



THE KEY TO THE PRAGUE SUMMIT



AN AGENDA FOR CHANGE

The Enlargement Process

Key Information

Key Definitions

- **Membership Action Plan (MAP)** – programme designed to help aspiring countries meet NATO standards and prepare for possible future membership.
- **NATO's Open Door Policy** – In accordance with Article 10 of the North Atlantic Treaty, the door to NATO membership remains open to other European countries that are ready and willing to undertake the commitments and obligations of membership and whose membership contributes to security in the Euro-Atlantic area.

Key Facts

- NATO was founded by 12 countries: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- There are currently 19 member countries of the Alliance, namely Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- There are currently ten partner countries participating in the MAP: Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia(*).
- Participation in the MAP does not prejudice any decision by the Alliance on future membership.

Key Dates

- **18 February 1952** – Accession of Greece and Turkey.
- **6 May 1955** – Accession of the Federal Republic of Germany.
- **30 May 1982** – Accession of Spain.
- **28 September 1995** – Publication of Study on NATO enlargement.
- **12 March 1999** – Accession of Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland.
- **24 April 1999** – Launching of the Membership Action Plan.

Key Documents

- The North Atlantic Treaty, 4 April 1949.
www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/treaty.htm
- Study on NATO Enlargement, 3 September 1995.
www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/enl-9501.htm
- “An Alliance for the 21st Century” (Washington Summit Communiqué), 24 April 1999.
www.nato.int/docu/comm/1999/9904-wsh/9904-wsh.htm
- Membership Action Plan, 24 April 1999.
www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-066e.htm

Key Issues

- Decisions on the next round of enlargement to be taken by NATO Heads of State and Government at the Prague Summit.
- Factors associated with enlargement, including NATO’s internal preparations for the accession of new members, will be reviewed by NATO Heads of State and Government at the Prague Summit.

More Information

- The Membership Action Plan
www.nato.int/docu/facts/2000/nato-map.htm
- NATO’s Open Door Policy
www.nato.int/docu/facts/2000/opendoor.htm
- The Accession of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland
www.nato.int/docu/facts/2000/access.htm

Key Quotations

“The Parties may, by unanimous agreement, invite any other European state in a position to further the principles of this treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area to accede to this treaty. [...]”

From Article 10 of The North Atlantic Treaty, 4 April 1949.

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

“This process is not directed against any country. Enlargement is aimed at extending stability and security in the Euro-Atlantic area.”

From the NATO Study on Enlargement, September 1995.

www.nato.int/docu/basictxt/enl-9501.htm

“The Alliance [...] expects to extend further invitations in coming years to nations willing and able to assume the responsibilities and obligations of membership, and as NATO determines that the inclusion of these nations would serve the overall political and strategic interests of the Alliance, strengthen its effectiveness and cohesion, and enhance overall European security and stability.”

“NATO has established a programme of activities to assist aspiring countries in their preparations for possible future membership in the context of its wider relationship with them. No European democratic country whose admission would fulfill the objectives of the Treaty will be excluded from consideration.”

From the Alliance’s Strategic Concept, April 1999, Paragraph 39.

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

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“The Prague Summit in November of next year will unequivocally move the enlargement process forward, to the very real benefit of the Alliance.”

“The Alliance offers a constant incentive for aspiring members to get their house in order, helps to erase dividing lines, and foster Euro-Atlantic integration.”

NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson, 7 September 2001.

www.nato.int/docu/speech/2001/s010907a.htm

“The admission of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland to NATO and the opening of this possibility to other countries has been the greatest and most visible demonstration of the transformation of the Alliance [...]”.

Czech President Václav Havel, in *NATO Review*, Spring 2002.

www.nato.int/docu/review/2002/issue1/contents.html

“The expansion of NATO will also extend the security on this continent, especially for nations that knew little peace or security in the last century. We have moved cautiously in this direction. Now we must act decisively.”

U.S. President George Bush, 23 May 2002.

www.nato.int/usa/president/a20020523s.htm

Backgrounder

At their Summit Meeting in Madrid in July 1997, NATO Heads of State and Government reaffirmed that NATO remains open to new members under Article 10 of the North Atlantic Treaty. They stated that the Alliance would continue to welcome new members in a position to further the principles of the Treaty and contribute to security in the Euro-Atlantic area and expected to extend further invitations in coming years to countries willing and able to assume the responsibilities and obligations of membership.

