mutual reinforcement between NATO's Prague Capability Commitment (PCC) and the EU's European Capabilities Action Plan (ECAP) are also discussed between the two organisations.

The EU's European Capabilities Action Plan comprises a catalogue of forces and capabilities for the EU Headline Goal to be able to deploy up to 60,000 troops by the end of 2003 for humanitarian and rescue missions, as well as peacekeeping and peacemaking. NATO experts have provided military and technical advice starting from the preparations to the implementation of ECAP. NATO and EU capabilities planning and mutual reinforcement between the PCC and ECAP are being addressed in the NATO-EU Capability Group, established in May 2003.

In February 2004, the EU announced the creation of a new concept which would lead to the launching of rapid reaction units composed of joint battle groups. According to the new Headline Goal 2010, these units would be completely developed by 2007.

The newly created European Defence Agency, focusing on the development of defence capabilities, research, acquisition and armaments, should also be part of EU-NATO consultations.

In the recent past, NATO and the EU have also consulted on other issues of common interest, such as the situation in Moldova, cooperation in Afghanistan and Mediterranean issues.

Evolution of NATO-EU relations

The Franco-British Summit at St. Malo in December 1998 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."



Shortly after 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 given to the Western European Union (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. At their meeting in Marseilles in November 2000, WEU ministers decided to suspend routine NATO-WEU consultation mechanisms.

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 to be able, 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 1997 Amsterdam Treaty. These consist of humanitarian and rescue tasks; peacekeeping tasks; and tasks of combat forces in crisis management, including peacemaking. The role of these forces is to undertake military operations led by the EU in response to international crises, in circumstances where NATO as a whole is not engaged militarily (Berlin Plus arrangements).

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.



The dialogue between the Alliance and the EU steadily intensified in accordance with the decisions taken at NATO's April 1999 Washington Summit and thereafter, and in the light of developments within the EU.

Official documents and background information

Go to the electronic version of the reader's guide for clickable links

<http://www.nato.int/docu/rdr-gde-ist>

"Beyond Istanbul" - Speech by NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer at the European Policy Centre, Brussels, 12 July 2004

<http://www.nato.int/docu/speech/2004/s040712b.htm>

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The Amsterdam Treaty – A Comprehensive Guide: Common Foreign and Security Policy, November 1997

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PROMOTING PARTNERSHIP

The Istanbul Summit was a further building block in NATO's strategic policy of enhancing ever closer and more effective relationships with a broad range of countries and regions. With the accession of seven Partners to the Alliance in March 2004, the geographic balance of the Partnership shifted eastwards and the remaining 20 Partners are a more diverse group of countries with different needs.

In addition to this geographic shift, the Summit reset the priorities of the Partnership. NATO will now give priority to helping Partners in the Caucasus, Central Asia and Southeastern Europe in their defence reform efforts. Alliance leaders launched a Partnership Action Plan on Defence Institution Building to assist Partners build democratically responsible defence institutions.

In the area of joint operations, NATO will promote the development of Partner capabilities with a high-value contribution, including through exercises. Opportunities for Partners to enhance their contributions to NATO-led operations will be increased by involving troop-contributing nations earlier in the decision-making process and providing more possibilities for political consultation. In addition, the Operational Capabilities Concept will be enhanced and Partners will be offered the opportunity of representation at Allied Command Transformation, NATO's military transformation and doctrine command. This will help promote greater military interoperability between NATO and Partner country forces and the transformation of defences in keeping with NATO's own evolving operational roles and capabilities.

Another priority area is dialogue and cooperation in the fight against terrorism and countering weapons of mass destruction.

Focus on Caucasus and Central Asia

NATO leaders agreed to place a special focus on NATO's relations with the Caucasus and Central Asia. They decided to appoint a Special Representative of the NATO Secretary General for the Caucasus and Central Asia and liaison officers for each region. The Special



Representative and liaison officers will play a crucial role in the further development of relations with these two strategically important regions.

On 15 September 2004, NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer announced the appointment of Robert F. Simmons Jr. as his Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia. In his new position, Mr. Simmons will be responsible for establishing high-level working contacts with regional leaders in order to support NATO's objectives. He will also offer advice to Partners on the appropriate Partnership instruments that they might use to enhance cooperation with NATO. The Caucasus and Central Asian liaison officers will be based in the region and work with all interested countries there.

