



NATO

IN BRIEF







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CONTENTS

Editorial Note	6
Foreword by Dr. Solomon Passy	7
When and Why Was NATO Established?	9
The North Atlantic Treaty Crucial Principles	9
NATO and the Cold War	10
NATO after the End of the Cold War	11
• NATO since the 1990s	11
NATO's Image Today	13
• Shared Values	13
• Security Dimensions and NATO's New Role	13
NATO in Action	14
a. The Decision-making Process - the Principle of Consensus	15
b. Political Structure	15
c. NATO's Secretary General	16
d. The International Staff	17
e. Military Structure	17
f. NATO's Military Commands	18
g. Armed Forces	18
Financing NATO	19
The Parliamentary Assembly	20
The Atlantic Treaty Association	21

Dimensions of NATO's Transformation	21
NATO's Enlargement - The Open Door Policy	22
NATO Missions and Operations	22
a. NATO's Area of Responsibility	22
b. NATO on the Balkans - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Republic of Macedonia	23
c. NATO in Afghanistan	25
d. NATO's Role in Iraq	26
NATO's Role in Civil Security	26
Cooperation with Other International Organisations	27
• The UN	27
• The EU	28
• The OSCE	29
NATO and the Fight against Terrorism	30
NATO and Russia	31
NATO and Ukraine	32
Why NATO? Main Commitments and Responsibilities	33
Afternote	35
Annexes	36
• The North Atlantic Treaty	36
• NATO in Acronyms	40
• Tables	44
- NATO in Cooperation with Other Organisations	44
- NATO Partners	45
- Political Structure	46
- Civil and Military Structure	47



EDITORIAL NOTE

When first pondering the idea of *NATO in Brief* guide, no one of the editors expected the moment for such an edition to be so well timed. NATO is a new reality for Bulgaria, as for all the countries in Central and Eastern Europe. The efforts to promote the Alliance as the most promising tool to guarantee security is by no means an easy task, though contributing to the image of NATO as the relevant device for dialogue, cooperation, democracy, strengthening the rule of law, enhancing stability and respecting individual rights and liberties proved to be one of the most challenging accomplishments.

Unmistakably, the most valuable asset in contemporary life is education and access to information, paths that make possible to understand the broad implications of security and foreign policy issues within so rapidly changing environment and how everyone is able to contribute to a better future, striving for peace, tolerance, and stability.

The question why such a publication is necessary is no longer adequate. It is now the right time to move forward on how to multiply the positive results in other countries from Central and Eastern Europe – strategic partners of NATO and aspiring states.

Drafted at first as an original idea to educate educators in secondary schools in Bulgaria to assist them in their mission to teach the young people the transatlantic values, the *NATO in Brief* guide reached beyond its initial purposes. The interest it provoked through its challenging and comprehensive contents and the messages it conveyed to the broad public make it vital to further extend its impact and thus to advance the process of mapping the road to NATO and its evolution to the most powerful Alliance determined to safeguard peace and security worldwide.

The Bulgarian, English, Albanian, Georgian, Russian, Serbian and Ukrainian versions of the guide are uploaded to the Atlantic Treaty Association web site for education www.ataedu.org. The later editions of Croatian and Macedonian languages also will be uploaded to the mentioned above web site.

This publication was possible due to the methodical assistance provided by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Association of Bulgarian Teachers in Philosophy, the ATA Education Committee and NATO Information Centre in Sofia.

The editors of *NATO...in Brief* would like to extend their gratitude to the NATO Public Diplomacy Division for its invaluable support and contribution.

Avgustina Tzvetkova
President
Euro Atlantic Education Initiative



FOREWORD

It may sound trivial, but NATO is real, just like air, water, fire, the scenery and everything that surrounds us is prosaically real. Despite that, or exactly because of that, we have all explored them for more than ten years in school studying chemistry, physics, geography, and other lessons. Now, it is our children that explore them to be able to respond adequately to the reality they live in, to know what threatens them, how to protect themselves and how to manage the various phenomena for their benefit.

I refer to these inherent facts, because for our children, as well as for all of us, NATO is a new reality. It was only fifteen years ago when this organisation was condemned as an enemy for our country and for the Warsaw Pact allies. The confrontation between the two super coalitions was a state of war, fortunately a “cold” one, which lasted for 40 years. Today most of the former Warsaw Pact members are members of NATO. The other countries are in a process of intense dialogue, which indicates that the opposition between them and NATO is by no means the main generator of tension and instability in the contemporary world.

17 years back, it was the Bulgarian National Assembly to be the first in Central and Eastern Europe to initiate debate on the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact and NATO enlargement. At that time no one expected that the world would experience the nightmare of 11 September 2001.

Nowadays, however, lots of people are aware that international terrorism is the main security threat, and that NATO is evolving to be the key instrument in the fight against terrorism. Moreover, Bulgaria is a full-fledged member for two years now and in this capacity plays an essential role countering terrorism. The term “essential” is by no means an exaggeration: because of the principle of consensus in NATO decision-making process, the smaller countries are vested vast foreign influence, which is far beyond being comparative to their size, population and military power. That is the reason why the membership in NATO should not be assumed only as a reason for self-confidence, but also as obliging responsibility. It is a responsibility that rests on all society representatives and particularly on the young people who are on the threshold of their life and career.

I am convinced that the guide in your hands will be a valuable map leading you to the chief points in the history, organisation and functioning of the most powerful political and military Alliance in the history of mankind, an Alliance, destined to preserve world peace.

Enjoy the world of NATO!

Dr. Solomon Passy

Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Bulgarian National Assembly
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria (2001-2005)





NATO... In Brief

1. When and Why Was NATO Established?



The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was established on 4 April 1949, with the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty by ten European and 2 North American founding countries: Belgium, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, and Portugal, as well as Canada and the United States of America.

The main goal of the founding members was to oppose the risk of the USSR expanding its influence over Europe. By signing the Treaty, the members committed to mutually safeguarding their freedom and security by political and military means. The North America engagement in the Western European defence undoubtedly demonstrated that any attempt for political or military pressure on Western Europe would be doomed to failure.

2. The North Atlantic Treaty's Crucial Principles

NATO's functioning and sustainability are primarily based upon the North Atlantic Treaty's original principles, which are:

1. NATO **safeguards the freedom and security of its members** by using political and military means in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter;
2. NATO is a **union of states joint by common values** such as democracy, individual liberty, and rule of law, and by the determination to preserve these values from any violation;
3. Key operating principle of NATO is the principle of **collective defence, laid under art. 5 of the Atlantic Treaty**. According to it, any attack against one of the member states is considered an attack against all allies and therefore requires collective defence actions;
4. NATO is a **forum where members consult each other and take joint decisions** in dealing with the member states' security matters;
5. NATO is an intergovernmental organisation, within which the member countries **preserve their sovereignty and independence**;

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6. **NATO is an embodiment of the Transatlantic link** that binds together security within Europe and North America;
 7. The Washington Treaty embraces **the principle that political collaboration is incompatible with the presence of economic conflicts among member countries**;
 8. The means through which NATO develops its security policy include continuous **development and maintenance of individual and collective military capabilities of the member states**;
 9. The Alliance **remains open for new members**. These should be countries that are willing and able to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area and whose accession all member states support unanimously.

3. NATO and the Cold War

The end of the Second World War marked the division of Eastern and Western Europe along ideological and political lines.

Between 1947 and 1952, the Marshall Aid Plan provided considerable resources for the reconstruction and stability of the Western European economies devastated by the war. Meanwhile, NATO had emerged as a guarantee of collective defence against any kind of aggression and as a safeguard of the development of democracy and economic growth. In the words of the U.S. President at the time, Harry Truman, the Marshall Plan and NATO were *two halves of the same nutshell*.

In the beginning of the 1950s, the international situation and the culmination of the Korean War reaffirmed the risks and fears of the expansionist USSR policy and ambitions. This fact induced all NATO member states to double their efforts in consolidating the military structures necessary for collective defence. The presence of American armed forces on European territory, deployed following a demand of the European governments brought the USSR to the conclusion that any aggression on its behalf would not lead to success.

Furthermore, NATO became an attractive entity for other countries, which also joined the Alliance - Greece and Turkey in 1952, The Federal Republic of Germany in 1955, and Spain in 1982. Thanks to NATO's active presence on the world scene, Western Europe and North America not only mutually safeguarded their independence, but also reached an unprecedented level of stability that formed the basis of the European economic cooperation and integration. Europe's economic stability and the transatlantic cooperation served also as pre-conditions for the end of the Cold War and for overcoming Europe's division.

4. NATO after the End of the Cold War



With the end of the Cold War and the Eastern-Western block opposition, the reasons for which NATO was established ceased to exist. The nature of the contemporary security challenges also changed significantly. Despite skepticism regarding NATO's future, NATO not only persevered through the end of the Cold War but also proved to be one of the most effective modern international organisations in the field of security, with its members and partners continuously growing.

