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2nd NATO Academy and 8th NATO Student Simulation

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Skopje, 2020



DISCUSSING AND DEBATING

MODERN WARFARE
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2nd NATO Academy and 8th NATO Student Simulation

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ABOUT EURO – ATLANTIC COUNCIL OF MACEDONIA

The Euro-Atlantic Council of Macedonia (ATA Macedonia) is a non-governmental organization established in 1997 in Skopje, which in its existence covers specific strategic area for the Republic of North Macedonia such as the Euro-Atlantic integrations and the promotion of the Euro-Atlantic idea and values in our society. ATA Macedonia unites people from diverse national, political, intellectual and business profiles. At the same time, ATA Macedonia has close relations with state institutions such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense, NATO Liaison Office in Skopje, the Cabinet of the President of the Republic of North Macedonia and the Prime Minister of the Republic of North Macedonia, NGOs, foundations, the media, as well as the diplomatic representatives in the country.

In a broader sense, ATA Macedonia through its activities promotes full support of democracy, human rights, civil society and the rule of law in the Republic of North Macedonia. As a member of the Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA) the Euro-Atlantic Council of Macedonia is part of a network of national associations that comprise ATA and as such has constant cooperation within ATA and its members – the national associations, as well as with NATO and EU structures.

The goals of ATA Macedonia are directed at promoting the Euro-Atlantic idea in the Republic of North Macedonia, exchange of knowledge and experiences for the Euro-Atlantic goals and values, cooperation with the Euro-Atlantic councils and associations abroad, working on projects for promotion of the democratic values, security, human rights and raising the public awareness for the issues concerning the complexity of the security and international relations.



MR. ISMET RAMADANI
President of Euro-Atlantic Council of Macedonia

FOREWORD

The Euro-Atlantic Council of Macedonia continues to give its full support and positive contribution to all types of initiatives that lead to wider and deeper cooperation at the institutional and grass-root level, but also in engaging youth and stimulating them to become active participants in our society.

The "NATO ACADEMY 2020" is a second event of this type organized by the Euro – Atlantic Council of Macedonia, after the success of the first ever "SCHOOL OF DEFENCE, SECURITY AND NATO INTEGRATIONS" which EACM carried out from September to December 2018. Both events were organized with the appreciated support of the NATO Public Diplomacy Division, and were part of our commitment to engage and educate young people in North Macedonia. The Academy's goal was to help young people to be acquainted with what NATO implies in terms of its structure, policies and operations, as well as its wider role on the global stage. In addition, they had the opportunity to gain deeper understanding of what the country's membership to NATO means, and learn on subjects such as cybersecurity, energy security, etc. The participants also gained knowledge on current global threats and issues, but also about conflicts and the use of modern warfare, such as the Nagorno – Karabakh conflict.

At the end of the Academy 2020 and during the Simulation, the participants had a chance through practice, to present what they learned so far. The event was highly educational and practical because it allows the students to learn more deeply about the issues of NATO, security and international politics, but also to present their stance through public speaking.

Due to the current situation imposed by the COVID – 19 pandemic, and in accordance with the recommendations from the health and government authorities, the Academy and the Simulation were held online via the ZOOM platform. Even in such circumstances, we have continued the tradition of engaging and educating young people about the Atlanticism.

The youth as a driving force is constantly in the focus of the activities carried out by the Euro-Atlantic Council of Macedonia. They are the bearers of social change and progress, and it is therefore of vital importance to invest in their education and non-formal activities. In this regard, this Academy and Simulation were a step forward of our efforts to encourage young people to be active participants in the political and social processes in our country.



During these uncertain times, with so many fake news and disinformation, NATO Academy 2020 is another very important event by ATA Macedonia, organized very timely, to educate and inform the younger generations.

H.E. Stevo Pendarovski, President of the Republic of North Macedonia



Your invitations are always more than welcome by the NATO Liaison Office in Skopje. Thanks to your Euro – Atlantic Council for organizing this and all previous events, offering a possibility to speak with other distinguished speakers and young professionals.

Col. Zoran Jankovic, Chief of the NATO Liaison Office Skopje



Our appreciated friends from North Macedonia...., it is always a pleasure to participate in your fruitful events especially as it is today, with so many young participants eager to learn more about the Atlanticism.

Dr. Monika Begovic, President of ATA Croatia / Secretary General of ATA



Your events are always a great opportunity for future leaders to discuss global politics, but also to represent the YATA network as a part of the Atlantic Treaty Association.

Ms. Juxina Sotiri Gjoni, YATA President



I am very glad that YATA Macedonia still rocks and makes a difference in the Macedonian space. Especially in such a turbulent and fast times, raising the awareness through discussion and debate is the essence.

Dr. Metodi Hadzi-Janev, Associate Professor of Law at the Military Academy - Skopje and Arizona State University in U.S.



It is always a pleasure to be part of your events as forums for discussion and opportunity for informal learning.

Col. Mitko Bogdanoski, Deputy Dean of the Military Academy - Skopje



What makes ATA Macedonia successful from 1997 is the preparedness to transform their programs and topics as the national and global challenges are changing. In this case, huge thank you for incorporating the women perspective into the topic of cyber security.

Ms. Ljubica Pendarovska, President, Women4Cyber; Data Protection and Ethics Expert



Even though I come from Slovakia, I `ve been working around and walking around Balkans for over 10 years and it was always a pleasure to work with ATA Macedonia

Mr. Jan Cingel, CEO and Founder, Strategic Analyses



For the topic that I deal with today and for which I will speak to you, a topic that I got interested in many years ago, as a president of YATA Macedonia. Having the opportunity to participate in regional and international events, as a representative of ATA Macedonia

MSc Viktor Andonov, Energy Advisor to the Prime Minister of North Macedonia



No matter on which position I am or I was in the past, ATA Macedonia has been always supportive and cooperative concerning the euro-atlantic processes in North Macedonia. That is why, I will also keep supporting and participating in your events.

Dr. Bekim Maksuti, Director of the Protection and Rescue Directorate



I am always glad to work and educate the younger generations, as future leaders of our societies. ATA Macedonia leadership has always been supportive and keen on working with the young students and professionals.

Mr. Ilija Djugumanov, Presidency of ATA Macedonia / Project Director

ACTION OVERVIEW

The main focus of the project action was the realization of NATO Academy and Student Simulation with the goal to make a significant contribution to the education about the integration process and to strengthen the reforms and the legal framework in the field of security and defense in the long run, through educational tools, as well as creating a platform for debate and discussion.

The Academy had highly educational and informative character which enabled students to become acquainted with NATO, security and beyond with international politics. The NATO Academy 2020 covered matters of security, defense and NATO integration issues, the role and functioning of the Army of the Republic of North Macedonia, participation in international missions, gender aspects of defense and topics related to contemporary security threats such as cyber and hybrid threats.

Participants gained high theoretical and practical knowledge in multiple areas such as NATO issues, security, defense and diplomacy; they had the opportunity to listen to lectures on the above-mentioned subjects and to participate in debates and discussions. The successful completion of the Academy was awarded with a Certificate, and the most active participants had the chance to directly participate in the traditional 8th NATO Student Simulation.

The main target group was consisted of young people, both high school and university students, as well as young professionals (18 to 30 years old) with an interest in security issues, international relations and NATO, from the entire territory of the Republic of North Macedonia.

The Academy was officially opened by the President of the Republic of North Macedonia. The lecturers included various profiles and representatives from the Government, NGO sector, academia, etc.

GOALS OF THE ACADEMY

The implementation of the Academy was based on the premises that the young people are important segment of democracy – building, and that the education and knowledge of young people are crucial components in their formation as future leaders.

The Academy was aimed at attaining several specific goals:

- To contribute to the promotion of the membership of the Republic of North Macedonia, and the values of the Alliance by acquainting young people from North Macedonia with the NATO structure, the processes of integration and the importance of NATO membership, now as a member;
- To contribute for the promotion of defense education through networking and cooperation;
- To increase the knowledge regarding international missions, gender aspects of defense and topics related to contemporary security threats such as cyber and hybrid threats.

SELECTION PROCESS

The criteria for participation included Macedonian citizenship, age from 18 to 30 years old, either high school/university students, or young professionals with an interest of security and defence issues. Beside of the common criteria (CV and motivation letter), the participants were required to submit areas of interest/questions that need to be addressed at the Academy in order to gain understanding of their interests and preferences. The candidates were selected on rolling basis.

The official call for applications was published on the ATA website and was distributed on all social media platforms. A strong social media campaign was employed in order to increase interest among youth.

CONTENT OF THE ACADEMY

The NATO 2020 Academy program was of educational and informative character which enabled the participants to become familiar with NATO, security and international politics. The Academy was interactive and it included lecturers from different areas and expertise in order to make theory more interesting to the listeners, since the practical component of the Academy could not be realized due to the COVID – 19 Pandemic.

In addition, the participants of the Academy during these two months had the chance to participate in more than 10 various regional and international side-events from related field, such as: "NATO 2030 Youth Summit", "Conference on Women, Peace and Security in the Norwegian Armed Forces", Workshop on "Increasing Online Literacy of the Youth in North Macedonia", "Discussion during the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Session on YATA & NATO PA", Conference on "NATO 2030 – pandemic as new security challenge in an interconnected world", "ATATalks" Conference on the role of NATO in boosting resilience of societies and fight against disinformation, Conference on "NATO 2030 and fight against disinformation" and the Regional Camp "REACT 2020".





NATO in boosting resilience of societies

Fight against disinformation and cooperation with partners

04 December 2020, 16.00 (4 P.M. CET)

Send an e-mail to secretariat@atahq.org to participate at the event.