EAPC Summit

The Summit ended with the meeting of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) at the level of Heads of State and Government. The highlight was the meeting with President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan, whose appeal for increased participation by the International Security Assistance Force was well received by the EAPC Summit (see section "Expanding NATO's role in Afghanistan").

EAPC leaders reaffirmed their commitment to building partnerships, including with the Caucasus and Central Asia. They welcomed NATO's plans to appoint liaison officers for each region. They endorsed the Partnership Action Plan for Defence Institution Building.

EAPC leaders also welcomed progress in the implementation of the Individual Partnership Action Plan, a comprehensive individual programme of cooperation on reform which had been joined by Azerbaijan, Georgia and Uzbekistan by the time the Summit was held. The Plan enables individual Partners to establish together with the Alliance a range of reform objectives, upon which the Alliance will provide advice and assistance. Objectives covered fall into the general categories of political and security issues; defence, security and military issues; public information; science and environment; civil emergency planning; and administrative, protective security and resource issues.

The Heads of State of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro were invited to attend the EAPC Summit as observers to



encourage them to meet the conditions necessary to be invited to join NATO's Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme. These include full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague and in the case of Serbia and Montenegro, dropping the case against several NATO members at the International Court of Justice, also in The Hague. To help both countries achieve PfP membership, the Alliance will include them in selected PfP activities. NATO has also appointed the Greek Embassy in Sarajevo as a Contact Point Embassy to help increase understanding of NATO in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Partnership Action Plan for Defence Institution Building

The Partnership Action Plan on Defence Institution Building aims to reinforce efforts by Partner countries to initiate and carry forward reform and restructuring of defence institutions to meet domestic needs as well as international commitments. It provides for bilateral and multilateral cooperation in developing and sustaining efficient and democratically responsible defence institutions.

Fundamental objectives are to develop effective and transparent arrangements for the democratic control of defence activities. These include promoting civilian participation in developing defence and security policy, and legislative and judicial oversight of the defence sector. They also involve arrangements for assessing security risks and national defence requirements, and developing the capabilities needed to be able to meet these requirements as well as to contribute to multinational peace-support operations. Another priority is ensuring effective international cooperation and good neighbourly relations in defence and security matters.

Other key objectives include optimising the management of defence ministries and agencies and associated force structures; ensuring compliance with international norms and practices in the defence sector, including export controls; developing effective and transparent financial, planning and resource allocation procedures in the defence area; promoting effective management of defence spending and of the socio-economic consequences of defence restructuring; and developing training and career development opportunities in defence forces.



Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council

The EAPC is a multilateral forum in which NATO and Partner countries meet on a regular basis to discuss a multitude of political and security-related issues, including arms control, terrorism, peacekeeping, defence economic issues and nuclear safety. They also consult on areas such as science and the environment and civil emergency planning.

In addition to short-term consultations in the EAPC on current political and security-related issues, a two-year EAPC Action Plan provides for longer-term consultation and cooperation in a wide range of areas.

The EAPC can convene at different levels (heads of state and government, ministerial, ambassadorial and at the expert and working levels) and can play a key role in times of crisis.

Partnership for Peace

The EAPC provides the overarching political framework for Partnership for Peace (PfP), a programme of practical cooperation between NATO and individual Partner countries. All PfP members are also EAPC members.

The emphasis within PfP is on tailor-made programmes that respond to the specific needs of the country in question. Individual Partnership Programmes (IPPs) are two-year programmes drawn up from an extensive menu of activities selected from the Partnership Work Programme. The Partnership Work Programme offers activities in over 20 areas, ranging from defence policy and planning, civil-military relations, education and training to air defence, communications and information systems, crisis management, and civil emergency planning.

Evolution of the Partnership

The EAPC was set up in 1997 to succeed the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC) and to include Western European Partners. The NACC was established in December 1991 following the end of the Cold War and the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact. It brought together the member countries of NATO and, initially, the nine former members of the Warsaw Pact, in a new consultative forum.



The inaugural meeting of the NACC took place on 20 December 1991, just as the Soviet Union was ceasing to exist. Simultaneously, 11 former Soviet republics became members of the new Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). In March 1992, participation in the NACC was expanded to include all members of the CIS and by June 1992, Georgia and Albania had also become members.

