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Deadline for Submissions:

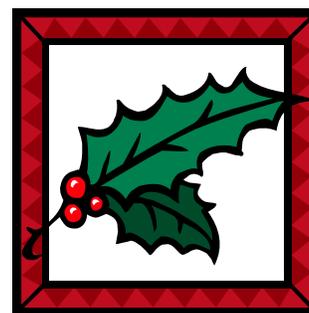
Please send all articles,
interviews, activities
and photos to
pawel.osiej@ata-sec.org

Due: 28 February 2008

Season's Greetings

From: Mr. Troels Frøling, ATA Secretary General, and the ATA Secretariat

On behalf of the Atlantic Treaty Association Secretariat, I would like to thank all of our national associations for your hard work in organizing productive and engaging international and national activities and for your continued dedication to the association as a whole. Without such a cohesive effort and common vision the ATA would not be what it is today. Thank you for your contribution and attendance to the 53rd annual General Assembly in Ottawa and all other ATA events. This was a year that was packed with new challenges and opportunities, and a growing list of activities. All of us at the Secretariat wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas, a happy holiday season and a happy new year.



Secretariat Update: New Acting Director

By: Mr. Troels Frøling, ATA Secretary General



First off, I would like to congratulate Mrs. **Charlotte Peters**, the current ATA Secretariat Director, who is expecting her second child in early 2008. She will be on maternity leave for a period of seven months starting in January. She looks forward to coming back in the summer. We all wish her and her (about to get bigger) family lots of health and happiness over the Christmas holidays and in the new year. Good Luck Charlotte!



Mr. **Pawel Osiej**, who has been with both the ATA in Brussels since September and the Atlantic Council of Canada for the better part of 2007, will replace Charlotte as acting Secretariat Director until the summer 2008. Many of you have already had a chance to work and meet him at various ATA events. He is looking forward to continuing Charlotte's great work and dedication which all of us have grown to be so accustomed to from the ATA Secretariat.

Other changes are also in store for the ATA HQ during 2008. Ms. **Martina Kováčová**, our Slovak intern, has just finished the first internship at the ATA; however, she will remain involved with the Secretariat and at the same time attend the Katholieke Universiteit in Leuven starting in early 2008. Mr. **Attila Homoki**, our part-time intern, who was responsible for updating our website, has also finished his tenure at the ATA after having completed his Erasmus studies in Brussels.

I would like to take this opportunity and thank all of the above mentioned ATA interns for their excellent work and enthusiasm and all the great work they did in preparation for the GA in Ottawa.

Message from the New YATA President

From: Giuseppe Belardetti, YATA President

Dear Members,

It is my great pleasure to write you my first message as President of the YATA Executive Board.

The General Assembly in Ottawa proved to be very successful. I would like to thank the Canadian Organizers for an excellent meeting and to congratulate the German ATA and YATA for being selected as the hosts for next year's General Assembly.

My Board and I are working on many items and we are having fruitful discussions and meetings regarding a **plan of action** for the year to come.

We believe that YATA has an enormous potential that must be exploited. Communication and information sharing, as well as training and educational initiatives represent the core business of YATA. At the same time, it is of the utmost importance strengthen national chapters and reinforce the already existing networks. Chapter's commitments should be two-fold: they should strengthen their organizational dimension by creating a strong and efficient core group of people; at the same time they should outreach to other youth organizations and promote their activities and events as much as possible.

This year the Board will focus its work on the following items:

Branding: in order to better promote and spread our

values and ideas, we need to create our own distinct image that shall be fresh and professional but at the same time young and attractive. Web page will be the first step of this process. Projects are currently on the table to create a completely new web page that will be functional, easy to read and exhausting. The web page will now have links to National YATA Chapters, blogs and some interactive parts.

Partners: NGO's world is an ever-changing dimension. In the past years it has considerably grown and the future perspectives suggest that there is still much place left for growth. YATA Board will work on having official partners from Youth Chapters of International Organizations as well as from other Youth Initiatives.

Activities: in order to create an updated calendar of events for YATA, I encouraged National Coordinators to send us the dates and themes for upcoming events organized for 2007 and 2008. YATA Board will provide them with assistance in coordinating with other Chapters, recruiting participants and providing ideas and planning expertise.

Funding: the issue of YATA funds has always been of particular concern, also for the previous Boards. We think that, in order to attract partners and sponsors, branding is a key factor.

Newsletter: we are about to launch an online newsletter. It will contains articles on prominent international issues and events, report of YATA activities, international meetings and conferences attended by YATA Members, book reviews and a photo gallery. Contributions from National Chapters are welcome.

I would like to thank **Alina Belskaya, Grant Dawson, Tina Sterguljc and Harald Thørud**, who have now all stepped down from the YATA Executive board. Harald, in particular, has done a tremendous job for the YATA Executive Board, and I have proofs of unanimous consensus on his outstanding leadership and work ethic shown for the last two years.

I would like to congratulate **Jonathan Nuss** (Executive Vice-President) for being re-elected to the Board. I am very much looking forward to cooperate with him as well as **Hugo de Melo Palma** (Vice-President for Education) **Brooke R. Heaton** (Vice-President for Communication and Programming), **Bènedicte Borel** (Vice-President for Outreach and Public Diplomacy), and **Mads Sondergaard Thomsen** (Secretary General), who were elected into the Executive Board in Ottawa.

Giuseppe Belardetti,
President of the Youth Atlantic Treaty Association

www.atlantic-youth.org



Giuseppe Belardetti, YATA President



53rd General Assembly of the Atlantic Treaty Association

October 31 – November 2, 2007 in Ottawa, Canada

By: Lana Polyakov, Atlantic Council of Canada

The Atlantic Council of Canada, official organizer and host of the 53rd Annual Assembly of the Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA), brought together for a three day session, delegates from the non-governmental support bodies in the 26 NATO member states, the Partnership for Peace (PfP) states, Russia, China, the new Atlantic organizations which have emerged in recent years in several observer states as well as aspiring PfP states and states involved in NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue.