David Hobbs

CEO, Atlantic Treaty Association UK, Secretary General Emeritus, NATO Parliamentary Assembly

Prof. Matthew Rhodes

PhD from George Marshall Center for Security Studies

Monika Begovic

PhD, President Atlantic Council of Croatia, Secretary General Atlantic Treaty Association

Moderator

Prof. Jamie Shea

Former Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges, NATO HQ

Live on [zoom](#)



This project is supported by
NATO Public Diplomacy Division



#ATATALKS



OPENING OF THE ACADEMY

OPENING LECTURE WITH H.E. STEVO PENDAROVSKI, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

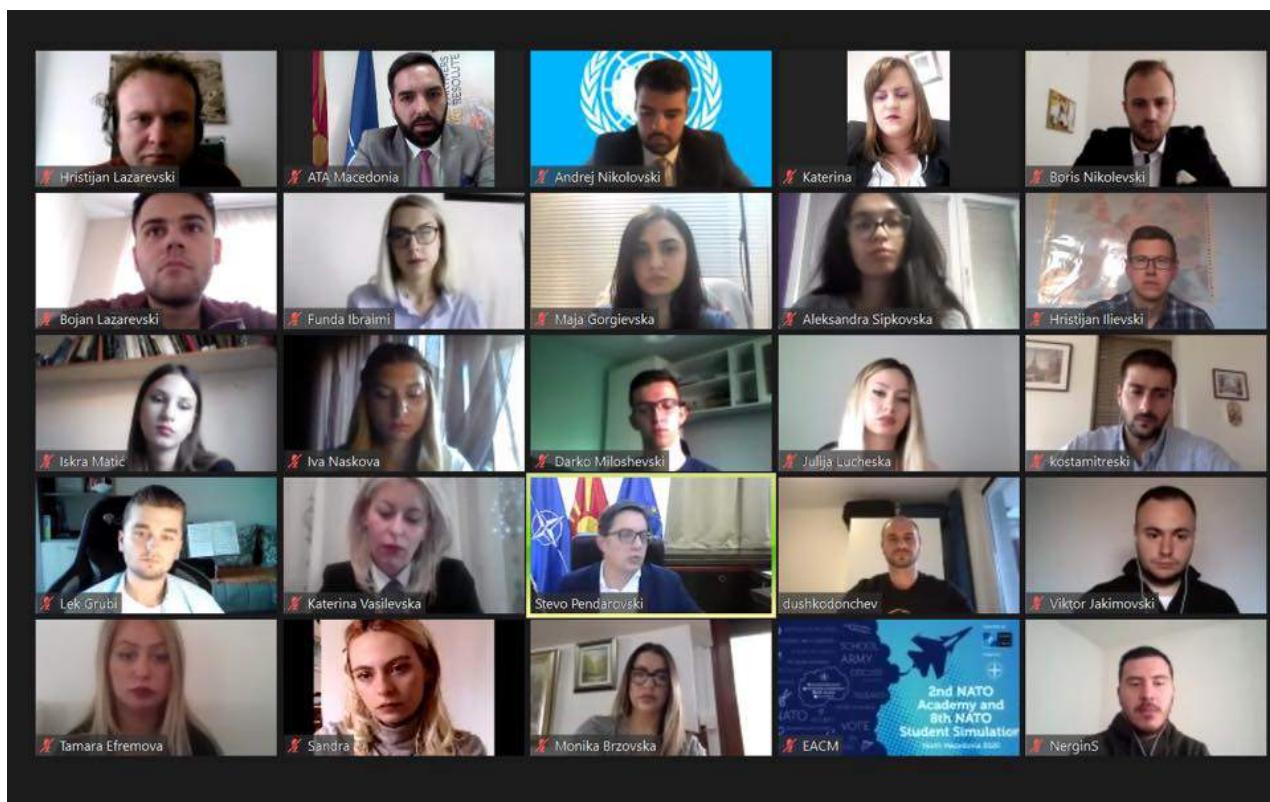
H.E. Stevo Pendarovski, President of the Republic of North Macedonia, officially opened the NATO Academy 2020 with an introductory lecture. The event began with a short introduction to the Academy agenda by Mr. Ilija Djugumanov from the ATA Presidency, after which he announced President Pendarovski who addressed the participants.



Mr. Pendarovski pointed to the fact that the country is a formal NATO member since March 2020, and that it will significantly strengthen its presence both in the military and civil part of the Alliance's Headquarters in Brussels. He spoke about the Army's reforms, all the benefits from the NATO membership and for the committed 2% of the GDP for the Army.

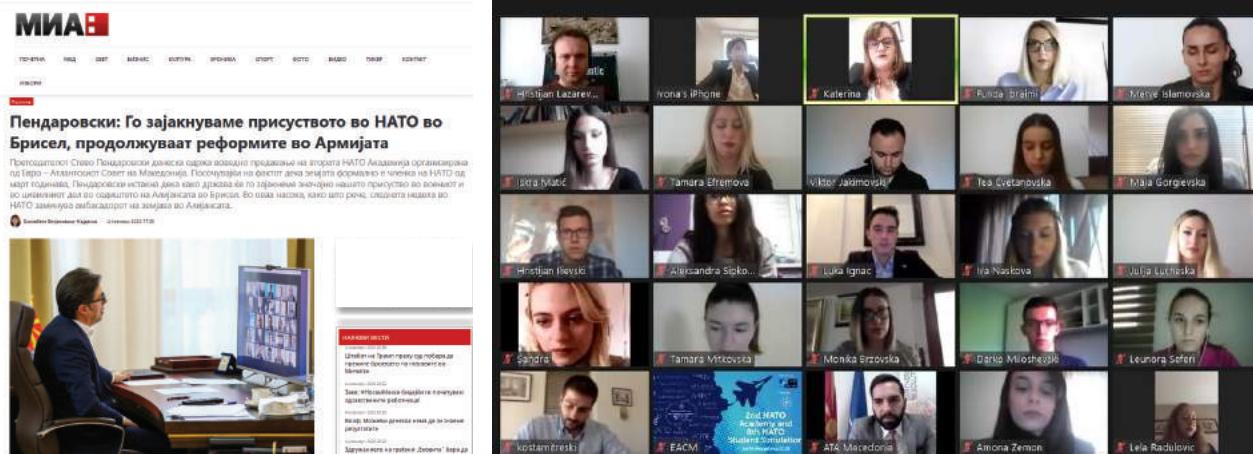


Referring to the involvement of the Army members in the NATO peace missions, Pendarovski pointed out that recently 44 soldiers and military officers left for the Kosovo KFOR mission: "The participation in this concrete mission is especially important for the regional stability and security. I believe that our presence, as a new NATO member country, will contribute towards reaching this goal, since the ultimate goal of the Kosovo KFOR mission is exactly the stability of the whole region", Pendarovski said.



During this lecture, the President Pendarovski also referred to the role of NATO in the prevention and reduction of the consequences of hybrid threats, which pose a new shape of security threats:

"One of the greatest gains from our membership in NATO is the fact that North Macedonia is part of the information exchange mechanism. That mechanism allows the NATO member countries, but also the countries which are not part of the Alliance, to exchange important information between them which are helpful, let us say in some investigation for international terrorism. Some information that are being exchanged can prevent possible attacks. And this is one of the greatest gains from our membership in NATO", President Pendarovski emphasized.

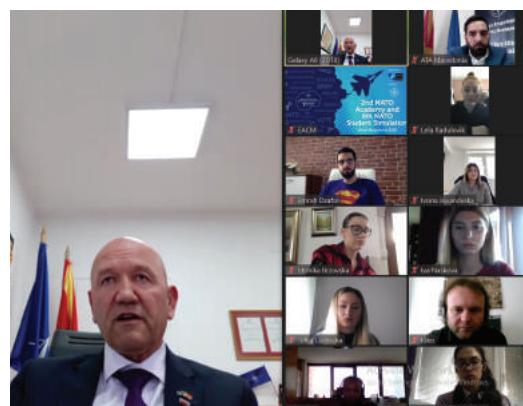


After the official address, NATO Academy participants had the exceptional opportunity for more than hour and a half to discuss and pose questions to the President Pendarovski in more informal and close discussion, related to national and global security, Army and NATO issues.

LECTURE "NATO AND THE ROLE OF THE NATO LIAISON OFFICE IN SKOPJE" WITH COL. ZORAN JANKOVIC, CHIEF OF THE NATO LIAISON OFFICE SKOPJE

 The lecturer on the topic "NATO and the Role of the NATO Liaison Office in Skopje" was Col. Zoran Jankovic, who is Chief of the NATO Liaison Office Skopje, and who acts as the NATO Senior Representative in Skopje, advising and liaising with the National Authorities of the Republic of North Macedonia in accordance with the guidance contained in the Terms of Reference and the mission of NLO Skopje.

The lecture was opened with a brief introductory part with Mr. Ilija Djugumanov, ATA Presidency after which Col. Jankovic greeted the participants and expressed his appreciation of the Euro – Atlantic Council's mission towards NATO integration during the years of its existence.

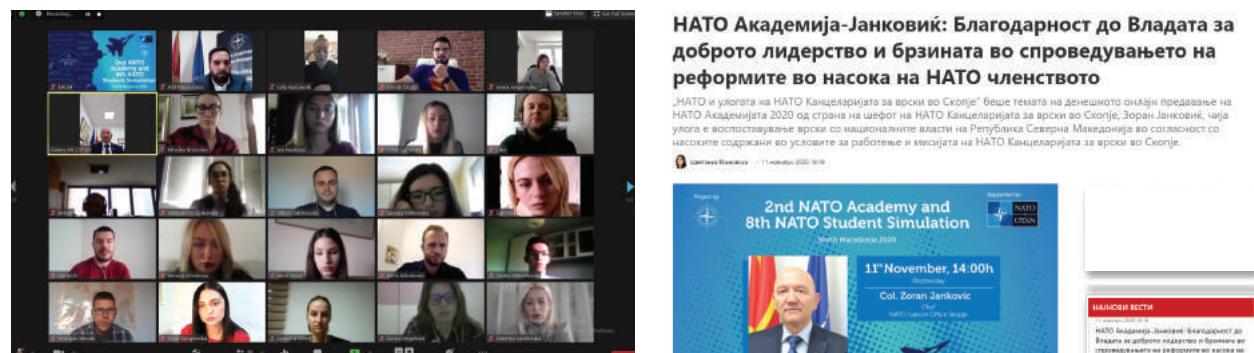


Col. Jankovic covered topics such as the structure of NATO; politics, operations and decision-making within NATO; North Macedonia's membership in NATO. He also mentioned the crucial moments that forced NATO to change its posture, and to reshape accordingly (such as the Cold War, Hungary interventions, the Cuban crisis, the fall of the Berlin Wall, 9/11 and the Annexation of Crimea). He also pointed out that the current COVID – 19 pandemic influenced NATO's approach as an organization, and brought to a closer cooperation with the EU in the fight against it.

Col. Jankovic also pointed out that NATO Liaison Office Skopje's mission is to advise the Host Nation governmental authorities on defense aspects of security sector reforms and NATO membership, in order to contribute to the country's further Euro-Atlantic integration and to provide support to NATO-led operations within the Balkans Joint Area of Operations. The NLO SKO's advice is mostly concentrated towards military and technical issues. Additionally, supporting tasks are a significant part of the mission, especially those benefiting KFOR and other NATO missions in the Balkans.

During his speech, the Chief of the NATO Liaison Office, Col. Jankovic expressed gratitude towards the Institutions of the Government of North Macedonia for their good leadership and timely effort in the implementation of the reforms after the country's NATO accession. Col. Jankovic also emphasized North Macedonia's great contribution so far in NATO missions and operations like the ISAF mission, and more recently the KFOR mission.

The participants showed considerable interest with questions and discussion in the second part of the lecture.



