

PRAGUE TRANSATLANTIC TALKS 2011

Transatlantic Defence in the Age of Austerity: A Unique Opportunity to Reshuffle?

International roundtable conference organized jointly by the Association for International Affairs and Jagello 2000 – NATO Information Center in Prague with the kind support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, the Embassy of Romania, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Embassy of the United Kingdom.

Under the auspices of **H.E. Petr Nečas**, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic.

Prague, 3 May 2011

Venue: Mirror Hall, Černín Palace, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic



**Asociace
pro mezinárodní
otázky**
Association
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Synopsis

The fall of Lehman Brothers in September 2008 - followed by the economic turmoil of a scale not seen since 1930s - brought a momentous challenge to already stretched defence budgets all over the transatlantic community. The economic recession has fully revealed the scope of structural fiscal problems in majority of NATO Member States which were forced to introduce massive budget cuts. With contemporary defence hardly being a national policy priority in NATO countries and security threats often perceived as distant and not acute, defence expenditures tend to be among the first to be drastically reduced.

Current economic difficulties might still, in the end, have a positive long-term impact on the transformation and adaptation of defence capabilities. On both sides of the Atlantic, but predominantly in Europe, defence budgets have been plagued with underinvestment and inefficiency in spending. Despite all efforts made and numerous strategic concepts and white papers adopted, there is chronic negligence in devoting necessary resources to R&D, modern defence systems or challenges resulting from long-term and painful out-of-area missions. After a debate lasting for over two decades, still only a limited fraction of European forces is prepared to deal with the new challenges, be it prolonged guerrilla conflicts, humanitarian interventions on a global scale or cyber warfare.

Given the fiscal pressures, several countries of the transatlantic community have already started performing in-depth reviews on the actual capability needs and command structures while hesitantly elaborating on possibilities of multinational acquisitions and increase of equipment interoperability. The second round of Prague Transatlantic Talks will discuss these developments and attempt to determine major trends which will shape defence policies in the Euro-Atlantic area in the years to come. Based on this analysis, a set of recommendation will be formulated to provide policy guidance for these tumultuous and transformative times.

Tomáš Karásek,

Director of the Research Centre, Association for International Affairs

Sessions

Session I - Facing the Austerity: Getting the Best Defence

Two decades of reforms and transformation of defence policies and military establishments in Europe since the end of the Cold War have brought only limited results. When faced with the requirement to deploy and maintain military forces in overseas operations, the European NATO members still face considerable difficulties and the proportion of forces which can be used in out-of-area missions lags behind the declared goals. The level of investment in research and development is still substantially lower in Europe than in the United States and modernization too often concerns specific assets but not the armed forces as a whole.

Ambitious goals have too often been backed by only modest steps and many questions remain unanswered. What is a desired state of our defence and what are the actual threats? Has the apparent diffusion of threats - along with incoherent approaches of how to deal with them - tarnished the credibility of reforms? Can the pressure on maximal economic efficiency and drastic budget cuts lead to a more efficient defence? What role do the political and military leaderships have in the process?

Session II - Defence Procurement and Division of Labour: Multinational Pooling of Resources As a Way Forward?

Since the end of Cold War, the transformation of the technological backbone of NATO forces has often proceeded without an encompassing vision that would provide a clear strategic guidance. Numerous acquisitions all across the transatlantic community have been criticized as unnecessary. New airplanes were introduced only to be found obsolete upon their entry into service. Duplication of resources and the unending effort to keep alive the fiefdoms of national defence industries have hampered a truly rational and efficient approach to defence acquisitions.

Despite the integrative effects of both NATO and the European Union, these built-in obstacles have proved hard to overcome. When - despite all odds - multinational defence projects eventually appeared, they have been marked with delays, unproductive haggling among participating nations and confusion of political versus military goals. The question thus arises: Apart from higher interoperability and economic efficiency, is multinational pooling a way forward when it comes to the very rationalization of investment? Can the political constraints of such undertaking be overcome? And what would multinational procurement mean for national defence industries?

Session III - Not Going It Alone: Taking NATO Partners Seriously

Apart from collective defence, the other two core tasks of NATO declared by the new Strategic Concept contain a clear international, or, in fact, global ingredient. Both crisis management and cooperative security are hard to imagine without intimate partnership with other state actors and relevant international organizations. This is hardly a new situation, since the Alliance has proceeded down this path ever since the beginning of its operational engagement in the Balkans at the beginning of 1990s.