• NATO since the 1990s

The 1990s were marked by a series of important events. In 1990, for the very first time, NATO offered cooperation to the Soviet Union and the other non-member European countries. This happened during the session of the North Atlantic Council in June in Turnberry, Scotland, when the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the member states announced the so-called *Message from Turnberry*. A month later, in London, the Heads of State and the NATO leadership signed the *London Declaration*, in which the allies demonstrated will and determination for the transformation of the Alliance. The Declaration consisted of different proposals for the creation of broad cooperation with the countries from Central and Eastern Europe in the political and military spheres, as well as for the establishment of formal diplomatic relations.

In the beginning of November the following year, the Heads of State and NATO's leadership proclaimed the *Rome Declaration for Peace and Cooperation*, which proposed institutionalizing the relations and cooperation with the former Soviet Union and Central and Eastern European countries on political and security matters. The Declaration also laid the foundation of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC), of which Bulgaria was a founding member. The first meeting of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council took place in December 1991. An important outcome of the session was the adoption of the *Declaration for Dialogue, Partnership and Cooperation*.

The Brussels Summit in the beginning of 1994 set off the initiative for the enhancement of security and stability throughout Europe, known as the *Partnership for Peace* (PfP). The partner countries from the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and the states from the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the future OSCE, were invited to join the PfP.



In 1997, in Sintra, Portugal, the NACC was replaced by the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, whose main goal was to open a new stage of transatlantic cooperation.

At the **Madrid** Summit held that same year, the leaders launched a transition to a new phase of NATO's development. The Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland were invited to start negotiations for accession to NATO. The relations with Russia were redefined and the grounds for partnership with Ukraine were officially established.



In April 1999, **Washington, D.C.** hosted the 15th NATO Summit, which marked the 50th Anniversary of the Alliance. At this session, three new members - the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland - were welcomed. The Summit set off new initiatives of strategic importance, such as the Membership Action Plan, aimed at assisting the aspiring countries. The Summit was also remarkable for defining the New Strategic Concept of NATO, which described the changing security environment and postulated NATO's new role in the global security of the 21st century.

The following NATO Summit was held in November 2002 in **Prague**. At the Summit, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia were officially invited to begin accession talks. The Summit created the *Prague Capabilities Commitment* in an attempt to address international terrorism and to formulate decisions regarding the transformation of the Alliance's military capabilities.

Since 29 March 2004, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia have been contributing in full capacity to the consultation and decision-making within the NAC and the other NATO structures. The countries are represented in the Council by their permanent representatives, whose activities are supported by the permanent delegations of the countries to NATO.

The summit of strategic importance took place in **Istanbul** in June, 2004. At this session, the Alliance welcomed its 7 new members. Thus, the total number of **NATO's member states reached 26**. Apart from the enlargement process, the Alliance focused on advancing its partnerships in the regions of priority such as South Caucasus and Central Asia. Meanwhile, it took decisions regarding the enhancement of the Dialogue with the 7 Mediterranean partner countries and launched a new initiative with states from the so-called broader Middle East.

The NATO **Riga** summit on 28-29 November 2006 announced the strong commitment to NATO's Afghanistan mission and outlined the Alliance achievements, tasks, and priorities. The NATO Response Force is already a highly



ready and operational, technologically advanced, capable of performing missions worldwide across the whole spectrum of operations. NATO leaders affirmed it remains open to new European members. NATO leaders also launched a Training Cooperation Initiative offering to share its training expertise with its Mediterranean Dialogue and Istanbul Cooperation Initiative countries.

Next NATO summit will take place in **Bucharest** in the spring of 2008.

5. NATO's Image Today

Presently, NATO is an organisation that differs significantly from the one established in 1949. The Alliance is neither the one that guaranteed defence to Western Europe for more than four decades during the Cold War, nor the one that observed the transition processes in Europe in early 1990s. NATO's evolution is by no means a chance or a coincidence. The key to NATO's success is in the resilience of its values and principles, i.e. in the firm ground on which it was built and on which it evolved.

• Shared Values

NATO is not just an alliance for collective defence, but also a community of **shared values**. Given the ever changing nature of global security threats, it is the values of democracy, respect for human rights, and rule of law that have proven trustworthy for all member states.



Furthermore, NATO is a guarantee of the viability of the transatlantic dimension of the efforts to cope with global security challenges. The Alliance connects Europe and North America and serves as a basis for balance between different national interests in the name of common stability and peace.

• Security Dimensions and NATO's New Role

During the Cold War, NATO's main responsibilities were clearly related to defending the members from the Soviet expansionist threat. With the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the traditional opponent of the Alliance vanished, leading to a redefinition of the security environment and the objectives of the Alliance.

The *New Strategic Concept of NATO, issued in 1999*, identified the global security risks as versatile and hard to predict. The core tasks of the Alliance were postulated as follows:

1. To serve as a basis for stability in the Euro-Atlantic area;
2. To provide a forum for consultations on security issues;

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3. To act as deterrent and defender against every threat of aggression towards any of the member states;
 4. To contribute to effective conflict prevention and crisis regulation;
 5. To carry out partnership and dialogue relations with the countries from the Euro-Atlantic area.

The Strategic Concept of the Alliance also stated that the nature of the security environment changes in a positive aspect. Meanwhile, however, the states were confronting different risks and sources of instability such as ethnic conflicts, infringement of human rights, political insecurity, and economic crisis. Above all, the proliferation of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons was a serious concern. The boost of information technology also posed a potential risk to security, as it served as a means of providing military know-how to enemy groups.

In the years following 1999, especially after the terrorist attacks on the U.S. of September 11, 2001, NATO reassessed the global terrorist threats and the risks associated with failed states, and put those on top of its security priorities.



6. NATO in Action

NATO is an intergovernmental organisation, an alliance of sovereign states, united in the name of security and common shared values. NATO takes decisions on the principle of consensus.

The NATO Headquarters (HQ) is situated in Brussels. It is the permanent seat of the North Atlantic Council (NAC). It comprises of national delegations of the member states, the Secretary General and the International Staff, the Chairman of the Military Committee and the International Military Staff, the Diplomatic missions of the partner states, and different NATO agencies.

The member states have permanent delegations in the HQ, headed by permanent representatives. Every member state is also represented by a military delegate. The permanent representative, as well as the military ones, are assisted in their duties by a team of civil and military advisors and officers representing the country in each of the NATO Committees. The fact that the national delegations sit and work together at the NATO HQ facilitates the formal and informal relations among them, as well as their interactions with the partner countries and with the International Staff officers.

NATO is built on political and military structures, which deal respectively with the political and military aspects of NATO's activities. Each of those



structures assists the decision-making bodies, the highest of which is the North Atlantic Council.

a. The Decision-making Process - the Principle of Consensus

One of the keys to understanding the viability of NATO is recognizing the nature and specificity of the decision-making process, based on **the principle of consensus**. Reaching an agreement between all member states of the Alliance is often a hard and time-consuming process. That is why, before taking a final decision, particularly on important issues, it is necessary to lead continuous talks and consultations.

Given the long negotiation process, it might seem that NATO's decision-making system is too complicated and clumsy. However, it has proven its efficiency and indisputable advantages through the years. Its most prominent benefits are:

First, the principle of consensus allows the organisation to uphold the sovereignty and independence of the member states, and to take into consideration their national interests in each case of concern.

Secondly, this principle gives NATO's decisions the highest degree of political legitimacy. The consensus is the guarantee that every action is supported by all member states, which, by giving their consent, commit to the implementation of the decision.

b. Political Structure

The main governing institutions of NATO, which shape the policy and strategy of the Alliance in all of its activities, are the **North Atlantic Council (NAC)**, **The Defence Planning Committee (DPC)** and the **Nuclear Planning Group (NPG)**.

The **North Atlantic Council** is the decision-making body of crucial importance to the Alliance. The NAC is a political body comprising representatives of all member states. It operates on different levels: at least once a week it is an assembly of the ambassadors; at least twice a year it assembles all Ministers of Foreign Affairs or Ministers of Defence; and, if necessary, it brings together the Heads of State.

Regardless of the level of operation of the NAC, the power to take decisions, as well as the status of those decisions and the resulting obligations, are the same. Usually, the NAC discusses issues of common interest and such that require specific actions, without restricting the topics of discussion.



The **Defence Planning Committee** deals mostly with issues concerning collective defence. It provides directions to the Military Command of NATO and has the same authority as the NAC on issues of its competence and responsibility. The Committee usually holds its meetings on an Ambassadors' level, but twice a year it assembles the Ministers of Defence as well.

The Ministers of Defence of the member states meet regularly within the **Nuclear Planning Group**. The Group handles a broad spectrum of political issues related to nuclear policy, such as the deployment of nuclear forces; security, safety and control of nuclear weapons; communication and information systems; and the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

France is not member of the integrated military structure and therefore does not attend the meetings of the DPC and the NPG.

The DPC and the NPG oversee a number of other committees such as the Political Committee, the Defence Review Committee, the Economic Committee, the NATO Committee on Infrastructure, etc. These groups deal with specific aspects of NATO's responsibilities in the political, military, and the economic spheres.

