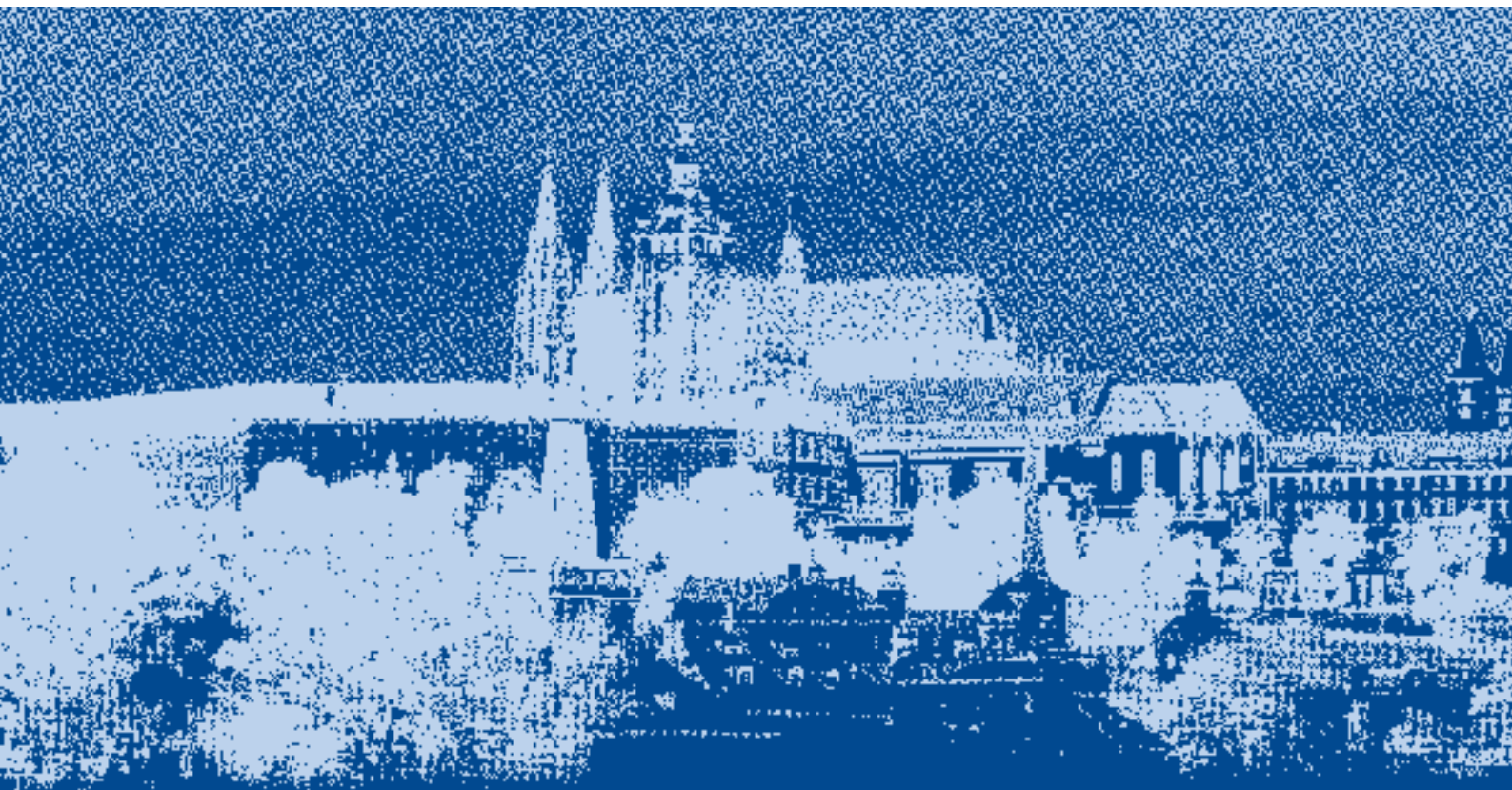




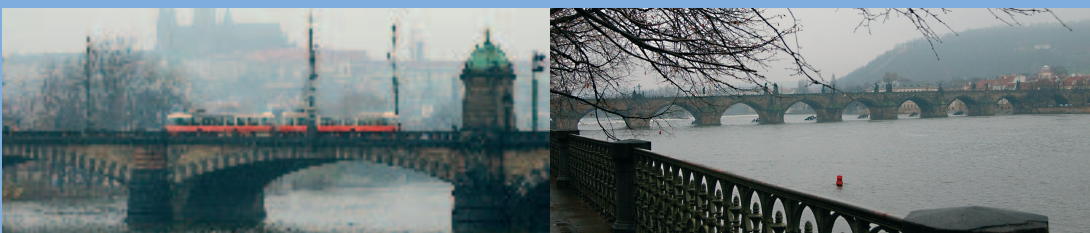
PRAGUE SUMMIT 2002

SELECTED DOCUMENTS AND STATEMENTS



«We, the Heads of State and Government of the member countries of the North Atlantic Alliance, met today to enlarge our Alliance and further strengthen NATO to meet the grave new threats and profound security challenges of the 21st century. Bound by our common vision embodied in the Washington Treaty, we commit ourselves to transforming NATO with new members, new capabilities and new relationships with our partners. ... Today, we have decided to invite Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia to begin accession talks to join our Alliance. We congratulate them on this historic occasion, which so fittingly takes place in Prague. The accession of these new members will strengthen security for all in the Euro-Atlantic area, and help achieve our common goal of a Europe whole and free, united in peace and by common values.»

Prague Summit Declaration, 21 November 2002





CONTENTS

■ Foreword	4
------------	---

Opening Session of the North Atlantic Council Summit Meeting

■ Opening remarks by NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson	6
■ Welcoming remarks by President Havel	8
■ Announcement on enlargement	10
■ Statements by Heads of State and Government	11
■ Closing remarks by NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson	30

North Atlantic Council Summit Meeting with Invitees

■ Opening statement by NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson	32
■ Opening statement by President Havel	33
■ Addresses by Heads of State and Government of Invitees	34
■ Closing remarks by NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson	48

■ Prague Summit Declaration	50
-----------------------------	----

Note: References in this publication 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".

FOREWORD

The term “historic” is too often misused. But in the case of NATO’s Summit meeting in Prague in November 2002, it is entirely appropriate — because the decisions taken at the Summit have fundamentally transformed the Atlantic Alliance.

At Prague, we ensured that NATO will be able to meet all of its current and future challenges, including the threat of terrorism and the spread of weapons of mass destruction. We enhanced our national and collective capabilities, and confirmed the Alliance as the focal point of the international community’s military preparations for defence against terrorism. We took steps to create a better, more equitable balance between Europe and North America, so that transatlantic cooperation will continue to deliver the peace and security it has guaranteed for over fifty years.

At the Summit, we also took decisive action to broaden and deepen the Euro-Atlantic community. In issuing invitations to seven new democracies — Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia — NATO fulfilled, once again, its long-standing commitment to broaden the community of nations able and willing to further the principles of the Washington Treaty and contribute to Euro-Atlantic security. This marks an historic step for these countries and for the Alliance.





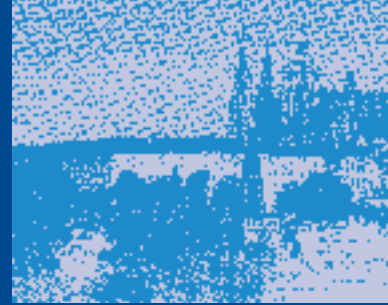
The Prague Summit celebrated and enhanced cooperation between the Alliance and Partner countries across Europe, including the Caucasus, and into Central Asia. These Partnerships have already proven their value in building common approaches to security, and in facilitating practical cooperation, as demonstrated by our joint operations in the Balkans and our steadfast response to terrorism. At Prague, we took steps to ensure that the Partnerships become even more responsive to the interests and concerns of Partners and Allies alike.

The Prague Summit also underlined our strong commitment to peace, stability and cooperation in the Balkans. Prospects for a brighter future throughout the region are much improved, and NATO and its Partners can take considerable credit for this success. But we must, and we will, stay the course to help the region rejoin the European mainstream, which is where it belongs.

NATO's Prague Summit was a milestone in NATO's transformation. It will result in an Alliance that is better geared towards the new challenges posed by terrorism and the spread of weapons of mass destruction. And it will also fine-tune NATO to pursue its wider agenda; achieving a better transatlantic relationship; helping to overcome Europe's Cold War division by taking in new members and engaging Partner countries; and creating long-term stability in the Balkans.

In achieving all this, the Prague Summit reinforced NATO's unique capacity to promote peace and security right across the Euro-Atlantic area, today and into the future. For all these reasons, it truly deserves the label, "historic".

Lord Robertson of Port Ellen



Opening remarks by NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson

Distinguished Heads of State and Government,
Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to beautiful Prague and to NATO's first Summit of the 21st century. I would like to extend a special welcome today to Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy of Hungary, Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende of the Netherlands and Prime Minister José Manuel Durão Barroso of Portugal who are joining us for the first time in this Council. I also welcome Dr Javier Solana, the EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy. His presence here today symbolises the excellent cooperation between NATO and the European Union.

For NATO, Prague is a transformation Summit. It is a truly defining moment for the Atlantic Alliance. We will welcome new members, take on new missions, modernise our military capabilities, and strengthen our relations with friends and Partners throughout the Euro-Atlantic area. By doing so, we will reinforce that essential transatlantic bond on which our security and defence still depends.