NATO's January 1994 Brussels Summit launched the PfP programme with the aim of enhancing stability and security throughout Europe. The Partnership for Peace invitation was addressed to all states participating in the NACC and other states participating in the then Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (now the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) able and willing to contribute to the programme. In 1998, a Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) was set up by the then 46 EAPC nations. It coordinates the emergency response to natural and technological disasters in the area. Each year it holds a large-scale exercise with a realistic scenario to train for effective interaction.

NATO's April 1999 Washington Summit endorsed a report entitled "Towards a Partnership for the 21st Century – The enhanced and more operational partnership," which paved the way to an improved ability by Alliance and Partner forces to operate together.

NATO's November 2002 Prague Summit harmonised and rationalised the Partnership by placing political dialogue and cooperation under one roof. At Prague, Allied leaders encouraged Partners to join the Individual Partnership Action Plan and endorsed the Partnership Action Plan against Terrorism.

Official documents and background information

Go to the electronic version of the reader's guide for clickable links
<http://www.nato.int/docu/rdr-gde-ist>

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<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2004/p04-099e.htm>



The Euro-Atlantic Partnership – Refocusing and Renewal, 23 June 2004
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<http://www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/b021121a.htm>

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<http://www.nato.int/pfp/docu/pwp0203/pwp0203.htm>

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<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-067e.htm>

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<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/1997/p97-065e.htm>

Module including legal and political texts and official statements on the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and Partnership for Peace, including the PfP Invitation Document, the PfP Framework Document, the Basic Document of the EAPC, Action Plans and Work Plans
<http://www.nato.int/issues/eapc/eapc-off-text.htm>



Official texts related to PfP, including ministerial communiqués and Partnership Work Programmes

<http://www.nato.int/issues/pfp/pfp.htm>

EAPC member countries, with national links

<http://www.nato.int/pfp/eapc-cnt.htm>

PfP members listed in chronological order of the signing of the Framework Document

<http://www.nato.int/pfp/sig-date.htm>

Celebrating ten years of Partnership for Peace, 10 January 2004

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Celebrating ten years of partnership and cooperation, 26 October 2001

<http://www.nato.int/docu/update/2001/1022/e1026a.htm>

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<http://www.nato.int/pfp/trust-fund.htm>

Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) website

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

Video interview with Robert Simmons, Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Security Cooperation and Partnership, and Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia, September 2004

<http://www.nato.int/multi/video/2004/040910-simmons/v040910e.htm>



NATO'S OPEN DOOR

The Istanbul Summit was the first attended by leaders of the seven new Alliance members since their accession in March 2004. Seven former 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.

At Istanbul, Allied leaders made clear that NATO's door remains open to new members and that the seven countries which just joined would not be the last. The Summit welcomed progress towards membership made by Albania, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* in the framework of the Membership Action Plan (MAP) and commended their contribution to regional stability and cooperation. Allies indicated they wanted them to succeed and encouraged the continued pursuit of the necessary reforms. They also pledged they would continue to assist them in their reform efforts. They asked NATO foreign ministers to review aspirants' progress and report on it in advance of the next Summit, during which potential new memberships will be reviewed.

In accordance with Article 10 of the North Atlantic Treaty, NATO Allies may invite any other European state in a position to further the principles of the Washington Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area to accede to the Treaty.

The road to NATO membership

Since 1999, countries aspiring to join NATO have participated in the MAP, a programme designed to help aspiring Partners meet Alliance standards and prepare for possible future membership. At the beginning of every MAP cycle, participants submit an Annual National Programme listing objectives for reform with respect to politico-economic, defence-military, resource, and security and legal issues. These objectives are the basis for further stages of the MAP cycle: discussions between the individual aspirant and Allies, possible NATO assistance in specific areas and finally NATO's evaluation of progress achieved. 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* take part in the MAP.

NATO assesses each country's candidacy individually, based on progress through the MAP. They may 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.

Previous enlargement rounds

Since NATO's creation in 1949, the Alliance has taken in new members on five separate occasions: in 1952, 1955, 1982, 1999 and 2004. The first round of enlargement took place in 1952 and brought in Greece and Turkey, thereby extending security and stability to Southeastern Europe. Three years later, in 1955, the Federal Republic of Germany became NATO's 15th member. Spain became the Alliance's 16th member when it joined in 1982. In the wake of German reunification in 1990, the whole of Germany, including the territory of the former German Democratic Republic, came under NATO's protective umbrella.