NATO's joint activities with its partner countries are also subject to continuous consultations with representatives of the partner states. These talks take place within different forums, such as the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, the NATO - Russia Council, the NATO - Ukraine Commission, and the Mediterranean Cooperation Group.

c. NATO's Secretary General

The Secretary General of NATO is a high-rank international official, appointed by the member states. He/ she is in charge of giving directions for the consultation and decision-making processes at NATO. The Secretary General also serves as the Chairman of the NAC and of other high committees. He/she has the competence to make proposals for putting particular subjects on the decision-making agenda. He/she can also take the place of an impartial and independent chairman and lead the talks towards consensus, acting in common interest of the Alliance. The Secretary General does not have the power to take decisions unilaterally but is able to act on behalf of the Organisation to the extent that he/she is authorized by the governments of the member states. The Secretary General of the Alliance is also chief spokesman for the Organisation and head of the International Staff.





d. The International Staff

The International Staff supports the NAC and its subordinated committees in the exercise of their duties and obligations. Its staff consists of representatives of the member states, employed by NATO or appointed by the respective national authority for a period of 3 - 4 years. The International Staff members are directly subordinated to the Secretary General and have the responsibility to be loyal to the organisation during the entire period of their appointment.

Since its establishment in 1951, the structure of the International Staff was changed many times. The most recent changes took place in 2003, and as a result the institution now includes the Office of the Secretary General, the NATO Office on Security and six directorates, each headed by an Assistant Secretary General.

e. Military Structure

The military structure of NATO is subordinated to the **Military Committee**. The Military Committee is the body of highest rank within the Alliance, but still remains under the Political guidance of the NAC. The high-level meetings involve the General Chiefs of Staff, while the daily meetings involve the military representatives of the member states. The committee provides directions to NATO's Political structures regarding military strategy and is in charge of the overall implementation of the military activities of the Alliance.

The Chairman of the Military Committee (CMC) is selected by the Chiefs of Staff and appointed for a three-year term of office. He acts exclusively in an international capacity and his authority stems from the Military Committee, to which he is responsible in the performance of his duties. He normally chairs all meetings of the Military Committee.

The Chairman of the Military Committee is both its spokesman and representative. He directs its day-to-day business and acts on behalf of the Committee in issuing the necessary directives and guidance to the Director of the International Military Staff.

The Military Committee is assisted by the **International Military Secretariat**, which consists of military officials representing the member states in NATO's Headquarters.

The Military Committee provides directions to the Military Commands of NATO.



f. NATO's Military Commands

There are two NATO Military Commands of strategic importance. One is the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), which headquarters are in Mons, Belgium. The other one is the Supreme Allied Command Transformation (SACT) with headquarters in Norfolk, Virginia, USA.

SACEUR is the head of the Allied Command Operations (ACO), which supervises the displaced forces by the allies. SACEUR is in charge of all NATO operations on the ground, regardless of their deployment, and is also Chief of the US European Command.

SACT's role is primarily functional. As chief of the Allied Command Transformation (ACT), he is in charge of the enhancement and control of the continuous transformation process of the Alliance's military capabilities. He has dual responsibility, as he is also Command of the joint U.S. forces.



Previously, the division of the responsibilities of the two commands was based on a geographical principle: SACEUR was in charge of NATO's operations in Europe, while the Supreme Allied Commander of the Atlantic (SACLANT) was responsible for operations in the Atlantic area. The restructuring of the command structure was approved at the Prague Summit in November 2002. The change in responsibilities manifested NATO's commitment to develop its defence capabilities and its readiness to participate actively in operations.

g. Armed Forces

The idea of "NATO forces" could be deceptive to those who are not closely acquainted with the nature of the organisation. In reality, the Alliance does not have military forces on a permanent basis. Every member-state that is part of the military structure of NATO is committed to devoting a certain number and a certain type of armed forces for the execution of the negotiated tasks and operations.

As a rule, most of the NATO forces remain under their national command through their assignment at NATO and according to the demands of the current operation. The only exceptions of this principle are the Integrated Chiefs of Staff, as well as the operation forces such as the Early Warning Forces, Air Control, and the Standing Naval Forces.

Since NATO's inception, the main task of the armed forces has always been to guarantee the security and territorial integrity of the member states. After



the end of the Cold war, however, the role of the armed forces was deeply transformed as a result of the newly-formed security environment within the transatlantic area.

The changes of the armed forces of NATO in the post-Cold war era have been both quantitative and qualitative. Some of them have already taken place, while others are yet to be implemented.

After the end of the Cold war, the total number of the armed forces was substantially reduced. More specifically, since the beginning of the 90s the ground forces personnel of the member states that is at NATO disposal was cut back by 35%; the number of the ships of the naval force - by 30%; and the combat squadrons of the air forces - by about 4%. Most of the forces are no longer in a state of high alert and have been restructured in order to endorse their flexibility, mobility and interoperability.

At the Prague Summit held on 21-22 November 2002, three initiatives of crucial importance for the military transformation were launched, which play a key role in the adaptation of NATO's military capabilities:

1. **Creating the NATO Response Forces (NRF).** These forces, numbering about 22 000, consist of ground, air and naval components ready to deploy in less than 5 days. The inauguration ceremony for the creation of the NRF took place on 15 October 2003 in Brunsum, the Netherlands. The full operability of the forces should be enhanced no later than October 2006;
2. **Within the so-called Prague Capabilities Commitment,** NATO allies take individual political commitments to improve and develop their national defence capabilities in a large spectrum of areas;
3. **Rationalizing the Alliance Command Structure.** The Strategic Commands for Europe and the Atlantic were transformed into Strategic Command Operations and Strategic Command Transformations. The number of the regional and subordinated commands was reduced (from 20 to 11) and optimized.

7. Financing NATO

NATO's budget is constructed from the annual payments of the member states, the amount of which is defined according to a formula for division of the expenses, approved by the allies. Practically, the membership fees are part of the defence budget of each country.



The jointly financed budget is distributed between a civilian, military, and a budget for cooperative financed infrastructure.

The civilian budget covers the operational expenses for the International Staff, the civilian programs and activities, as well as the expenses necessary for the use and technical maintenance of equipment, such as the conference equipment used for the meetings of committees and working groups.

The military budget covers the operational expenses and maintenance of the integrated military structure, including the Military Committee, the International Military Staff and the related agencies, the two Strategic Commands and the systems connected for command and control, and information systems, the Research and Development agencies, and those dealing with the supplies and logistics and the AWACS.

The NATO Security Investment Program (NSIP) provides funding for projects related to the military infrastructure of the NATO member states. Specific project targets include the information and communication systems, radars, command and control centres, airports, pipelines, depots, and ports equipment. All the allies are by default members of the NSIP. The only exception to the rule is France, which is not a member of the integrated military structure.

The above-mentioned budgets are under the supervision of the Committees on Civilian and Military budget, the Infrastructure Committee and the Senior Resource Board. NATO's budgets are also subject to external control.

8. The Parliamentary Assembly

NATO's Parliamentary Assembly, known as the North Atlantic Assembly, is an interparliamentary organisation established in 1955 as a forum that brings together legislators from the member states to discuss issues of common interest. For the past 15 years, the Assembly has significantly expanded its membership and terms of operation.

The Assembly is completely independent from NATO but still presents the link between the National Parliaments and NATO, and as such it urges the governments to take into consideration the Alliance's interests in developing their legislations. The discussions held at the Assembly give a clear understanding for the public and parliamentary attitudes toward the policies of the Alliance. In that respect, the Assembly has an indirect but still a considerable role in the process of shaping NATO's policy.



9. The Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA)

The Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA) is an international non-governmental organisation established in 1954 by NATO's member states. Its main objective was to shape positive public opinion about NATO's mission during the Cold War period. After the fall of the Iron Curtain, the ATA evolved into an organisation able to promote and propagate the Euro-Atlantic values also beyond NATO member states. The Association has made crucial amendments to its constitution allowing the non-member states pursuing Euro-Atlantic integration to be associated. In 1992, **the Atlantic Club of Bulgaria** was the first organisation to be accepted as an associate member of ATA, representing a NATO non-member state.

The ATA objectives are:

- to educate and inform the public on the missions and responsibilities of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;
- to conduct research into the NATO various purposes and activities and their extension to the Central and Eastern European countries as well as to pursue dialogue with the Mediterranean states;
- to promote solidarity of the peoples of the North Atlantic area and of those part of the Partnership for Peace Initiative;
- to promote democracy;
- to develop cooperation between all its members.

From the beginning of 2006, the ATA transferred its Head Office from Paris to Brussels and the Association was registered on 1 March 2006 in accordance of the Belgium Law.

10. Dimensions of NATO's Transformation

The rapidly changing security environment demands that NATO transform to remain efficient. The Alliance needs to find new balance between its missions in Europe and addressing global threats. It needs to acquire more rapid, flexible, and effective military capabilities to better address these security concerns. Given the new security environment, it is imperative to work closely with a larger circle of partners.

The threats that NATO currently faces are not as catastrophic as they were during the Cold War but they are very real and often unpredictable. Terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destructions (WMD), as well as the ethnic conflicts - all contemporary issues - demand NATO's constant adaptation to the nature of the global threats, so it can effectively provide security and respond to the needs of its member states.



