



FORUM ZA ETNIČKE ODNOSI
FORUM FOR ETHNIC RELATIONS



New Serbia, new NATO – Future Vision for the 21st Century

Since the end of the Cold War, NATO has been in a constant process of transformation, the final result of which is still open to different conclusions, considerations and contemplations. It is likely that NATO will be transformed from a collective military alliance under American leadership, into a global security-political organisation whose primary function will be to facilitate *ad hoc* coalitions, and to develop constructive relationships with its neighbours, particularly Russia – which, in the longer-term perspective, could also become a member of the Alliance. Such *OSCE-isation* of NATO would be compatible with the UN, since NATO would respect the UN Security Council's decisions on the preservation and maintenance of peace.

In which direction this transformation will be undertaken depends upon several circumstances, such as how much stronger the unilateral tendencies of US policy will become and how much weaker European influence in the USA will continue to be. Finally, it will also depend on the future of European security and defence policy and Europe's commitment to more prominently emphasise its ownership over it. It is not to be entirely disregarded, however, that the acronym NATO (No Activity Talking Only, as it was frequently referred to in the 1990s) could in the future acquire an entirely new meaning and dimension - i.e. Now Almost Totally Obsolete.

The NATO of today is most certainly not the same organisation as it was ten years ago, and in ten years time it will not be what it is today, as it is finding itself in a process of transformation from a collective military alliance to an open security community. Accordingly, it is time that Serbia understood that even Serbia itself is not the same as it was a decade ago, and that in ten years time it will become different and hopefully much better than it is now.

Serbia is, in any case, exposed to all global, regional and specific risks and challenges in relation to which it cannot and must not remain neutral. To the extent to which risks and challenges do not know any boundaries, what is necessary is Serbia's integration into collective security systems.

Serbia is a member of NATO's Partnership for Peace Programme and it also aspires towards candidature and, ultimately, full membership in the EU, which assumes respect for the European security and defence policy.

Regardless of Serbia's proclaimed military neutrality – but rather in the light of changes expected within and of NATO – it makes a lot of sense for Serbia to consider the most optimal security concept for the future, which will also include the new content of partnerships, security constellations in the region and the projection of future trends.

At the recent Lisbon Summit, NATO adopted a new Strategic Concept that will serve as the Alliance's roadmap for the next ten years. The new Concept not only reaffirms the Alliance's commitment to collective defence in accordance with Article 5 of the Washington Treaty, but also, in the words of NATO's secretary-general, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, focuses on the development of “modern capabilities to deal with modern threats”. These threats include terrorism, the use of biological, chemical and radiological weapons, nuclear and ballistic missile proliferation, cyber-attacks, and conflicts that could disrupt energy and trade routes. Developing a strategic partnership with Russia is another key element of the Concept.

In-line with these considerations, this conference will endeavour to thoroughly analyse all relevant facts, and through that analysis to at least preliminarily formulate the basic elements of Serbia's vision of its security concept in the contemporary world.

The basic thematic areas that will be discussed during **four panel discussions** are as follows:

- 1) **NATO's new Strategic Concept and the System of Global Security**
- 2) **Security and Defence Politics of the EU and NATO**
- 3) **The Impact of the new Strategic Concept and the European Security and Defence Politics on the “Security Architecture” of Southeastern Europe**
- 4) **The Future Security Concept of Serbia**