This year's Assembly entitled "NATO and Global Partners: a Comprehensive Approach to Rebuilding Afghanistan and Other Challenges" consisted of delegates and speakers from 36 different countries.

Wednesday October 31st: marked the first day of the Assembly. The early morning Council Meetings of the ATA, YATA, and the AAYPL were deemed very successful by their participants. The Town Hall meeting of YATA, Canadian Students, with Mr. **Ajmal Pash-toonyar**, Youth Outreach Officer of the Afghanistan Task Force from DFAIT, was a great success as well.

The opening ceremonies in the afternoon started with a very



Left to Right: ATA SecGen Troels Frøling; ATA President Amb. Robert Hunter; ACC President Mrs. Julie Lindhout at the Council Meeting

impressive list of speakers: a welcome address and introduction by ACC President Ms. **Julie Lindhout**, ACC Chairman the Hon. **Bill Graham**, and ATA President Amb. **Robert Hunter**. The opening addresses were delivered by NATO Deputy Secretary General H.E. Ambassador **Claudio Bisogniero**, Ms. **Colleen Sword**, Assistant Deputy Minister of DFAIT representing the Hon. **Maxime Bernier**, and the Minister of Defence of Albania Hon. **Fatmir Mediu**. The words of greeting were delivered by H.E. Amb. **Davor Božinović**, Croatian Ambassador to NATO and Croatian Coordinator for NATO Communication Strategy, and the Minister of Defence of the FYRO Macedonia the Hon. **Lazar Elenovski**.

The Assembly's first day was brought to a close with two very informative addresses: the Minister of Health of Canada the Hon. **Tony Clement** updated the audience on Canada's current position on Afghanistan and gave eye-opening examples of how security issues intersect directly with those of health and welfare. Mr. **Gary Robbins**, Director of the Office of European Security and Political Affairs of the U.S. Department of State, among other matters, praised the Canadian forces for their effectiveness in Afghanistan and expressed his condolences to the families of fallen soldiers.

The evening reception held in the beautiful Ballroom of the Château Laurier was a time to relax, enjoy the food and mingle. At the opening of the reception, ATA President Amb. **Hunter** extended his congratulatory remarks on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the

NATO-Russia Council and honoured the life of Amb. **Ü. Halûk Bayülken**, Turkey, former president and sincere supporter of the ATA.

Thursday November 1st: day 2 of the Assembly, was opened by H.E. **Omar Samad**, Ambassador of Afghanistan to Canada who spoke on the topic of "Afghanistan Today." His address was followed by the first panel of the Assembly; "Priorities in building security in Afghanistan." Mr. **Jonathan Parish**, Senior Policy Advisor of NATO Policy and Planning within the Office of the Secretary General gave the official NATO stance on this issue, while Mr. **Francesc Vendrell**, EU Special Representative of Afghanistan, gave his remarks from the EU perspective.

During the second panel on the present "Lessons from Afghanistan and region," directly linked to the previous talks, Gen. **Klaus Naumann**, Former Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, Vice President of the German Atlantic Committee, and Prof. **Sean Maloney** of the Royal Military College of Canada presented their discourses. This panel was then followed by a working lunch where each table was turned into a discussion group with a list of questions to be pondered. The answers have been recorded and summarized; they will be posted shortly on our website.

Following lunch, LtGen. **Andrew B. Leslie** OMM, MSC, MSM, CD, Chief of the Land Staff, former Commander of the Task Force Kabul and Deputy Commander of ISAF in 2003, and Prof. **Sean Kay**, Chair of International Studies at Ohio Wesleyan University were the

53rd General Assembly, Cont....

honorable speakers of the third plenary session on the topic of “*NATO’s Transformation forged and tested in Afghanistan - Afghanistan’s impact on NATO Alliance members and partners.*”

During the fourth panel entitled “*NATO beyond Afghanistan – cooperation with Russia, Missile Defence, Energy Security, and addressing conflict through cooperation*” the Assembly started to shift gears away from Afghanistan toward other pressing issues for NATO and the international community. Mr. **Tommy Steiner**, Executive Secretary of the Atlantic Forum of Israel, delivered a very interesting speech co-authored with Prof. **Uzi Arad**, Chair of the Atlantic Forum of Israel on the topic of “*NATO Mediterranean Dialogue, NATO-Israel Relations and the Future of NATO’s Partnerships.*” Commander (Ret’d) USCG **Craig Corl** of the Center for Naval Analyses in Virginia spoke on the pressing, often neglected, issue of “*National Security and the Threat of Climate Change.*” Mr. **Sergey Alexeevich Ryabkov**, Director of the Department of European Cooperation of the Russian MFA, whose participation in the Assembly was facilitated through the NATO Information Office in Moscow, gave a very stimulating talk, which then prompted numerous questions from the floor on the topic of “*Cooperation and Challenges in NATO-Russia Relationship.*”

The last speech of the day, which also jump-started the fifth and final panel of the Assembly entitled “*NATO’s global interests or global interests in NATO?*”, which resumed the following day, was delivered by the Hon. **Lazar Elenovski**,

Minister of Defence of the FYRO Macedonia, who delivered an eloquent discourse mentioning the importance of the role that the ATA plays in the international community, and FYRO Macedonia’s aspirations for NATO accession.

The Thursday evening reception hosted by the Ambassadors of Albania, Croatia, and FYRO Macedonia, was held in the elegant Commonwealth Room of the Parliament building. The reception was tasteful and entertaining. One of the biggest pleasant surprises of the evening was the attendance of the Hon. **Peter MacKay**, the Minister of National Defence of Canada.

Friday November 2nd: the third and final day of the Assembly, began with a Transatlantic Forum, which gave various delegates of National Associations the opportunity to share information about their activities and speak of those issues important to them. The panel on “*NATO’s global interests or global interests in NATO?*” was thereafter resumed, with the first speaker of the day, H.E. Amb. **Davor Božinović**, Croatian Ambassador to NATO and Croatian Coordinator for NATO Communication Strategy.