NATO's transformation process has different dimensions, which can be categorized as follows: **new missions, new capabilities, new members, and new partners.**

So far, we have demonstrated how the Alliance works to develop military **capabilities** to become even more effective within the new security environment. We elaborated on the different stages of NATO's enlargement, especially in the post-Cold War years. In the following sections, we will further discuss the perspectives for accepting new **members**. With respect to NATO's **partners**, the Alliance is focusing on its partnership with countries from the South Caucasus and Central Asia and aims at strengthening its cooperation with the countries from the Mediterranean and the Broader Middle East.

Below, we discuss NATO's **missions** both within and beyond its traditional transatlantic area of responsibility.

11. NATO's Enlargement - The *Open Door* Policy

At the Istanbul Summit in June 2004, NATO reaffirmed its *open door* policy. The heads of state of the member countries applauded the progress achieved by Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia in the implementation of the NATO Membership Action Plan, and praised them for their contribution to regional security and cooperation. They also encouraged further efforts from candidate states in accomplishing the necessary reforms, and committed to further supporting the candidates in the accession process. Bulgaria was actively involved in the decision to review the candidates' progress towards full membership. This was an important indication for the potential opportunity at the next summit to extend invitations to those candidate countries that are capable of fulfilling the responsibilities of NATO membership.



During the Riga Summit in 2006 NATO leaders affirmed it remains open to new European members. The Alliance intends to extend further invitations to countries that meet NATO standards to join NATO at the next Bucharest Summit, in 2008, mainly targeting the three Balkan MAP countries – Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia. NATO has agreed to offer the Partnership for Peace program to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia to facilitate the stabilization processes in the region.

12. NATO Missions and Operations

a. NATO's Area of Responsibility

One of the most important aspects of NATO's transformation has been





the decision to undertake peacekeeping operations and crisis regulations both within and beyond the Euro-Atlantic area. Presently, one can define **NATO as a regional organisation with global responsibilities**. The Alliance has grown to an organisation able to recognize that the threats are no more restricted to a certain area, and it also possesses the capabilities to address them wherever and whenever they occur.

During the 1990s, for the first time, NATO engaged in peacekeeping in the Balkans, where the bloody conflicts, following the dissolution of Former Yugoslavia, created serious threats not only to regional security but also to the rest of Europe. Through its mission in Afghanistan and the training assistance in Iraq, the Alliance also proved that it is capable of coping with challenges out of its traditional area of responsibility – the Euro-Atlantic one.



The NATO Riga summit on 28-29 November 2006 announced that NATO Response Force is already a highly ready and operational, technologically advanced, capable of performing missions worldwide across the whole spectrum of operations. The NATO member states endorsed Comprehensive Political Guidance that underlines the priorities of the Alliance on capability issues, planning disciplines and intelligence for the next 10 to 15 years where expeditionary forces are seen key component. The Guidance analyses the principal threats to the Alliance: terrorism and the spread of weapons of mass distraction, as well as failing states, regional crises, misuse of new technologies and disruption of the flow of vital resources.

b. NATO on the Balkans - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Republic of Macedonia*

After the dissolution of Former Yugoslavia, NATO played a crucial role in the reform processes on the Balkans.

Between 1992 and 1995, NATO actively supported the UN efforts for ceasing fire in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**. The air strikes against the Bosnian Serb forces in August and September of 1995 changed the proportion between the ground forces and brought the conflicting sides closer to negotiations, which resulted in the signing of the Dayton Accords at the end of the year. Only days later, under a UN mandate, the Alliance deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina the multinational forces for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement (Implementation Force - IFOR.) The forces had the task of guaranteeing the cease-fire; dividing the armed forces of the newly established administrative units (the

*Bulgaria recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.



Bosnian Federation and The Republic of Srpska); and controlling the transfer of territory between the two units, as well as the storage of heavy weapons to the predetermined locations. The main objectives were achieved and in the aftermath, in December 1996, IFOR were replaced by the Stabilization Force - SFOR.



Apart from guaranteeing a sustainable environment for the unhindered continuation of the peace process, SFOR committed to support a series of civil organisations working toward peace-building in Bosnia and Herzegovina. SFOR also assisted in the return of refugees and displaced people to their homes, contributed to the reform of the Bosnian armed forces, and assisted in the process of detaining those accused of military crimes and surrendering them to the International Criminal Tribunal on Former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

With the restoration of security in the country, the armed forces personnel was gradually downsized, until the SFOR ended their mission at the end of 2004. On 2 December 2004, the main responsibility for peace stabilization in the country was taken by the military mission of the European Union (EU) *Althea*. Aiming at ensuring a smooth transition between the peacekeeping forces and a better coordination with the EU, NATO kept its presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina with its Chief of Staff in Sarajevo.

NATO used military intervention as a last resort in **Kosovo** after a year of escalating violence and persistent disregard from the regime of Belgrade of the UNSC resolution, which called for ceasing the repressions over the Albanian population in the area. After exhausting all available diplomatic means and after the systematic failure of the peace talks, in March 1999 the Alliance decided to launch an air attack against the military and paramilitary structures of the Yugoslav government. The air strikes campaign continued 78 days.

After signing the military agreement between NATO and the Yugoslav command, under a UN mandate, NATO deployed the Kosovo Force - KFOR. They were in charge of preventing the potential risk of renewal of the fire, of disarming the Army for the Liberation of Kosovo, and of supporting the humanitarian operations of the UN mission in Kosovo - UNMIK and other international and non-governmental organisations.

The NATO operation in Kosovo continues at present. The Alliance, in close cooperation with the UNMIK, assists in the building of a safer environment, within which all citizens, regardless of their ethnical origin, can live in peace. That is a difficult and a time-consuming task, but it is important to keep in mind that the civil environment is successfully being rebuilt and the local population is gradually returning to a normal state of living.



The Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the UN Martti Ahtisaari works on his Plan for the status of Kosovo and the negotiations are in a very difficult final stage.

NATO intervened in the **Republic of Macedonia** in August 2001, following the request of the Macedonian President to disarm a group of ethnical Albanians trying to force the government to guarantee more rights to the ethnical Albanian minority. The actions of the Albanian group had put at risk the security and stability of the country. Through a 30-day operation, 3500 NATO soldiers managed to confiscate 4000 weapons. That action helped avoid the escalation of an armed civil conflict and prepared the necessary conditions for reconciliation and restructuring of the country. In the aftermath, the Alliance was asked to keep a small number of armed forces in the Republic of Macedonia to guarantee the protection of the EU and OSCE observers who supervised the implementation of the Framework Peace Draft. The Draft was adopted between representatives of the ethnical Albanian community and the government of the Republic of Macedonia.

In March 2003, the NATO mission was taken on by the EU.

c. NATO in Afghanistan

In August 2003, NATO took over the international security forces in **Afghanistan (ISAF)**, whose role was to assist the interim government in the country in creating a safer environment for the citizens in Kabul and its surroundings. At that moment, the country was trying to rebuild after two decades of civil war, followed by the devastating rule of the Taliban regime, which also gave political shelter to terrorists.

ISAF are international forces under the aegis of the UN, established in December 2001. Their first operation was headed by Great Britain with the participation of other states' contingents, most of which from NATO member states. The leadership of the ISAF-2 was taken by Turkey, and that of ISAF-3 jointly by Germany and the Netherlands. The initial mandate of the forces was limited to operations in Kabul and its surroundings, but after October 2003, following a UNSC Resolution, it was extended to operations outside Kabul.

NATO also agreed to gradually expand its mission outside Kabul through the creation of civil-military Province teams (PRTs) in different provinces and through the provisional deployment of ISAF forces for specific tasks. As early as the end of 2003, the Alliance took command of a German-lead PRT in the province of Cunduz. Up to October 2004, the end of the first phase of the



extension of ISAF, NATO had already built the capacity to influence the security environment in 9 provinces in North Afghanistan.

The second phase of ISAF extension began in February 2005. After its completion, ISAF will practically take responsibility for the security of 50% of Afghanistan's territory.

The NATO Riga summit on 28-29 November 2006 announced the strong commitment to NATO's Afghanistan mission and outlined the Alliance achievements, tasks, and priorities. The NATO Response Force is already a highly ready and operational, technologically advanced, capable of performing missions worldwide across the whole spectrum of operations.

d. NATO's Role in Iraq

During the NAC meeting on 28 June 2004 at the Istanbul Summit, the Heads of States adopted the Iraq Declaration, in which the member states expressed their acknowledgement and full support to the multinational forces in Iraq.



Based on the UN Security Council Resolution N 1546, NATO launched its mission in Iraq (NTM-I). In its core essence, it has no military character. Its main objective is to provide training of the armed forces and security services of the Iraqi state.

NTM-I is a separate operation but is complementary to the overall international efforts in Iraq's reconstruction. At present, the mission's Chief operating structure is deployed in the so-called *Green zone* of Baghdad and the total number of the troupes is expected to reach 1265.

13. NATO's Role in Civil Security

NATO's allies have long been collaborating in the area of civilian planning for emergency situations. In the recent years, this collaboration also involved NATO's partners. NATO has achieved substantial progress in the sphere of resource management for emergency situations.