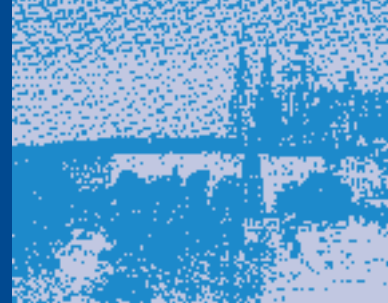
NATO was at the heart of Europe's transformation in the 1990s. It reached out to heal a divided continent, and it acted to bring and then keep the peace in the Balkans. NATO is still doing these jobs, and doing them well. But September 11, 2001 and its aftermath confronted the whole world with new challenges. A deadly cocktail of threats is now menacing free societies. Terrorists and their backers, the failed states in which they flourish, and proliferating weapons of mass destruction, pose a genuine threat to everyone in the free world.

Today, NATO will demonstrate that a transformed and modernised Alliance is at the very heart of the free world's response. We have the organisation, the military capabilities and the will to deal with threats to our people and our security from wherever they may come. We are by far the world's largest permanent coalition of free democratic nations.



That is why NATO is enlarging, extending invitations to countries across Europe to enter into accession talks. That is why a transformed NATO will be a stronger, more effective partner for all our friends, including the EU, Russia and all the countries we will be meeting here tomorrow.

Like NATO, the Czech Republic has also experienced major changes. Our host, President Havel, was the personification of the Velvet Revolution, and led the transformation of his country and inspired the rest of Europe. I am honoured to give the floor to President Havel, but not before I thank him, his Government, and the Czech people for their wonderful hospitality.



Welcoming remarks by Václav Havel President of the Czech Republic

Presidents,
Prime Ministers,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Czech Republic, I should like to extend to you our most cordial welcome to Prague — a city that many have described as one of the conceivable geographical centres of the European continent and that has emerged a number of times in its history as a pivotal, and occasionally somewhat mysterious, crossroads of various European and global developments, movements, spiritual endeavours and diverging power interests. For a long time three peoples with three languages and cultures lived together in this city in remarkable symbiosis. On many an occasion, the most interesting artists and scientists of their time came together within a sovereign's court here. The city of Prague witnessed many an entanglement of history, both on the tragic and on the auspicious side, and it was also here in Prague that wars — hot or cold — began or ended.

May our forthcoming deliberations continue to advance the best features of this special tradition of the Czech capital city. May they advance them not only through the letter of the adopted resolutions or documents, but also through the intent behind them, their indirect consequences, and their long-term meaning, which may remain invisible at first sight. May our efforts to this end be helped by a climate of friendship and sincerity in our discussions. This palace, where we shall hold most of our sessions, represents a rather repugnant relic of the totalitarian system and of its obscure ideas about what should make up a pleasant and functional environment. Nevertheless, I believe that the people who will conduct talks here now shall not let themselves be in any way influenced or misled by the atmosphere of the building.

Dear friends,

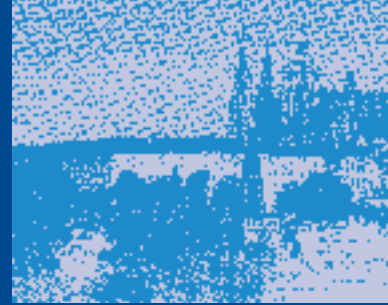
I would be happy if this Summit meeting left no one in any doubt about the innermost purpose of our endeavours — securing the best possible protection for the safety, liberty, dignity, rights and prosperity of the citizens whom we represent here. This is not a congress



of those in power, of generals or of representatives of the armaments industry. It is a meeting of democratic representatives of the people who consider it their duty to act in the people's interests. Thus, this is a matter that concerns all people and I would be happy if people, not only in our countries but also elsewhere in the world, understood this. Some may perhaps feel inconvenienced by the measures taken in order to protect our own security or to ensure the undisturbed progress of our talks, but this is not the main thing at all. The most important thing is that we are looking here for ways of ensuring a safer life for all people. We want our planet to be a place where people can live in peace and freedom.

Dear friends,

Allow me now to offer a small contribution to the success of our present talks and of all NATO's deliberations in the future — a new gavel.



Announcement on Enlargement by NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson

From its inception, NATO has never been an exclusive organisation. From 12 original countries, we enlarged successively to 14, 15, 16 and then, in 1999, to 19. NATO's door is still open. In 1999, NATO leaders set up a Membership Action Plan to assist countries across Europe to prepare for eventual membership. Aspirant countries have been working hard to modernise and reform their armed forces, and to meet NATO's very high standards on values, the rule of law and robust democratic institutions.

All aspirants have been faced with tough and difficult decisions. It is a reflection of their political determination to join NATO that they have met this challenge. In June last year, NATO leaders announced their intention to issue further invitations to join the Alliance. Since then, we have been working to ensure that NATO itself is ready to enlarge. As a result of a comprehensive internal reform process, an organisation designed originally for 12 members will be ready to operate as effectively with over twice that number.

We can therefore say with complete confidence that this round of enlargement will maintain and increase NATO's strength, cohesion and vitality, and that it is not directed against the security interests of any partner state.

You have recently received a Comprehensive report on the enlargement process. Today, we decide on further invitations to countries to begin Accession Talks. This is a crucially important decision where consensus among Allies has emerged gradually over the last few months. I believe that consensus has now been reached. I therefore put to the Heads of State and Government of NATO that they agree that we invite to Accession talks with NATO the following nations: Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. I take it that this is agreed — the Council has so decided.

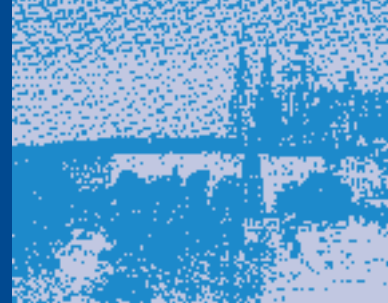
Having reached this momentous decision, I would now like to give the floor to the members of the NAC at Heads of State and Government.



Statement by
Václav Havel
President of the Czech Republic

Speaking on behalf of the Czech Republic, it is my pleasure to state that we have fully and unreservedly agreed to membership in the North Atlantic Alliance being offered today to Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

We consider this enlargement to be of crucial significance. This is so not only for the reason that several medium-sized or smaller European countries will thus receive new safeguards of their defence and security or because these countries will assume their share of responsibility for a life in peace and freedom throughout the great Euro-Atlantic sphere of civilisation. Even more important is the indirect meaning. It is only through this enlargement that a clear signal is given, not only for all Europeans but for the entire world, that the era when countries were divided by force into spheres of influence, or when the stronger used to subjugate the weaker, has come to an end once and for all. The admission of seven new members will represent a great act of confidence in the right of nations to freely decide which part of the world they want to belong to and what alliances they want to establish and nurture.



Statement by
Jacques Chirac
President of the French Republic

President Havel has just mentioned, with some very well-chosen words, the significance of the decision we are about to take.

The enlargement of the Alliance bears witness once more to the end of the artificial division of Europe. This enlargement is indeed the historic moment when Europe is finally reunited, when Europe and North America reaffirm the indivisibility of their security.

In 1997 in Madrid, we and a few others supported the idea of an ambitious enlargement. Five years have passed. The vision of our continent's future that did not carry the day at that time is now shared by all. Seven new members are going to join our Alliance, and we welcome them.

France is therefore happy to see the culmination of the process initiated in Madrid. We want the process to continue, and the door to the Alliance to remain open. I can confirm that France is ready to continue to help and support these countries.



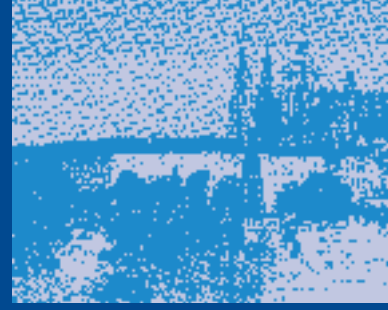
Statement by
Aleksander Kwaśniewski
President of the Republic of Poland

This day will become history. I wish to express how deeply moved and happy I am that here in Prague — a city of a 1,000-year-long history, the place of the Warsaw pact invasion of 1968 and its last meeting, 11 years ago — we are making the decision that will finally put an end to the era of Yalta and Potsdam divisions, the evil of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact, the Cold War and the false balance of fear.

Poland is happy and proud that Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia are being invited to participate in our Alliance. I express my respect for the paths these countries have travelled. The creation of democratic institutions, the development of civic society, democratisation and modernisation of the armed forces have been taken up with great determination. It is of great satisfaction to Poland that, from the very beginning, we have supported this process, shared our experiences, built mutual trust. I am convinced that this decision will make us stronger, not weaker. The “open-door” policy of the Alliance is needed and it ought to be continued. I repeat the proposal I presented in Riga to cooperate with all the countries that wish to join NATO in the future including those that defined clearly their intentions a long time ago.

Today is also a historic day for one man in particular and I wish to convey my special thanks to President Václav Havel.

My dear friend, you are leaving great monuments of your work: defeated Communism; a free and democratic Czech Republic; Central Europe, so different and at the same time built today around the same values; political philosophy free from cynicism and blindness; and today, NATO enlarged with nations that have gone through so much to be finally able to enjoy freedom, democracy and security. I am happy that I can experience this here and I can say this in your home, Václav, in Prague.



Statement by Ahmet Necdet Sezer President of the Republic of Turkey

Today we are living through one of the most remarkable days in the 53-year history of our Alliance and on this momentous occasion I take great pride in representing Turkey, which has strongly supported NATO's enlargement. With this historic decision on enlargement, we are irreversibly leaving the Cold War and what it stood for behind, as well as asserting the indivisibility of Euro-Atlantic security.

In view of the profound security challenges of the 21st century, which transcend values and borders, the accession of seven new members to our Alliance represents a giant leap forward in terms of consolidating the security of our countries and peoples. Taking this opportunity, I should also like to stress that we consider enlargement not as an end in itself, but as a means of a constant integration and development process towards the achievement of our common objectives.