LECTURE ON THE ROLE OF ATA/YATA CONCERNING NATO AND ATLANTICISM AS A VALUE

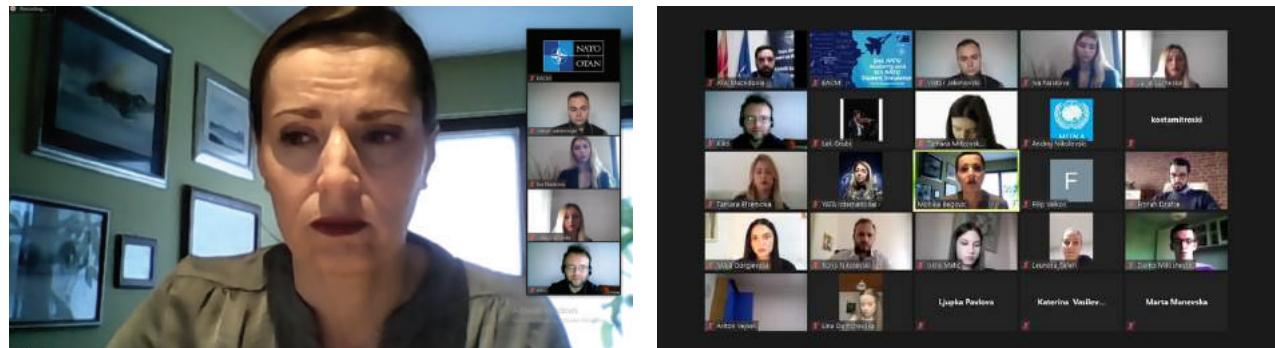
The NATO Academy 2020 lecture on: "The role of ATA/YATA concerning NATO and atlanticism as a value" was held by Dr. Monika Begovic, ATA Secretary General and Ms. Juxhina Sotiri Gjoni, YATA President.

 Mr. Ilija Djugumanov opened the lecture by pointing out that the Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA) is an umbrella – organization which gathers 37 national chapters and since its foundation in 1954, works on promoting the euro – atlantic values on world level through analysis, trainings, education and informative activities related to the international relations and security, which are relevant for NATO. On the other side, the Youth of the Atlantic Treaty Association (YATA) represents the youth component of ATA and includes young professionals, students and researchers, which are interested in the euro – atlantic and international security policies.

 After this introductory part, Dr. Monika Begovic addressed the participants and emphasized the role of the International Organizations and the values such as the human dignity they represent. As she said, it is important for the International Organizations to show that they protect these values, which directly affect human lives. On the other hand, the role of the International NGO's is to promote those values.

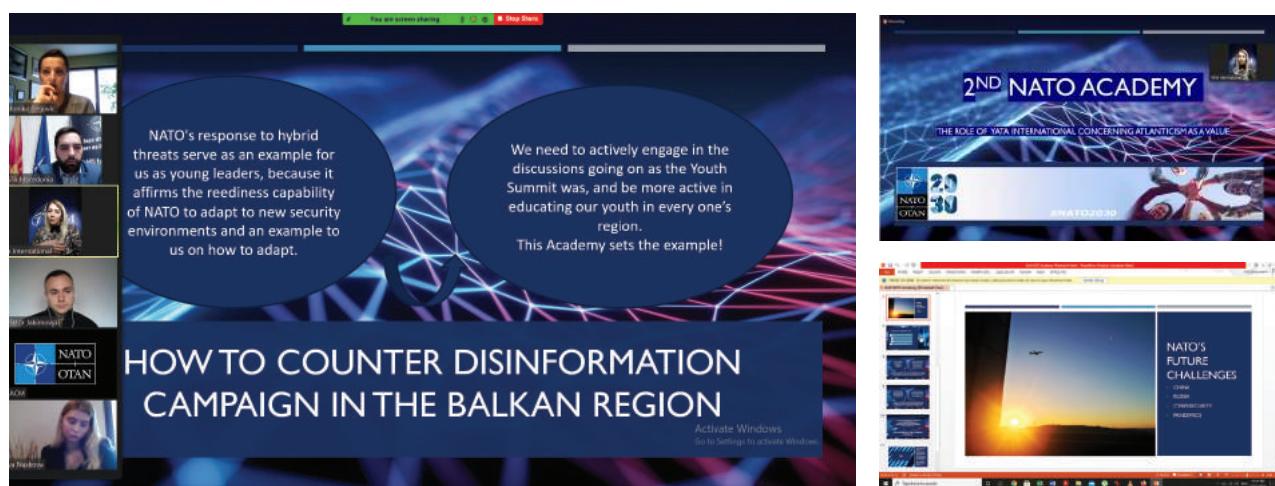
Furthermore, ATA Secretary General, Dr. Begovic addressed the new reality of the world, and NATO's role in it. She pointed that today the security threats are no longer conventional, and that the conditions have changed, which made NATO change its way of tackling those threats.

The threats that the COVID – 19 pandemic brought, once again confirmed that the security alliances, such as NATO are much needed, and that without them, one cannot survive. In line with this, Dr. Begovic quoted NATO Secretary General Mr. Jens Stoltenberg: "When we respond together, our response is more effective.", and she quoted H.E. Angela Merkel, saying: "Future states cannot stand alone".



During her lecture, Ms. Begovic dedicated some attention to the fake news and the problematic media, but also the role of the NGO's in the fight against them: "... today, more than ever we see news titles from some media outlets that are very attractive, but which texts do not correspond with the title, or are based on false information. That is the moment when the NGO sector steps in critically towards the media that share unverified "explosive" news, through fact – checking, sharing the truth etc.

 During the second part of this event, Ms. Juxhina Sotiri Gjoni from Albania, YATA President followed up on the topic on fake news and pointed out that YATA fights the fake news through projects and initiatives for youth education. Furthermore, she gave a brief overview on the new challenges for the Alliance, such as: the economic presence of China, Russia's campaign on disinformation, cybersecurity and of course the COVID – 19 pandemic, and she emphasized that in her opinion, the new NATO2030 Program will have a great contribution in the Alliance's coping with those challenges. In the context of the pandemic, Ms. Gjoni pointed that an action plan that will be also applicable for the possible biological wars is needed. In her opinion, the U.S. and Europe need to give voice to the new leaders, which represent the peace and prosperity that the multiculturalism and the cooperation brought us.



YATA International President emphasized the importance of the Western Balkan countries for NATO. According to her, what the region needs is constant dialogue and communication through which stability and security will be achieved.

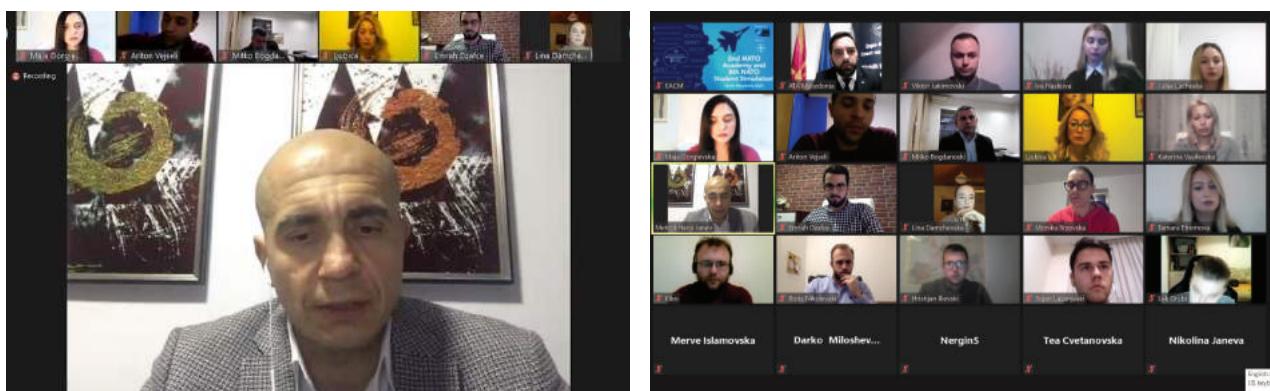
After the lectures, the participants showed great interest through posing questions, and a discussion between them and the lecturers followed.

LECTURE ON CYBERSECURITY AS A GLOBAL ISSUE

The lecturers of the NATO Academy 2020 on the topic "Cyber security as a global problem - different aspects" were:

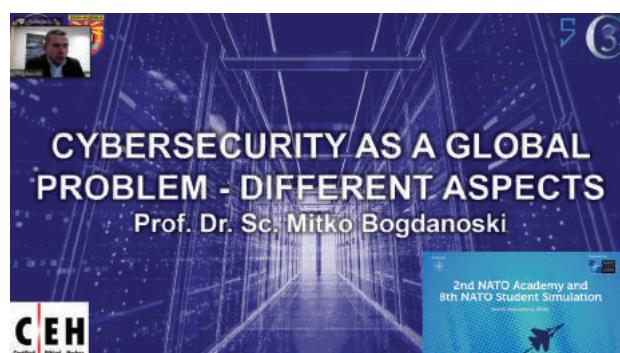
- Dr. Metodi Hadzi-Janev, Associate Professor of Law at the Military Academy - Skopje and Arizona State University in the U.S. within the Center for Emergency Management and Home Security; Vice President of ATA Macedonia;
- Col. Mitko Bogdanoski, Deputy Dean of the Military Academy "General Mihajlo Apostolski" - Skopje; associate at Goce Delchev University and
- Ms. Ljubica Pendarovska, President and Coordinator of the National Chapter, Women4Cyber; Data Protection and Ethics Expert at RePAST Horizon2020.

Dr. Hadzi - Janev started his lecture by emphasizing that cyberspace is changing the world for good, but also for bad, and that the cyber challenges are widespread: from threats to individuals to threats to national security. As he pointed: "... The technological progress is imperative, and therefore appropriate leadership is needed, and the best way to find a balance between threats and benefits is to build a cyber-resilient society. This requires an increase in media and information literacy among young people. These efforts should involve both the public and private sector, local authorities and families. Literally everyone!".



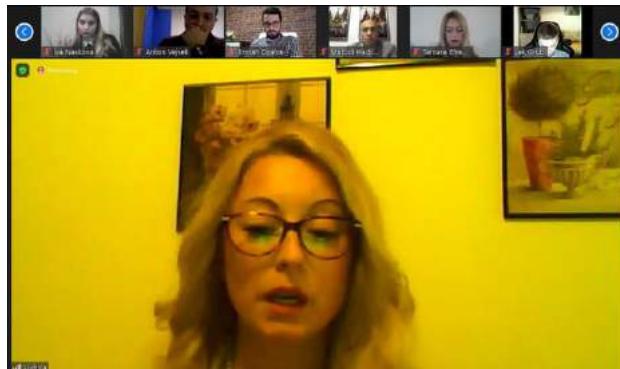
The next lecturer was Col. Mitko Bogdanoski, who referred to today's dependence on electronic devices and the danger of cyber-attacks, which according to him are very probable today, and can most harm society. The Colonel also mentioned that China and Russia want to show that not only can they deal with such cyber-attacks, but that they have the capacity to carry out such attacks, unlike the United States, which does not use cyberspace for these purposes.

