



B | T | D The Balkan Trust
for Democracy
A PROJECT OF THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND



Balkan Networks and Stability

Connecting co-operative and human security

*Conference organised by
the NATO Defense College Foundation in cooperation with the NATO Defense College, the Central European Initiative and the Balkan Trust for Democracy*

ROME, 6th - 7th April 2017

Venue: *Centro Congressi Roma Eventi -Piazza di Spagna, Via Alibert, 5/a, Rome*

Draft Agenda

FIRST DAY 6TH APRIL 2017

14,00-15,00 Arrival of participants - Registration

15,00 Welcome remarks

- **Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo**, President, NATO Defense College Foundation, Rome
- **František Mišánek**, Dean, NATO Defense College, Rome

SESSION 1 BALKAN POLITICS ON THE RAZOR'S EDGE

After the migrations' shock, the Balkan region has been substantially left to its own in facing enduring challenges: strategic tensions, organized crime, terrorism, potential disintegration and political polarisation. What will be the internal evolution of the countries in the area? How can be the region re-network to increase democratic resilience, regional co-ordination and interaction with international institutions like UN, NATO, EU and OSCE?

Chair: **Miro Kovač**, Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Republic of Croatia

- **Alexis Zepos**, former Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Athens
- **Ivan Vejvoda**, Permanent Fellow, Institute for Human Sciences, Wien
- **Angelina Eichhorst**, Director for Western Europe, Western Balkans and Turkey, European External Action Service, Brussels
- **Savo Kentera**, President, Atlantic Council of Montenegro, Podgorica

General discussion

16,45-17,15 Coffee/Tea break

17,15-18,45

SESSION 2 THE REGION AND ITS NEAR ACTORS

The illegal annexation of Crimea by Russia has added further strain on the Balkans, putting them in the unenviable position of contested zone of influence. What is the real extent of Moscow's activities and how can the region's member states keep a reasonable and sovereign course of integration? Other important external actors?

Chair: **Benoit d'Aboville**, Vice President, Fondation pour la recherche Strategique, Paris

- **Ahmet Evin**, founding dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Sabanci University, Istanbul
- **Jelena Milic**, Director, Center for Euro-Atlantic Studies, Belgrade
- **Solomon Passy**, former Foreign Minister, Sofia
- **Istvan Gyarmati**, President, International Centre for Democratic Transition, Budapest

General Discussion

SECOND DAY 7TH APRIL 2017

10,00-11,30

SESSION 3

SECURITY VERSUS ILLEGAL NETWORKS AND TRAFFICKING

In 1991 the Yugoslav dissolution wars showed to policy makers that security was no more an affair of states and soldiers, but also of militias, criminal networks, small arms proliferation, illegal trafficking and terrorist groups. How can NATO co-operative security and EU collaboration, after the Aegean precedent, be meaningfully developed in the region? Important elements for the revision of the Strategic Concept of Nato

Chair: **Sorin Ducaru**, Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Challenges, NATO HQ, Brussels

- **Louise Shelley**, Director, Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center
Fairfax, Arlington
- **Gordana Delic**, Director, Balkan Trust for Democracy, Belgrade
- **Paul Radu**, Executive Director, Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project,
Bucharest
- **Florian Qehaja**, Executive Director, Kosovar Centre for Security Studies, Pristina

General Discussion

11,30-12,00 Coffee/Tea break

12,00-13,30

SESSION 4

THE PATH TO INTEGRATION

The EU has a regularly updated its enlargement negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia in view of an increased integration. At the same time NATO countries are completing the ratification process for Montenegro, while continuing talks with Bosnia - Herzegovina and FYROM. How can an overall integration dynamic be pursued and carried on with Euro-sceptic electorates and a deterioration of the conditions in the area?

Chair: **Zoran Jolevski**, Minister of Defence, Government of the Republic of Macedonia, Skopje

- **Goran Svilanovic**, Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council, Sarajevo
- **Arian Starova**, President, Atlantic Council, Tirana
- **Brooke Smith-Windsor**, Deputy Head Research Division, NATO Defense College, Rome
- **Dimitrij Rupel**, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ljubljana

General discussion

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Vincenzo Amendola, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy