

Athens Security Forum 2016: Searching for a *Modus Vivendi* in Relations between the West and Russia

Programme

Athens, 21-22 January 2016
Electra Palace Hotel
(18-20, N. Nikodimou Str.)

The conference is supported by NATO's Public Diplomacy Division



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

Thursday 21 January 2016

(Session open to the Media)

	Arrival of participants
16:30-17:00	Conference registration & coffee
17:00-17:30	Welcome and introductory remarks Ms. Ino Afentouli , Program Officer, Partnerships & Cooperative Security, NATO Public Diplomacy Division, Brussels Dr. Thanos Dokos , Director General, ELIAMEP, Athens
17:30-18:15	Key note speech H.E. Amb. Thrasyvoulos-Terry Stamatopoulos , Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Security Policy, NATO Headquarters, Brussels Followed by Q & A
18:15-20:00	Security developments in Europe's arc of crisis: A tour d' horizon in the Eastern and Southern neighborhoods
Moderator	Dr. Thanos Dokos , Director General, ELIAMEP, Athens
Speakers	Mr. Remy Bouallègue , Regional Expert, Centre d'Analyse, de Prévision et de Stratégie (CAPS), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, Paris Mr. Suat Kınıklıoğlu , Executive Director, Center for Strategic Communication (STRATIM), Ankara Dr. Dmitry Suslov , Deputy Director, Center for Comprehensive European and International Studies; Program Director National Research University, Higher School of Economics; Valdai International Discussion Club, Moscow H.E. Amb. Pierre Vimont , Senior Associate, Carnegie Europe, Brussels

Friday 22 January 2016

09:30-11:30	Re-examining the European security architecture
Moderator	Mr. Ricardo Alcaro , Senior Fellow, Instituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), Rome
Speakers	Dr. Dana Allin , Editor, Survival, & Senior Fellow, US Foreign Policy and Transatlantic Affairs, International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), London Dr. Ian Anthony , Programme Director, European Security Programme, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Stockholm

	<p>Mr. Aleksandr Khara, Director, Department of Multilateral Relations, Maidan of Foreign Affairs, Kyiv</p> <p>Dr. Dmitry Suslov, Deputy Director, Center for Comprehensive European and International Studies; Program Director National Research University, Higher School of Economics; Valdai International Discussion Club, Moscow</p>
11:30-12:00	Coffee break
12:00-14:00	Russia and the West: Is it realistic to look for common ground?
Moderator	Mr. Michael McNerney , Associate Director, International Security and Defense Policy Center, RAND, Arlington
Speakers	<p>Dr. Nadia Arbatova, Head, Department on European Political Studies, Institute for World Economy and International Relations Russian Academy of Sciences (IMEMO), Moscow</p> <p>Prof. Mitat Çelikpala, Dean, Kadir Has University, Istanbul</p> <p>Dr. Sharyl Cross, Director, Kozmetsky Center, St. Edward's University, Austin; Global Policy Scholar, Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington</p> <p>Mr. Vivien Pertusot, Head, Brussels Office, French Institute of International Relations (IFRI), Brussels</p>
Commentator	Dr. Panagiota Manoli , Assistant Professor, University of the Aegean; Head, Program in Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, ELIAMEP, Athens
14:00-15:00	Light Buffet Lunch
15:00-17:00	Roundtable discussion: Beyond the Minsk agreement(s): Long term solutions to the Ukraine/Russia crisis
Moderator	H.E. Amb. Fred Tanner , Senior Advisor, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Vienna
Speakers	<p>Prof. Grygorii Perepelytsia, Director, Foreign Policy Research Institute of Diplomatic Academy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Kyiv</p> <p>Dr. Sergey Rogov, Director, Institute for the US and Canadian Studies, Moscow</p> <p>Mr. Dirk Schuebel, Head Of Division Eastern Partnership-Bilateral, European External Action Service (EEAS), Brussels</p>
17:00-17:30	Concluding remarks
	<p>Ms. Ino Afentouli, Program Officer, Partnerships & Cooperative Security, <i>NATO Public Diplomacy Division</i>, Brussels</p> <p>Dr. Thanos Dokos, Director General, ELIAMEP, Athens</p>

Concept Note

The crisis in Ukraine is indeed Europe's most serious post-Cold War security challenge since the Balkan Wars. A permanently destabilized Ukraine – a new frozen conflict in the former Soviet space - would constitute an important problem for both Europe and Russia. An escalation of the crisis would leave both the EU and Russia weakened. The cost for Russia would probably be heavier (especially in a period of falling oil prices), but it may be willing to pay such a price for what it perceives as a core interest.

The West should avoid, if at all possible, a confrontation and continuing rivalry with Russia that might consume a significant amount of NATO and the EU's finite foreign policy and security resources. Such resources could be used in a more efficient way in dealing with other urgent security challenges in Europe's neighborhood. Of course, the avoidance of such a confrontation cannot be achieved by appeasing Russia but through a combination of containment and engagement. And in order to normalize relations, it always takes two to tango.

Russia should therefore be convinced to gradually abandon zero sum game perceptions and adopt a win-win approach by emphasizing common interests and, if possible, seek a success story (such as agreement on a diplomatic solution in Syria that would also address the ISIS problem). The rather limited room for maneuver on both sides makes efforts to find a solution more difficult but not impossible. Should Moscow demonstrate the necessary good will and cooler heads prevail in the West, the Ukrainian issue could be resolved with a federal system that would provide reasonable autonomy to the Russian-speaking regions.

The conference aims to bring together senior officials and academics from Europe, the U.S. and Russia in order to discuss concrete, practical and implementable ideas for bringing the conflict in Ukraine to an end and improving relations between the West and Russia.