He also explained to the participants how technology has changed and is still changing and expanding the battlefield, citing cyberspace as the fifth dimension. In his presentation, Col. Bogdanoski also paid attention to nanotechnology, robotics and artificial intelligence as possible security threats if abused.





 Ms. Ljubica Pendarovska, who has recently been appointed as President and Coordinator of the National Chapter of the newly formed Women4Cyber, used the lecture to officially promote this initiative which is part of the European Cyber Security Organization created by the EU in order to identify and build a register of women professionals in the field of cyber security, but also to fill the gender gap in this key area. Ms. Pendarovska encouraged the participants of this NATO Academy to educate and dedicate themselves to the topic of cyber security and to engage in similar initiatives, emphasizing the inclusion of the fairer sex in these topics as key to a successful fight against cyber-attacks.



ONLINE DISCUSSION WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY, MR. ATTILA MESTERHAZY



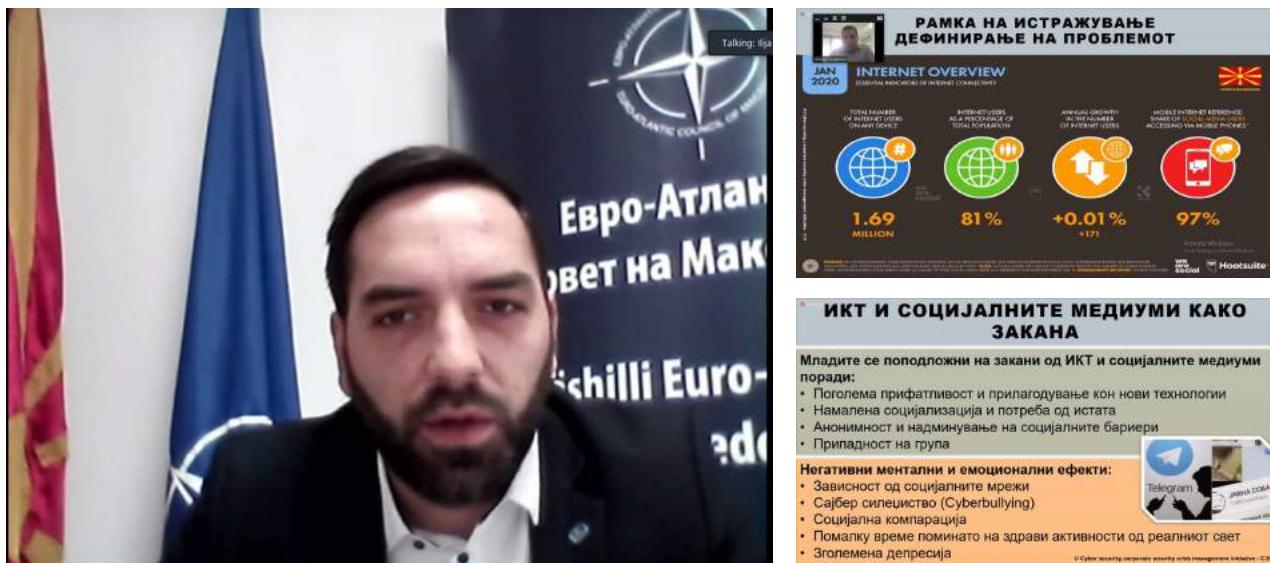
Following the lecture, the participants of the Academy, along with other representatives of YATA Macedonia had the opportunity to attend an online discussion with the President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Mr. Attila Mesterhazy. This discussion with the next generation of Euro-Atlantic leaders focused on the main problems facing the Alliance today, but also in the future, such as: the future of transatlantic relations; the evolution of the strategic rivalry with Russia and its impact on key partners such as Ukraine and Georgia, and the implications of China's growth. The discussion was held on the margins of the three-day session of the 66th NATO Parliamentary Assembly, which was held online this year from November 18th to the 23rd. The session gathered 269 MPs from 30 NATO member states and parliamentary bodies, where NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg addressed the participants.

WORKSHOP: "FOSTERING ONLINE LITERACY EDUCATION AMONG YOUTH IN THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA"

On 20th of November, 2020 as part of the NATO Academy 2020, a virtual workshop was conducted on the subject "Fostering online literacy education among youth in the Republic of North Macedonia" in which around 50 participants/speakers from the relevant public institutions and civil society took part. This workshop was organized in cooperation with the C3I representatives and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Office in Skopje.

Mr. Ilija Djugumanov from ATA Presidency had the opportunity to be a guest speaker from the NGO sector, and a moderator of the Second Panel, while Ms. Dina Arnaut, Social Media Coordinator at EACM was moderating the Third Panel discussion.

Among others, there were representatives from the Government, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, the Ministry of Interior, the Municipality of Veles, Representatives of the media – Nova Makedonija, Representatives of the Parents' Councils – Veles and Representatives of the NGO sector.



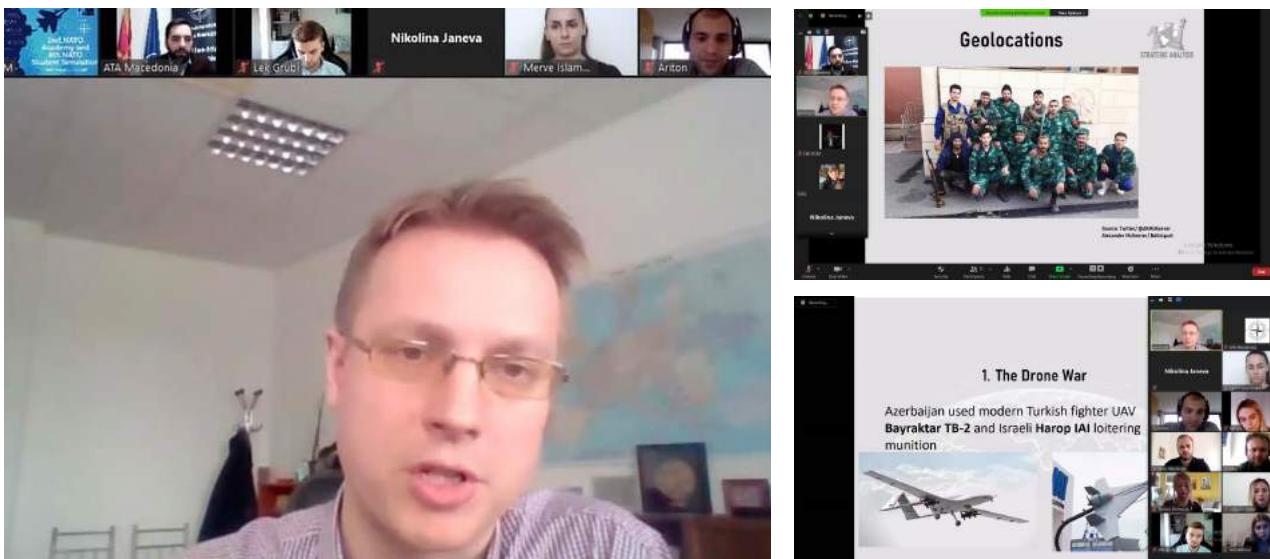
During the workshop, the results of an extensive survey involving over 100 respondents were presented. The main goal of the workshop was to present the results of the research on online literacy among young people in the Republic of North Macedonia; to develop a forum on the dangers that lurk young / high school students through the online space; to recognize the role of state bodies and local authorities, responsible for raising awareness among young people about the need for online literacy as an important segment for combating the dangers of the Internet; to understand the role of the civil society sector in raising awareness of the need for online literacy; to recognize the role of parents and parenting advice in raising awareness of the need for online literacy; to review the views of young high school students on how they can more effectively understand the dangers of the Internet and what methods would be useful in creating online literate youth and to propose a framework and recommendations to key actors in raising awareness among high school students about the dangers of the Internet and literacy, as part of building youth resilient to the dangers of online space in the country.

Students from the NATO Academy 2020 showed considerable interest in this subject. The workshop had a positive feedback from all participants, who rated it as very useful and it resulted with many conclusions and suggestions that will be used in the future workshops.

LECTURE ON THE SECOND WAR OVER NAGORNO – KARABAKH IN THE CONTEXT OF HYBRID WARFARE

"The Second War over Nagorno - Karabakh in the Context of Hybrid Warfare" was the subject on the NATO Academy 2020 lecture held by Mr. Jan Cingel who is the Founder and CEO of the Strategic Analysis. His areas of expertise include: Western Balkans, South Caucasus, radicalization, violent extremism, NATO, and the EU integration related issues and processes.

 Mr. Jan Cingel started his presentation on the subject with a brief geographical and historical explanation on the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. He pointed out that for more than a quarter-century, an international peace initiative has tried and failed to bring a resolution to the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh after the cease-fire in the region in 1994. The Armenian "Velvet revolution" in 2018 led into new leadership and raised hopes that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict could move towards resolution. Those aspirations have been however, diminished. Recently, violence flared up again. As the fighting turned deadly, Armenia declared martial law and general mobilization. Azerbaijan announced a state of war in some regions. EU foreign policy Chief Joseph Borrell called for an immediate cessation of hostilities, de-escalation and for strict observance of the cease-fire, as well as emphasized that the negotiations of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs are needed urgently.



Mr. Cingel also mentioned Russia's major role as Armenia's main ally in this conflict. He asked for the participants opinion if it stroke after the Azerbaijanis accidentally shot down their helicopter, or if it was Russia's longer-planned deal. The CEO of Strategic Analysis also explained Turkey's involvement in this war through Syria's groups that are supported by this country.

Mr. Cingel dedicated quite some time on the disinformation, propaganda and online warfare in this conflict and said that both sides used all tools on information warfare: tens of thousands bots spreading the same message in the form of state – level propaganda to debunking efforts of disinformation or vice versa – denying all accusations from the other side with a goal to dilute the truth and facts in the sea of myths, lies and non-senses, as he said.