At the Washington Summit in April 1999, they directed NATO foreign ministers to keep the enlargement process, including the implementation of the Membership Action Plan (MAP), under continual review and announced that they would evaluate the process at their next Summit meeting which would be held no later than 2002.

In May 2002, the foreign ministers directed the Council in Permanent Session to prepare a comprehensive report on the relevant factors associated with decisions on enlargement for consideration by Heads of State and Government at the Prague Summit.

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For more than half a century, the North Atlantic Alliance has contributed significantly to the preservation of peace and stability on the territory of its member countries. Europe as a whole has also benefited. The enlargement of the Alliance is aimed at extending the zone of security and stability to other European countries, thereby strengthening peace and stability throughout the Euro-Atlantic area. The process of enlargement does not threaten any country.

The juridical basis for NATO's enlargement resides in Article 10 of the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 which states: "The Parties may, by unanimous agreement, invite any other European state in a position to further the principles of this Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area to accede to this Treaty [...]".

Since the signature of the Treaty, seven countries have joined the initial 12 signatories. NATO leaders have pledged that the Alliance will continue to welcome new members in a position to further the principles of the Treaty and contribute to peace and security in the Euro-Atlantic area. They have also launched a Membership Action Plan (MAP), specifically designed to provide advice and feedback to countries aspiring to join the Alliance.

The following countries currently participate in the MAP:

Albania - Bulgaria - Croatia - Estonia - Latvia - Lithuania - Romania - Slovakia - Slovenia - the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia(*).

It is expected that invitations will be extended at Prague to a number of aspirant countries and that further invitations will be extended in coming years to other countries

willing and able to assume the responsibilities and obligations of membership. Such invitations will be extended when NATO member countries consider that the inclusion of these countries would serve the overall political and strategic interests of the Alliance and would enhance overall Euro-Atlantic security and stability.

Origins of the current enlargement process

In the period immediately following the end of the Cold War, the newly independent states of Central and Eastern Europe attached the highest priority to resolving the question of their future security. Although the image of the Alliance created during the Cold War had been highly negative, based primarily on misperceptions and fear, opinions began to change as access to information increased and the institution of democracy took hold. Within a few years, President Havel of Czechoslovakia and other leaders had established membership of NATO as the principal foreign policy goal of their countries.

In July 1990 NATO extended the “hand of friendship” to its former adversaries in Central and Eastern Europe and initiated a process of dialogue and cooperation. It created a joint forum for multilateral consultation and cooperation in the form of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC), later to be replaced by the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC), and launched the “Partnership for Peace” (PfP) to provide a framework for bilateral cooperation with each country on an individual basis.

Within a short space of time, all the countries involved had responded positively to these initiatives and had begun participating actively in programmes of practical cooperation. Several countries also identified membership of the Alliance as a major foreign policy goal and began to seek support for their future accession to the North Atlantic Treaty. In 1994, the Alliance recognised the need for a considered response, framed in terms of its overall objectives and long-term intentions for extending cooperation further afield and laying the basis for peace and stability throughout the Euro-Atlantic area.

At the January 1994 Brussels Summit, NATO leaders stated that they “*expect and would welcome NATO expansion that would reach to democratic states to our East.*” They reaffirmed that the Alliance was open to membership of other European states in a position to further the principles of the Washington Treaty and to contribute to security in the North Atlantic area.

Practical steps were taken to move the process forward in a manner that would ensure that Alliance goals and policies would not be compromised and that would also reassure Russia and other countries that the process would pose no threat to them. The Alliance needed to demonstrate that, on the contrary, extending the sphere of stability in the Euro-Atlantic area would enhance their own security and would be in their interests.

Accordingly, in 1995, the Alliance undertook a Study on NATO’s Enlargement to examine the “why and how” of future admissions into the Alliance. The results of the Study were shared with interested partner countries and made public. With regard to the “why” of NATO enlargement, the Study concluded that, with the end of the Cold War and the disappearance of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation, there was both a

need for and a unique opportunity to build improved security in the whole of the Euro-Atlantic area, without recreating dividing lines.

The Study further concluded that enlargement of the Alliance would contribute to enhanced stability and security for all countries in the Euro-Atlantic area by encouraging and supporting democratic reforms, including the establishment of civilian and democratic control over military forces; fostering patterns and habits of cooperation, consultation and consensus-building characteristic of relations among members of the Alliance; and promoting good-neighbourly relations. It would increase transparency in defence planning and military budgets, thereby reinforcing confidence among states, and would reinforce the overall tendency toward closer integration and cooperation in Europe. The Study also concluded that enlargement would strengthen the Alliance's ability to contribute to European and international security.

