

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Atlantic Club of Bulgaria

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

AHEAD OF THE FUTURE | PREPARING FOR NATO 2030

Date: 13 May 2021; 10:00 (Sofia, Tel Aviv); 09:00 (Brussels); 08:00 (London);

Co-hosts: The Atlantic Club of Bulgaria, Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Bulgaria; M3

Communications Group Inc.

About the event:

Remaining true to our slogan “**Ahead of the Future**”, we continue to engage in charting and analyzing predictable or unforeseen prospects for NATO - until 2030 and the next 30 years in a rapidly changing world.

The event will use recent history as a reference point to suggest solutions to emerging threats or unanticipated risks that could take the humanity by surprise.

PROGRAM

09:50 am Sofia Time START

OPENING REMARKS

09:50 - 10:15

Dr. Solomon Passy, President, The Atlantic Club of Bulgaria

Thorsten Geißler, Head of Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Bulgaria

*Iliana Iotova, Vice-President of the Republic of Bulgaria
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria
Stevo Pendarovski, President of the Republic of North Macedonia*

KEYNOTE ADDRESS + Q&A

10:15 – 10:30

Mircea Geoana, NATO Deputy Secretary-General

EMERGING & DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGIES: HOW TO GET AHEAD OF THE NEW CHALLENGES?

10:35 - 11:35

*Maria Gabriel, EU Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth
Velizar Shalamanov, Chairman of the Board, NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCI),
Member of the Parliament, The Atlantic Club Defence Capabilities Director
Igor Zgrabljic, Google Government Affairs and Public Policy Manager
Irfan Hermani, Deputy Director for Cyber Security, U.K. Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sports
Līga Rozentāle, Microsoft Senior Director and Team Lead for EU Cybersecurity and Emerging threats*

Moderator: Andrey Bachvarov, Director for Digital Transformation, General Manager, Anthill

Q&A

Break

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

11:40 – 11:50

Lord George Robertson, 10th NATO SG

CONNECTIVITY IN THE BLACK SEA REGION - FROM SECURITY TO INFRASTRUCTURE AND DIGITALIZATION

11:50 - 12:45 EET

*Vice-Admiral Mitko Petev, Bulgaria's Representative at NATO Military Committee
H.E. Herro Mustafa, Ambassador of the United States to Bulgaria
Michal Baranowski, Director, The German Marshall Fund Warsaw Office
Amb. Tacan Ildem, NATO ASG for Public Diplomacy (2016-2020)
Amb. Elena Poptodorova, The Atlantic Club Vice-President, 3SI Director*

Q&A

Break

Moderator: Iliya Lingorski, Chief Economist, The Atlantic Club of Bulgaria

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

12:50 – 13:10

Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, 11th NATO SG

CONVERSATION: 5G - ENSURING TECH ADVANCEMENT & SECURITY

13:10 - 14:00

Svetlin Lazarov, Head of Cyber Intelligence & Digital Forensics, General Directorate Combating Organized Crime

Ambassador Christopher Dell, Deputy to the Commander for Civil-Military Activity, U.S. Africa Command
Lyubomir Tulev, Chief Cyber Security Officer, Bulpros
Krassimir Kotsev, CEO, SoCyber

Moderator: Dr. Janet Zaharieva, Board Member at ETNO (European Telecommunications Network Operators' Association)

KEYNOTE VIDEO ADDRESS

14:00 – 14:05

Dr. Javier Solana, 9th NATO SG

Break

DISCUSSION: SPACE – THE LAST FRONTIER

14:10 – 14:55

Amd. Emil Eftimov, Chief of Defence of the Republic of Bulgaria

Rada Popova, Institute for Air Law, Legal counsel, Isar Aerospace Technologies

Bruno Reunayd de Sousa, University of Porto

Yanko Yanev, Chairman of the International Nuclear Energy Academy, Member of the Board of Directors of the Vienna Nuclear Competence Center

Moderator: Gabriela Naplatanova, Reporter, BTV Media Group

Q&A

BRAINSTORMING: BOLD IDEAS FOR THE NEXT 30 YEARS

15:00 – 15:45

Michael J. Murphy, Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State (tbc)

Christopher Skaluba, Atlantic Council of the U.S.

Dr. Solomon Passy, President, The Atlantic Club of Bulgaria

Yossi Vardi, Entrepreneur, Co-Founder of Mirabilis Ltd. and Advisor to the World Bank and Amazon Ltd.

Q&A

Break

CONVERSATION: THINK-TANKS – LABORATORIES FOR INNOVATIVE POLICIES

15:50-:16:30

Jim Townsend, Atlantic Treaty Association President

Theodosis Georgiou, President, The Greek Association for Atlantic & European Cooperation (G.A.A.E.C.)

Dr. Solomon Passy, President, The Atlantic Club of Bulgaria

Moderator: Amb. Elena Poptodorova, Vice-President, The Atlantic Club of Bulgaria

Wrap-Up

16:30