This final panel of the Assembly was wrapped-up with a very interesting speech by the Counsellor of the Embassy of China in Canada, Mr. **Lushan Sun**, on the topic of “*Building a Harmonious World of Lasting Peace And Common Prosperity.*” Mr. Sun began his presentation with an overview of China’s foreign policy, and China’s vision of building a “harmonious world” through the theory of *harmonious development*; a theory, which he explained, stands on three major tenets: peace, devel-

opment, and cooperation. He then went on to talk about China’s new security concept and security related issues. The connection between China and NATO in relation to Afghanistan was touched upon, and China’s views on the current situation in Afghanistan, as well as the Sino-Afghan relations were also well explained. As a result, Mr. Lushan’s discourse attracted many stimulating questions from the floor and produced a very interesting question/discussion session.

The report of the General Rapporteur, Col. (Ret’d) **Brian MacDonald**, was delivered with his usual flare for words in which the key issues brought forward during the Assembly were summed up in a clear, concise, and eloquent fashion.

It was a great honor to have the Honorable **Sali Berisha**, the Prime Minister of Albania (seen on the left), deliver a closing address. He was followed by Mr. **Laurie Hawn**, MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defence of Canada; Amb. **Wayne Neill**, Political Advisor of NATO Allied Command Transformation; and the remarks of the President of Romania H.E. **Traian Basescu**, delivered by H.E. **Elena Stefoi**, Ambassador of Romania to Canada.

And thus the 53rd ATA General Assembly came to an end. The closing remarks were delivered by ATA President Amb. **Robert Hunter**; and the ACC staff were applauded for their great efforts in putting this great event together.

You can find more stories and pictures on the GA at:

www.atlantic-council.ca



Honorable Sali Berisha, the Prime Minister of Albania

A South Caucasus Security Platform

By: Marit Rye Ramberg

The Norwegian Atlantic Committee has created a Black Sea Mosaic project based on the successful Balkan Mosaic project.

The project "The South Caucasus Security Platform: Strategy from the Perspective of the Civil Society" was initiated by the Norwegian Atlantic Committee, supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and implemented by three local organizations: the Armenian Atlantic Association, the Youth Atlantic Treaty Association of Azerbaijan, and the Atlantic Council of Georgia.

The creation and promotion of the Young Researcher' Network could serve as facilitating factor for the reification of the South Caucasus Countries' Euro-Atlantic aspiration.

The project serves two main goals: first, to strengthen the atmosphere of co-operation and collaboration among researchers in the region; and second, to

prepare a multi-purpose policy document focusing on the possibility of common understanding of security of the region and developing a common vision on the existing challenges, problems, and opportunities.

The Balkan Mosaic project implemented by the researchers from the Balkan countries was a good framework for the South Caucasus research team to structure the document – the South Caucasus Security Platform. And at the ATA General Assembly in November selected researchers from both projects will get to meet and discuss future progress and co-operation across the borders.

At a meeting in Tbilisi in May and Oslo in September the researchers from the South Caucasus countries elaborated a common framework for the common security platform, and the process of Euro-Atlantic integration served as the starting point. The South Caucasus Security platform is a pilot project, with the

wider aim to involve researchers from other Black Sea countries, thereby enlarging both the geographic and thematic scope of this endeavour. The Norwegian Atlantic Committee is also planning a "Search for a common future" conference in the South Caucasus region in March 08.

For further information regarding the Black Sea Project please contact:

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Irakli Menagarishvili (Georgia) Afiz Aliyev (Azerbaijan), David Chochua (Georgia), Chris Prebensen (Norway), Neving Rudskjær (Norway) From left, back: Marit Rye Ramberg (Norway), Irina Ghaplanyan (Armenia), Shorena Lortkipandzenew (Georgia)

Ajmal Pashtoonyar's Presentation at the 53rd GA in Ottawa

By: Abdul Karim, Atlantic Council of Canada



Mr. **Ajmal Pashtoonyar**, Youth Outreach Officer on the Afghanistan Task Force of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada provided the Youth Atlantic Treaty Association (YATA) delegates and Canadian Students with a general overview of Canada's role in rebuilding Afghanistan, and the commitment of the Government in the areas

of security, development and governance.

The local challenges in Afghanistan reconstruction efforts were also addressed by tracing back the history of recent conflicts in Afghanistan; the nexus between Afghanistan's regional and international security. Mr. Pashtoonyar gave the participants an informative overview of his role as the Youth Outreach Officer, and the outreach activities currently being conducted to engage young Canadians on the foreign policy priority issue of rebuilding Afghanistan.

According to Mr. Pashtoonyar, the unique aspect of engaging directly with young Canadians is to inform, collaborate, and initiate participatory dialogue on this issue, and according to him, Canada is the only country among NATO member States that is directly engaging with young people on Afghanistan through youth outreach and communication activities. The presentation was followed by questions from YATA members on different issues and challenges concerning the task of rebuilding Afghanistan and what role the young people can play today.

GLOBSEC Express

By: the Slovak Atlantic Commission



The GLOBSEC Express

“The young generation calls for the Euro-Atlantic integration and cooperation of the whole South-East European region to promote prosperity, peace and stability.”



On a unique train called the “GLOBSEC Express”, young leaders from the Balkans and Central Europe discussed the future of the Balkans while they traveled from Bratislava, Slovakia to Zagreb, Croatia on November 26-27, 2007. The project was organized by the Slovak Atlantic Commission and the Euro-Atlantic Center.