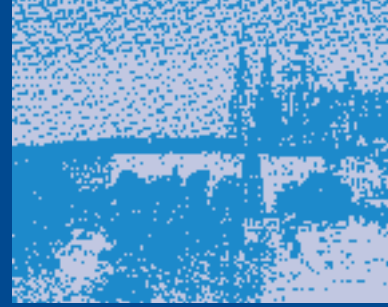
Therefore, we expect the newly invited countries to continue to advance in this direction not only up to accession but also in the years ahead. Likewise, for those aspirants who were not able to receive an invitation today, I would like to underscore the fact that they have already taken impressive strides despite the difficulties of the transition they are undergoing, and that we are committed to render every support to them to continue to press forward along this path and achieve the objective of NATO membership as soon as possible. This is not only an inescapable prerequisite of the "open-door" policy, which we firmly support, but also the sole means to achieve our common goal of Europe whole and free, united in peace and by common values.

As of today, which is a historic day for us with the accession of these new members, we will not only strengthen our Alliance, but also look to the future with greater hope and confidence as a result of this great achievement, accomplished through mutual efforts, dedication and solidarity. With these feelings, I welcome and salute once again the invitees and express our sincere expectation to see them soon sitting around this table of the North Atlantic Council in their full capacity.



Statement by
George W. Bush
President of the United States of America

America is very pleased by today's decision. We believe it strengthens our nation's most important alliance, NATO. By welcoming seven members, we will not only add to our military capabilities, we will refresh the spirit of this great democratic Alliance. We believe today's decision reaffirms our commitment to freedom and our commitment to a Europe which is whole and free and at peace.



**Statement by
David Oddsson
Prime Minister of Iceland**

NATO, the most successful alliance of all times, a fortress of peace and democracy for its members for half a century, has in recent years faced an unexpected question. Have all its aims been achieved, has the final victory been won, is its future forum a place of honour on the shelf of history? At this meeting the question is answered decisively. All European nations that long for peace and security and have made democracy the fundamental principle of their form of government can rely on NATO to champion their cause in the future. This answer is a great triumph for the ideals that the Alliance is designed to defend.

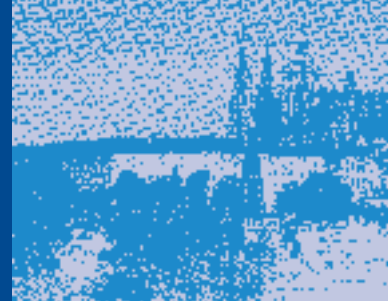


Statement by
Jean Chrétien
Prime Minister of Canada

As long ago as January 1994, Canada became the first NATO member to advocate the Alliance's immediate enlargement in such a way as to respect the commitments we had made towards those countries aspiring to membership. With today's invitations, we have lived up to the commitments we made towards the aspirants, which have taken the difficult but necessary steps to meet the required democratic and economic conditions.

The Alliance which they will join is as strong and relevant today as it was 53 years ago and its potential to contribute to global security in the broadest sense has never been greater. This potential was increased three years ago when we welcomed the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland as members of NATO. Our presence here today in Prague is testimony to the success of NATO's most recent round of enlargement, which enhances the promotion of our shared values of democracy, freedom and human rights. I am entirely convinced that today's enlargement of NATO will have an equally positive effect.

Enlargement is in the best interest of the Alliance and all its members, of the people of those countries invited to join and of the entire Euro-Atlantic area. Canada therefore unreservedly supports the requests of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia to join NATO. We must not underestimate the historic nature of this step in building a Europe, whole and free. The new members will make the Alliance a stronger institution, better able to respond effectively to current and emerging security challenges of the 21st century.



Statement by
Jean-Claude Juncker
Prime Minister of Luxembourg

Yes, Mr Secretary General, this meeting, this Prague summit, is historic. It is historic because it is being held in Prague, a city steeped in and marked by history. It is historic because the decision we have just taken — to enlarge our Alliance to include seven new countries — completes, but only provisionally, the process we launched in Madrid five years ago. And it is historic because it eliminates the vestiges, the last vestiges of the Second World War, definitively ending the division of Europe that has brought so much suffering and paralysed our strengths and our ambitions, which are now free to unfold.

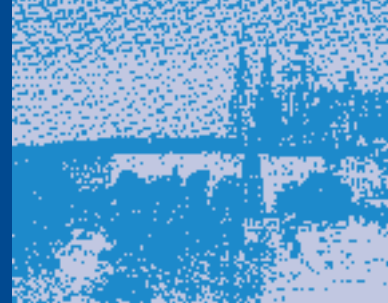
Our parents and grandparents doubtless would not have dared to dream of this happy conclusion, this important step in European history. The task we are completing and to which we are putting the finishing touches today has not been just our task. We owe a great deal to those who have gone before us, to our predecessors who never lost faith. I pay tribute to them.



**Statement by
Costas Simitis
Prime Minister of Greece**

I want to stress the same point that has already been stressed by several colleagues. The importance of this new enlargement does not result from the fact that seven new members have joined NATO, nor from the fact that seven more countries believe that participation in NATO is necessary for their security. It results from the fact that the leftovers of the division of Europe have ceased to exist and that the different degrees of integration of countries in both the European and the Euro-Atlantic endeavour have been overcome.

The importance of our meeting results from the fact that we all confirm that NATO, in a world radically changed since the period of antagonism between East and West, has to play a different role, a role of cooperation in order to foster development, the rule of international law and peace.



Statement by
José María Aznar
President of the Government of Spain

May I, too, welcome and congratulate the countries that have received the invitation to join our Alliance? I would like to briefly stress two ideas on this happy occasion.

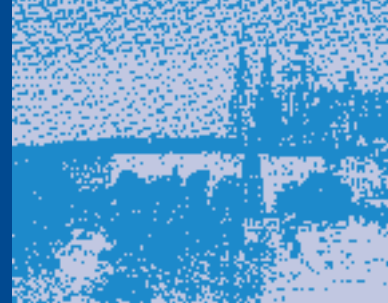
Of the decisions we have taken or are going to take at this Summit, clearly one of the most significant is the enlargement of the Alliance, a process we already started at the Madrid Summit. Today in Prague, we are inviting seven countries to join the Alliance. This is, evidently, an extraordinarily ambitious endeavour, a historical change in the Atlantic Alliance and a milestone in political success that does not end here, involving as it does obligations and responsibilities in security and defence matters for the seven invited countries.

All the countries invited today are also candidates to European Union accession. And, just as we are meeting here today, I trust to see you in the near future around the European Council table. In my opinion, this shows that we are heading in the right direction: more Europe, which in turn implies a stronger and more robust transatlantic link. These are the essential elements for our societies to be more free, more prosperous, and more effective in defending our values.



**Statement by
Tony Blair
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom**

This enlargement represents the importance of the transatlantic Alliance. It also deepens the stability of Europe, which is the historic mission of the Alliance. And, taken together with the new relationship between the Alliance and Russia, I think it marks a profound step in improving European security. It is also a reaffirmation of our values. This is not just a military alliance. It is a community based on the values of the rule of law, of democracy, of individual liberty and freedom. When sometimes people question the relevance of this Alliance in a different and changing security environment, I would say talk to the new members of this Alliance. They will tell us why it matters and why I believe that it will remain the bedrock of our common security for many years to come, for the benefit of future generations.



Statement by
Gerhard Schröder
Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

I would like first of all to thank our Czech hosts and you in particular, Mr President, for the excellent organisation of the Summit and the warm hospitality we are enjoying here in Prague. Today's meeting takes place against the backdrop of NATO's enlargement and transformation.

Germany welcomes the fact that Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia have been invited to become new members of the Alliance. In recent years they have all carried out major reforms and made considerable progress. Joining NATO will be for these countries a historic step. But also for the Alliance this is a notable achievement.

The forthcoming enlargement will make a crucial contribution to strengthening the Euro-Atlantic community of stability and shared values, a community founded on democracy, freedom and the rule of law. We very much look forward to working together with these seven future new members and will continue to support them as they prepare for accession.

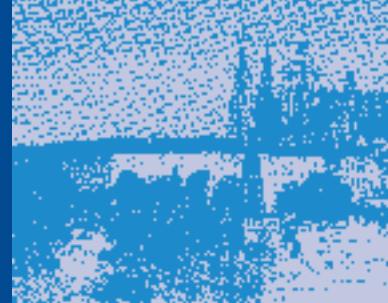
Tribute should also be paid to the progress Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and Croatia have made in their preparations for NATO membership. We would encourage them to keep up the momentum of reform. Over the years ahead Germany will give them the same wholehearted support as it gave the seven new members. Looking to the future beyond Prague, NATO remains ready to admit new members, its doors will stay open.

The Alliance itself, too, needs to keep on adapting, not only in order to integrate the new members but also so that it can respond to the new challenges and threats that have emerged more effectively. There as well we have important decisions to take today.



**Statement by
Guy Verhofstadt
Prime Minister of Belgium**

It has already been said several times that enlargement is an historic duty. We will naturally do everything necessary to ensure rapid ratification of the accession treaties, so that these seven countries can join the Alliance in the spring of 2004. The second point I should like to stress is that Belgium remains committed to NATO's "open-door" policy. The Alliance, in my view, must continue the trend towards enlargement in future and begin by welcoming the three aspirant nations which cannot as yet join the Alliance. The goal remains the same, namely to see that NATO evolves from a North Atlantic into a Euro-Atlantic Alliance.



Statement by
Silvio Berlusconi
Prime Minister of Italy

I can only confirm what my colleagues who took the floor before me have already said. This decision is a further step towards the reunification of Europe and the West as a whole, following the important step taken in Rome with the creation of the Council at 20, which includes the Russian Federation. It is a step forward down a long path, which must be followed through to the end, so that we can defend to the utmost the principles and values which form the basis of our democracies.