In order to address the need for a better coordinated Euro-Atlantic capabilities for disaster reaction, in 1998 NATO established in its Headquarters a Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC). The Centre facilitates information gathering and organises hands-on training for reaction to emergency situations, which give practical solutions to simulated natural and man-made disasters.



Examples: The EARDCC took part in the humanitarian aid operations during the refugee crisis in Kosovo. The Centre also achieved sustainable results during the devastating floods in the Ukraine, Romania, Hungary, Albania and the Czech Republic; during the earthquake in Turkey in 1999; during the forest fires in the Republic of Macedonia and Portugal; and in the severe climate conditions in Ukraine and Moldova as well as after the Pakistani earthquake.

14. Cooperation with Other International Organisations

Despite the fact that in their roles the North-Atlantic Alliance, the OSCE, and other intergovernmental organisations differ substantially, in practice their cooperation and mutual support are indispensable, as no organisation works in isolation.



• The United Nations (UN)

After 1949 and until the end of the Cold War, the interaction between the UN and NATO was severely limited, both in scope and content. The events in Europe from the beginning of the 90s, such as the conflict in Former Yugoslavia and the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, changed the status quo considerably.

NATO's foreign ministers officially declared the Alliance's readiness to conduct peacekeeping operations under the aegis of the UN Security Council in December 2002. NATO conducted a review of the measures undertaken both on behalf of individual members and of the Alliance. The organisation stated it was prepared to respond to any further initiatives of the UN Secretary General that sought NATO collaboration in this area.

In 1992, in the context of the escalating conflict in Former Yugoslavia, NATO ships from the Standing Naval Forces in the Mediterranean, assisted by sea patrolling air forces, undertook surveillance operations in the Adriatic Sea to support the implementation of the UN embargo regime on weapons supply to all states of Former Yugoslavia. In November 1992, NATO and the Western European Union (WEU) undertook operations of enforcing the UNSC Resolutions sanctions, which aimed at preventing escalation of the conflict when weapons had been supplied to the region despite the embargo.

After the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords in 1995, NATO and the UN continued their cooperation in Bosnia and Herzegovina within the mandate of the two multinational forces in the country - IFOR and the following mission SFOR.



Another example of cooperation is the Kosovo crisis, where from the beginning of the conflict in 1998 and during its escalation and mitigation, the UN Secretary General and the Secretary General of NATO worked closely together, although UN Resolution on the Kosovo air strikes was not secured.

Outside Former Yugoslavia context, NATO's member-states continued to support the efforts of the UN Security Council and the UN Secretary General in conflict prevention and rule of law restoration. In the early 1998, while enforcing UNSC Resolutions in Iraq and conducting an inspection regime that aimed at discovering and destroying WMD and their construction equipment, NATO called on Iraq to obey the stipulations laid in the resolutions.

At present, NATO and the UN work together in Afghanistan.

On 11 November 2004, the first ever participation of the NATO Secretary General in the UNSC Session took place. The meeting was devoted to Bosnia and Herzegovina. While delivering his speech, NATO's Secretary General, Mr. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer emphasized NATO's importance as a proven medium of dialogue and action, and underscored that NATO was not pursuing the role of a world policeman. According to his statement, the process of enlarging the scope of the Alliance's missions is a precondition for deepening its partnership with the UN.



• **The European Union (EU)**

Between the 1950s and the 1980s, there in fact were no institutional relations between NATO and the European Community (EC).

Through the European Union Treaty, signed in 1991 and enforced in 1993, the EU members agreed on creating Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). The Treaty also included framing common defence policy.

The experience gained through the Balkan crisis in the 1990s gave impetus to the EU states to take concrete measures in security area. The EU accelerated its efforts to form European Defence and Security Policy and to develop corresponding operational capabilities. In the beginning, on behalf of the EU, the security and defence issues were discussed in a separate group within the Western European Union (WEU). At the Helsinki Summit in 1999, the EU states took the decision to develop their own capacity regarding security and defence, and to create the necessary structures for it.

At the NATO summit in Washington in April 1999, NATO's leaders approved the EU's intention to develop security structures. NATO's leadership



also expressed its willingness to propose and implement measures that delegate a considerable part of NATO's military capabilities to EU-lead operations, in which NATO will not be involved. After Helsinki, NATO initiated direct consultations and discussions with the EU regarding prospective cooperation between the two institutions.

Later, NATO and the EU specified new forms of cooperation. In December 2002, NATO and the EU signed a Joint Declaration for strategic partnership. In March, they approved a number of papers concerning cooperation in crisis management, including the *Berlin +* Agreements, according to which NATO resources and capabilities can be used by the Union in EU-lead missions.

Operation *Concordia* in the Republic of Macedonia in 2003 was the first peacekeeping EU-lead mission, carried out under the *Berlin +* Agreements. The EU operation *Althea* is currently being implemented under the same agreements, after *Althea* took over SFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

NATO and the EU work closely together especially in the parallel processes of developing military capabilities in both organisations.

The Alliance and the Union have demonstrated their will to combine efforts against the threat of international terrorism and the proliferation of WMD.



Since 2003, the two organisations have been implementing a coordinated approach towards a Western Balkans development, which proves their shared intentions and determination to stabilize the region.

In order to coordinate their efforts for strategic cooperation in various areas of concern, NATO and the EU organise regular formal and working meetings on different levels.

• **The OSCE**

In its capacity of the single forum uniting all countries in Europe, as well as Canada and the USA, the **Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe** (OSCE) is a key component of the security architecture of the European continent. The OSCE ensures broad framework for cooperation in the fields of human rights, fundamental liberties, democracy, and rule of law, security, and economic development.

Since the founding of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which evolved in OSCE, NATO has actively advocated for its actions. With the Madrid Declaration for Euro-Atlantic Security and Cooperation from



1997, the Heads of State of NATO recognized the OSCE as the most comprehensive organisation for security in Europe. They also underscored its crucial role in guaranteeing peace, stability, and security in the continent, and also stressed on the viability of its principles and commitments as a solid ground for developing collective structures for European security.

The OSCE and NATO worked in close cooperation as part of the international peace-establishing efforts in Former Yugoslavia. In particular, close relations existed between the OSCE and IFOR, later transformed to SFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and between the OSCE and KFOR in Kosovo. For example, IFOR supported the OSCE in the preparation of elections in September 1996. SFOR rendered the same assistance to the OSCE in the process of organising and implementing the municipality elections in 1997.

The Kosovo crisis forced the cooperation between the OSCE and NATO to evolve to a new stage. To this day, KFOR continues to support the OSCE, as well as other international organisations involved in Kosovo, by ensuring the necessary security environment for implementing their tasks on the ground.



One of the Bulgarian OSCE chairmanship priorities in 2004 was precisely to work on strengthening the cooperation between NATO and the OSCE.

15. NATO and the Fight Against Terrorism

On the day following the tragic events in New York and Washington of 11 September 2001, the NAC declared **the terrorist act an attack against all member states**. This was the **first time when Art.5 of the Washington Treaty**, dealing with collective defence, **was ever invoked**.

A year later, at the **Prague Summit**, the allies approved a number of initiatives for strengthening NATO's capabilities to fight against terrorism and to address the new security threats. A Defence Military Concept against terrorism was issued. The member states approved an Action Plan against terrorism, which engaged all the partnering countries and included intelligence sharing and improving the preparedness for a potential attack against the civilian population by nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.

In this regard, NATO approved five defence initiatives against nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. One of the direct results was the establishment in December 2003 of the Multinational Battalion against CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons), whose Chief of Staff resides in Liberetz, the Czech Republic. The battalion, consisting of representatives of 13 member states, is an integral part of NATO's Response Forces.



Apart from that, NATO initiated substantive research in the field of ballistic missile defence, and began investigating ways of reinforcing its capabilities for defence against cyber attacks.

In November 2003, a Terrorist Threat Intelligence Unit was founded at NATO HQ, whose goal was to endorse possibilities for intelligence exchange between the member states. In addition, a mechanism was created to facilitate intelligence sharing on terrorist threats with the partner countries of NATO's EAPC and the Mediterranean Dialogue.

At the **Istanbul** Summit in June 2004, the Heads of State approved a list of measures for the fight against terrorism.

Comprehensive Political Guidance of the Riga Summit in 2006 pointed out that terrorism and spread of weapons of mass destruction are likely to be the principal threats to the Alliance over the next 10 to 15 years.



16. NATO and Russia

NATO has been developing its cooperation with Russia since the beginning of the 1990s. The reason for this partnership is clear: it allows for better resistance to the common security threats. Certainly, Russia's participation is of crucial significance for any comprehensive security system in Europe after the end of the Cold war.

Although the relations with Russia date back to the early 1990s (in 1991, the country is one of the founders of the NACC, and since 1994 has participated in PfP), the fundamentals of the cooperation were laid through the **NATO - Russia Founding Act** signed in Paris on 27 May 1997. That event marked the foundation of the **NATO - Russia Permanent Joint Council (PJC)** as a forum for regular consultations on security issues.