In times of fiscal austerity, cooperation with non-member partners gains an additional lure as it can be regarded as a possible means of operational burden-sharing. If, indeed, NATO's political goals have global relevance and are acceptable for countries outside the Alliance, the logic might indicate a move towards transforming NATO into a global security hub which would use its expertise and capabilities in

Sessions

cooperation with others who would contribute to the overall operational effort. Such conclusion is hardly without problems of its own, and apart from providing a solution it also entails numerous problems. What specific role can be played by countries out of the transatlantic area? Is this a time to redefine tools like NATO's Partnership for Peace to better serve the new objectives and needs of the Alliance? What can the Alliance offer to its partners and how, on the contrary, can the transatlantic community benefit from their engagement?

Programme

9:30 - 10:00 REGISTRATION

10:00 - 10:15 OPENING REMARKS

Remarks:

Pavel Fischer, Political Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Daniela Gitman, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Romania

Maria Staszkiwicz, Director, Association for International Affairs

10:15 - 12:00 SESSION I - FACING THE AUSTERITY: GETTING THE BEST DEFENCE

Remarks:

Corneliu Dobritoiu, Former Romanian Deputy Minister of Defence

Rastislav Káčer, President, Slovak Atlantic Commission

Tony Lawrence, Senior Researcher, International Centre for Defence Studies

12:00 - 13:00 LUNCH

13:00 - 15:00 SESSION II - DEFENCE PROCUREMENT AND DIVISION OF LABOUR: MULTINATIONAL POOLING OF RESOURCES AS A WAY FORWARD?

Remarks:

Clara Marina O'Donnell, Research Fellow, Centre for European Reform

Scott A. Harris, President for Europe, Lockheed Martin

Christian Mölling, Researcher, German Institute for International and Security Affairs

15:00 - 15:30 COFFEE BREAK

Programme

15:30 - 17:00

SESSION III: NOT GOING IT ALONE: TAKING NATO PARTNERS SERIOUSLY

Remarks:

Karel Kovanda, Former Deputy Director General for External Relations, European Commission

Tommy Steiner, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Policy and Strategy

17:00

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Tomáš Karásek, Director of the Research Center, Association for International Affairs

The Meeting is held under the Chatham House Rule

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Speakers

CORNELIU DOBRITOIU

Since 1977 to 2009, Gen (ret.) Corneliu Dobritoiu served with the Ministry of Defence of Romania in various capacities ranging from command positions to defence planning and international relations commitments. Since 2006, he served as Secretary of State for Defence Policy and Planning. Prior to this engagement, he was Director for Euro-Atlantic Integration and International Military Relations. Between 1998 and 2000 Dobritoiu served as International Staff Officer with the Cooperation and Regional Security Division, NATO International Military Staff. In 2006, he retired as a three-star general and enrolled into political activity with the Romanian Liberal National Party.

SCOTT A. HARRIS

Scott A. Harris is President, Continental Europe, for Lockheed Martin Global Inc., based in Brussels, Belgium. Prior to his engagement, he served as Special Assistant to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defence and Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary, at U.S. Department of Defence. Before that, he was Senior Analyst in national security affairs and Associate Director of the Washington office of RAND, where he focused on NATO-EU relations. He also served on Capitol Hill for more than eight years and was as well National Security Advisor to Senate Majority Leaders Robert C. Byrd and George J. Mitchell. Harris is Vice Chairman of the Security and Defence Committee of the American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union, a member of the Advisory Board of the Security and Defence Agenda in Brussels, and a member of the Board of Directors of the American Defence Industrial Forum.

RASTISLAV KÁČER

Ambassador (ret.) Rastislav Káčer serves as the President of the Slovak Atlantic Commission since 2008. He is publicly recognized as expert on Transatlantic Relations and Defence and Security Issues. He also serves as the Chairman of FIPRA Slovakia, a consulting company, which is part of FIPRA Group – Finsbury International Policy & Regulatory Advisers – a leading European independent network of Senior Public Policy and Regulatory Advisers. He is overseeing assignments in Strategic Government Relations for Foreign Investors, Governments and International Institutions. In 2008, he completed his five year term as the ambassador of Slovakia to the United States. Prior to this he served at different levels of government for almost 16 years. Between 1994 and 1998 he served as a liaison officer/diplomat at NATO HQ in Brussels. In 2001 he became the State Secretary at the Ministry of Defence responsible for negotiations and accession process of Slovakia to NATO.

TOMÁŠ KARÁSEK

Tomáš Karásek is currently performing as the Director of the Research Center at the Association for International Affairs. He earned his master degree and Ph.D. in International Relations at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague (where he also graduated from the Law Faculty). Since 2004 he has been a lecturer at the Faculty's Department of International Relations. He has been actively involved in research activities and has coordinated several grants on the topic of European security. In 2009 he spent his sabbatical in Shanghai where he taught at the Fudan University. From September 2009 to June 2010 he was a Fulbright scholar at the Saltzman

Speakers

Institute of War and Peace Studies, Columbia University in New York.