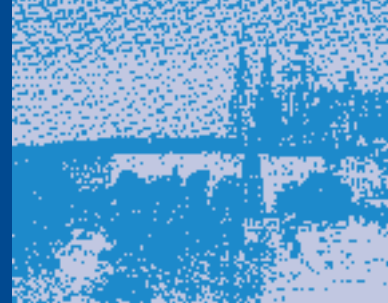
I would like to take this opportunity to express the special regard in which Italians hold the American people and its President. For over 50 years, having paid a heavy toll with their own lives to restore our freedom, they have shouldered most of the burden for our defence, over two thirds of the Alliance's military expenditure. NATO has enabled us to maintain peace in a Europe previously divided by recurring wars, as well as to preserve stability and foster development and prosperity.

I believe that these sentiments are deeply rooted in the minds of my fellow citizens and I think they are also shared by other Europeans. I would therefore like to thank you, President Bush, and thank your great democracy and your great people.



**Statement by
Kjell Magne Bondevik
Prime Minister of Norway**

We have just changed the political map of Europe. On behalf of the people of Norway, I am honoured to welcome seven new members to join in our common efforts to safeguard freedom and democracy. Our decision today has a profound impact on so many; for seven countries and millions of European citizens it means that important aspirations have been met. A new step has been taken away from a painful past and towards a promising future. I am therefore pleased to see our European neighbours from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea among the invitees. We will do our utmost to support them as they take their rightful place among us. NATO will continue to be an inclusive Alliance. This enlargement will not take place at the expense of other candidates or partners. It will also bring the day closer when additional candidates can join the Alliance. This is a commitment we have made and it is a commitment we repeat on this historic day.



Statement by
Anders Fogh Rasmussen
Prime Minister of Denmark

Today is truly a historic moment. Today we leave the remains of the Cold War division of Europe behind us and we invest in the future security and integration of the Euro-Atlantic area. I wish to warmly welcome our new members-to-be.

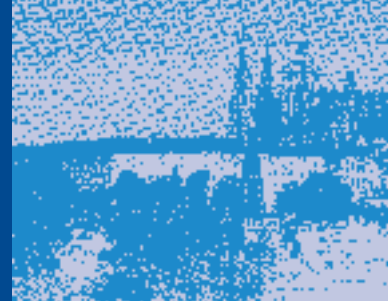
It is truly remarkable that three of the invited countries, namely the three Baltic countries, were republics in the former Soviet Union. History has changed. And so has the agenda of NATO. Let me stress. Our enlargement is not directed against Russia. It is an effort to heal and integrate Europe. We all have an interest in this process. Russia will also benefit.

In three weeks, many of us will gather again in Copenhagen for an EU Summit. We aim at concluding negotiations with up to ten candidate countries, enabling them to join the European Union. The enlargement of NATO and the European Union will indeed be of unprecedented historical importance for European integration, for freedom, peace and prosperity on our continent.



**Statement by
Péter Medgyessy
Prime Minister of the Republic of Hungary**

We are meeting here in Prague to ensure that the Alliance remains solid and effective. The stakes are high, as are the demands. The key word is “adaptation”. Today we have set in motion a powerful wave of enlargement. We have taken a step forward to overcome the division of the European continent, the legacy of Yalta. This round of enlargement will help anchor the countries concerned in the family of democratic nations prepared to defend our common values. The accession of new countries to the Alliance means greater stability and security for us all. As our own experience shows, enlargement improves invitees’ relations both with one another and with third countries. We therefore need to leave the doors open. The decision we have taken today is a mark of our joint success. Making it a reality remains our joint responsibility.



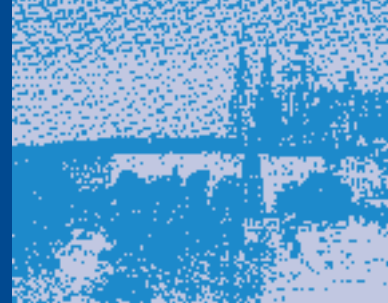
**Statement by
Jan Peter Balkenende
Prime Minister of the Netherlands**

Few meetings are really historic. This one is. Never before has NATO invited so many new nations to join the Alliance. By enlarging the Alliance we are seizing a unique and historic opportunity to put the post-war partition of Europe behind us. By doing so, NATO enlarges the zone of peace and stability. By acceding to the Alliance, these countries will become part of a community that is based on deeply rooted, shared values on democracy, rule of law and human rights. We are convinced that through this enlargement our community of values will be strengthened. We very much welcome the seven new members.



Statement by
José Manuel Durão Barroso
Prime Minister of Portugal

With new members, NATO demonstrates that it will remain crucial for our collective defence. It also shows that the transatlantic link retains all its vitality. I am happy to participate in the decision to invite Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia to start accession talks with NATO. NATO's first summit in the new millennium couldn't have started in a better way. In a way, we are pulling down the last remains of the Berlin Wall. It is only appropriate that this decision is being taken in Prague, symbolic capital of resistance against oppression and for the values NATO has upheld because of peace, democracy and human rights. The new members will come into an Alliance that is going to be different in many senses from the one some of us founded, more proactive, less static, more global, but nevertheless remaining the relevant reference point in matters of collective defence and security. Some fear that NATO will become too diverse or that it will function less well. I don't share that view. Instead, I see a solid political community of like-minded nations working together. Of course, I also see this as a part of the ongoing process of European integration, a process that does not undermine but, on the contrary, reinforces transatlantic solidarity.



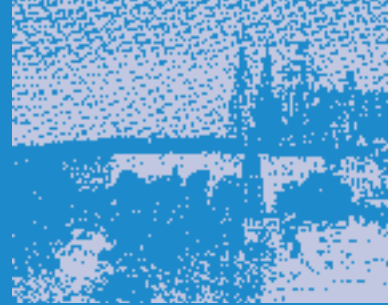
Closing remarks by NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson

This has been a hugely significant decision for NATO, for these seven countries that we have just invited to start accession talks, and for the Euro-Atlantic community. But before moving on, I would like to reiterate the strong message of all those around the table to those aspirants who were not today invited to begin accession talks. The message is that the door to NATO membership remains open. Today's invitees will not be the last. Through the MAP process, we will continue to help you pursue your reform process, and we remain committed to your full integration into the Euro-Atlantic family of nations.



North Atlantic Council Summit Meeting with Invitees





Opening statement by NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson

There has never, ever, been a meeting like this before. In Madrid, five years ago, the North Atlantic Council invited three countries to start the process of joining NATO. Today, NATO's Heads of State and Government have issued invitations to seven countries to begin accession talks. As a consequence, we will increase the NATO population by 46 million, the land mass to 593,000 square kilometers.

I would like on behalf of my colleagues of the North Atlantic Council to welcome the Presidents and Prime Ministers of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia to this special meeting of the North Atlantic Council — the first, I am sure, of many meetings of this kind.

The tremendous efforts made by all seven countries to meet NATO's extremely demanding criteria for membership is a matter for celebration, around this table, throughout the North Atlantic Alliance and right across the continent of Europe. Your accession will enhance your security, strengthen NATO and help build a Europe democratically united, free and at peace. But as everyone here knows, your work is far from over. Membership of the world's most effective security and defence organisation carries heavy responsibilities.

There is no room for passengers. Every NATO member has to add value, to be a net producer of security in an uncertain world. And the highest standards of democratic values will be expected of you, now and indeed into the future.

The good news is that NATO will help through the Membership Action Plan and by involving you in the Alliance's work. But your continuing total commitment is absolutely crucial, together with your willingness to take part in NATO's continuing process of transformation.

All of us are confident that all seven countries here today are up to this enormous task. We know that you will be able to shoulder the responsibilities of NATO membership. We know you will add value, and weight, to NATO. We are very glad to have you with us.

I would now like to invite the Dean of the North Atlantic Council and Host of the Prague Summit, President Havel, to address the meeting.



Opening statement by
Václav Havel
President of the Czech Republic

Madam President,
Presidents,
Prime Ministers,

On behalf of all my colleagues in this room as well as on my own, I should like to express to you my most sincere congratulations on the invitation for your countries to join our defence alliance. The Alliance's decision to open itself once again to the new European democracies signifies that the unnatural division of Europe has come to an end in real terms and that the last surviving remnant of the Iron Curtain — that strange psychological wall that used to separate the “old” democracies from the post-Communist ones — is finally breaking down.

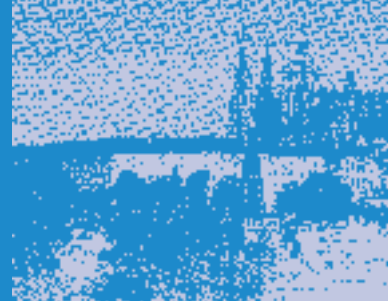
If the whole of Europe is uniting itself within such an eminent security organisation in the name of shared values, it also signifies that Europe is once and for all discarding all the dark features that have accompanied its history to date.

Your countries will soon become firmly established as part of a great defence community in which the sovereignty of any member is inseparably linked to the sovereignty of all, but which is based on the free choice of the nations united in this alliance.

The Washington Treaty states that the contracting parties are “determined to safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilisation of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law”. By your dedicated endeavours and by the positions you have taken, you have repeatedly proved that you see your membership in NATO not only as a guarantee of your own security, but also as a commitment: just as the Alliance will safeguard your security, you will safeguard the security of others and assume the co-responsibility for peace in the world.

Dear friends,

I congratulate you and welcome you among us. I rejoice today just as I rejoiced in Madrid five years ago when the Alliance invited my country to join.