However, the objectives reflected in the Founding Act not entirely implemented within the Joint Council. Meanwhile, the different stands of NATO and Russia regarding the Kosovo crisis, and especially regarding the air campaign conducted by the Alliance in 1999, lead to the one-year break of the Permanent Joint Council Sessions.

The tragic events of 11 September 2001 gave impetus to the relations between the parties. In June the following year, Russia and NATO signed the **Rome Declaration**, through which the existing Council was replaced by a new forum for cooperation - the **NATO - Russia Council (NRC)**. In its very essence,



the Council is an embodiment of the idea for consultations, building of consensus, and taking joint decisions and actions, in the context of which the member states and Russia will collaborate on equal basis.

The NRC deals with all the areas of common interest. To carry out this task, it is assisted by a number of working groups and committees dealing with: the fight against terrorism; non-proliferation of WMD; crisis management; arms control and confidence building; military cooperation; defence reform; civil planning in emergency; scientific cooperation; etc.



The NATO - Russia cooperation is expanding through the years. For example, in December 2004, the parties signed a **Memorandum for Cooperation** and approved an Action Plan against terrorism, according to which Russia agreed to aid NATO's operation *Active Endeavour* in the Mediterranean. In April 2005, the **Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA)** according to the Partnership for Peace was adopted. It provided the necessary legal structure and practically created the capabilities for joint NATO - Russia actions for addressing common security challenges.

17. NATO and Ukraine

The relations between NATO and the Ukraine advanced soon after the independence of the country was declared in 1991. The same year Ukraine joined the NACC, and in 1994 it became the first country of the CIS (Community of Independent States) to accede to PfP. In May of 1997, Ukraine was one of the founders of the EAPC. During the same year, the country signed the **Special Partnership Charter**, through which the bases for cooperation between the country and NATO were formally established and the **NATO - Ukraine Commission (NUC)** was created as a representative body of the established cooperation.

Significant progress in the collaboration was made in November 2002 through the adoption of the **Action Plan** between NATO and the Ukraine. The Plan elaborated a model for active partnership and consultations in various fields: political and economic issues; information issues; military topics; and security and defence matters. The New Action Plan clearly identified the strategic objectives and priorities of the Ukraine on its move towards a fully-fledged integration in the Euro-Atlantic structures. The Plan also determined the strategic scope of the current and future cooperation between NATO and the Ukraine.

In April 2005, a new stage in the NATO - Ukraine relations was initiated. During the informal meeting of the NUC, the Foreign Ministers took a decision to launch an **Intensified Dialogue** on the Ukraine aspirations to NATO membership. Moreover, the Committee approved a document on the measures



for deepening the cooperation and signed an agreement stating Ukraine's contribution to NATO's operation *Active Endeavour*.

18. Why NATO? Main Commitments and Responsibilities

During the accession process, every country undertook a number of responsibilities and commitments:

1. To implement all current political documents and NATO decisions operating at the moment of accession, which include coordinated policies on different issues of the Alliance's activities and competences (the so called political "acquis" of NATO);
2. To be actively involved in the consultation and decision-making processes within the Alliance, working conscientiously toward consensus;
3. To comply with the open door policy of the Alliance, corresponding to art. 10 of the Washington Treaty and the Declarations following the Summits in Madrid, Washington, Prague, and Istanbul;
4. To become a party to the multilateral agreements and protocols agreed upon among the member states;
5. To enforce the broad approach to security underlined in NATO's Strategic Concept;
6. To actively participate in the integrated military structure and the collective defence planning, and to dedicate forces and capabilities for the whole range of the Alliance's missions;
7. To allocate an adequate amount of budget resources for the implementation and enforcement of the commitments, as well as to participate in the collectively financed NATO budgets.

Membership in NATO undoubtedly brings practical benefits to the countries:

All of member countries share viable values of freedom, rule of law, human rights, and entrepreneurship.

In **political aspect**, NATO membership also enables equal participation in the international processes and in the decision-making on important issues, which allows to any member state to promote its national interests in an international context, as well as to partake in matters of critical importance for the security of the country and the region.



The NATO membership has positive effects on EU integration process, as the reforms carried out in the process of NATO accession are an integral part of the EU criteria accomplishment. Furthermore, both organisations share common values and objectives and cooperate on different aspects of security.

Speaking in **military-political terms**, NATO membership is the best available guarantee of national security. It is a precondition and a means towards building modern and equipped armed forces, with capabilities to react adequately and collectively in a case of emergency.

From an **economic point of view**, full membership in the Alliance brings direct and indirect benefits. Security as precondition for economic growth contributes to confidence building in potential foreign investors, trade partners, and tourists, which in return has its impact on increasing job availability and on salary augmentation.

Lastly, NATO itself brings economic opportunities. As part of the programs on jointly funded infrastructure and security equipment, the member states can receive substantial support in the modernization or building of infrastructure and equipment such as airports, communication and information systems, radars, navigation systems, etc. The countries have access to higher standards in military technologies, as well as versatile opportunities for the participation in foreign research institutes and for corporate involvement in projects funded by NATO or implemented jointly with other member states.





AFTERNOTE

NATO is undoubtedly the most efficient modern organisation in security affairs. The key to the Alliance's success lies on the principles and values, it has evolved upon. Under the circumstances of the changing nature of the threats and the shifting security priorities, those values of democracy, respect for human rights and rule of law are in fact the ideals that coalesce the member states.

NATO's strength is rooted in its ability to change, to transform itself to respond to the new asymmetric threats, international terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Given the deterrent and defender role, NATO is the guarantee for its members' national security. Through its open door policy, the Alliance strives to pull efforts with new members, which share the essence of the Euro-Atlantic values. Focusing on partner relations beyond the Euro-Atlantic area, i.e. to the countries of the Mediterranean basin, South Caucuses, Central Asia and the Broader Middle East, NATO demonstrates its determination to act as an organisation, ready and able to take on the responsibilities and the challenges of the contemporary threats and aiming at conflict prevention and pro-active crisis management.

The dynamics of the security environment compels NATO to transform and search the balance between its traditional missions and the new global threats; to provide rapid and flexible military capabilities; to adapt itself to answer its members' demands for more security and stability and thus to act successfully within and outside the Euro-Atlantic area of responsibility. Therefore, today, we can call NATO a regional organisation with global responsibilities.



ANNEXES

The North Atlantic Treaty

Washington D.C. - 4 April 1949

The Parties to this Treaty reaffirm their faith in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and their desire to live in peace with all peoples and all governments.

They are determined to safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilisation of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law.

They seek to promote stability and well-being in the North Atlantic area.

They are resolved to unite their efforts for collective defence and for the preservation of peace and security.

They therefore agree to this North Atlantic Treaty:

Article 1

The Parties undertake, as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, to settle any international dispute in which they may be involved by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered, and to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations.

Article 2

The Parties will contribute toward the further development of peaceful and friendly international relations by strengthening their free institutions, by bringing about a better understanding of the principles upon which these institutions are founded, and by promoting conditions of stability and well-being. They will seek to eliminate conflict in their international economic policies and will encourage economic collaboration between any or all of them.



Article 3

In order more effectively to achieve the objectives of this Treaty, the Parties, separately and jointly, by means of continuous and effective self-help and mutual aid, will maintain and develop their individual and collective capacity to resist armed attack.

Article 4

The Parties will consult together whenever, in the opinion of any of them, the territorial integrity, political independence or security of any of the Parties is threatened.

Article 5

The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all and consequently they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them, in exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defence recognised by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, will assist the Party or Parties so attacked by taking forthwith, individually and in concert with the other Parties, such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area.

Any such armed attack and all measures taken as a result thereof shall immediately be reported to the Security Council. Such measures shall be terminated when the Security Council has taken the measures necessary to restore and maintain international peace and security.

Article 6

For the purpose of Article 5, an armed attack on one or more of the Parties is deemed to include an armed attack:

- on the territory of any of the Parties in Europe or North America, on the Algerian Departments of France, on the territory of or on the Islands under the jurisdiction of any of the Parties in the North Atlantic area north of the Tropic of Cancer;
- on the forces, vessels, or aircraft of any of the Parties, when in or over these territories or any other area in Europe in which occupation forces of any of the Parties were stationed on the date when the Treaty entered into force or the Mediterranean Sea or the North Atlantic area north of the Tropic of Cancer.



Article 7

This Treaty does not affect, and shall not be interpreted as affecting in any way the rights and obligations under the Charter of the Parties which are members of the United Nations, or the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Article 8

Each Party declares that none of the international engagements now in force between it and any other of the Parties or any third State is in conflict with the provisions of this Treaty, and undertakes not to enter into any international engagement in conflict with this Treaty.

Article 9

The Parties hereby establish a Council, on which each of them shall be represented, to consider matters concerning the implementation of this Treaty. The Council shall be so organised as to be able to meet promptly at any time. The Council shall set up such subsidiary bodies as may be necessary; in particular it shall establish immediately a defence committee which shall recommend measures for the implementation of Articles 3 and 5.

Article 10

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. Any State so invited may become a Party to the Treaty by depositing its instrument of accession with the Government of the United States of America. The Government of the United States of America will inform each of the Parties of the deposit of each such instrument of accession.