The fall of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact after the end of the Cold War opened up the possibility of further NATO enlargement. The new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe were eager to join to become integrated into Euro-Atlantic institutions and guarantee their freedom.



In 1995, the Alliance carried out and published the results of a Study on NATO Enlargement that considered the merits of admitting new members and how they should be brought in. It concluded that the end of the Cold War provided a unique opportunity to build improved security in the entire Euro-Atlantic area and that NATO enlargement would contribute to enhanced stability and security for all.

The Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland were invited to begin accession talks at the Alliance's Madrid Summit in 1997 and on 12 March 1999 became the first former members of the Warsaw Pact to join NATO.

Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia were invited to begin accession talks at the Alliance's Prague Summit in 2002 and on 29 March 2004 became members of the Alliance. This was the largest round of enlargement in the Alliance's history.

Official documents and background reading

Go to the electronic version of the reader's guide for clickable links
<http://www.nato.int/docu/rdr-gde-ist>

The North Atlantic Treaty – or Washington Treaty – the founding document of the Alliance (contains 14 Articles)
<http://www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/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
<http://www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/enl-9501.htm>

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



GROWING NATO-RUSSIAN COOPERATION

The Istanbul Summit marked two years of growing NATO-Russian cooperation on a wide range of activities, following the creation of the NATO-Russia Council (NRC) in May 2002. At the end of the first day of the Summit, the NATO-Russia Council met at the level of foreign ministers to discuss Afghanistan, the Balkans, Iraq, the fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In separate press conferences after the meeting, both NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov underlined the growing cooperation between the Alliance and Russia.

The Russian Foreign Minister announced that Russia proposes to support Operation Active Endeavour, the Alliance's naval surveillance and monitoring operation in the Mediterranean, with three ships. The NATO Secretary General welcomed this support, which he described as "a good and welcome example of cooperation in our common fight against terrorism." The North Atlantic Council has decided in principle that Russia could provide support to Operation Active Endeavour, according to agreed procedures.

At Istanbul, the NRC also discussed potential cooperation on Afghanistan and welcomed Russia's offer to provide practical support to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). Ministers also expressed support for the Afghan Transitional Authority in the implementation of its National Drug Control Strategy and its defence and security sector reform efforts, as well as international efforts aimed at stopping the cultivation of opium poppies and the production and transit of narcotics. To this end, ministers tasked the NRC in permanent session with organising a meeting, reinforced by experts from national capitals, to generate and develop possible concrete activities and ideas for practical cooperation in this area.

The 27 ministers participating in the NATO-Russia Council agreed to initiate the second phase of the NRC theatre missile defence interoperability study, which is examining how NATO and Russian anti-missile systems can operate together. They welcomed the results of the 22-25 June 2004 civil emergency planning and response exercise, Kaliningrad 2004, in which NATO, Russia and Partner countries tested their capabilities to jointly respond to a disaster situation. Ministers also noted progress achieved in the implementation of the NRC chemical,



biological and radiological protection capabilities initiative to develop the ability to respond rapidly to accidents and terrorism.

The NATO Secretary General said it had been a positive, practical working meeting. But he recognised: “Allies and Russia do not agree on everything.” He explained: “Allies have concerns about the implementation of commitments Russia made in this very city, five years ago, to withdraw military assets from some neighbouring countries, Moldova and Georgia.” But both he and the Russian Foreign Minister agreed on the importance of the adapted Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty, which the NATO Secretary General described as “a building block of European security.”

NATO-Russia Council

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 areas of common interest.

In the framework of the NRC, NATO Allies and Russia have developed an important mechanism for consultation through continuous political dialogue on current international security issues. Constructive exchanges have taken place in this area, including discussions on the situation in the Balkans, Afghanistan, Georgia, the broader Middle East 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.

Key areas of cooperation

The NRC has also achieved significant progress in practical cooperation. Key areas in this respect include the fight against terrorism, crisis management, theatre missile defence, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, 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



exploring 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 of weapons of mass destruction, airspace management and nuclear safety.

On 7 September 2004, following the series of terrorist attacks on the Russian Federation, the NATO-Russia Council met in extraordinary session for the first time in more than two years since its inauguration. The Council strongly condemned the horrendous terrorist acts which culminated in the murder of hundreds of children and other civilians in Beslan, North Ossetia. NRC ambassadors also declared their determination to strengthen and intensify common efforts to fight the scourge of terrorism, including through the development, as a matter of priority, of an action plan to coordinate practical cooperation under the NRC.