The project took place in an unconventional place – on a moving train, which symbolizes the moving and dynamic NATO alliance. The train served as a forum for discussion and symbolized the main goals of the Alliance – dialog and cooperation. In the time of negative and tense atmosphere in the Balkans, the young generation sent a clear message to their political leaders: cooperation and the Euro-Atlantic integration of the whole region must be the solution and a way forward. The basic idea of the project was to organize a unique platform for young leaders from the Balkans and NATO countries to discuss security issues in a more detailed and informal way. Destination was

also one of the symbols of the event – a country from the last wave of the NATO enlargement passes the baton to the countries which are aspiring to receive accession invitations at the NATO summit in Bucharest. However, the message from the participants was clear: this symbolic NATO train should not stop in Zagreb, but continue on its route to all Balkan countries.

The young leaders aboard of the GLOBSEC Express included young professionals from South-Eastern and Central Europe, namely: **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Slovakia.**

On the train, participants had a videoconference with NATO Secretary General, **Jaap de Hoop Scheffer**, who welcomed the idea of a moving train, which he compared to the Alliance – dynamic and moving forward. Then, the young passengers of the conference train discussed in a friendly and

open atmosphere current issues pertaining to Balkan security and a possible Euro-Atlantic future for the region. At the end of discussion, they drafted a communiqué – a message from the young generation to their national leaders, NATO and for the Balkans itself. In the communiqué, the young generation appealed to the officials of their countries to look ahead to their future and leave the past behind and to step up to the challenges they have to face in the process of the Euro-Atlantic integration.

The message of the GLOBSEC Express project is clear – the young generation calls for the Euro-Atlantic integration and cooperation of the whole South-East European region to promote prosperity, peace and stability.

This message - dialogue and cooperation instead of animosity and separation, will be spread further also through the ATA channels.

The GLOBSEC Express project was organized with kind support of the NATO PDD, the US Embassy to Bratislava and the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and was held under auspices of the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic Mrs. **Diana Štrofová**.

You can find the communiqué, pictures and further information on the project at:

www.globsec.sk



Young Leaders working and discussing on the GLOBSEC Express

The Italian Atlantic Committee – Activities

During the recent months the Italian Atlantic Committee (IAC) activities ranged from the re-issuing of the quarterly journal “Occidente” to the organization of conferences and international meetings involving high NATO officials, decision makers, military officers, researchers, as well as high school and university students.

On May 15th the IAC Secretary General participated in a TV debate on missile defence.

On May 16th the IAC hosted a working lunch with Dr. Leo Michel, Senior Research Fellow of the Institute for National Strategic Studies - National Defense University. Politicians, experts, and media representatives together with selected members of the IAC Board of Directors discussed the *NATO-EU Cooperation and its Implication for Italy*.

On May 21st the President of the IAC, Hon. Prof. **Enrico La Loggia**, delivered a lecture on *Italy and NATO* at the University of Gorizia.

On May 29th the Italian Atlantic Committee hosted a meeting in honour of H.E. Amb. **Stefano Stefanini**, newly appointed Italian Permanent Representative to NAC.

On June 5th the IAC Secretary General delivered a lecture on *Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean* at the Center for High Defense Studies in Rome.

On June 13th a Delegation of Iraqi Senior military officers presented to IAC Secretary General a certificate of appreciation signed by the Iraqi Minister of Defense acknowledging “the contribution in the cause of building democracy and fighting

terrorism in Iraq”.

On June 28th a conference on *NATO: Past, Present and Future* was held at the Diplomatic Institute in Rome.

As far as international cooperation is concerned, on July 2nd, the Bulgarian Minister of Defense, H. E. **Veselin Blisnakov**, bestowed upon Prof. **Fabrizio W. Luciolli** the highest military award for the support given for the Bulgarian integration into the Euro-Atlantic institutions and the strengthening of the bilateral cooperation between the Italian and Bulgarian Armed Forces.

On July 23rd – 29th the IAC patronized the *Film Festival “Peace and War”* that took place in the prestigious venue of the Sangallo Castle of Nettuno located at the Rome seaside where the Allied forces landed on 1944. The Film Festival was attended by a high number of participants belonging to all the different civil society sectors. Conferences and meetings at high schools were also organized by the IAC in order to select the students participating in the *Kernels of Our Future* program.

Researchers and representatives of the successor generation were also engaged in all national and international activities, such as the Palermo Atlantic Forum (PAF) that took place on October 4th-7th in the historical Palazzo dei Normanni.

The PAF brought together more than 100 high government and NATO authorities, senior experts, young researchers and ATA’s and YATA’s delegates, discussing on *New Perspective of Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean, Middle East and Asia*. The need of a compre-

hensive approach for the Stability and Reconstruction processes in Afghanistan and in the Western Balkans was outlined during the First Forum, while the challenges of Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean, Middle East and Central and Southern Asia were addressed by the Second and Third Forums. The Atlantic Forum promoted also a discussion between the NATO Deputy Secretary General and the Deputy Executive Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

In the framework of the bilateral cooperation between Italy and Albania, on October 8th - 9th the IAC Secretary General delivered a lecture on *NATO from Confrontation to Cooperation* to the military Officers participating in the Senior Course on Security and Defense Studies organized in Tirana by the Albanian Defense Academy. On November 12th - 16th the Italian Atlantic Committee in cooperation with the Atlantic Council of Serbia, organized an International Security Organization (ISO) Course that took place at the National Defense College of the Ministry of Defense of Serbia. The Course was attended by 30 selected Senior Military Officers awarded with a Certificate at the completion of the 20 hours of course program. The ISO Course is in line with a broader scheme of bilateral cooperation established with a perspective of Euro-Atlantic integration between Italy and Serbia and recently reinforced due to the new Italian role of Contact Point Country between NATO and Serbia.

www.comitatoatlantico.it

EU Energy Security: When Solidarity Fails

By: Kristy Ironside, Assistant Editor for *Transitions Online* magazine

Upcoming Related Event:

ATA ENERGY CONFERENCE
 “Energy for All -
 A Challenge for All”
 The Hague, Netherlands,
 24-27 April.
 Co-organized by the
 Danish, Dutch and
 Norwegian ATA's and
 ATA/YATA.

