



The British American Security Information Council (BASIC), the Institute for Conflict, Cooperation and Security (ICCS) at the University of Birmingham, Kings College London and NATO Watch

The Shadow NATO Summit IV

NATO's 360-degree approach to deterrence and collective defence: over-stretched and under-powered?

9 July 2018

King's College London

War Studies Meeting Room, 6th Floor King's Building
London WC2R 2LS

Overview:

NATO appears to be trying to address security challenges from many different directions. Its agenda includes a more assertive and unpredictable Russia, an arc of instability across the Middle East and North Africa, international terrorism, missile and nuclear weapon proliferation, the threat of cyber-attacks and a continuing mission in Afghanistan. In seeking to maintain an all-round, 360-degree perspective is NATO in danger of losing its way? The alliance of 29 states is not only bound by a pledge of collective defence but has defined itself by a set of common values and a membership composed of human rights-respecting democracies. But can an alliance, originally designed to contain the Soviet Union and ostensibly organised around democratic ideals, endure attacks on democratic governance and the rule of law by a growing subset of its members? In seeking to meet myriad external challenges *and* maintain internal cohesion at a time when core values are fracturing, is NATO over-stretched and under-powered? In advance of the upcoming NATO Summit in Brussels on 11-12 July, this workshop will examine these trends in transatlantic security, nuclear weapons proliferation and the attitudes and assumptions underlying current NATO policy.

DRAFT AGENDA

8:30 – 9:00 **REGISTRATION AND COFFEE**

9:00 – 9:15 **OPENING REMARKS**

Dr. Ian Davis, Director, NATO Watch and Associate Senior Research Fellow SIPRI

9:15 – 10.00 **KEYNOTE AND OVERVIEW OF NATO SUMMIT**

Sir Adam Thomson, Director, European Leadership Network and former UK Permanent Representative to NATO (2014-2016)

10.00 – 11.30 **SESSION I: NATO's current challenges – the sustainability of a '360 degree' approach**

NATO has acquired an expansive agenda, ranging from Afghan stabilisation to deterring Russia; from supporting the anti-ISIS coalition to capacity building in Iraq. But just how sustainable is this 360 degree approach? Has NATO taken on too much and should it concentrate instead on its core business of deterrence and defence? And what are the unique challenges of maintaining NATO cohesion amongst this complex set of threats and Russian attempts to divide the alliance?

Chair: Paul Ingram, Director, British American Security Information Council
Speakers: Dr. Jens Ringsmose, Director of the Institute for Military Operations, Royal Danish Defence College
Dr. Jamie Shea, Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges, NATO
Ms. Shatabhisha Shetty, Deputy Director and Co-Founder, European Leadership Network

11.30 – 11:45 TEA/COFFEE BREAK

11.45 – 13.15 SESSION II: Breaking the stalemate with Russia

Relations between NATO and Russia are at a post-Cold War low. Disagreements between them include the Skripal nerve agent attack in Salisbury, the ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine and annexation of Crimea, doubts about the future of arms control, warfare in Syria and allegations of interference in Western elections. In such times, does NATO need more or less contact with Moscow? How might more effective dialogue on these matters replace the rituals of confrontation? And how can NATO address Russian frustration with enlargement and missile defence?

Chair: Dr. Natasha Kurt, Department of War Studies, King's College London
Speakers: Dr. Tracey German, Defence Studies Department, King's College London
Dr. Ofer Friedman, Research Fellow, Department of War Studies and Director of Operations at the King's Centre for Strategic Communications
Des Browne, former UK Defence Secretary (TBC)

13:15 – 14:00 BUFFET LUNCH

14.00 – 15.30 SESSION III: Transatlanticism and the Trump agenda

President Trump has repeatedly questioned the value of NATO and, like the previous administration, called for more burden-sharing by other members. At the same time, the Administration has increased US funding for European security and defence and allies are increasing their contributions to NATO. Will long-established military ties survive the political friction between Washington and Europe? Who else might step into the leadership vacuum in NATO? Will Europe develop a more coherent defence policy as a hedge to US disengagement?

Chair: Dr. Heather Williams, Defence Studies Department, King's College London
Speakers: Prof. Mark Webber, Head of Government and Society, University of Birmingham and the Institute for Conflict, Cooperation and Security (ICCS)
Dr. Kori Schake, Deputy Director General of the International Institute of Strategic Studies
Prof. Malcolm Chalmers, Deputy Director General, Royal United Services Institute

15:30 – 16:30 SESSION IV: Closing roundtable discussion: What next for NATO?

Chair: Prof. Mark Webber
Speakers: Prof. Paul Schulte, Honorary Professor, Institute for Conflict, Cooperation and Security, University of Birmingham
Dr. Jennifer Medcalf, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Dr. Leslie Vinjamuri, Director, Centre on Conflict, Rights and Justice, SOAS