**Address by
Georgi Parvanov
President of the Republic of Bulgaria**

Mr Secretary General,
Dear Colleagues,

Today, we have made a decisive step towards the unification of Europe. It will be no exaggeration to compare today's decision for the enlargement of NATO with the fall of the Berlin Wall. Here in Prague, as years ago in Berlin, we have closed one of the last pages of a history of injustice and lack of strategic vision. From this day on, we Bulgarians will associate Golden Prague with more than with the beautiful architecture and the Czech people's hospitality, with the names of Konstantin Irecek and Ian Mrkvicka, with the Velvet Revolution and the dismantling of the Warsaw Treaty. From this day on, for us Bulgarians Prague will be a cornerstone in the new European history, a turning point in Bulgaria's rejoining the family of democratic nations.

By virtue of today's decision Bulgaria will join the Euro-Atlantic area of security and integration. We welcome this decision with profound gratification because it means that our efforts during the past 12 years, the results of difficult reforms we have undertaken and our contribution to regional stability and world security have been recognised.

Allow me to congratulate the leaders of the nineteen for their wisdom, political courage and foresight. I would like to express my hope that the process of accession leading to full membership will take place in the shortest possible term. Until then, Bulgaria will continue to work energetically to fulfil the tasks and obligations under the Membership Action Plan and participate in an appropriate form in the activities of the Alliance.

We firmly support a continued "open-door" policy beyond Prague. The prospect of a subsequent enlargement of NATO is the best guarantee of lasting stability in Southeastern Europe.

NATO's Prague Summit is not just an "enlargement summit". It can be defined as a "transformation summit". By its decisions at this forum the Alliance has proved yet again that

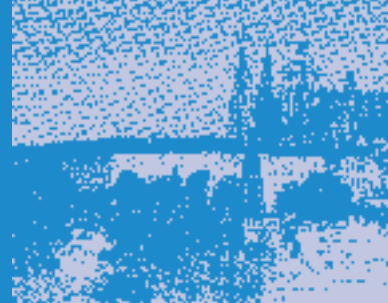


it is capable of evolving and responding to new risks and challenges. Fighting international terrorism and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction remain priority tasks for the free and democratic world. The need for greater efficiency lies at the basis of the decisions for restructuring the Alliance and the creation of rapid reaction forces. I feel confident that the decisions from Prague for increasing NATO's capabilities to react in the new security environment will lay the foundation for a new Alliance capable of effectively withstanding the risks and challenges of the 21st century.

The Republic of Bulgaria supports these decisions and will make further efforts to fulfil the tasks of modernising its armed forces, defining its own contribution and identifying our niche capabilities.

Mr Secretary General,

I know that the champagne on this occasion will soon lose its fizz and that tomorrow we will be back to our daily grind. I wish to assure you, however, that Bulgaria accepts the invitation for membership as more than a great honour and recognition. We are aware that for Bulgaria this invitation ushers in a new, even more difficult and responsible stage of political, economic and military adaptation; of further development and consolidation of democracy and the market economy; of greater responsibility for the stability and security of Southeastern Europe and the entire Euro-Atlantic area.



**Address by
Siim Kallas
Prime Minister of the Republic of Estonia**

Thank you, Secretary General,
Excellencies,

For many of us, today is one of the most remarkable days in the current history of the world. At the beginning of the nineties, we, Estonians, were living in the exciting atmosphere of our regained independence. But even at that time, when everything seemed attainable and nothing seemed impossible, few of us truly believed in the prospect of NATO membership.

But fortunately some did, and events have developed faster than could ever have been predicted, and our wildest dreams from those days are beginning to come true — Estonia, along with Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia, has been invited to join NATO.

We truly appreciate this historic decision made today concerning the enlargement of the Alliance. I would like to thank the NATO leaders for this decision and for the recognition of our efforts and for your support and cooperation on this way. I would also like to thank the leaders of other candidate countries for their mutual and continuous solidarity and cooperation. This spirit of cooperation, among all of us around this table is an asset, which we will bring with us into NATO.

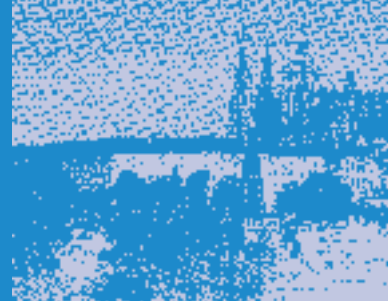
At the same time, I would like to reiterate that we consider this invitation as a serious indication of trust, and we fully understand the obligations we are accepting in this context. We know that this will entail the allocation of all necessary resources — both human and financial — for this purpose.

The perspective of NATO membership means, for us, not only increased security, but also the increased necessity to share responsibility for addressing threats that could arise far from Estonia. We believe that every country, no matter what its size or economic resources, can contribute substantially to the fight against contemporary threats to international security.



Estonia is committed to continuing the ongoing reforms to its national defence system and we are ready to further develop and improve our military capabilities in the years to come.

The name of the game is clear — collective security and defence means collective responsibility and burden sharing. No one should become a millstone for others. We, Estonians, know this. We intend to deliver!



**Address by
Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga
President of the Republic of Latvia**

Mr Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Heads of State and Government,

On behalf of the Republic of Latvia and its people I thank all the Heads of State and Government of the NATO member countries for having the courage to take the decision that they announced today. For us in Latvia it comes as a sign of international justice. It will put an end once and for all to the last vestiges of the Second World War, to the last sequels of what started with the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact in 1939, to the consequences of the decisions taken in Teheran and Yalta.

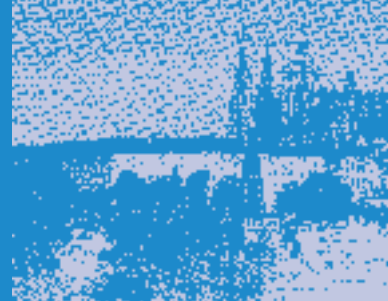
Latvia lost its independence for a very long time, and it knows the meaning both of liberty and the loss of it. Latvia knows the meaning of security and the loss of it. And this is why being invited in an Alliance that will ensure our security is a momentous moment that will be writ large in the history of our nation.

We would like to congratulate you on the wisdom of your decision. You have taken the plunge, you have put your faith in us. You have been guiding us and helping us along the path of reform that we have undertaken. All of you sitting around this table in one way or another have pushed us, prodded us and encouraged us. And you have stood by our side as we have tried to recover from half a century of totalitarian rule, from half a century of oppression. We have come a very long way and would like to thank you for having been at our side and having been ready to shoulder us and to encourage us in all the difficult steps that we have taken so far, and in all the difficult steps that still are ahead of us. Because, of course, the road is but half-done and we still have a process of ratification ahead of us. We thank you for your trust and we would like to assure you that it has been well placed. We are committed to the same ideals that you are. We would like to enjoy the same liberties and freedoms that you have enjoyed for so long and that we have so recently recovered. We are ready to work as hard as we ever have to attain the same standards, the same levels, and to make our full contribution. I think that this NATO Summit can be summarised in one word: hope.



Hope for a better future, both for those nations — all seven of us — who have received this historical invitation today, and also hope for those nations for whom the door has not been closed, as it was not for us, those who still stand ready, and, I think, will be encouraged by our progress, to continue their striving and their efforts, because they see that it can lead to the result that we all hope for.

We in Latvia would like to build our future on the rock of political certainty, not on the shifting sands of indecision. We do not want to be in some sort of grey zone of political uncertainty. We would like to enjoy the full sunshine of the liberties and rights that NATO has been defending for so long. We do not want to be left out in the outer darkness. And we would not wish it to happen to any other nation who has expressed the desire to join those nations that hold the same values, that follow the same ideals, and that are ready to make the same efforts. Our people have been tested in the fires of history. They have been tempered by suffering and injustice. They know the meaning and the value of liberty. They know that it is worth every effort to support it, to maintain it, to stand for it and to fight for it. We make a solemn pledge and a commitment here today, on this historic and solemn occasion, that we will strive to do our utmost to contribute not just to the strength of the Alliance but also to do whatever needs to be done to create a world where justice and liberty are available to all.



**Address by
Valdas Adamkus
President of the Republic of Lithuania**

Mr Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express my deep appreciation for the decision taken today by Heads of State and Government of the NATO member states to invite my country, Lithuania, to become a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. This historic decision brings us closer to our common vision of a Europe whole and free, a Europe with a strong and sound transatlantic link. As the last round of NATO enlargement demonstrated, a stable democratic Europe is the best neighbour anyone can have. Security and stability benefit all.

Today, you have recognised Lithuania's transformation to an open society and market economy. You have sent a powerful message to the Lithuanian people, who have been striving to reach their integration goals. You have acknowledged my country as a credible ally. This historic recognition not only consolidates our democracy, but also inspires us to keep working shoulder to shoulder — as a true ally — in the interest of peace in Europe and the world.

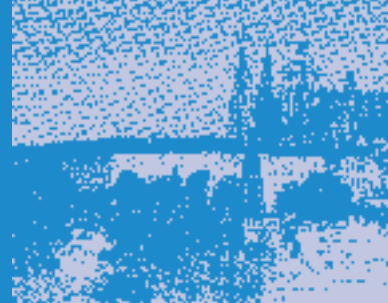
We fully understand that today's decision marks not the end, but rather the beginning of a new era. No matter how convincing our achievements to date, there is still much to be done. Let me reassure you that internal reforms will continue and they will be matched by unwavering political will and adequate resources.

Lithuania desires to become a member of a strong and effective Alliance. We will make sure that our membership strengthens the Alliance's capability both to perform present tasks and to take on new ones. This remains the focus of our defence reform. We are committed to developing more flexible, adaptable and mobile forces, which will be part of the future NATO Response Force and will continue to contribute to the full spectrum of Alliance missions.