Article 11

This Treaty shall be ratified and its provisions carried out by the Parties in accordance with their respective constitutional processes. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited as soon as possible with the Government of the United States of America, which will notify all the other signatories of each deposit. The Treaty shall enter into force between the States which have ratified it as soon as the ratifications of the majority of the signatories, including the ratifications of Belgium, Canada, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States, have been deposited and shall come into effect with respect to other States on the date of the deposit of their ratifications.



Article 12

After the Treaty has been in force for ten years, or at any time thereafter, the Parties shall, if any of them so requests, consult together for the purpose of reviewing the Treaty, having regard for the factors then affecting peace and security in the North Atlantic area, including the development of universal as well as regional arrangements under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Article 13

After the Treaty has been in force for twenty years, any Party may cease to be a Party one year after its notice of denunciation has been given to the Government of the United States of America, which will inform the Governments of the other Parties of the deposit of each notice of denunciation.

Article 14

This Treaty, of which the English and French texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of the United States of America. Duly certified copies will be transmitted by that Government to the Governments of other signatories.

NATO in Acronyms

ACO - Allied Command Operations (part of NATO's military structure)

Althea - military mission of the European Union that took command of stabilisation in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2004, NATO mission of SFOR

ATA - the Atlantic Treaty Association - an international non-governmental organisation, established in 1954 by NATO's member states

AWACS - Airborne Warning and Controls System (a highly mobile surveillance system designed to provide a solid air defence system over the entire Euro-Atlantic region)

Berlin Plus Arrangements - approved in May 2003 concerning cooperation with EU, according to which NATO resources and capabilities can be used in EU-lead missions

CBRN - Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Weapons; a Multinational Battalion (13 member states included) against CBRN was established in December 2003, an integral part of NATO Response Force (NRF)

CFSP - Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU; Through the European Union Treaty, signed in Maastricht and in force in 1993, the EU members agreed on creating it

CIMIC - Civil-Military Cooperation, with essential role for crisis management

CIS - Commonwealth of Independent States, founded in December 1991, following the dissolution of the former USSR

CMC - Chairman of the Military Committee (part of NATO's military structure)

DPC - Defence Planning Committee part of NATO's political structure, deals with collective defence issues

EADRCC - Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (established in 1998 at NATO Headquarters)

EAPC - European Atlantic Partnership Council (a council of NATO's Partner Nations), established in 1997, substitute the NACC to open a new stage of trans-atlantic cooperation

EC - the European Community/ the European Communities

EU - European Union

HQ - Headquarters, NATO HQ is situated in Brussels. It is the permanent seat of the North Atlantic Council (NAC)

ICI - Istanbul Cooperation Initiative, launched at the Istanbul Summit in 2004, with the aim to develop security and regional stability and to promote coopera-

tion on a bilateral basis with interested countries in the broader Middle East (Gulf Cooperation Council); complementary initiative to the Mediterranean Dialogue

IFOR - Implementation Force - multinational forces deployed by NATO in Bosnia and Herzegovina under a UN mandate to implement the Dayton Peace Agreement (1992-95), replaced by SFOR in 1996

IS - International Staff at NATO HQ, supports NAC and its subordinated committees in the exercise of their duties

ISAF - International Security Forces in Afghanistan - international forces under the aegis of the UN established in 2001

KFOR - NATO Kosovo Force, deployed under UN Security Council Resolution 1244 mandate of 10 June 1999 to prevent new outbreak of the conflict

MAP - Membership Action Plan, adopted in 1999, comprises concrete steps for the NATO candidate countries

MCG - Mediterranean Cooperation Group - responsible for the Mediterranean Dialogue initiative development (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia)

Mediterranean Dialogue - Forum, launched in 1995 with 7 regional states to contribute to security and stability in the Mediterranean and to achieve a better mutual understanding closer cooperation

NAC - North Atlantic Council (part of NATO's political structure) where representatives from each member state meet regularly. NATO most important body in decision-making

NACC - North Atlantic Cooperation Council, part of the institutionalisation of the Alliance relations with the countries from Central and Eastern Europe. Bulgaria is a founding member. The first meeting of the Council took part in December 1991, at which the *Declaration for Dialogue, Partnership and Cooperation* was adopted

NATO - North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, established in 1949 by signing the Washington Treaty promoting collective defence

NPG - Nuclear Planning Group - part of NATO's political structure; it handles a broad spectrum of political issues related to nuclear policy

NPPA - National Programme for Preparation for Accession to NATO

NRC - NATO - Russia Council, established in 2002 as a new forum for cooperation, tool for consultations, building of consensus and taking of joint decisions and actions, collaborating on equal basis

NRF - NATO Response Force, initiative launched at the Prague Summit in 2002 for military transformation aiming at creating ground, air and naval forces ready to deploy in less than 5 days. The full operability should be enhanced no later than October 2006

NSIP - NATO Security Investment Program

NTM-I - NATO mission in Iraq, based on UN Security Council Resolution 1546

with the main objective to provide training of the armed forces and security personnel of the Iraqi state; it has no military character in its essence

NUC - NATO - Ukraine Commission, created in 1997 as a representative body of the established cooperation, approved within the Special Partnership Charter

OSCE/CSCE - Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Established as Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Helsinki, 1975

PCC - Prague Capabilities Commitment of 2002, NATO allies take individual political commitments to improve and develop their national defence capabilities in a large spectrum of areas.

PfP - Partnership for Peace - an initiative for the enhancement of security and stability throughout Europe adopted at the Brussels summit in 1994. The partner countries from NACC and the members from CSCE, the future OSCE, were invited to join. At present the partner countries are 27

PJC NATO - Russia - Permanent Joint Council, founded in 1997 as forum for regular consultations on security issues, replaced in 2002 by NATO – Russia Council

PRTs - Province Team - NATO civil-military structures in Afghanistan

SACEUR - Supreme Allied Commander Europe (one of NATO's military commands), which headquarters are in Mons, Belgium; in charge of all NATO operations on the ground; Chief of the US European Command

SACLANT - Supreme Allied Commander of the Atlantic - former military command of NATO till the rationalisation of the Alliance command structure, Prague Summit, 2002

SACT - Supreme Allied Command Transformation (one of NATO's military commands) with headquarters in Norfolk, Virginia, USA; with primarily functional role, as he is charge of the transformation process of the Alliance's military capabilities; also Command of the joint U.S. forces

SFOR - Stabilisation Force (in place of the IFOR, 1996-04), NATO mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina to 2004, replaced by the EU-lead operation **Althea**

Sec Gen - Secretary General of NATO is a high-rank international official, appointed by the member states

SOFA - Agreement for the Status of Forces as part of the Partnership for Peace signed in 2005 that regulates joint actions between NATO and Russia for addressing common security challenges

UN - United Nations, established in 1945 in San Francisco by 51 founding states to maintain international peace and security and to develop friendly relations among nations. At present the member countries are 191. Bulgaria joined UN in 1955

UNMIK - United Nations Mission in Kosovo, established in 1999 based on UNSC Resolution 1244

UNSC - United Nations Security Council, the main decision-making body of the UN. Bulgaria was a non-permanent member of the Security Council in the