KAREL KOVANDA

Ambassador Karel Kovanda served as Deputy Director General of External Relations at the European Commission between 2005 and 2010. His areas of responsibility included the European Common Foreign and Security Policy, multilateral relations and human rights, and relations with developed countries outside the EU. Kovanda simultaneously served as the European Commission's Political Director, in bilateral as well as G8 contexts. From 1991 to 2005, he was a senior diplomat at the Czech Foreign Service. He served as Ambassador to NATO and to the UN. Karel Kovanda holds a PhD. in political science from MIT (1975) and an MBA from Pepperdine U., California (1985). He is fluent in Czech, English, Slovak, Spanish and French, and has conversational Russian and German.

TONY LAWRENCE

Tony Lawrence is Senior Researcher at the International Centre for Defence Studies, where he coordinates the Centre's Defence and Force Planning Programme. He is also a member of the Directing Staff of the Higher Command Studies Course at the Baltic Defence College in Tartu, Estonia. After completing a degree in Aerospace Engineering at the University of Bristol, Tony began his career with the UK Ministry of Defence in 1988. Following a two year spell in the UK MoD Procurement Executive investigating the feasibility of off-the-shelf procurement of battlefield information systems for the British Army, he was posted to Geneva to participate in the Swiss Government sponsored International Training Course in Security Policy. On return to London, Tony worked in the Directorate of International Operations as the desk officer responsible for UK policy on the NATO command structure review. After a short spell as a UK defence adviser in the Estonian Ministry of Defence, he spent eighteen months in the Balkans Directorate, including a six month operational tour as Political Adviser to the SFOR Commander Multinational Division (SW) in Banja Luka, Bosnia. Tony then worked for three years in the NATO and European Policy Group.

CHRISTIAN MÖLLING

Christian Mölling is working at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) as Research Fellow and Member of the Armament Project. Prior to this engagement, he served as Senior Fellow at the Center for Security Studies at ETH Zurich. He also worked as a visiting fellow in different institutes, such as the Foundation pour la Recherche Stratégique and the European Union Institute for Security Studies in Paris and the Royal United Services Institute in London. In 2006, he worked at the Permanent Representation of Germany to the EU in Brussels. His areas of expertise are German and EU defence sectors, civilian and military capabilities or Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). Christian currently focuses on financial crisis and military capabilities in Germany and the EU.

Speakers

CLARA MARINA O'DONNELL

Since June 2007, Clara O'Donnell serves as Research Fellow on EU foreign policy and defence for the Centre for European Reform (CER). She previously worked for NATO at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Belgium and as a researcher on Europe for Chatham House. She has also had various placements within different EU institutions. Clara has an MPhil in International Relations from the University of Cambridge and a BA in European Studies from King's College London & the London School of Economics. She also studied at the French Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences-Po).

TOMMY STEINER

Tommy Steiner is Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Policy and Strategy, Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya, where he leads policy research projects on EU and NATO relations with Israel, the Mediterranean and the Broader Middle East. Prior to this engagement, Tommy served as Director of the Atlantic Forum of Israel, a network-based policy organization that promoted and advanced Israel's relations with the Euro-Atlantic Community. Extending beyond EU/NATO relations with Israel and the Middle East/Mediterranean, Tommy's fields of expertise also include international security, transatlantic relations, regional politics and regional cooperation in the Mediterranean, Middle East, and Asia-Pacific. In his areas of expertise, Tommy regularly advises Israeli authorities, international organizations, business, media and think-tanks. Tommy earned his MA in International Relations from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and is the Recipient of the Yehoshafat Harkaby Award conferred by the Hebrew University Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations.

Team



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We would like to thank all those whose help and cooperation have made this event possible.

Association for International Affairs

Association for International Affairs (AMO) is a preeminent independent think-tank in the Czech Republic in the field of international affairs and foreign policy. The mission of AMO is to contribute to a deeper understanding of international affairs through a broad range of educational and research activities. Today, AMO represents a unique and transparent platform in which academics, business people, policy makers, diplomats, the media and NGO's can interact in an open and impartial environment.

IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE ITS GOALS AMO STRIVES TO:

- formulate and publish briefings, research and policy papers
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- organize educational projects
- present critical assessment and comments on current events for local and international press
- create vital conditions for growth of a new expert generation
- support the interest in international relations among broad public
- cooperate with like-minded local and international institutions

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Founded in October 2003, the AMO's Research Center has been dedicated to carrying out research and raising public awareness of international affairs, security and foreign policy. The Research Center strives to identify and analyze issues important to Czech foreign policy and the country's position in the world. To this end, the Research Center produces independent analyses; encourages expert and public debate on international affairs; and suggests solutions to tackle problems in today's world. The Center's activities can be divided into two main areas: First, the Center undertakes research and analysis of foreign policy issues. Second, the Center fosters dialogue with the policy-makers, expert community and broad public.



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