“The development of a common energy market that guarantees the internal security of supplies, along with diversified pipelines and the long-term development of energy alternatives is key to EU energy security in the long run..”

Energy security stands to play a vitally important role in the overall security of Western states, as growing domestic energy needs confront the prospect of dwindling natural resources and politically unstable suppliers. The European Union (EU) represents one of the world's largest energy importers – around half of its energy needs are serviced by outside providers. Some analysts predict that by 2030 the percentage of EU energy imports will increase to 90% for oil and 80% for gas, based on current trends.

However, the EU has yet to devise a coherent strategy to avert this troubling outcome. Energy security is increasingly emerging as an area in which the interests of the European community do not necessarily coincide, in spite of its stated principle of solidarity. While the European Union has excelled in other matters of collective interest, such as human development and border-free movement, energy priorities have proven exceedingly difficult to agree upon. National self-interest, along with the EU's longstanding East-West rift, has hindered the development of a common energy security policy and protectionist strategy vis-à-vis the region's dominant supplier, Russia.

Europe's energy anxiety stems from the fact that the primary pipelines for its oil and gas imports run via the “druzhba” (“friendship”) pipeline through Ukraine and Belarus, former Soviet states that, until recently, enjoyed discounted energy prices. Russia's status as a reliable energy provider has been increasingly called into question since the infamous price dispute between Russia and Ukraine in January

2006 and subsequent supply disruptions to the EU, moves understood by many analysts as punishment for the Ukrainian government's pro-European leanings.

Price disputes with transit countries, coupled with concerns about the safety of European supplies via an aging Soviet infrastructure, underwrite planned pipeline diversification projects – widely touted as a solution to Europe's energy woes. The proposed Nabucco line, which would transport gas from Turkey to Austria via Bulgaria, Romania, and Hungary, aims to alleviate European dependence on Russian sources by tapping into Central Asian suppliers. Oil from the burgeoning Caspian Sea region may also prove to be a viable alternative to Russian supplies in years to come.

However, Russia, which has been accused of using Europe's energy dependency as a political tool, is certain to remain the region's dominant supplier in the foreseeable future. The European Union, for its part, can use its position as Russia's primary consumer as leverage at the bargaining table – but only if everybody plays by the same rules.

In spite of the solidarity principle, some European states have forged ahead with bilateral deals with Russia outside of the EU fold. In 2005, former German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder pushed through controversial plans to build a Russian-German Baltic Sea gas pipeline (later renamed Nord Stream), which would bypass Ukraine and Belarus and make Germany the chief distributor of Russian gas in Europe. The project prompted an outrage in Ger-

many after Schroeder was appointed chairman of the North European Gas Pipeline company just weeks after he approved the deal with Russia's state-controlled gas giant, Gazprom. Italy also signed a deal with Gazprom in June 2007 to create a South Stream pipeline bringing natural gas to it from Russia's Black Sea region.

Eastern European member states have complained that diversification projects will allow Russia to cut off their gas supplies, as it did to Ukraine in January 2006, without affecting supplies to its richer Western clients. Located on the borders of transit regions, Central and Eastern European countries face different energy security challenges than their Western neighbours. Russia's Gazprom is the sole provider to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Slovakia and the dominant supplier to big markets like Hungary, Poland, and the Czech Republic. This leaves them especially vulnerable to politically-motivated supply crises. Furthermore, these countries' past experiences of Russian domination continue to play an understandably important role in their threat perception, despite EU membership.

It is clear that the absence of a common EU policy strengthens Russia's bargaining power with individual states. The development of a common energy market that guarantees the internal security of supplies, along with diversified pipelines and the long-term development of energy alternatives is key to EU energy security in the long run. However, in order to achieve this, the EU must first define the extent of internal cooperation it expects of its members.

Recent attempts to do so have

EU Energy Security, Cont....

largely failed: a March 2007 EU energy summit managed to set targets for emissions, efficiency and the development of renewable energy sources, but made no progress toward the creation of an internal energy market. The European Commission's calls to "unbundle" large energy groups as a first step towards the common market were met with hostile criticism on the part of France and Germany, where vertically-integrated energy companies continue to dominate

the market.

The successful creation of an internal energy market ultimately requires commitment and sufficient political capital at the domestic level before fruitful discussions within the supranational arena can take place. The principle of solidarity is certainly a good one, but with the ever-increasing cost to consumers and a cold winter ahead, Europe needs more than a rallying call.

Kristy Ironside is the former Research Officer of the Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies. She now works as a freelance journalist based in Prague and is an Assistant Editor for Transitions Online magazine.

L'AFCA Aujourd'hui

Par: Claude- Gérard Marcus

La France est membre de l'Alliance atlantique depuis sa création en 1949 et lorsque le Général de Gaulle décida, en 1966, de retirer la France du commandement militaire intégré de l'OTAN, pour préserver sa liberté de décision, elle continua à participer pleinement à cette Alliance ainsi qu'à ses organismes et notamment au Conseil Atlantique.

Sur le Plan militaire, dès le retrait de l'organisation militaire intégrée, une coopération a été organisée entre l'armée française et les forces alliées. Depuis 1991, cette coopération a été renforcée. L'Organisation du Traité de l'Atlantique Nord (NATO en anglais), dont le siège est à Bruxelles, est l'expression administrative, politique et militaire de l'Alliance. Elle est sous le contrôle du Conseil Atlantique qui regroupe les Chefs d'Etats et de gouvernements de l'Alliance – ou leurs représentants.

L'OTAN est assistée de deux organisations – indépendantes – chargées d'exprimer les aspirations des peuples de l'Alliance : l'Assemblée parlementaire de

l'OTAN (anciennement Assemblée de l'Atlantique Nord) qui regroupe les délégations des Parlements des pays membres de l'Alliance. Ces délégations sont complétées par celles des pays désireux d'entrer dans l'Alliance et l'Association du Traité Atlantique qui regroupe des associations défendant les idéaux de l'Alliance dans ces mêmes pays.