Intensive cooperation is also underway in the area of crisis management. In September 2002, the NATO-Russia Council approved a generic concept for joint peacekeeping operations building on the experience of cooperation in the Balkans. Work continues on developing procedures for cooperation in crisis response operations.

Up to 2003, Russia contributed the largest non-NATO contingent to the NATO-led peacekeeping operations in the Balkans. Russia participates in PfP military exercises and Russian officers cooperate with NATO officers within the Partnership Coordination Cell at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe in Mons, Belgium.

In the area of theatre missile defence (TMD), a study was launched in 2003 to assess the possible levels of interoperability among the TMD systems of NATO Allies and Russia. An experimental TMD concept of operations was approved in September 2003. Both parties are also looking into protection against the use by terrorists of ballistic missile technology and nuclear, biological and chemical agents.

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 in Poland on 11-13 December 2003 to explore opportunities for practical cooperation in 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 finalising a Status of Forces Agreement in the framework of 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, macroeconomic, financial and social issues, defence industry conversion, and force planning. A retraining centre to help retired military officers better integrate into civilian life was inaugurated in Moscow in July 2002.

Russia has established a diplomatic mission at NATO Headquarters and a Russian Military Liaison Branch Office to help manage deepening practical cooperation with the two major Allied Commands more efficiently.

In Moscow, a NATO Information Office seeks to explain NATO and promote the benefits of the NATO-Russia partnership, and a Military Liaison Mission is helping improve military transparency and coordination.

Evolution of NATO-Russian relations

NATO-Russian relations formally began in 1991 at the inaugural session of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, which NATO created following the end of the Cold War as a forum for consultation to foster a new cooperative relationship with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. It was actually while this meeting was taking place that the Soviet Union dissolved. A few years later, in 1994, Russia joined the Partnership for Peace programme.

In 1996, Russian peacekeepers deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina to serve alongside their Allied counterparts in the NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) and later in the Stabilisation Force



(SFOR). The Russian contribution was the largest non-NATO contingent in these forces.

On 27 May 1997, the NATO-Russia Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security was signed in Paris, providing an institutionalised framework for NATO-Russian relations. In the Founding Act, NATO and Russia expressed their intention to develop a fundamentally new relationship, on the basis of common interest, reciprocity and transparency, a strong, stable, and enduring partnership. They also stated their commitment to build a stable, peaceful and undivided Europe. A Permanent Joint Council (PJC) was created as a forum for regular consultation on security issues of common concern, aimed at helping build mutual confidence through dialogue.

In March 1999, differences over NATO's Kosovo air campaign led Russia temporarily to suspend its participation in the PJC. Nevertheless, some joint initiatives continued without interruption, including peacekeeping in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Moreover, Russia played a key diplomatic role in resolving the Kosovo crisis and, in June 1999, when NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR) was eventually deployed to the province, Russian peacekeepers also took part in it.

High-level contacts between NATO and Russia in the months following the 11 September 2001 attacks on the United States, including two meetings between NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson and Russian President Vladimir Putin and a meeting of Allied and Russian foreign ministers in December 2001, explored possibilities for giving new impetus and substance to the NATO-Russian relationship. Intensive negotiations led to agreement on a joint declaration on "NATO-Russian Relations: A New Quality," signed by Russian and Allied heads of state and government in Rome on 28 May 2002, which established the current NATO-Russian Council.

Official documents and background reading

Go to the electronic version of the reader's guide for clickable links
<http://www.nato.int/docu/rdr-gde-ist>

Chairman's Statement – Meeting of the NATO-Russian Council at the level of Foreign Ministers, Istanbul 28 June 2004
<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2004/p040628e.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>

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>

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>

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<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/1996/p96-044e.htm>

Module containing key facts and texts about NATO-Russia relations
<http://www.nato.int/issues/nato-russia/nato-russia.htm>

“Combating terrorism: a key objective.” Article published by General Harald Kujat, Chairman of the Military Committee, 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
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<http://www.nato.int/docu/update/2002/07-july/e0702b.htm>



FURTHER DEVELOPING NATO-UKRAINE RELATIONS

The Istanbul Summit pointed the way forward for growing NATO-Ukraine cooperation. At the beginning of the second day of the Istanbul Summit, the NATO-Ukraine Commission (NUC) met at the level of Heads of State and Government. In a meeting with the press afterwards, the NATO Secretary General described the discussions with President Leonid Kuchma as “very open, frank and constructive.”