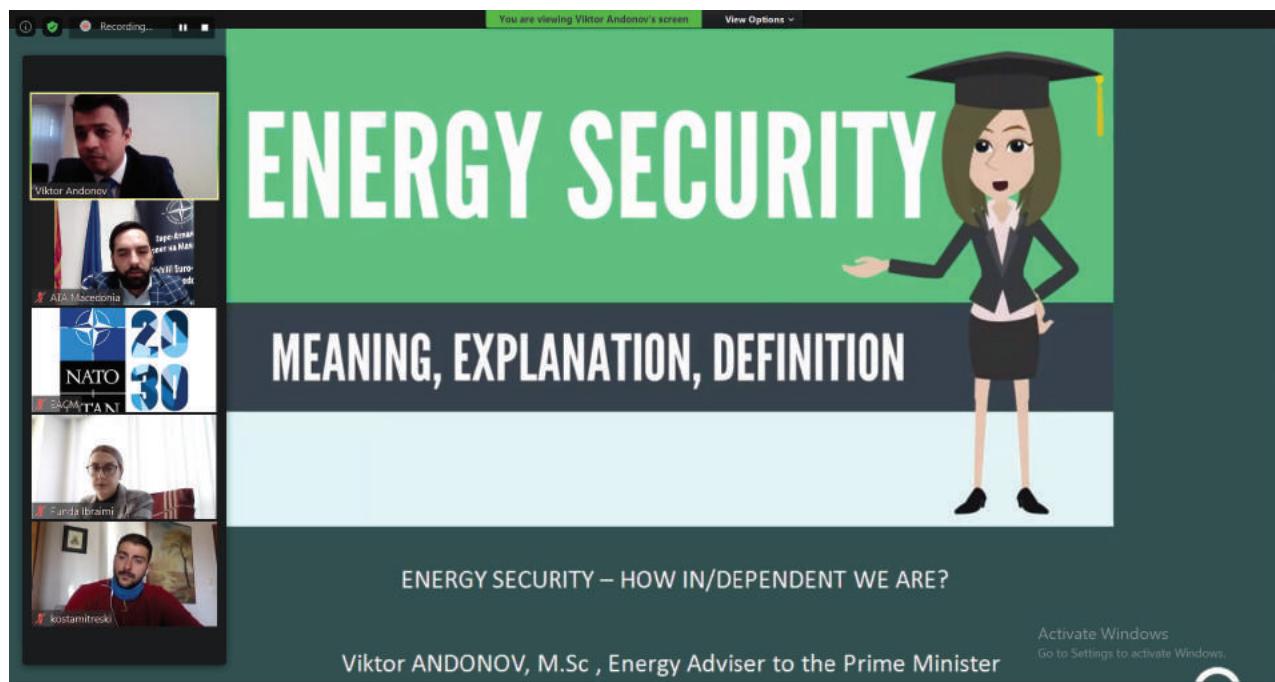


At the end of the lecture, Mr. Cingel gave some information on the use of Cyber Warfare during this war, mostly the use of cyber units or hackers to attack opponent's critical online critical online infrastructure, which resulted in the collapse of number of Azerbaijani government webpages at the beginning of the conflict. On the other hand, Azerbaijan was blocking all social networks except Twitter on its territory.

The participants showed considerable interest in this subject, posed questions and were active in the discussion that took place in the second part of the lecture.

LECTURE ON ENERGY SECURITY: HOW (IN)DEPENDENT ARE WE?

The lecture on the topic: "Energy Security: How (In)dependent are we?" with Mr. Viktor Andonov, Energy Advisor to the Prime Minister of the Republic of North Macedonia and member of ATA Macedonia Presidency was opened by Mr. Ilija Djugumanov from ATA Presidency, after which Mr. Andonov began his presentation by explaining the terms and continued with a brief historical overview of the topic.



Mr. Andonov noted that climate change, globalization, the uncertain future of fossil fuels and energy poverty, among other, have contributed to the vulnerability of critical energy infrastructure in the 21st century, which raises the question of how to protect it, i.e. how to achieve energy security, as defined by the International Energy Agency (IEA) as uninterrupted availability of energy resources at "permissible" prices.

The next topic in the focus of the presentation of Mr. Viktor Andonov was Energy Security in the context of NATO. Thus, he mentioned the NATO Summit in Bucharest in 2008 as a turning point for energy security, a Summit at which the Allies finally identified moving principles and possible options and recommendations for future action that gave the Alliance clearer guidance on this topic. He also spoke about the 2010 Strategic Concept, which created the Energy Security Section of NATO. Finally, at the Brussels Summit in July 2018, the Allies emphasized the importance of energy security as part of our common security.

According to Mr. Andonov, there is a great dependence of NATO and EU members on Russian gas. As he said, one of the main challenges for NATO's energy security is definitely the Nord Stream 2 project, which should directly connect Germany and Russia. As Mr. Andonov stated: "The EU dependence on energy in 2018 was 58%, which means that more than half of its needs are imported outside the Union."

The most imported products are oil derivatives (including crude oil), accounting for 2/3 of the total energy imports, followed by gas (24%) and solid fuels (8%). "The stability of EU supply could be jeopardized if a high percentage of imports is concentrated from several countries, and the EU supplies most of its energy needs from Russia," said Mr. Andonov.

ТОДИТАС РИД ЕКСП ВИДЕО КУЛТУРА ЕКОНОМИ СПОРТ ВОДО ВИДЕО ПОЛЕК ВОЕНД СЛОВАЦИЈА

НАТО Академија- предавање на тема „Енергетска Безбедност: Колку вушност ние сме (не) зависни?

На 26ти ноември 2020, во скопјо на НАТО Академијата 2020 беше одржано предавање на тема: „Безбедност: Колку вушност ние сме (не) зависни?“ со гост Виктор Андонов, Советник за Енергетска Безбедност на Република Северна Македонија и член на Претседателството на АТА Македонија. Поради моменталната ситуација предавањето беше одржано во согласност со препораките од државите и заштитните власти. Се предаваше беше одржано преку платформата ZOOM.

26 ноември 2020 година



НАШИ НОВИ

Пријателите на Енергетска Безбедност од ЕУ ќе имат ваканции за практика во ЕУ

Пријателите на ЕАН ќе имат ваканции за практика во ЕУ

СЕДА: Делови и нововести од секторот на енергетиката

БИОГАЗ: Многу ваканции на ЕУ

The full news article is available only to subscribers at the EU web-sites.

He continued: "The general strategy of the EU refers to moderating energy consumption, building a functioning market for electricity and natural gas, i.e. increasing domestic energy production within the EU."

Finally, Mr. Andonov referred to the situation in the country on this topic and pointed out that the Republic of North Macedonia is a contracting party of the Energy Community and as a candidate for EU membership is ready to follow the European Energy Policy, and undertakes to implement the Directives and EU Regulations on this matter. He also noted that the Republic of North Macedonia is import dependent on energy, i.e. that all quantities of oil derivatives and natural gas are imported, part of solid fuels and significant quantities of electricity, and the total amount of natural gas comes from one point through Bulgaria from Gazprom, Russia. He stressed that the main challenge is to diversify the gas supply, i.e. to provide a second connection point for natural gas from Azerbaijan, through the TAP (Trans Adriatic Pipeline) pipeline that passes through Greece. The implementation of this strategic project will significantly improve energy security in the supply of natural gas, will further reduce electricity consumption due to the transfer of consumers from electricity to natural gas, but will also increase the need for new investments in power plants that will operate on natural gas.

LECTURE ON NATO INTEGRATION AND THE COOPERATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS (PROTECTION AND RESCUE DIRECTORATE)

"NATO Integration and Cooperation with Other Institutions (Directorate for Protection and Rescue)" was the topic of the lecture held by Dr. Bekim Maksuti, Director of the Protection and Rescue Directorate and former Deputy Minister of Defense.



Dr. Maksuti welcomed the initiative of the Euro-Atlantic Council of Macedonia to organize this NATO Academy 2020 and explained the role of the Directorate for Protection and Rescue as an institution whose teams are the first responders in the field when it comes to emergencies that affect the safety of the population .

Dr. Bekim Maksuti pointed out that the Directorate was established by the Law on Protection and Rescue in 2005 and is an independent body of the state administration. He stressed the importance of international co-operation at a time when the number of disasters is growing globally, and the consequences are leaving behind human casualties and huge material damage.



Furthermore, Dr. Maksuti explained the basic purpose and subject of international agreements in the field of protection and rescue, which is the establishment of a legal framework for cooperation in the field of prevention, preparedness, provision and receipt of assistance and elimination of the consequences caused by major disasters. In addition, bilateral agreements provide an opportunity for exchange of knowledge and experience, participation in joint projects, organization of courses, seminars and exercises and encouraging the development of material and technical means and equipment.

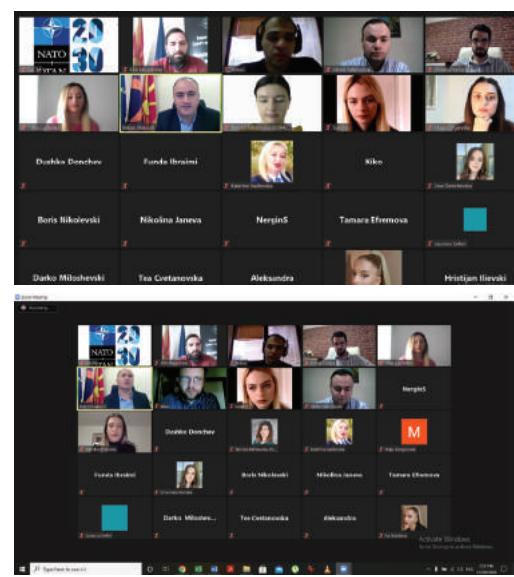
From the aspect of regional cooperation, Dr. Maksuti paid attention to the Initiative for Disaster Preparedness and Prevention for Southeast Europe (DPPI SEE), signed by the Republic of North Macedonia. Today, the Initiative has 13 member states, and partners are international organizations such as the UN, NATO, EU and other relevant international organizations and institutions.

The Directorate for Protection and Rescue, as the bearer of the activities within the single system for protection and rescue from natural disasters and other disasters, actively participates in the work of the CMEP Council for SEE. In 2005, the Directorate for Protection and Rescue chaired this initiative and organized a computer-assisted exercise held in Ohrid, the main purpose of which was to practice the procedures and possibilities of the CMEP Council and NATO for offering and receiving assistance in natural disasters. pointed out Dr. Maksuti.

In this regard, Dr. Bekim Maksuti also paid attention to NATO trainings on protection of the population in case of disasters and stressed the importance of the fact that the NATO mechanism means that each member state makes available forces that can be involved in case of disaster at the request of partner country. He also noted that the Protection and Rescue Directorate has its permanent representatives in the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council.



The screenshot shows a news article from the MIA.BG website. The article is titled "НATO Академија – Предавање на тема „НATO интеграцијата и соработката со други институции“" (NATO Academy – Lecture on the topic "NATO integration and cooperation with other institutions"). It features a photo of a video conference with multiple participants. Below the photo is a sidebar with news headlines in Bulgarian.



After the end of this lecture, the participants showed special interest in the topic by asking questions and a discussion was developed between the Director of the Protection and Rescue Directorate and the participants.

CLOSING OF THE ACADEMY

The NATO 2020 Academy was closed via a ZOOM meeting, where the participants were awarded their online Certificates, and were thanked for their contribution and participation. They also filled out a questionnaire regarding their thoughts on the success and organization of this event.