With regard to the "how" of enlargement, the Study confirmed that any future extension of the Alliance's membership would be through accession of new member states to the North Atlantic Treaty in accordance with its Article 10. Once admitted, new members would enjoy all the rights and assume all obligations of membership. They would need to accept and conform with the principles, policies and procedures adopted by all members of the Alliance at the time they joined. The willingness and ability to meet such commitments would be a critical factor in any decision taken by the Alliance to invite a country to join.

Other conditions were stipulated, including the need for candidate countries to settle ethnic disputes or external territorial disputes by peaceful means before they could become members. The ability of candidate countries to contribute militarily to collective defence and to peacekeeping operations would also be a factor. Ultimately, the Study concluded allies would decide by consensus whether to invite additional countries to join, basing their decision on their judgement at the time as to whether the membership of a specific country would contribute to security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area or not.

Concurrently, within the same timeframe as the deliberations on enlargement, other factors served to reinforce the goals identified by the Study. In particular, the participation of aspirant and other partner countries in the NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) and subsequent Stabilisation Force (SFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina provided a concrete demonstration of the benefits of the Partnership for Peace and the effectiveness of closer cooperation and integration with countries outside the existing membership of the Alliance.

At the Madrid Summit in July 1997, following a careful and comprehensive process of deliberation and of intensified, individual dialogue with interested partner countries, Allied Heads of State and Government invited the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland to begin accession talks with NATO. Accession Protocols were signed in December 1997 and were duly ratified by all 16 NATO countries according to their respective national procedures and by the new members. The three countries formally acceded to the Treaty in March 1999.

The Membership Action Plan (MAP)

The Membership Action Plan was launched in April 1999 to assist other countries that wish to join the Alliance in their preparations by providing advice, assistance and practical support on all aspects of NATO membership.

The Plan has helped aspirant countries to focus their preparations on meeting the goals and priorities set out and has provided a range of activities designed to strengthen each country's candidacy. It gives substance to NATO's commitment to keep its door open. However, participation in the MAP does not guarantee future membership, nor does the Plan consist simply of a checklist for aspiring countries to fulfil. Decisions to invite aspirants to start accession talks will be taken on the basis of consensus among NATO member countries and on a case-by-case basis.

The MAP does not replace the Partnership for Peace programme. Full participation in the latter, and in its associated Planning and Review Process (PARP), is also considered essential since it allows aspirant countries to develop interoperability with NATO forces and to prepare their force structures and capabilities for possible future membership. The PARP provides a basis for identifying and evaluating forces and capabilities which might be made available for multinational training, exercises and operations in conjunction with Alliance forces.

Like the Partnership for Peace, the MAP is guided by the principle of self-differentiation. Aspirant countries are free to choose the elements of the MAP best suited to their own national priorities and circumstances. All aspirants submit an Annual National Programme on preparations for possible membership, covering political, economic, defence, military, resource, security and legal issues. They set their own objectives, targets and work schedules and update these annually.

NATO follows the progress made by each aspirant and provides advice. Meetings of the North Atlantic Council with each of the aspirants take place on a regular basis to discuss progress as well as meetings and workshops with NATO civilian and military experts in various fields to discuss the entire spectrum of issues relevant to membership. An annual consolidated progress report on activities under the MAP is presented to NATO foreign and defence ministers at their regular spring meetings each year.

Aspirant countries are expected to achieve certain goals in the political and economic fields. In addition to settling international, ethnic or external territorial disputes by peaceful means, these include demonstrating a commitment to the rule of law and human rights; establishing democratic control of armed forces; and promoting stability and well-being through economic liberty, social justice and environmental responsibility.

Discussion of defence, military and resource issues focuses on the ability of the country to contribute to collective defence and to the Alliance's new missions and on the need for any aspirant country to commit sufficient resources to defence to allow them to meet the commitments that future membership would bring.

In May 2002, NATO foreign ministers received a consolidated report on progress in the framework of the MAP and encouraged all aspirants to intensify their efforts both in the lead up to the Prague Summit and in the years ahead. They emphasised that after the Prague Summit, the MAP would continue to serve both aspirants and those countries invited to begin accession talks with the Alliance.



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