He observed that the partnership between the Alliance and Ukraine is “healthy and growing.” In his opening remarks to the NUC, he said: “Allies remain firmly committed to a robust, effective and intensified partnership with Ukraine.” The political, economic, military, security and defence principles and aims of this partnership are laid out in the NATO-Ukraine Action Plan adopted at the November 2002 Prague Summit, where the NUC met at the foreign ministers’ level.

NATO leaders commended Ukrainian involvement in international peace support operations, including the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR). Ukraine participates in KFOR’s Multinational Brigade Northeast with the Ukrainian-Polish Battalion. Ukraine also supports the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. The NUC also welcomed Ukraine’s offer to support Operation Active Endeavour in the Mediterranean.

Leading up to the Summit, during High-Level NATO-Ukraine Consultations with the participation of the defence ministers of NATO and Ukraine in Warsaw on 7 June 2004, NATO and Ukraine signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Strategic Airlift and welcomed the recent entry into force of the Memorandum of Understanding on Host Nation Support. Under the latter, Ukraine will provide civilian and military assistance to Allied and Partner armed forces conducting exercises or transiting through its territory.

The NUC Summit at Istanbul discussed the possibility of launching a Partnership for Peace (PfP) Trust Fund project to help Ukraine destroy surplus munitions, small arms and light weapons. “If launched, the project would reduce the threat which these items pose to Ukrainians, and to us all,” the NATO Secretary General said.



Allied leaders welcomed Ukraine's desire to become fully integrated into Euro-Atlantic structures. Such integration "will also require firm commitment to the very highest values that underpin the Alliance," the NATO Secretary General emphasised. NATO leaders stressed the need for the Ukrainian leadership to strengthen democracy, rule of law, and freedom of speech and media, as well as for a free and fair presidential election.

Key areas of cooperation

NATO and Ukraine cooperate on a broad range of issues, including defence reform, the fight against terrorism, peacekeeping, civil emergency planning and disaster preparedness, political cooperation on regional security issues, military cooperation and science and technology. Consultations take place within the NUC, which was established in accordance with the 1997 Charter on a Distinctive Partnership. This charter is the foundation document which defines NATO-Ukraine relations.

The relationship took an important step forward in November 2002, when the NUC adopted a NATO-Ukraine Action Plan. The Plan aims to "identify clearly Ukraine's strategic objectives and priorities in pursuit of its aspirations towards full integration into Euro-Atlantic security structures and to provide a strategic framework for existing and future NATO-Ukraine cooperation under the Charter." It sets out jointly agreed principles and objectives covering political and economic issues, information issues, security, defence and military issues, information protection and security, and legal issues.

Annual Target Plans, including specific Ukrainian measures and joint NATO-Ukraine actions, support the implementation of the objectives set out in the Action Plan. Assessment meetings take place twice a year and a progress report is prepared annually to enable the NUC to review progress in achieving the objectives of the Action Plan.

Defence and security sector reform, along with the management of its consequences, are key priorities for Ukraine, which has completed a comprehensive defence review. The NATO Liaison Office assists Ukraine in implementing these changes, which aim to strengthen the democratic and civilian control of the armed forces to improve



interoperability with NATO forces, and to transform Ukraine's massive conscript army into professional, smaller and more mobile armed forces.

Other cooperative activities include retraining programmes for military officers (language instruction and courses on the management of defence planning, human resources, and defence conversion), defence industry restructuring, downsizing and conversion, training and assistance to improve the country's interoperability with NATO, retraining retired military officers for civilian jobs, and training for active-duty officers. PfP Trust Fund projects have also been set up to help Ukraine ensure the safe destruction of anti-personnel landmines.

Ukraine has also been extremely active in supporting NATO efforts to enhance Euro-Atlantic security. As part of the fight against terrorism, Ukraine has 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.

Ukraine also contributes troops to NATO's peacekeeping efforts in Kosovo and is the second largest force contributor to the Polish-led multinational division in Iraq, with over 1,600 troops in theatre.

Disaster relief and, in particular, the prevention of flooding through joint planning and major multinational exercises are another important aspect of NATO-Ukraine cooperation. NATO has already assisted Ukraine three times after severe flooding: in 1995, 1998 and 2001.