8TH NATO STUDENT SIMULATION: SECURING THE WORLD IN INSECURE TIMES

THROUGH THE YEARS

In the past several years, the Euro-Atlantic Council of Macedonia has been very active in its work to raise awareness among young people in the Republic of North Macedonia about the importance and essence of NATO. Together with the Youth of EACM (YATA Macedonia), it develops projects which focus on the need for the young people in the country to be introduced to what NATO is, how it works and on promoting the atlantic ideas and values.

2010

FIRST NATO STUDENT SIMULATION



New NATO for the New Era - New Strategic Concept

2011

SECOND NATO STUDENT SIMULATION



NATO Enlargement and Western Balkans

2012

THIRD NATO STUDENT SIMULATION



NATO and Afghanistan: ISAF Mission and beyond

2013

FOURTH NATO STUDENT SIMULATION



NATO and partner countries - future challenges and what to expect?!

2015

FIFTH NATO STUDENT SIMULATION



NATO after the Wales Summit - Challenges and Perspectives

2016



NATO in the eyes of the Warsaw Summit

2018



Macedonia in the eyes of the NATO Brussels Summit

8TH NATO STUDENT SIMULATION: SECURING THE WORLD IN INSECURE TIMES

Following the success of the previous NATO Student Simulations that the Euro-Atlantic Council of Macedonia has organized gathering more than 700 participants/students, this year we continued the tradition with a different setting due to the COVID – 19 pandemic situation. The NATO Student Simulation is the only project of this type in the country, which provides broad participation of students from the Universities in the country studying in the areas of security, international relations and political science. The simulation was conducted as a simulation of a Meeting of Heads of State and Government where the representatives of the NATO members discussed the global issues and challenges the world faces today. Ultimately, the NATO Heads of State and Government adopted a Skopje Summit Declaration in which they outlined the future roles and missions of the Alliance.

It has become a tradition for the Euro – Atlantic Council of Macedonia to organize this kind of event every year, in order to promote the values of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and to bring the youth closer to the global world security issues.

The most active participants from the NATO Academy 2020, had the chance to directly participate in the 8TH NATO Student Simulation.

OPPORTUNITIES

The NATO Student Simulation is a project of the Euro-Atlantic Council of Macedonia/YATA Macedonia through which the students from Universities in the Republic of North Macedonia who study law, political science, security and international relations, have an opportunity to see closely the manner in which NATO functions, the process of decision-making, what are the goals of the Alliance and its missions.

With a combination of analysis, debates, negotiations and adoption of a Declaration, the students learned and understood the way NATO works and contributes to the discussion on very important global topics.

The simulation gave the students opportunity to learn more about NATO, about its history and role, missions. Furthermore, the students had a unique chance to enhance their negotiation skills and behave like in real life politics, debate, compromise and make decisions

SELECTION AND PREPARATION

The criteria for participation encompassed Macedonian citizens aged 18 to 30 years, either students enrolled in one of the public or private universities in the country or young professionals with an interest and knowledge of security issues, international relations and NATO.

The Euro-Atlantic Council of Macedonia coordinated the universities in the country for the opportunity of the students to come and take part in the simulation. The opportunities were open for all students that study in the field of security, international relations, international organizations, diplomacy and law.

Official call for submitting applications was published on ATA website. In addition, ATA Macedonia engaged in strong social media campaign in order to boost interest about the opportunity among youth. Promotional pictures and videos were made in order to enhance the public interest about the event.

In the anticipation of the 8th NATO Student Simulation on topic "Securing the World in Insecure Times", ATA/YATA Macedonia organized an info briefing via the online platform ZOOM in order to acquaint the participants of the student simulation with their tasks and to assign their roles. Among other things, the principles of the operation of the simulation were explained, the experiences of the previous simulations, and the importance of participating in this practical event of great educational character. Adequate materials for preparation (such as Social Media Guidelines, ZOOM Guidelines, brochures and booklets in digital form) were shared.

Rank	Country	Rank	Country	Rank	Country	Rank	Country
1	Belgium	8	Netherlands	15	United States	22	Lithuania
2	Canada	9	Norway	16	Turkey	23	Romania
3	Denmark	10	MIA	17	Germany	24	31
4	Iceland	11	Portugal	18	CNN	25	32
5	Italy	12	United Kingdom	19	Spain	26	Croatia
6	Luxemburg	13	European Union	20	Czech Republic	27	Albania
7		14		21	Hungary	28	Montenegro
							35

Among the initial deliverables were the learning materials and the promotional videos. In addition, 35 young people learned about NATO and how NATO summits look like. They also exercised public speaking and improved their skills.

Students from more than 12 faculties showed their interest for participation. The selected participants were students from different universities including Faculty of Law –Iustinianus Primus, Faculty of Economics, FON University, Faculty of Philosophy, Faculty of Security, Tetovo State University, School of Journalism and Public Relations, Military Academy etc. There were also Macedonian students, studding at some of the most prestige universities outside of the country.

THE EVENT

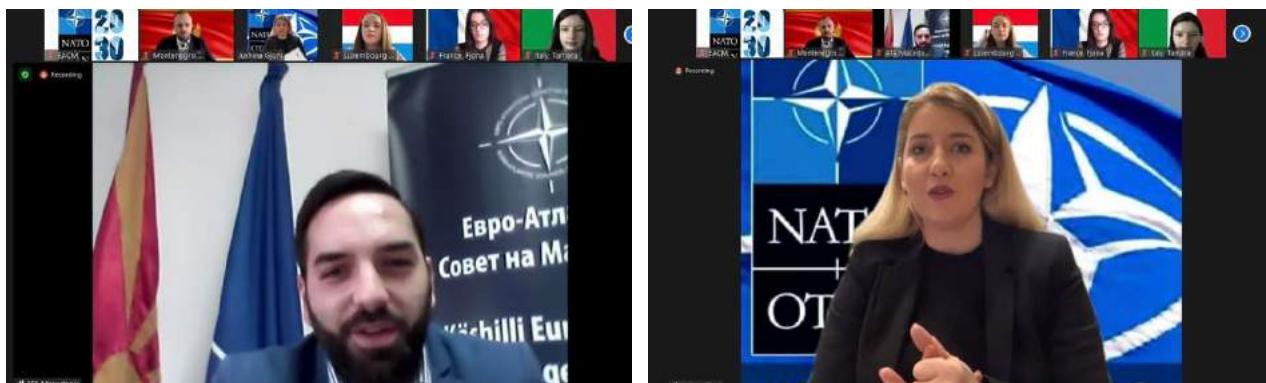
At this youth event, students and young professionals simulated a NATO Alliance Summit, taking on the roles of Heads of State and Government, representatives of partner organizations (EU and UN) and media representatives (CNN, MTV and Al Jezeera Balkans).

The event was highly educational because it enabled the participants to dive deeper in the issues related to NATO, security and international politics, this time with the focus on topics such as: Russia's military buildup, the new NATO 2030 Concept, the rise of China on the world stage, unconventional security threats, the challenges opposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and other global challenges and threats.



The participants of the simulation included students and young professionals, who were appropriately prepared to represent NATO member states, international organizations and media. For the first time, this simulation officially presented the Republic of North Macedonia as the thirtieth member of the Alliance and as a host country of the Summit.

The simulation was opened by Mr. Ilija Djugumanov, President of the Youth of the Euro-Atlantic Council (YATA Macedonia), and in the role of the NATO Secretary General was Ms. Juxhina Sotiri Gjoni, President of the World YATA from Brussels.



After the speeches, according to NATO rules, the participants showed special interest, discussed, debated and agreed on the adoption of the Declaration from the Skopje Summit, which contained the future steps of the Alliance in relation to the challenges it faces.

The NATO Simulation included 35 young participants (students and young professionals) from several countries around the world, and was held through the ZOOM platform, in accordance with the recommendations.

SPEECHES



MS. JUXHINA SOTIRI GJONI,
NATO SECRETARY GENERAL

Ladies and gentleman, honorable colleagues,

It is great to see you today, for the NATO Summit in Skopje. Since the last NATO Summit, many things have changed. The World has changed!

We have faced with the pandemic of COVID-19 and none of the countries, left untouched. However, from other side, NATO Allies and partners, has been helping in many ways during the pandemic, delivering needed supplies, building hospital with the armies, etc. NATO main responsibility is this health crisis, not to become security crisis. NATO is adapting, and it is adapting fast. We are military Alliance, but we are more strong politically. NATO new approach is a global approach. So that is why, beside the pandemic, today we will discuss the Alliance priorities and possibilities for 2030.

Looking forward for a great debate and strong decisions for the next 10 years.



MS. JULIJA LUCHESKA,
EUROPEAN UNION

Both NATO and the EU play complementary and mutually reinforcing roles in supporting international peace and security. Today's challenges are no longer limited to the military sphere and fighting terrorism, but they also include information, technological, economic and climate domains, coordination on foreign policy issues, including 5G and cooperation with China. These significant issues require solid joint approach which will contribute to Europe's collective security.



MR. ANDREJ NIKOLOVSKI,
UNITED NATIONS

Practical cooperation between NATO and the UN extends beyond operations to include: crisis assessment and management, civil-military cooperation, training and education, tackling corruption in the defence sector, mine action, mitigating the threat posed by improvised explosive devices, civilian capabilities, promoting the role of women in peace and security, the protection of civilians, including children, in armed conflict, combating sexual and gender-based violence, arms control and non-proliferation, and the fight against terrorism.



MS. RENATA PENCHOVA,
ALBANIA

Albania's interest, willingness and prospects were officially treated and confirmed to meet the political, legal and military commitments of NATO membership. One of Albania's important responsibilities in NATO is its concern to contribute to transforming the problematic Balkan region into a region of peace, democracy, stability and prosperity. We believe that we will be able to further improve the overall peace and security climate and serve our citizens better.

NATO has to transform and adapt to the new realities and face the challenges of the new era that is coming, as the world is changing quickly and in several years it will be very different from what it is now. Belgium is a strong supporter of the NATO2030 strategy. We see it as an useful tool to strengthen and prepare our alliance for the next decade with the focus on many important points.



MR. HRISTIJAN ILEVSKI
BELGIUM

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how the security environment is ever-changing, and has revealed some actors exploiting the crisis to their advantages. The NATO2030 initiative makes use of the opportunity for self-reflection provided by the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal of this initiative is to make the Alliance, and its member states more prepared for new threats and challenges. This reflection and mapping process will increase the Alliance's political effectiveness by identifying areas in which areas NATO could be more involved in future.