L'Association Française pour la Communauté Atlantique (AFCA) est le rameau français de l'Association du Traité Atlantique. Sa mission première est de faire connaître aux Français les buts et l'action de l'Alliance et d'informer les organismes de l'Alliance sur les aspirations et les opinions des Français.

L'Alliance atlantique a connu d'importantes mutations. De 1949 à 1989, les choses étaient claires. L'Alliance atlantique était une alliance défensive contre la menace de l'impérialisme de l'Union soviétique et de ses alliés du Pacte de Varsovie. Elle était constituée autour des valeurs de la démocratie et de la liberté même si

elle devait parfois ne pas être trop regardante, dans le cadre du conflit Est-Ouest, sur les pratiques de certains de ses alliés.

L'effondrement de l'URSS et du bloc communiste a amené les dirigeants de l'Alliance à s'interroger sur l'utilité de maintenir l'Alliance. Quarante années de vie commune avaient créé des liens et il devenait clair qu'au delà des simples aspects militaires, l'Alliance atlantique regroupait des pays qui avaient en commun l'attachement à la démocratie, à la liberté, à l'économie de marché. L'existence d'une véritable communauté civilisationnelle reliait les Etats-Unis et le Canada à leurs partenaires européens.

D'autre part, les pays de l'Est, libérés du joug communiste, souhaitaient pour la plupart entrer dans l'Alliance atlantique qui leur garantissait la sécurité. Dans les conditions l'Alliance a décidé de continuer tout en sachant qu'elle allait être confrontée à des menaces qui étaient fort différentes de celles auxquelles elle était habituée.

En dix ans a été élaborée une

L'AFCA Aujourd'hui, Cont....

Il faut savoir que la contribution française à l'OTAN est la plus importante après celle des Etats-Unis et celle de l'Angleterre, tant sur le plan du financement que sur la participation des effectifs.

nouvelle stratégie commune, exprimée par le sommet de Washington qui, lors du 50^e anniversaire de l'Alliance en 1999, a redéfini le rôle de l'OTAN pour le XXI^e siècle. Un nouveau concept stratégique fut adopté pour faire face aux nouveaux défis.

Les attentats du 11 septembre ont changé la donne. L'OTAN devait affronter une nouvelle réalité à laquelle elle ne s'était pas préparée. Nous sommes confrontés à un nouveau faisceau de risques et à de nouvelles sources d'instabilité qui ne correspondent guère à ceux de la seconde moitié du XX^e siècle. Les nouvelles menaces s'appellent terrorisme et armes de destruction massive, maniés non par des Etats mais par organisations terroristes transnationales. Nous devons nous préparer à résister à des armes chimiques, biologiques ou nucléaires aussi bien que psychologiques telles que la désinformation et la manipulation.

NATO among the Serbs

By: Atlantic Council of Serbia

During the public debate in Kragujevac, Valjevo and Novi Sad, citizens had the opportunity to obtain a more profound and thorough insight into the advantages and disadvantages of our country's potential membership in the North-Atlantic Alliance

According to an unwritten rule, in a state of social and political turmoil the citizens are those who almost inevitably suffer the most. Politicians rule in their name, decisions are reached and statements are made on their behalf, whereas the immediate consequences of the all-embracing orientation of the

On ne peut qu'admirer la présence des fondateurs de l'Association Française pour la communauté Atlantique en 1954 qui ont fait référence à la notion de Communauté atlantique (qui n'était pas dans l'air du temps). Celle-ci est aujourd'hui une réalité de civilisation au-delà de différences naturelles dues à l'histoire et à la manipulation.

Aujourd'hui, l'AFCA a une mission claire: informer le public français sur les menaces existantes. Notre association doit faire savoir également à nos amis de l'OTAN que même si les Français sont parfois des alliés difficiles, soucieux de l'indépendance de leur pays, attachés à la construction d'une Europe dont les intérêts ne coïncident pas toujours avec ceux des Etats-Unis, ils sont de véritables alliés. Il faut savoir que la contribution française à l'OTAN est la plus importante après celle des Etats-Unis et celle de l'Angleterre, tant sur le plan du financement que sur la participation des effectifs.

demos (populace) with regard to foreign and internal policy return to their address like a boomerang. Thus, unexpectedly and suddenly, our public has recently found itself faced with the question of favouring or opposing the entrance into NATO, as well as the issue of potential neutrality, with only a small percentage of citizens actually realizing the true essence of the issue. A close competition in announcement-giving ensued on the public stage, with a clear message that the moment of official declaration – has not yet arrived.

Rappelons qu'au cours des derniers mois, ce sont des généraux français qui ont exercé le commandement au Kosovo et en Afghanistan à Kaboul.

L'AFCA DOIT ETRE UN PONT SUR L'ATLANTIQUE

Sans être inféodés aux Etats-Unis, nous n'oublions pas le rôle de ceux-ci dans les deux guerres mondiales et nous savons que sans eux l'Europe aurait été submergée par la vague de l'impérialisme stalinien après la dernière guerre. Nous devons le réaffirmer à un moment où déferle sur notre pays une vague d'anti-américanisme gauchiste.

Nous savons que les intérêts nationaux peuvent ne pas concorder mais au-delà de ceux-ci demeure l'unité d'une civilisation commune et la conscience d'une longue fraternité d'armes forgées au feu de l'Histoire.

However, before this crucial moment does arrive, the citizens deserve to be absolutely and fully informed about what actually comprises the two options they are supposed to decide between, and, among other things, about the issue of what the concept of NATO presents nowadays, what are the procedures involved in the process of admission, what are the benefits and what are the shortcomings of membership, what does the concept of military neutrality in the 21st century actually imply and how sustainable this status

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EURO-ATLANTIC QUARTERLY

Expert Magazine for Young Leaders

The **EURO-ATLANTIC QUARTERLY** is the project of the Slovak Atlantic Commission, member of the international Atlantic Treaty Association. It is an exclusive platform for broader communication concerning security and defence policy with the emphasis on the significance of the transatlantic partnership, consisting of: a magazine, issued in Slovak language and bilingual webpage (slovak and english) www.eaq.sk.