The NATO Information and Documentation Centre in Kyiv also works with Ukrainian authorities and civil society to develop greater public understanding of the goals and role of NATO-Ukraine cooperation. Seminars conducted by the Centre or in partnership with local and national organisations are held across Ukraine every year for this purpose.

Evolution of NATO-Ukraine relations

NATO-Ukraine relations were formally launched in 1991, when Ukraine joined the North Atlantic Cooperation Council immediately upon achieving independence with the break-up of the Soviet Union. A few years later, in 1994, Ukraine became the first of the Commonwealth of Independent States to join the Partnership for Peace programme.



Ukraine soon demonstrated its commitment to contribute to Euro-Atlantic security in its support for NATO-led peacekeeping operations in the Balkans during the 1990s. The first declaration of Ukraine's intent to increase its integration in European and Euro-Atlantic structures was made in the 1997 Charter on a Distinctive Partnership, which also recognised the importance of an independent, stable and democratic Ukraine to European stability. NATO, its member states and Ukraine stated their commitment to further broaden and strengthen cooperation and to develop a distinctive and effective partnership, which would promote further stability and common democratic values in Europe.

The Charter set out principles and arrangements for the further development of NATO-Ukraine relations and identified areas for consultation and cooperation, establishing the NATO-Ukraine Commission to take work forward. Over the next five years, a substantial programme of cooperation was developed in a broad range of areas, including defence reform, economic aspects of defence, military-to-military cooperation, armaments, civil emergency planning, and science and environment.

Relations between the Allies and Ukraine hit a low point in 2002, when the Alliance expressed grave concerns alleging that Ukraine had transferred air defence equipment to Iraq with the approval of the highest level of government. Yet NATO remained engaged in its cooperation with Ukraine, demonstrating the strength of the Allies' commitment to develop strong NATO-Ukraine relations and to encourage Ukraine to work towards closer Euro-Atlantic integration.

In May 2002, just before the fifth anniversary of the Distinctive Partnership, President Leonid Kuchma boldly announced Ukraine's intended goal of eventual NATO membership. In response, at a meeting in Reykjavik later that month, NATO foreign ministers agreed with their Ukrainian counterpart to explore ways to take the NATO-Ukraine relationship to a qualitatively new level. This paved the way for the adoption of the NATO-Ukraine Action Plan by Ukrainian and Allied foreign ministers at their meeting in Prague in November 2002.



Official documents and background reading

Go to the electronic version of the reader's guide for clickable links

<http://www.nato.int/docu/rdr-gde-ist>

Chairman's Statement — Meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Commission,
Istanbul 28 June 2004

<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2004/p04-104e.htm>

NATO-Ukraine 2004 Target Plan in the Framework of the NATO-Ukraine
Action Plan

<http://www.nato.int/docu/basictxt/b040331e.pdf>

NATO-Ukraine 2003 Target Plan in the Framework of the NATO-Ukraine
Action Plan

<http://www.nato.int/docu/basictxt/b030324e.pdf>

NATO-Ukraine Charter on a Distinctive Partnership, 9 July 1997

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

Web module on NATO-Ukraine relations

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





ENHANCING THE MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE

The Istanbul Summit reinforced the Alliance's Mediterranean Dialogue with Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. Explaining the reinforced Dialogue, the NATO Secretary General said it will be made "more practical, more focused on substantial cooperation." This includes enhancing the existing political dialogue, achieving interoperability, assisting in defence reform, and contributing to the fight against terrorism.

These objectives could be achieved through enhanced cooperation in a number of priority areas. These comprise:

- explaining NATO's transformation and cooperative efforts via joint public-diplomacy initiatives;
- promoting democratic control of armed forces and facilitating transparency in national defence planning and budgeting;
- combating terrorism via effective intelligence sharing and maritime cooperation;
- contributing to the Alliance's work on threats posed by weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery;
- promoting cooperation where NATO can add value in the field of border security;
- enhancing cooperation in the area of civil-emergency planning;
- and promoting military-to-military cooperation through participation in selected military exercises and related education and training activities, thereby improving the ability of Mediterranean Partners to contribute to NATO-led operations.

Mediterranean Dialogue countries have also been invited to participate in Operation Active Endeavour, the Alliance's naval surveillance and monitoring operation in the Mediterranean.