We recognise the importance of NATO's transformation efforts, including the Prague Capabilities Commitment. We support the implementation of this initiative, which will give the Alliance the tools it needs to adapt to address new security challenges, to respond to new threats, to create new capabilities and to project stability wherever it is needed. Lithuania stands ready to contribute.

Finally, allow me to underline the political importance of the "open-door" policy. It is in our strategic interest to increase stability and security in the Euro-Atlantic area. We look forward to cooperating with countries aspiring for membership and sharing the experience and spirit of solidarity, which served us so well in the Vilnius Group.



**Address by
Ion Iliescu
President of the Republic of Romania**

Mr Secretary General,
Distinguished Heads of State and Government,

You have made history today. You have taken decisions on enlargement, capabilities and partnerships, which will shape the future of the Euro-Atlantic area, including Romania. You have opened a new chapter in Europe's long-lasting quest for unity and peace.

For Romanians, Prague has a special meaning. It is a place where, in 1968, Romania, alongside other Warsaw Pact countries, was commanded to come with tanks in order to end the Prague Spring. Romania not only refused but also condemned the invasion of Czechoslovakia. In 1991, member countries decided, in Prague, to dissolve the Warsaw Treaty. Among the other heads of state, that historical document was signed by President Havel and myself. Today, the NATO Allies have issued a different kind of invitation, that of joining NATO in order to defend and promote democratic values and to build a Europe whole and free. We are delighted and honoured to accept it.

For Romania and its citizens, it is an invitation to open a new page of history. It is an invitation to join a family to which, culturally and spiritually, we have always belonged. It is an invitation that reconfirms the ideals of the 1989 Romanian revolution. We are deeply committed to the values, principles and common interests of the Alliance.

We look upon this moment with great satisfaction. We view it as recognition of the efforts made towards attaining one of our fundamental foreign policy goals in the last decade. NATO membership will link our own security and defence interests and responsibilities to those of the Euro-Atlantic community and will reinforce our conviction that we are bound together and will grow stronger together.

On its way towards NATO membership, within the excellent initiative that was the Partnership for Peace, Romania has proven her will and her ability to take the sometimes



painful measures needed to launch and sustain positive change within Romanian society as a whole.

Romania has made important progress in the economic field, as well as in the reform of the military. Romania has confirmed that it is willing and able to be part not only of an international community of values but also of a community of action.

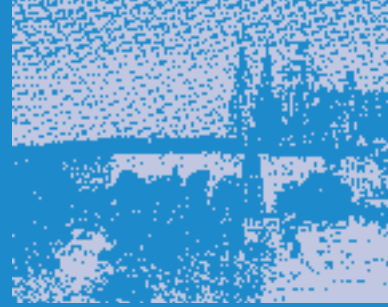
We are fully aware that Prague does not represent the end of the road for us, but a new and challenging beginning. We are, therefore, determined to continue to engage with full responsibility, energy, and resources in the effort of preparations for full integration into the Alliance. Defence allocations will be maintained at the present level of about 2.3 per cent of GDP. Economic, legislative and administrative reforms will continue, in line with the complementary goal of meeting European Union membership requirements.

The consolidation of democratic values, building an efficient and competitive market economy, strengthening the country's capacity to play its role as a security and stability provider in the region, are all aims closely interrelated with our national interest.

Let me express our gratitude for the consistent support and assistance received from the NATO member states, NATO's Secretary General and the Alliance's International Staff in the process of preparing for membership. Let me also express the conviction that the continuation of this cooperation will be even more essential in the coming period.

I wish also to congratulate and thank the brave soldiers that Romania has deployed to Afghanistan, as well as all the Romanian soldiers in Kosovo or Bosnia. Their presence, as well as that of more than 9,000 Romanians in peacekeeping missions in the last 10 years proves that Romania can, in cooperation with our NATO partners, be a producer of global security.

Finally, allow me to sincerely congratulate my colleagues from all the candidate countries invited here, today, to join the North Atlantic Alliance. Our joint endeavours and the spirit of solidarity that has marked our cooperation as we prepared for membership testify to our ability to act as trustworthy, reliable allies. We shall continue our work together, reinforcing each other's efforts on the road to full integration into the Alliance, while supporting the



aspiration of Albania, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* and assisting Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in joining the Euro-Atlantic institutions.

I would also launch the invitation to act together for the re-emergence of Central and Eastern Europe as an area whose future lies in peace, democracy, economic prosperity and full integration into the European and Euro-Atlantic structures, for the benefit not only of our nations but ultimately of the entire Euro-Atlantic community.



Address by
Rudolf Schuster
President of the Slovak Republic

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

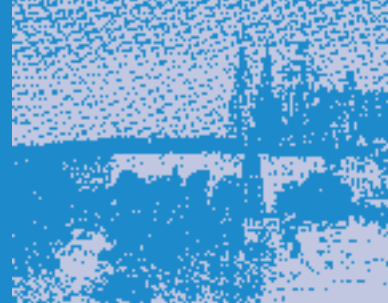
Please allow me, on behalf of the Slovak Republic and on my own behalf, to express our most profound appreciation for the trust and confidence bestowed upon us by your decision. Your trust is a commitment to us. However, if enlargement is to mean a stronger Alliance and bring more security for all of us, it is imperative that we remain relentless in our effort to improve our capability of contributing to both the traditional and the new role of the Alliance.

Therefore, in our understanding the invitation is not the ultimate goal. We rather see it as a challenge to the continuity of the process we embarked upon. We, of course, do understand that the invitation inevitably is a challenge for us to continue the reform of our armed forces and we are ready to expedite this reform with the view of helping the Alliance in building new capabilities. As the commander-in-chief of our armed forces I will see to it that Slovakia remains a functional and reliable ally in our fight with the challenges of the present day. We are capable and ready to assist with our particular capacities.

Developing cooperation with partner countries and pursuing an "open-door" policy remains an integral part of reinforcing security and stability both in the European and in the transatlantic area. We see partnerships and enlargement as significant factors contributing to security and therefore we intend to devote to them our active support.

Mr Secretary General,
Dear Friends,

Today, we took an important step toward our common vision of a Europe whole and free, one step toward reinvigorating the security of all of us. Slovakia feels its share of responsibility for the success of this process. Let me assure you that this responsibility will be the driving force behind all our efforts.



Address by
Janez Drnovšek
Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia

Mr Secretary General,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to be here in Prague, with long-time partners. A lot of hope and expectations were attached to this Summit over the past year. At the meetings with my fellow colleagues from candidate countries in Bratislava, Bucharest and Riga the need for further enlargement was emphasised repeatedly. I am therefore glad that NATO remained true to its “open-door” policy and, on behalf of the Republic of Slovenia, I would like to thank you for inviting us to join the Alliance.

Slovenia is a long-standing candidate country for entry into NATO. We are therefore well aware of the significance of this moment. The road that we travelled in reaching this goal was full of challenges and, sometimes, disappointments. Nonetheless, throughout this period Slovenia always stood firmly by NATO as a reliable partner, acting in the spirit of the Alliance. I believe this reflects the keen awareness in Slovenia that we owe part of our success as a country to NATO, which brought stability to our immediate neighbourhood, by decisively intervening in the Balkans. In other words, we know that NATO has already contributed to our security. The invitation to join the Alliance therefore represents a welcome opportunity for Slovenia to accept its share of responsibility for the stability of Europe and international peace.

Excellencies,

Today's decision has historic proportions, not only for the nations invited but also for this continent. An important and irreversible step has been made towards Europe whole and free and at peace. The nations invited to join NATO will reinvigorate the organisation and strengthen its ability to remain the most successful system of collective defence to date. However, there are countries whose aspirations to join the Alliance have not been met at this Summit and who must have a chance to join it when they are able to assume the responsibilities that membership brings.

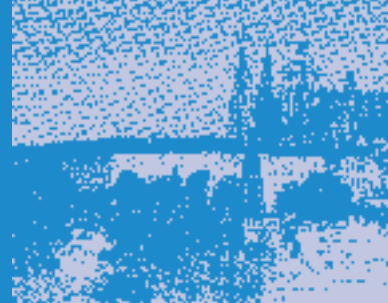


NATO's largest enlargement ever is an important event in itself. However, we are well aware of the fact that Prague is not an end, but a beginning. For the invited countries, this Summit represents the beginning of a vigorous process of final preparations for membership during the forthcoming accession procedure. For NATO it represents the beginning of an accelerated process of transformation into an international organisation that is fully adapted to the challenges set by the post-September 11 era.

September 11 gave new substance to all existing forms of international cooperation, but especially to existing security structures, such as NATO. Moreover, it effectively brought to an end the Cold War inertia in thinking that lasted for a whole decade after the fall of the Berlin Wall. In the wake of the terrorist attacks in the United States a new worldwide coalition came into being. For the first time, there is real partnership between NATO and Russia. NATO is thus acquiring a truly new dimension — the one that we, too, wish for.

Excellencies,

This is an important day, not only for Slovenia, but also for me personally. It represents the symbolic conclusion of a process that has been an integral part of the first decade of Slovenian independence. In all these years many things have changed, both in NATO and also in Slovenia. What has not changed, however, is our common attachment to the European ideal and to transatlantic cooperation. Today's decision therefore represents an important reaffirmation of the values and ideas we share. We therefore look forward to working with all the Allied nations in our common efforts to bring more security, more stability and peace to the world.