It contains up-to-date information, on publications, seminars, commentaries, it also includes analyses and various other information sources related to security and defence policy. Its objective is to convey information directly to interested parties and to communicate defence and security policy to the general public.

Target groups of Euro-Atlantic Quarterly vary from decision and opinion makers, experts to young leaders from security communities in Slovakia and Czech Republic. By creating a network of young people and by linking this network to the current security community, the Euro-Atlantic Quarterly promotes a stable and continuous inter-generational exchange of expertise and knowledge.

The **EURO-ATLANTIC QUARTERLY** is celebrating its second year. During this period of time, it has contributed considerably to raising awareness amongst the general public about the importance of global security. It continues to be a platform for discussion and public diplomacy through both print and electronic media.

The current October 2007 issue, examines Russia and its contemporary relations *vis-a-vis* Europe and the broader trans-Atlantic community. It features expert analysis by Slovak and world specialists, including balanced and un-bias Russian observations, stressing the importance and relevance of this issue to contemporary international security.

Also included in this issue, is an interview with the outstanding Slovak diplomat, H.E. **Miroslav Lajčák**, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Honouring our pledge to establish a broader platform for communication, we are open to ac-

cepting columns and articles from sister organisations to be published directly in the magazine (but translated into Slovak), or to be included on our webpage (in original English version). The primary aim of the EAQ will continue to be to broaden the plurality of views, to provide alternative solutions and to promote trans-Atlantic cooperation and partnership.

Miroslav Miera
Editor-in-Chief of the
Euro-Atlantic Quarterly

www.EAQ.sk



NATO among the Serbs, Cont....

is, what are the practical effects on the quality of life and economic parameters arising from the orientation for or against NATO, what are the new security risks and how to withstand them, as well as numerous other issues which plague the public opinion in Serbia which is insufficiently informed and thus uncritical and indiscriminate enough.

Manipulation presents the most rigorous form of "fishing for human souls", or rather categorising people and turning them into obedient advocates of one or the other political, (as well as any other) viewpoint, without leaving enough room for well-grounded and commonsense considerations of each individual. The truth is always out there, far beyond daily political propaganda, spin doctors and innumerable speculations. Public debates present a concept which has not been sufficiently developed in Serbian society, although the confrontation of viewpoints and direct, unimpeded communication between citizens, experts and political activists has proved to be more than useful.

The role of the Atlantic Council as a representative of the civil sector in Serbia, and more broadly, as a non-governmental organization included in the global network of the Atlantic Treaty Association, in presenting expert argumentation on the benefits and usefulness of Serbia's integration into European and North-Atlantic processes is represented through concrete programmes intended for individual target groups and public opinion in general. The project 'NATO in the Balkans' presents a programme aimed at direct communication of citizens throughout the country with

NATO officials, representatives of domestic state institutions, experts, and young people oriented towards the world and Europe, envisaged in the form of public debates across the towns of Serbia. For this reason, during this year's turbulent autumn, more precisely on September 28-29, public debates have been organized and held in Kragujevac, Valjevo and Novi Sad, and, as such, have presented one of the most significant and noteworthy activities of the Atlantic Council in the past three months.

The citizens of these three cities, as representatives of Serbia's public opinion, had been presented with the opportunity to initiate discussion and the exchange of views with His Excellency, Ambassador Stefan Fule, permanent representative of the Czech Republic to NATO, Mr Jaroslav Skonieczka, Director of Euro-Atlantic integrations and partnership at NATO International Department, Slobodan Kosovac, Rt. General and Atlantic Council of Serbia Board member, Mr. Marko Kovacevic, Atlantic Council of Serbia Executive Director, and members of the Atlantic Council Youth Organization Ms. Dusanka Rodic and Ms. Nikolina Saso. The outlined experiences of the Czech Republic and Poland proved helpful and beneficial with regard to the practical explanation of the road to NATO, the anticipated barriers and acquired benefits.

There is no society which in the early 1990s declared transition, i.e. the shift from centralized to market economy, or rather from socialist to democratic social system, without experiencing the problem of public opinion support for reform processes. Apart from the barriers in public

opinion consciousness provoked by experience undergone in the immediate history, poor standard or constantly fuelled political speculations of political opponents, these countries have paved their way toward European and Euro-Atlantic integrations in somewhat difficult conditions characterized by the lack of defined consensus on internal issues. All of these common properties serve as a further confirmation of the significance of experience interchange in overcoming barriers and society stabilization.

Citizens of Kragujevac, Valjevo and Novi Sad have been offered an entirely new perception of NATO as an instrument which countries can use for their own benefit, as well as for the benefit of stability in the whole region. Numerous areas of NATO activities have been demonstrated in the framework of which cooperation with Serbia can be established, whereas the decision whether to make use of this resource or not lies entirely upon the citizens and Government of Serbia once all conditions for making a formal declaration have been met. Public debates also encompassed the issue of the security sector in Serbia, starting from the initial defining of what it presents and comprises, the presentation of its reform process, its shortcomings and obstacles, to proposed solutions. Finally, in interaction with the citizens, the role of the youth was especially emphasised, as well as the need of intensifying cooperation on the regional and global level. The key asset of the traditional Atlantic Council of Serbia project symbolically named 'NATO in the Balkans' is in the promotion of interactive discussion and training of public

...Concluded.

debate among a segment of Serbian public opinion and foreign, as well as domestic experts and officials with regard to the ubiquitous, but insufficiently explained concept of European and Euro-Atlantic integrations.