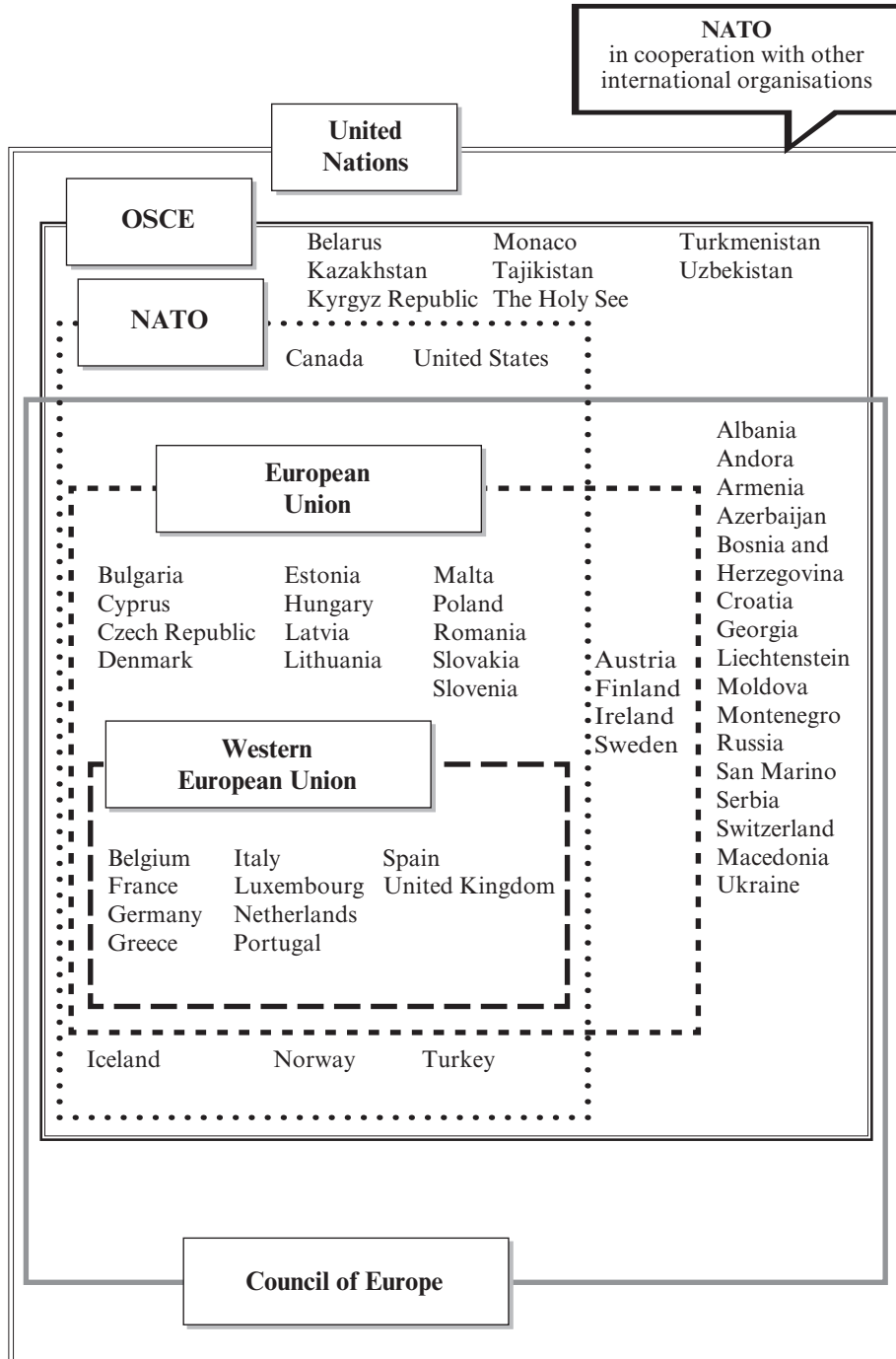


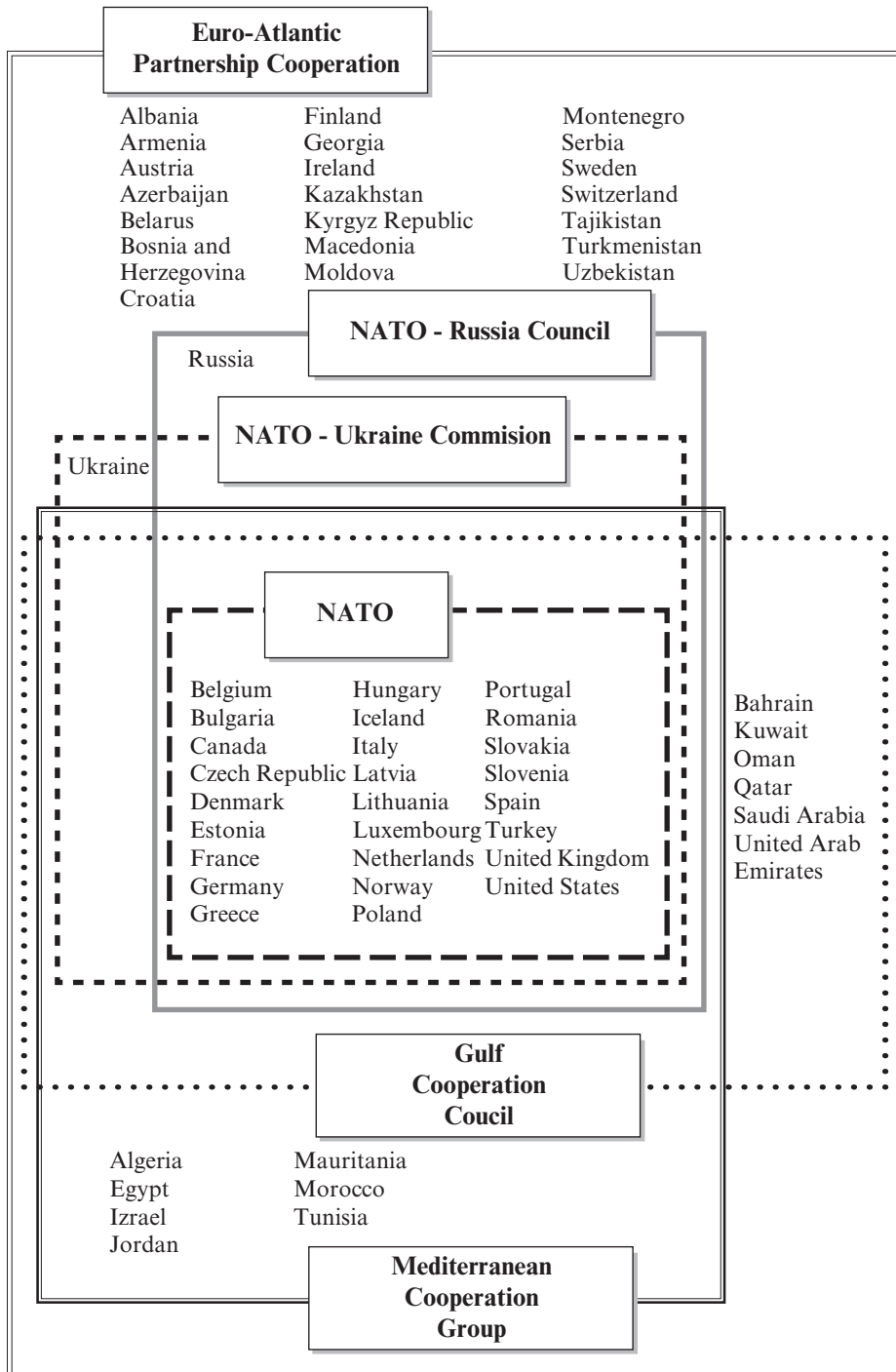
term 2002 - 2004. The Republic of China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America are permanent members of the Security Council and have the right to veto

USSR - Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

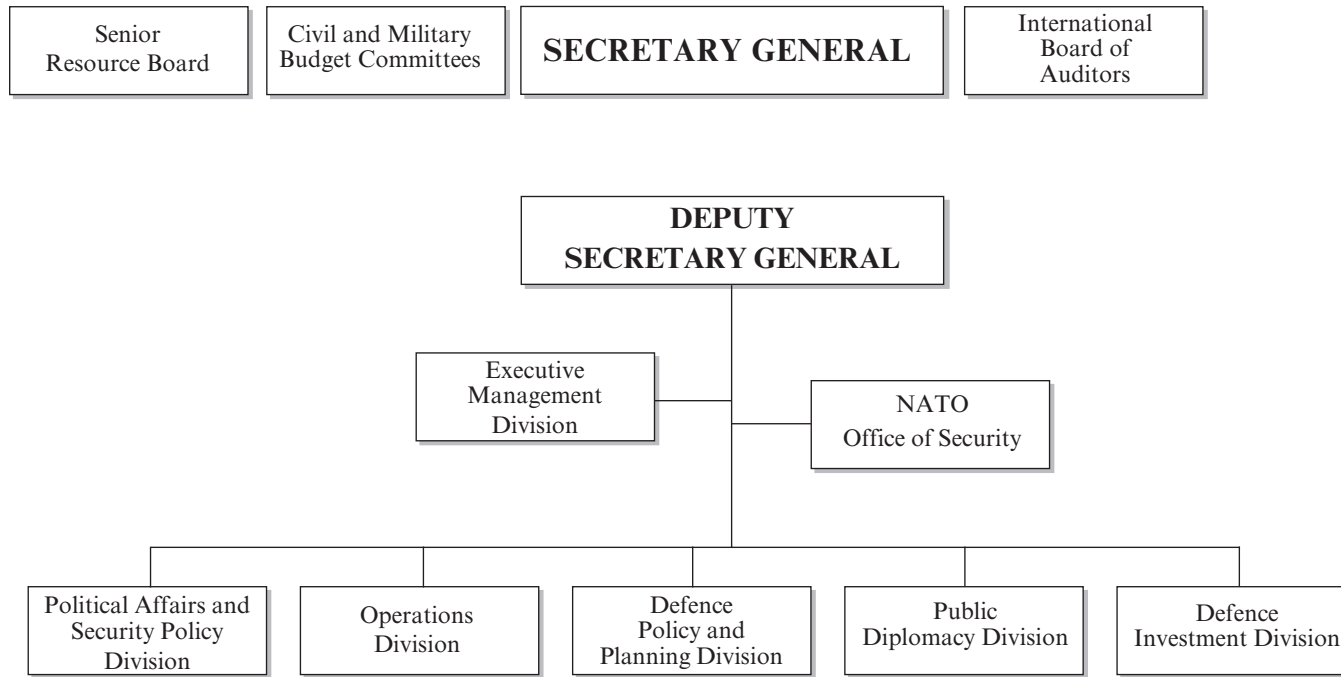
WEU - Western European Union, established as a military organisation by the Treaty of Brussels in 1948. In 1954 the Brussels Pact was amended and thus created the WEU. At present it is an integral part of the EU structures

WMD - Weapons of Mass Destruction





POLITICAL STRUCTURE



CIVIL AND MILITARY STRUCTURE