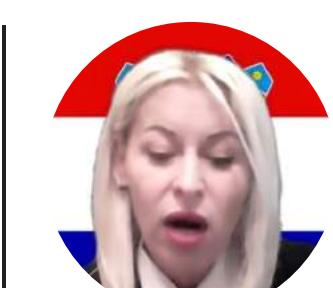
MS. AMRA ZENELI,
BULGARIA

NATO and its member countries must remain vigilant in responding and adapting to new threats and rapid changes in the international security environment. In recent years, the resurgence of Russia as an aggressive and revisionist military power, for example, has prompted NATO's largest reinforcement of collective defense and deterrence since the end of the Cold War. At the same time, the persistent threat from transnational terrorist groups has compelled NATO to enhance its efforts to project stability in conflict-prone regions throughout the Middle East and North Africa region.



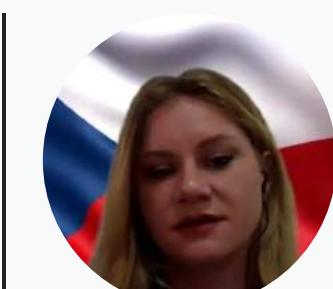
MR. MARKO PALOSKI,
CANADA

The Western Balkans is perhaps the most vulnerable. That is why we need protection and more security measures to ensure greater security of our systems. NATO provides this protection and that is why we must work on collective cyber security systems that will ensure the stability of all Western Balkan countries, as this is an important part of the Western Balkan countries' agenda on their path to European integration. We all need to work on collective defense of our cyberspace. In this way, we provide a better future for all Balkan countries and their citizens to live more safe and to keep the peace in Balkan.



MS. KATERINA VASILEVSKA
CROATIA

The main goal to all countries must be world peace and security. The countries need to aim to stay on the path of the security and freedom, freedom of speech and build security and peace in the entire world. They need to break away from the past and stay on the path of reform and reconciliations. All together we can turn an important page in history.



MS. BLERINA POLLOZHANI,
CZECH REPUBLIC



MR. KLAIV BALLIU,
DENMARK

As of today, we are all facing a challenge which has changed our lives in ways we couldn't have imaged. Covid-19 has created a global pandemic crisis and we are all committed to fight it, but at the same time, we must remain active in the matters of security, so we won't allow another crisis to spiral out of control. Widespread misinformation as well as cyber-attacks happened during this period show us that a moment of negligence can cost a lot in the future.



MS. LEONITA POPOVSKA,
ESTONIA

Future NATO must be focused on extending the alliance, which would mean stronger security. The protection that this alliance produces is as vital for the future as it ever was, so the alliance must now evolve and refocus on the new capabilities to keep our people safe. Every country in NATO plays its role, despite the size of our country we can proudly say that there are fields like cyber defense where the size of the country does not matter.



MS. FJONA REQICA,
FRANCE

Another priority for NATO should be the refugees and its plan to prevent international migration that is driven by political violence, armed conflict and state repression. In today's conflicts, civilians are targeted by the fighting parties and the international humanitarian laws are being violated. We should work on finding better system on how to reduce the number of refugees and migrants through peaceful actions instead of inhuman measures of detention, family separations or deportation.



MS. ZORICA ANGELOVA,
GERMANY

NATO is determined to keep its cutting edge in all domains - land, sea, air, cyber, and space. In that direction goes the decision to establish a new NATO Space Centre at Allied Air Command in Ramstein, Germany. The interconnection existing between strong militaries and resilient societies is crucial. To this end, NATO is playing an important role, including by setting minimum resilience standards for Allies, and we can all agree that we need to strengthen Allied resilience pledge.



MS. LJUPKA PAVLOVA,
GREECE

Greece will not cease to promote within NATO the shaping of a more functional relationship between the Alliance and the European Union as the latter's Common Security and Defence Policy develops further, the strengthening of NATO-UN dialogue and cooperation, and the endeavor of consolidating stability in the Alliance's southern wing through the establishment of a more constructive partnership between the Alliance and the countries of the Middle East and North Africa.

Every effort must be made to ensure that NATO remains the most successful and powerful defense alliance in world history. Especially as new technologies used by terrorist organizations bring a new dimension to our security challenges, we have to adapt and be more prepared. For that reason, Hungary has set as a goal to increase defense spending to 2% of GDP by 2024, as well as use 20% of its spending on military development.



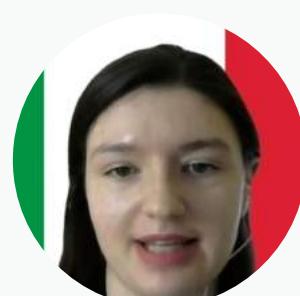
MS. MATEA SHOSHKIK,
HUNGARY

We need to find the balance between being firm, showing strength and unity, but at the same time, work for dialogue with Russia. In addition, the NATO approach, when it comes to Russia, is the combination of defense, deterrence and dialogue. For us, there is no contradiction between deterrence, defense and dialogue. Actually, we believe that as long as we are strong, as long as we are united, we can also engage in dialogue with Russia, partly to try to improve the relationship with Russia, and to try to reduce tensions.



MR. DUSKO DONCEV,
ICELAND

We are currently facing a power shift with the rise of China. Its rise presents an important opportunity for our economies and trade and we need to engage with China on issues such as arms control and climate change. But, there are also important challenges to our security such as China's investments in new weapons which is a potential threat.



MS. TAMARA MITKOVSKA,
ITALY

The main cyber threat to NATO and EU members are the activities conducted by the Russian and Chinese special services. Even though Russia should clearly be regarded as the main threat to Latvia's national security, other countries can also harm Latvia by posing a threat to the collective security or national interests of our allies. We are very fortunate & grateful for the cooperation and support that the NATO alliance has shown us throughout the years and it is our highest priority to maintain a stable relationship with the alliance.



MS. ISKRA MATIC,
LATVIA

Ongoing malicious use of Russian and Chinese cyber capabilities is being observed in Lithuanian cyberspace. The biggest threat to the security of our information systems, and the information stored in them, is the cyber espionage of the Russian intelligence services. The development of 5G technology without sufficient focus on the trustworthiness of the IT service or product provider may become a new risk factor. In order to regain its global power status, Russia attempts to discredit Western policies in geopolitically important regions and expand its influence there.



MR. ELMIR IMAMALIYEV,
LITHUANIA



MS. LINA DAMCEVSKA,
LUXEMBURG

Although prioritizing defense in the middle of a global pandemic is not easy, we shouldn't neglect that the threats that existed before this health crisis have not diminished. Nevertheless, as long as we stand together preserving our fundamental principles, no one can hope to defeat us. This means invoking Article 5, meaning that an attack against one of us is an attack against all of us.



MR. BORIS NIKOLEVSKI,
MONTENEGRO

We suggest that every country should oblige to make efforts by the next NATO Ministerial meeting to present acceptable proposals for its military institutions to work more synchronized with the civilian institutions in keeping security of our vital infrastructure and public health of the citizens, at the same time not undermining their civil liberties and having the basic human rights as a top priority.



MS. SANDRA PECEVA,
NETHERLANDS

Provided NATO stays cautious, the prospect of direct military attack across the borders of the Alliance is slight, at least for the foreseeable future. We have learned, however, that in our era less conventional threats to the Alliance could arise from afar and still affect security at home. These dangers include attacks involving weapons of mass destruction, terrorist strikes, and efforts to harm society through cyber assaults or the unlawful disruption of critical supply lines.



MR. DARKO MILOSEVSKI,
NORTH MACEDONIA

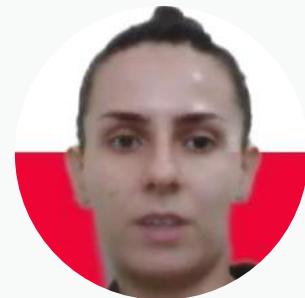
The Government of the Republic of North Macedonia will adopt a new approach to financing security and defense. The focus will be put on development of deployable and sustainable capabilities. Following the Long-term Defense Development Plan, we will increase defense spending to 2.3-2.6% of GDP. The amounts will be allocated successively, in accordance with the economic power and progress of the country in the following period.



MR. VIKTOR JAKIMOVSKI,
NORWAY

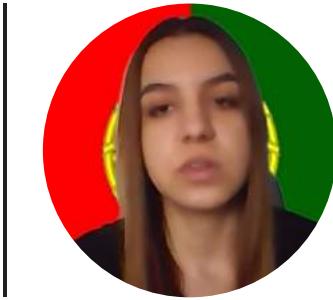
We think that cyber security challenges must be resolved by placing a strong emphasis on collaboration and partnerships among relevant stakeholders at both national and international level. Challenges need to be addressed through joint input and across traditional sectoral boundaries, such that the security needs of all stakeholders are appropriately accommodated. Particular emphasis must be put on cooperation and partnerships within the prioritized areas of the strategy.

NATO remains the world's most powerful military alliance, and Poland will make every effort to ensure that it remains a guarantor of peace and prosperity in Europe. The North Atlantic Alliance, as well as the European Union, have contributed to producing unparalleled stability of the continent. An important element of this architecture will be the continuation of the military and political engagement of the United States. We see very positive prospects for further development of our military cooperation with Washington.



**MS. MERVE ISLAMOVSKA,
POLAND**

About the current tensions in the Mediterranean, we as a country express concern for the conflict between Turkey and Greece and Cyprus and strongly encourage a peaceful resolution to this dispute without confrontation or any other course of action while at the same time, we support the territorial integrity of both Greece and Cyprus as well as their territorial waters. In this context, we see NATO as a mediator and accelerator to help overcome this underlying conflict and establish a peaceful relationship between these countries.



**MS. TEA CVETANOVSKA,
PORTUGAL**

In the Black Sea area, the security environment is complex and dynamic, which is why we addressed the importance of strengthening security on the southern segment of the Eastern Flank, starting from existing risks and threats, implementing a series of deterrence and defense measures for the Black Sea similar to those in the Baltic Sea, a comprehensive, integrated and coherent approach. In the Black Sea, this nation's participation in joint exercises and maritime patrols contributes to NATO's awareness and security.



**MR. BOJAN LAZAREVSKI,
ROMANIA**

The world is changing, and NATO is changing with it. The Alliance today is quite different from the organization, which Slovakia set out to join well over a decade ago. We know, however, that Slovakia understands the need for NATO to continue to evolve, in order to remain an anchor of stability in a dramatically different security environment. What is more, Slovakia not only understands the need for NATO to change - it is also willing, and able, to play its part in that transformation.



**MR. ANDREJ ANGELEVSKI,
SLOVAKIA**

We are working on the modernization of the Slovenian armed forces, together with planned structural reforms. This will not just make our national defense stronger and enable the much-needed predictability and sustainability of our defense procurement process in the upcoming years, but also, make our commitment to NATO missions and to our obligations much more real or realistic than ever. Our troops serve in NATO's multinational battlegroup in Latvia, and are one of the top contributors to our KFOR peacekeeping mission in Kosovo, so we will keep engaging whenever and wherever our Allies need us.



