



A New NATO, Euro-Atlantic Security, & the Greek-American Partnership

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Organized and Co-sponsored by:
The Defence Analyses Institute of the
Hellenic Ministry of National Defense
The Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis (IFPA)
The Konstantinos G. Karamanlis Foundation
The North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Welcome and Introduction

By
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Many months of preparation have gone into this conference. It is the result of major efforts in Athens and here in Washington, D.C., and Cambridge, Massachusetts. We structured this meeting to build on the themes of the Strasbourg-Kehl Summit earlier this month. We hope that this conference will be the beginning of a sustained transatlantic dialogue on vitally important issues. In our agenda you will see topics that have been set forth in the Strasbourg/Kehl Summit Declaration and which we were planning many months ago to include in this conference. They include NATO enlargement with the admission of Albania and Croatia, the continuing instability in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the need to reaffirm our commitment to regional security in the Balkans, the problems of piracy at sea and the need for international cooperation, the current response to terrorism and efforts to deny terrorists access to weapons of mass destruction, the future of the NATO-Russian relationship, peace and stability in the Mediterranean and the continuing importance of the Black Sea region to Euro-Atlantic security.

The conference today is divided into three sessions. This will give us the opportunity to address these and other issues as well. Although we have asked some participants to make brief structured remarks about the topics set forth in the agenda, this meeting is primarily an opportunity for spontaneous discussion. We want everyone to have the opportunity to speak. Our purpose is to build on the principal themes that have been on the transatlantic agenda, and to identify new topics that will need to be addressed. The NATO Summit also produced a Declaration on Alliance Security that is intended to lay the ground work for a new Strategic

Concept to be adopted at the next NATO Summit. The results of this conference, itself formally a part of NATO's Sixtieth Anniversary, will be offered as a contribution to this effort. We will be preparing a report summarizing and synthesizing our discussion today.

The first session will enable us to take a look at the broad trends and specific issues facing NATO and its members as we move forward. The second session will allow us to delve more deeply into NATO and the EU and their interlocking roles in enhancing stability and cooperation in and beyond Southeastern Europe. Our third session will be focused specifically on the future of the Greek-American partnership. However, throughout this conference emphasis will be placed on opportunities for our two countries to work more fully together to address shared and common interests priorities, and challenges.

I take this opportunity to extend welcome on behalf of the Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis and to thank each of our cosponsors and organizers: the Defence Analyses Institute of the Hellenic Ministry of National Defence; the Minister of Defense, Evangelos Meimarakis, whom we welcomed as our keynote speaker last evening; the Konstantinos Karamanlis Foundation; and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. We are delighted to work with each of these organizations. As we begin this conference, we should recall that all of us are indebted to Greece's great restorer of democracy, Konstantinos Karamanlis, whose work first as Prime Minister and later as President spanned several decades of 20th-century Greece's political landscape. He played a catalytic role in Greece's integration into the broader Euro-Atlantic community. In a very real way his legacy shapes the agenda that we have before us today. We also thank other members of the Karamanlis family, especially Achilleas Karamanlis and Kostas Karamanlis for their support. With this in mind, I look forward to productive discussions throughout the day that will leave all of us better prepared to face whatever challenges and opportunities lie ahead. And now I turn to Kostas Karamanlis for his words of welcome.