NATO initiated a dialogue with Mediterranean countries in 1994. The Mediterranean Dialogue aims to create 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. It is progressive, allowing the number of participants to grow and forms of cooperation to evolve. Participants are offered the



same basis for cooperation and discussion with NATO, and in principle activities are self-funding, although the Alliance can consider requests for financial assistance on a case-by-case basis.

The Mediterranean Cooperation Group is the forum within which political discussions take place between NATO countries and individual participants. These take place on a regular basis and at different levels. Meetings are also held multilaterally with all Mediterranean Dialogue participants and usually take place after each ministerial or summit meeting, or when exceptional circumstances arise. This was the case on 23 October 2001, when a meeting was convened to explain NATO's response to the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States.

An Annual Work Programme has existed since 1997. Areas of cooperation include information activities, crisis management, defence policy and strategy, small arms and light weapons, global humanitarian mine action, non-proliferation, and science and the environment. Military cooperation is also part of the programme. For instance, Mediterranean Dialogue representatives participate in courses at NATO schools and observe and/or participate in NATO military exercises.

Intensified practical cooperation and more effective dialogue on security matters of common concern, such as terrorism, have been encouraged since the November 2002 Prague Summit. Measures include a more regular consultation process, a tailored approach to cooperation, and the identification of more focused activities such as improving the ability of Dialogue countries to contribute to NATO-led non-Article 5 operations, defence reform and defence economics, consultation on border security, and disaster management.

NATO's initiative complements efforts made by other international organisations such as the European Union's Barcelona Process (Euro-Mediterranean Partnership) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Mediterranean Initiative.



Official documents and background information

Go to the electronic version of the reader's guide for clickable links
<http://www.nato.int/docu/rdr-gde-ist>

A more Ambitious and Expanded Framework for the Mediterranean Dialogue, Istanbul 28 June 2004

<http://www.nato.int/docu/comm/2004/06-istanbul/docu-meddial.htm>

Mediterranean Dialogue Work Programme 2003

<http://www.nato.int/med-dial/2003/mdwp-2003.pdf>

Upgrading the Mediterranean Dialogue, including an inventory of possible areas of cooperation

<http://www.nato.int/med-dial/upgrading.htm>

Extract from the Madrid Declaration by NATO Heads of State and Government, July 1997, announcing the creation of the Mediterranean Cooperation Group (paragraph 13)

<http://www.nato.int/med-dial/comm.htm#970708>

Final Communiqué of the North Atlantic Council, 1 December 1994, announcing the creation of a Mediterranean Dialogue (paragraph 19)

<http://www.nato.int/med-dial/comm.htm#941201>

Brussels Summit Declaration, January 1994, laying the basis for the creation of a dialogue in the region (paragraph 22)

<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/1994/p94-003.htm>

Web module containing official documents, articles and conference reports about the Mediterranean Dialogue

<http://www.nato.int/med-dial/home.htm>



ISTANBUL COOPERATION INITIATIVE

NATO leaders launched a major new initiative for the broader Middle East region called the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI). It will be offered first to members of the Gulf Cooperation Council: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer described Istanbul as “a symbolic place” to announce this initiative. “It is vital, in this volatile world, that we build stronger relations between regions and between cultures. Turkey proves that this can be a success. It is a success we must build on.”

He offered “to open a security dialogue with interested countries of the broader region of the Middle East.” “This is an offer, and only an offer, for a two-way dialogue, on issues of mutual interest. For this bridge of communication to be strong, it must be built together. But I believe it will be strong. And I believe it is important. Because if we can help to break down misconceptions and build trust, that can only benefit our common security.”

The Istanbul Summit communiqué states the ICI “focuses on practical cooperation where NATO can add value, notably in the defence and security fields. The initiative is distinct from, yet takes into account and complements, other initiatives involving other international actors.”

The ICI offers, on a bilateral basis, tailored advice on defence reform, defence budgeting, defence planning and civil-military relations, military-to-military cooperation to contribute to interoperability, fighting terrorism through information sharing and maritime cooperation, countering proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery means and fighting illegal trafficking.

Official documents and background information

Istanbul Cooperation Initiative, 28 June 2004

<http://www.nato.int/docu/comm/2004/06-istanbul/docu-cooperation.htm>

Issue page containing further background information on the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative

<http://www.nato.int/med-dial/home.htm>