**MS. LEJLA MASIC,
SLOVENIA**



MS. LEUNORA SEFERI,
SPAIN

Spain has not stood alone during the health crisis, as NATO's disaster relief center coordinated assistance to Spain, they delivered medical supplies which helped to ease the burden on the Spanish healthcare system, and to save lives. The Secretary General of NATO's initiative and the cooperation with the other Allies, has done an outstanding work as NATO put forward mechanisms to prevent an escalation and prevent to keep the situation under control.



MS. IVA NASKOVA,
TURKEY

NATO 2030 is about making sure that the Alliance where we as a country are part of, remains ready today to face tomorrow's challenges. It is how NATO will continue to keep us safe in the next decade and beyond. It is for the future of the young. The NATO 2030 Strategic Concept will reinforce the unity, solidarity, and cohesion of the Alliances, including cementing the centrality of the transatlantic bond. The concept will increase the political consultation and coordination between allies and will strengthen NATO's political role and relevant instruments to address current and future threats and challenges to alliance security emanating from all strategic directions.



MR. KOSTA MITRESKI
UNITED KINGDOM

Our national security in 20 years' time will depend on the decisions we take today". That is why, we decided to increase defense budget and make Britain the largest defense spender in Europe. The new military boost will be used to establish a new artificial intelligence center, to create a Royal Air Force Space Command and to restore Britain's position as the foremost naval power in Europe. Let us make our different history, geography and culture our common strength, not our liability. I believe that we are able to overcome our differences, united we will stand together, protect each other, and provide stability, endurance, safety and peace to our citizens and to the world.



MR. LEK GRUBI,
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATO must adapt to meet the needs of a more demanding strategic environment marked by the return of systemic rivalry, persistently aggressive Russia, the rise of China, and the growing role of EDTs, at the same time that it faces elevated transnational threats and risks. The overarching political objective for NATO must be to consolidate the transatlantic Alliance to ensure that it possesses the tools, cohesion, and consultative attributes to provide collective defense in this more challenging landscape.



MS. FUNDA IBRAIMI,
CNN

JOURNALISTS



MR. MARTIN MICKOVSKI,
MRTV

DECLARATION - SKOPJE NATO SUMMIT 2020

Issued by the students at 8th NATO Student Simulation, simulating Heads of State and Government participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council
Skopje, 18th of December 2020

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the 30 member nations of the North Atlantic Alliance, have gathered in Skopje for a first time, at a time when the security of our nations and the rules-based international order are being challenged. NATO will continue to strive for peace, security, and stability in the whole of the Euro-Atlantic area. We are united in our commitment to the Washington Treaty, the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations (UN), and the vital transatlantic bond.

2. We are determined to protect and defend our indivisible security, our freedom, and our common values, including individual liberty, human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. NATO remains the foundation for strong collective defense and the essential transatlantic forum for security consultations and decisions among Allies. The Alliance will continue to pursue a 360-degree approach to security and to fulfil effectively all three-core tasks as set out in the Strategic Concept: collective defense, crisis management, and cooperative security. NATO is a defensive Alliance. NATO's greatest responsibility is to protect and defend our territory and our populations against attack. Any attack against one Ally will be regarded as an attack against us all, as set out in Article 5 of the Washington Treaty. We will continue to stand together and act together, based on solidarity, shared purpose, and fair burden sharing.

3. We face a dangerous, unpredictable, and fluid security environment, with enduring challenges and threats from all strategic directions; from state and non-state actors; from military forces; and from terrorist, cyber, and hybrid attacks.

4. Russia's aggressive actions, including the military build – up in our neighborhood poses a challenge to the Alliance and are undermining Euro-Atlantic security and the rules-based international order. We see Russia violating and undermining treaties, and deploying new weapons. We express support for preserving limitations of nuclear weapons and for developing a more comprehensive arms control regime. We all know that the New START treaty will expire next February, so time is running out. We welcome the dialogue between the United States and Russia to find a way forward, because we should not find ourselves in a situation where there is no agreement regulating the number of nuclear warheads. We are adapting NATO's deterrence posture to address Russia's destabilizing actions. At the same time, we all agree that we must continue to pursue dialogue with Russia. We also face hybrid challenges, including disinformation campaigns and malicious cyber activities. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and advanced missile technology also continues to threaten the security of our nations. In light of all this, our unity and solidarity are stronger than ever; we will take all necessary steps to ensure our collective defense in the new NATO 2030 Strategic Concept.

5. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives in ways we could barely have imagined. None of the countries and communities you represent have been left untouched. NATO Allies and our militaries have been supporting each other and our partners throughout this pandemic, transporting critical medical supplies, patients and experts, setting up military field hospitals and securing borders. Supporting civilian efforts and helping to save lives. As we now face the next wave, NATO has established a stockpile of medical supplies in Italy, and it is already being used to provide for Allies in need. Just in the last few weeks, we have distributed hundreds of extra ventilators to our Allies in Albania, the Czech Republic, Montenegro and North Macedonia, and we are ready to provide further assistance. At the same time, we remain vigilant and ready. Because NATO's main responsibility is to make sure this health crisis does not become a security crisis.

6. We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the Afghan peace process, and as part of that, we have adjusted our presence. While the United States has decided to further reduce its troop numbers to 2,500, NATO's training mission continues, and over half of our forces are, now, non-US. We have made it clear that all Allies remain committed to the mission and to supporting Afghan security forces in the fight against terrorism, as we continue to assess the situation in Afghanistan, it is clear that we will face a turning point early next year. If we stay, we risk continued fighting, and an even longer-term engagement. If we leave, we risk Afghanistan once again becoming a safe haven for international terrorists. Therefore, there is a price for staying longer, but there is also a price for leaving too soon.

7. Concerning the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean, NATO provided the platform for Greece and Turkey to come together based on international law and Allied solidarity to establish a military de-confliction mechanism, and to cancel some planned military exercises. This type of military de-confliction can prevent dangerous incidents and accidents in the Eastern Mediterranean and it can create the opportunity for political discussions and diplomatic solutions to address underlying disputes. Even in the most heated debate, we should not forget that what unites us is stronger than what divides us, that ultimately, we are NATO Allies committed to our core mission: to protect and defend one another and stay committed to our core values: democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law. Our voice is more powerful when we stand united.

8. We are a regional Alliance and will remain a regional Alliance, but the challenges we face are increasingly global. Terrorism, cyber threats, the proliferation of nuclear weapons, pandemics and disinformation campaigns. None of our countries, even the biggest ones, can deal with such challenges alone. This is also true of our approach to China. China is not our enemy, but its rise is fundamentally shifting the global balance of power. Bringing many opportunities, especially for our economies, but also challenges to our security and our technological edge, increasing the pressure on our values and our way of life and multiplying the threats to open societies and individual freedoms. Therefore, the rise of China requires our continued collective attention to fully understand what it means for our security, and to act accordingly including by boosting the resilience of all of our nations and by working even more closely with like-minded countries, and organizations like the European Union. To defend the global rules and institutions that have kept us safe for decades.

9. The European Union remains a unique and essential partner for NATO. The cooperation between NATO and the EU has substantially developed and is particularly important in the face of common security challenges in our shared eastern and southern neighborhoods. We reaffirm in their entirety all the decisions, principles, and commitments with regard to NATO and EU cooperation. We will continue to further strengthen our strategic partnership in a spirit of full mutual openness, transparency, complementarity, and respect for the organizations' different mandates, decision-making autonomy and institutional integrity, and as agreed by the two organizations. This cooperation will serve to enhance the security of our citizens and promote peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area and beyond. We have achieved tangible results in a range of areas, including countering hybrid threats, operational cooperation including maritime issues, cyber security and defense, defense capabilities, defense industry and research, exercises, and defense and security capacity building.

10. Political dialogue between NATO and EU remains essential to advance this cooperation. The development of coherent, complementary and interoperable defense capabilities, avoiding unnecessary duplication, is key in our joint efforts to make the Euro-Atlantic area safer. We strongly believe that, first of all we have to respect that NATO and the EU are two different organizations and we need to respect the integrity, the decision making procedures, of both EU and NATO.

However, as long as we do that, we think there is absolutely value in looking into how we can work together because we share most of the same threats and challenges, we are in the same neighborhood, we are faced with the same security challenges towards Russia, with the rise of China, with terrorism, within stability to the south.

11. The NATO2030 project is how we can make our strong Alliance even stronger and will support NATO's continued adaptation. This project finds that NATO is agile and it recognizes that in recent years we have been able to adapt, both militarily and politically. The report also demonstrates that political consultation and decision-making work at NATO. So, we build on solid foundations. We will continue to consult with civil society, parliamentarians, young leaders, the private sector, and of course with Allies. The goal is to keep NATO as a strong military Alliance. Make it more united politically and with a more global approach. Your report shows that we build on strong foundations.

12. Since 2014, we have responded to a changing security environment delivering on our military responsibilities with modern capabilities, higher readiness, and increased investment in defence. We have also adapted politically by increasing political consultation among Allies on issues that matter for our shared security including arms control, emerging and disruptive technologies, and resilience. Political consultation and decision-making are in action every day at NATO. The NATO 2030 project has three priorities: to remain a strong military Alliance, to become stronger politically, and take a more global approach. Keeping NATO strong militarily is essential to our security, our success as an alliance is based on our unity and the strength of our military forces. This is why the commitment to invest more in defense and to achieve fairer burden sharing is as relevant as ever. Looking at 2030, we need to continue to demonstrate our solidarity in tangible ways. In particular, by providing the forces, capabilities and resources needed to defend the Euro-Atlantic area. To remain a strong military Alliance, we also must continue to modernize and invest in innovation.

13. In a world where bytes and big data are as important as bullets and battleships, NATO should play a greater role in helping to preserve our technological edge. Our strong militaries must be able to rely on resilient societies. Resilience is our first line of defense. So, as part of NATO 2030, we should strengthen and broaden our commitment to the resilience of our critical infrastructure and assets. NATO also needs to be stronger politically. This is the only place where North America and Europe meet every day to discuss, decide and act together. For NATO to become stronger politically, we must continue to acknowledge that yes, we have our differences, we have had them in the past, and we have them now. Open and frank exchanges can be difficult, but they are essential to foster unity and solidarity and to work towards common approaches.

14. Finally, a more global Alliance does not mean a change of focus for NATO. We are a regional Alliance and we will remain a regional Alliance, but the challenges we face are increasingly global. From terrorism, and climate change to the rise of China, and its implications for the global balance of power, the international order, and our own security. To address these challenges, we need to work together even closer as Allies to defend the rules-based international order and to uphold the norms and values that enable us to live freely and in prosperity. We also need to cooperate even more closely with our partners – near and far. To stand together as a community of like-minded democracies. NATO 2030 is an opportunity to renew and strengthen the transatlantic bond, to ensure we continue to adapt, to keep our people safe. Today, for 2030, and beyond.



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