Closing remarks by NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson

Thank you. This has been a day of real celebration, not just for the seven countries represented here for the first time, but for the Alliance as a whole. I know myself how hard all of those seven countries have worked in order to achieve this decision today. And if I could just say a little word, personally, my three years in office has coincided with the three years of the Membership Action Plan, kindly donated to me by Javier Solana when he left the organisation. And I have been round the countries, I have talked to all of the people, I have been tough, occasionally I have been rough, I have been difficult, I have occasionally been very rude, I have been unrelenting and persistent in my criticisms and my cajoling and in my reminding that there were high obligations on both the political and on the military side. I think sometimes I ruffled feathers. I think I was regarded most of the time as a complete nuisance.

But I just want to say on this historic day that I do not regret a single word, not one, because I think that those words of criticism were also words of encouragement from me and from the other countries around this table and that they have made today possible. As I kept reminding all of you, I didn't have a vote today, I simply wielded the gavel at the end of the process, and gathered the voices. But I know how much was done in order to make it happen and I realise the sacrifices that were made. And if you think I have finished with being a nuisance, then you are wrong. You've got your invitation today but the accession process and the ratification process is still to come. And that is why the determination with which all of you have spoken of your desire to strengthen NATO and to pledge yourself to continue the reforms and modernisation on which you have embarked is so important to be heard round the table. All NATO countries will welcome that message and will commit themselves along with me to helping you in that on-going process. And that, after all, is what NATO is all about: collective security and defence, a common commitment to dealing with today's threats and producing joint solutions to military and political challenges as well. So we look forward to a successful accession process, and eventually welcoming you around this table as full members of this great Alliance. Thank you very much.

This has been a very special day for NATO. But it is not yet finished. In the presence of our seven invited countries, we will now hold the formal signing ceremony for the transfer from Belgium to NATO of the land on which we will build the Alliance's new headquarters. So



I will be joined by Prime Minister Verhofstadt and Defence Minister Flahaut of the Kingdom of Belgium.

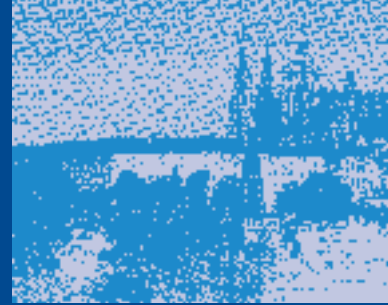
Mr Prime Minister,
Mr Minister of Defence,

First of all, I would like to express the Alliance's gratitude and recognition for the hospitality that your country has been extending to our Organisation since 1967. And we still inhabit the temporary headquarters that we moved into in that remarkable year.

Next, I would like to confirm that the North Atlantic Council has accepted with appreciation Belgium's offer of the site on which to build NATO's new permanent Headquarters.

Finally, before signing this agreement on behalf of the Alliance, I would like to take the opportunity to express the deep gratitude of the International Staff, the International Military Staff and the National Delegations, to the Belgian Authorities for having hosted us for 35 years.

Thank you, Prime Minister, to you and your Government and also to the people of Belgium.



Prague Summit Declaration issued by the Heads of State and Government participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Prague on 21 November 2002

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the member countries of the North Atlantic Alliance, met today to enlarge our Alliance and further strengthen NATO to meet the grave new threats and profound security challenges of the 21st century. Bound by our common vision embodied in the Washington Treaty, we commit ourselves to transforming NATO with new members, new capabilities and new relationships with our partners. We are steadfast in our commitment to the transatlantic link; to NATO's fundamental security tasks including collective defence; to our shared democratic values; and to the United Nations Charter.

2. Today, we have decided to invite Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia to begin accession talks to join our Alliance. We congratulate them on this historic occasion, which so fittingly takes place in Prague. The accession of these new members will strengthen security for all in the Euro-Atlantic area, and help achieve our common goal of a Europe whole and free, united in peace and by common values. NATO's door will remain open to European democracies willing and able to assume the responsibilities and obligations of membership, in accordance with Article 10 of the Washington Treaty.

3. Recalling the tragic events of 11 September 2001 and our subsequent decision to invoke Article 5 of the Washington Treaty, we have approved a comprehensive package of measures, based on NATO's Strategic Concept, to strengthen our ability to meet the challenges to the security of our forces, populations and territory, from wherever they may come. Today's decisions will provide for balanced and effective capabilities within the Alliance so that NATO can better carry out the full range of its missions and respond collectively to those challenges, including the threat posed by terrorism and by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

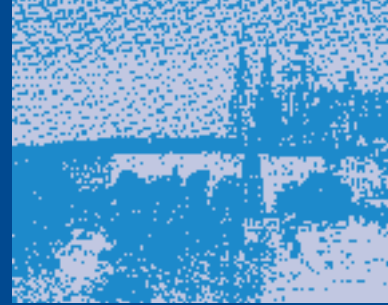
4. We underscore that our efforts to transform and adapt NATO should not be perceived as a threat by any country or organisation, but rather as a demonstration of our determination to protect our populations, territory and forces from any armed attack,



including terrorist attack, directed from abroad. We are determined to deter, disrupt, defend and protect against any attacks on us, in accordance with the Washington Treaty and the Charter of the United Nations. In order to carry out the full range of its missions, NATO must be able to field forces that can move quickly to wherever they are needed, upon decision by the North Atlantic Council, to sustain operations over distance and time, including in an environment where they might be faced with nuclear, biological and chemical threats, and to achieve their objectives. Effective military forces, an essential part of our overall political strategy, are vital to safeguard the freedom and security of our populations and to contribute to peace and security in the Euro-Atlantic region. We have therefore decided to:

a. Create a NATO Response Force (NRF) consisting of a technologically advanced, flexible, deployable, interoperable and sustainable force including land, sea, and air elements ready to move quickly to wherever needed, as decided by the Council. The NRF will also be a catalyst for focusing and promoting improvements in the Alliance's military capabilities. We gave directions for the development of a comprehensive concept for such a force, which will have its initial operational capability as soon as possible, but not later than October 2004 and its full operational capability not later than October 2006, and for a report to Defence Ministers in Spring 2003. The NRF and the related work of the EU Headline Goal should be mutually reinforcing while respecting the autonomy of both organisations.

b. Streamline NATO's military command arrangements. We have approved the Defence Ministers' report providing the outline of a leaner, more efficient, effective and deployable command structure, with a view to meeting the operational requirements for the full range of Alliance missions. It is based on the agreed Minimum Military Requirements document for the Alliance's command arrangements. The structure will enhance the transatlantic link, result in a significant reduction in headquarters and Combined Air Operations Centres, and promote the transformation of our military capabilities. There will be two strategic commands, one operational, and one functional. The strategic command for Operations, headquartered in Europe (Belgium), will be supported by two Joint Force Commands able to generate a land-based Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) headquarters and a robust but more limited standing joint headquarters from which a sea-based CJTF headquarters capability can be drawn. There will also be land, sea and air components. The strategic command for Transformation, headquartered in the



United States, and with a presence in Europe, will be responsible for the continuing transformation of military capabilities and for the promotion of interoperability of Alliance forces, in cooperation with the Allied Command Operations as appropriate. We have instructed the Council and Defence Planning Committee, taking into account the work of the NATO Military Authorities and objective military criteria, to finalise the details of the structure, including geographic locations of command structure headquarters and other elements, so that final decisions are taken by Defence Ministers in June 2003.

c. Approve the Prague Capabilities Commitment (PCC) as part of the continuing Alliance effort to improve and develop new military capabilities for modern warfare in a high threat environment. Individual Allies have made firm and specific political commitments to improve their capabilities in the areas of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear defence; intelligence, surveillance, and target acquisition; air-to-ground surveillance; command, control and communications; combat effectiveness, including precision guided munitions and suppression of enemy air defences; strategic air and sea lift; air-to-air refuelling; and deployable combat support and combat service support units. Our efforts to improve capabilities through the PCC and those of the European Union to enhance European capabilities through the European Capabilities Action Plan should be mutually reinforcing, while respecting the autonomy of both organisations, and in a spirit of openness.

We will implement all aspects of our Prague Capabilities Commitment as quickly as possible. We will take the necessary steps to improve capabilities in the identified areas of continuing capability shortfalls. Such steps could include multinational efforts, role specialisation and reprioritisation, noting that in many cases additional financial resources will be required, subject as appropriate to parliamentary approval. We are committed to pursuing vigorously capability improvements. We have directed the Council in Permanent Session to report on implementation to Defence Ministers.

d. Endorse the agreed military concept for defence against terrorism. The concept is part of a package of measures to strengthen NATO's capabilities in this area, which also includes improved intelligence sharing and crisis response arrangements.



Terrorism, which we categorically reject and condemn in all its forms and manifestations, poses a grave and growing threat to Alliance populations, forces and territory, as well as to international security. We are determined to combat this scourge for as long as necessary. To combat terrorism effectively, our response must be multi-faceted and comprehensive.

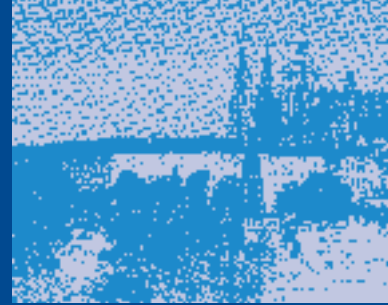
We are committed, in cooperation with our partners, to fully implement the Civil Emergency Planning (CEP) Action Plan for the improvement of civil preparedness against possible attacks against the civilian population with chemical, biological or radiological (CBR) agents. We will enhance our ability to provide support, when requested, to help national authorities to deal with the consequences of terrorist attacks, including attacks with CBRN against critical infrastructure, as foreseen in the CEP Action Plan.

e. Endorse the implementation of five nuclear, biological and chemical weapons defence initiatives, which will enhance the Alliance's defence capabilities against weapons of mass destruction: a Prototype Deployable NBC Analytical Laboratory; a Prototype NBC Event Response team; a virtual Centre of Excellence for NBC Weapons Defence; a NATO Biological and Chemical Defence Stockpile; and a Disease Surveillance system. We reaffirm our commitment to augment and improve expeditiously our NBC defence capabilities.

f. Strengthen our capabilities to defend against cyber attacks.

g. Examine options for addressing the increasing missile threat to Alliance territory, forces and population centres in an effective and efficient way through an appropriate mix of political and defence efforts, along with deterrence. Today we initiated a new NATO Missile Defence feasibility study to examine options for protecting Alliance territory, forces and population centres against the full range of missile threats, which we will continue to assess. Our efforts in this regard will be consistent with the indivisibility of Allied security. We support the enhancement of the role of the WMD Centre within the International Staff to assist the work of the Alliance in tackling this threat.