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL OF SERBIA AND THE MILITARY ACADEMY

Cooperation commenced by the Atlantic Council of Serbia organizing a reception on occasion of graduation of the 127 and 128 class of Military Academy students on September 12th, 2007, and is continued with the organization of a sports day on Ada Huja through the contact of the Atlantic Council Youth Organization (ACYO) and the new class of Military Academy students, taking place on October 14th, 2007 in the Carting centre. This event simultaneously represented an opportunity for mutual acquaintance, presentation of the AC youth activities, as well as numerous possibilities which are at the disposal of the youth within the Military Academy.

BALKAN MOSAIC FORUM AND NATO MARATHON IN BUDAPEST

Within the scope of the regional project 'Balkan Mosaic', a forum in the Parliament of the Republic of Hungary was organized for the youth, taking the form of conferences encompassing the subject matter of the role of parliaments in establishing regional cooperation and achieving regional cooperation, security challenges in the Western Balkans, old and new challenges in international relations facing

NATO. Within the framework of the program which lasted from October 5-7, 2007a NATO marathon took place in the centre of Budapest. The Atlantic Council of Serbia actively participated in the project as a co-organizer for the 'Blakan Mosaic' project.

ATA, YATA AND AAYPL ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

In the period between 30 October -2 November, 2007 three Annual Assemblies took place in Ottawa, Canada. The Atlantic Treaty Association – ATA, which the Atlantic Council of Serbia is a member of, organized its annual assembly, followed by its youth fraction - Youth Atlantic Treaty Association (YATA), as well as a sisterly organization named Atlantic Association of Young

Political Leaders - AAYPL. STUDY TRIP FOR YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS TO NATO

The Atlantic Council of Serbia, in cooperation with NATO PDD organized a study trip to NATO Headquarters in Brussels and NATO Command in Mons for young deputies in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia in the period of November 18-21, 2007. Serbian parliamentarians had a chance to be directly introduced to NATO administration and meet high representatives of NATO countries who introduced them to work and perspectives of NATO. They also had a chance to express opinions and premises of the majority of Serbian citizens regarding relations between Serbia and NATO and current happenings.



Ms. Dusanka Rodic, Ms. Jana Sindelkova, Mr. Slobodan Kosovac, Ms. Nikolina Saso, Ambassador Stefan Fule, Mr. Jaroslav Skonieczka and Mr. Marko Kovacevic.

News and Upcoming Events

News:

NEW PRESIDENT OF THE SWEDISH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

Amb. **Henrik Liljgren** has informed the ATA that he has resigned from his position as President of the Swedish Atlantic Council in order to be able to accept a private sector assignment abroad. Vice-President, Dr. **Pål Jonson**, has been appointed President *pro tempore* until the annual meeting of the Council at the beginning of next year.

NEW CHAIR OF THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL OF THE UK

Professor **Alan Lee Williams** OBE, Director of the Atlantic Council of the United Kingdom since its inception, would like to announce Baroness **Meta Ramsay** as new Chair of the AC UK.

Upcoming Events in 2008:

ATA BUREAU MEETING Washington, DC, USA 18 February.

ATA ENERGY CONFERENCE *“Energy for All - A Challenge for All”*

The Hague, Netherlands, 24-27 April.
Co-organized by the Danish, Dutch and Norwegian ATA's and ATA/YATA. For a great preview please see **Kristy Ironside's** article energy security on pg. 8 in this Newsletter.

ATA COUNCIL MEETING Brussels, Belgium, May.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT SIMULATION (CMS) III Otzenhausen European Academy, Otzenhausen (Saarbrücken), and Heidelberg, Germany, 30 June-4 July.

Newsletter Update:

For the next edition of the ATA Newsletter in February we would like to see more articles, book reviews and thought provoking pieces. NATO PDD will be a regular contributor to the Newsletter starting in 2008. We want to transform the newsletter into a forum for discussion and analysis focusing on international issues that impact us all. We hope you enjoyed Mrs. Ironside's piece on energy security, and we look forward to receiving more articles of that nature.

The Newsletter editorial team wishes all of you a HAPPY NEW YEAR



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Deadline for Submissions:

Please send all articles, interviews, activities and photos to pawel.osiej@ata-sec.org

Due: 28 February 2008



The ATA thanks all contributing Associations for their articles, essays, and pictures. We hope that you enjoyed this edition of the Newsletter.

The Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA) is an organization which acts as a network facilitator in the Euro-Atlantic and beyond. The ATA draws together political leaders, academics, and diplomats in an effort to further the values set forth in the North Atlantic Treaty.

Since the end of the Cold War and the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, the role of the Atlantic Treaty Association has changed considerably. Given the shifting nature of security politics, and NATO's continued transformation, the ATA now works beyond the borders of the Euro-Atlantic — promoting new initiatives in Central and Eastern Europe, the Mediterranean, and the South Caucasus. Following the ascension of the new NATO countries in 1999 and 2004, the ATA membership expanded considerably, and naturally its security focus has shifted eastward.

The ATA is active in NATO's Partnership for Peace (PfP) and Mediterranean Dialogue programmes, as well as in directing its own initiative, the Central and South Eastern European Security Forum (CSEESF).

The Atlantic Treaty Association seeks, through discussion and political channels, to support the values set forth in the North Atlantic Treaty: Freedom, Liberty, Peace, Security, and the Rule of law. As such, the ATA acts as a forum for debate in which member associations can realize common interests and democratic goals in the ever-changing security environment of the 21st century.

The ATA is now fully dedicated to engaging the youth of the Euro-Atlantic through close cooperation with its youth division, the Youth Atlantic Treaty Association (YATA). YATA seeks to educate and promote debate amongst the successor generations in an effort to create responsible future political leaders who have an understanding of the values set forth in the North Atlantic Treaty.

The Atlantic Treaty Association firmly believes in the strength of the transatlantic relationship — one which is fundamental to the stability of the international system in the 21st century. As such, the ATA remains instrumental in bridging values from both sides of the Atlantic in its effort to underpin the broader goals of the NATO Alliance.