We reaffirm that disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation make an essential contribution to preventing the spread and use of WMD and their means of delivery. We stress



the importance of abiding by and strengthening existing multilateral non-proliferation and export control regimes and international arms control and disarmament accords.

5. Admitting Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia as new members will enhance NATO's ability to face the challenges of today and tomorrow. They have demonstrated their commitment to the basic principles and values set out in the Washington Treaty, the ability to contribute to the Alliance's full range of missions including collective defence, and a firm commitment to contribute to stability and security, especially in regions of crisis and conflict. We will begin accession talks immediately with the aim of signing Accession Protocols by the end of March 2003 and completing the ratification process in time for these countries to join the Alliance at the latest at our Summit in May 2004. During the period leading up to accession, the Alliance will involve the invited countries in Alliance activities to the greatest extent possible. We pledge our continued support and assistance, including through the Membership Action Plan (MAP). We look forward to receiving the invitees' timetables for reforms, upon which further progress will be expected before and after accession in order to enhance their contribution to the Alliance.

6. We commend Albania for its significant reform progress, its constructive role in promoting regional stability, and strong support for the Alliance. We commend the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* for the significant progress it has achieved in its reform process and for its strong support for Alliance operations, as well as for the important steps it has made in overcoming its internal challenges and advancing democracy, stability and ethnic reconciliation. We will continue to help both countries, including through the MAP, to achieve stability, security and prosperity, so that they can meet the obligations of membership. In this context, we have also agreed to improve our capacity to contribute to Albania's continued reform, and to further assist defence and security sector reform in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* through the NATO presence. We encourage both countries to redouble their reform efforts. They remain under consideration for future membership.

Croatia, which has made encouraging progress on reform, will also be under consideration for future membership. Progress in this regard will depend upon Croatia's further reform efforts and compliance with all of its international obligations, including to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

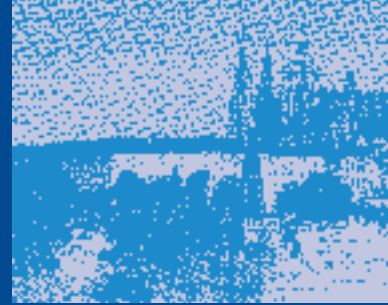
The Membership Action Plan will remain the vehicle to keep aspirants' progress under review. Today's invitees will not be the last.



7. The Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) and the Partnership for Peace (PfP) have greatly enhanced security and stability throughout the Euro-Atlantic area. We have today decided to upgrade our cooperation with the EAPC/PfP countries. Our political dialogue will be strengthened, and Allies, in consultation with Partners, will, to the maximum extent possible, increase involvement of Partners, as appropriate, in the planning, conduct, and oversight of those activities and projects in which they participate and to which they contribute. We have introduced new practical mechanisms, such as Individual Partnership Action Plans, which will ensure a comprehensive, tailored and differentiated approach to the Partnership, and which allow for support to the reform efforts of Partners. We encourage Partners, including the countries of the strategically important regions of the Caucasus and Central Asia, to take advantage of these mechanisms. We welcome the resolve of Partners to undertake all efforts to combat terrorism, including through the Partnership Action Plan against Terrorism. We will also continue to further enhance interoperability and defence-related activities, which constitute the core of our partnership. Participation in the PfP and the EAPC could be broadened in the future to include the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Bosnia and Herzegovina once necessary progress is achieved, including full cooperation with the ICTY.

8. We welcome the significant achievements of the NATO-Russia Council since the historic NATO-Russia Summit meeting in Rome. We have deepened our relationship to the benefit of all the peoples in the Euro-Atlantic area. NATO member states and Russia are working together in the NATO-Russia Council as equal partners, making progress in areas such as peacekeeping, defence reform, WMD proliferation, search and rescue, civil emergency planning, theatre missile defence and the struggle against terrorism, towards our shared goal of a stable, peaceful and undivided Europe. In accordance with the Founding Act and the Rome Declaration, we are determined to intensify and broaden our cooperation with Russia.

9. We remain committed to strong NATO-Ukraine relations under the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership. We note Ukraine's determination to pursue full Euro-Atlantic integration, and encourage Ukraine to implement all the reforms necessary, including as regards enforcement of export controls, to achieve this objective. The new Action Plan that we are adopting with Ukraine is an important step forward; it identifies political, economic, military and other reform areas where Ukraine is committed to make further progress and where NATO will continue to assist. Continued progress in deepening and enhancing our



relationship requires an unequivocal Ukrainian commitment to the values of the Euro-Atlantic community.

10. We reaffirm that security in Europe is closely linked to security and stability in the Mediterranean. We therefore decide to upgrade substantially the political and practical dimensions of our Mediterranean Dialogue as an integral part of the Alliance's cooperative approach to security. In this respect, we encourage intensified practical cooperation and effective interaction on security matters of common concern, including terrorism-related issues, as appropriate, where NATO can provide added value. We reiterate that the Mediterranean Dialogue and other international efforts, including the EU Barcelona process, are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

11. NATO and the European Union share common strategic interests. We remain strongly committed to the decisions made at the Washington Summit and subsequent Ministerial meetings, in order to enhance NATO-EU cooperation. The success of our cooperation has been evident in our concerted efforts in the Balkans to restore peace and create the conditions for prosperous and democratic societies. Events on and since 11 September 2001 have underlined further the importance of greater transparency and cooperation between our two organisations on questions of common interest relating to security, defence, and crisis management, so that crises can be met with the most appropriate military response and effective crisis management ensured. We remain committed to making the progress needed on all the various aspects of our relationship, noting the need to find solutions satisfactory to all Allies on the issue of participation by non-EU European Allies, in order to achieve a genuine strategic partnership.

12. To further promote peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic Area, NATO will continue to develop its fruitful and close cooperation with the OSCE, namely in the complementary areas of conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

13. The Alliance has played a vital role in restoring a secure environment in South-East Europe. We reaffirm our support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all the countries in this strategically important region. We will continue to work with our partners in SFOR and KFOR, the United Nations, the European Union, the OSCE and other international organisations, to help build a peaceful, stable and democratic South-East Europe, where all countries assume ownership of the process of reform, and are integrated in Euro-Atlantic



structures. We remain determined to see that goal become reality. We expect the countries of the region: to continue to build enduring multi-ethnic democracies, root out organised crime and corruption and firmly establish the rule of law; to cooperate regionally; and to comply fully with international obligations, including by bringing to justice in The Hague all ICTY indictees. The reform progress that these countries make will determine the pace of their integration into Euro-Atlantic structures. We confirm our continued presence in the region and we stand ready to assist these countries in the region, through individual programmes of assistance, to continue their progress. In the light of continuing progress and analysis of the prevailing security and political environment, we will explore options for a further rationalisation and force restructuring, taking into account a regional approach. We welcome the successful conclusion of Operation Amber Fox in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*. We have agreed to maintain a NATO presence from 15 December for a limited period to contribute to continuing stability, which we will review in the light of the evolving situation. We note the EU's expressed readiness to take over the military operation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* under appropriate conditions.

14. NATO member countries have responded to the call of the UN Security Council to assist the Afghan government in restoring security in Kabul and its surroundings. Their forces constitute the backbone of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. We commend the United Kingdom and Turkey for their successive contributions as ISAF lead nations, and welcome the willingness of Germany and the Netherlands jointly to succeed them. NATO has agreed to provide support in selected areas for the next ISAF lead nations, showing our continued commitment. However, the responsibility for providing security and law and order throughout Afghanistan resides with the Afghans themselves.

15. We remain committed to the CFE Treaty and reaffirm our attachment to the early entry into force of the Adapted Treaty. The CFE regime provides a fundamental contribution to a more secure and integrated Europe. We welcome the approach of those non-CFE countries, which 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 stability and security. We welcome the significant results of Russia's effort to reduce forces in the Treaty's Article V area to agreed levels. We urge swift fulfilment of the outstanding Istanbul commitments on Georgia and Moldova, which will create the conditions for Allies and other States Parties to move forward on ratification of the Adapted CFE Treaty.



16. As NATO transforms, we have endorsed a package of measures to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the headquarters organisation. The NATO+ Initiative on human resources issues complements this effort. We are committed to continuing to provide, individually and collectively, the resources that are necessary to allow our Alliance to perform the tasks that we demand of it.

17. We welcome the role of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in complementing NATO's efforts to project 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.

18. We express our deep appreciation for the gracious hospitality extended to us by the Government of the Czech Republic.

19. Our Summit demonstrates that European and North American Allies, already united by history and common values, will remain a community determined and able to defend our territory, populations and forces against all threats and challenges. For over fifty years, NATO has defended peace, democracy and security in the Euro-Atlantic area. The commitments we have undertaken here in Prague will ensure that the Alliance continues to play that vital role into the future.

NATO Public Diplomacy Division

B-1110 Brussels - Belgium

E-mail: natodoc@hq.nato.int

Web site: www.nato.int

