



**This event is co-sponsored by NATO's Public Diplomacy Division**

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**“STRATEGIC RETHINKING: NEW NATO’S STRATEGIC  
CONCEPT AND THE EU’S STRATEGIC COMPASS.  
PERSPECTIVES FROM THE CENTRAL AND EASTERN  
EUROPEAN MEMBER STATES”**

November 17, 2022

Marinela Hotel, Sofia, Bulgaria

**PROGRAM OF THE CONFERENCE**

**(EASTERN EUROPEAN TIME)**

*Working languages: Bulgarian and English*

**9:00 - 9:15**      **Opening of the Conference**  
**Key-note address by Mr. Kostadin Kodzhabashev, Deputy Minister  
of Foreign Affairs**

**9:15 – 10:00** **How does the war in Ukraine change the world? What implications for  
the global and regional security, international order and economies?**

**Speakers:**

- Velina Tchakarova, Director, the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES), Austria
- Phillip Petersen, President, New Generation Warfare Centre, US
- Prof. Zdravko Popov, Director, The Public Policy Institute, Bulgaria
- Jarosław Książek, PhD, Minister – Councillor, Department of Foreign Policy Strategy, NFA, Poland

**10.00 – 10.30 – The Future of the Transatlantic relations** - Ambassador Julianne Smith, U.S. Permanent Representative to NATO

**10:30 - 11:00 – How NATO is preparing to meet the new risks and challenges? – The New NATO Strategic concept.**

Conversation with Mr. Nicola de Santis, Head of the Engagements Section of the Public Diplomacy Division, NATO.

**11:00 - 11:30 – Coffee-break**

**11.30 – 12.00 – With a compass in hands. Where the EU is heading to?** – Individual panel - Conversation with Mr. Jean-Pierre van Aubel, Defense Policy and Strategy / Strategic Compass, European External Action Service, EC.

**Moderator:** Dr. Monika Panayotova, Vice-President of the Sofia Security Forum

**12:00 – 12.30 – The future leaders that Europe needs.** Panel discussion with Mr. Holger OSTERRIEDER, Head of the European Security and Defense College

**Moderator:** Col. Plamen Iliev, Branch Chief “Education and Training”, NATO CMDR COE

**12.30 – 13.30 – Lunch**

**13:30 - 14:45 Addressing the challenges in the Black sea region and beyond.**

**Moderator:** Martin Sokolov, Security Expert, Bulgaria

**Speakers:**

- Tacan Ildem, Chairman of EDAM Centre for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies. Turkiye
- Ambassador Gheorghe Magheru, Member of the Scientific Council of the New Strategy Center Romania
- Wojciech Lorenz, Head of International Security Programme, PISM, Poland

**14.45 – 15.00 Coffee – break**

**15.00 – 16.15 – The Future of the International system.**

**Closing remarks and wrap up.**

- Plamen Ralchev, Head of Department of International Relations at University of National and World Economy, Bulgaria

- Daniel Smilov, Associate Professor, University of Sofia and Programme Director of the Centre for Liberal Strategies, Bulgaria

- Ambassador Batu Kutelia, the Atlantic Council of Georgia

**Moderator:** - Greg Melcher, Chief Operations Officer, New Generation Warfare Centre, US

## CONCEPT OF THE EVENT

NATO and EU approved in 2022 new strategic documents which will guide them in the years to come. The documents were approved against the backdrop of the Russian aggression against Ukraine which created new security environment and posed new risks and threats to NATO and the EU and its member states. The main task now is to provide better security and strengthen defense of the whole Euro-Atlantic area and of each individual member state.

NATO and EU in their strategic document recognize that the risks are multifaceted and the approaches have to be complex. Among the most vulnerable to the Russian threat are the countries to the Eastern flank of NATO and EU. That is why NATO is taking important steps to strengthen the defense potential of the Eastern Flank. But there are much more risks and threats for the countries on the Eastern flank related to the Russian hybrid warfare, propaganda, disinformation, cyber-attacks, the use of Russian proxies, weaponization of the oil and gas, influence through different organizations in order to influence the decision-making processes, meddling in the democratic procedures, and many other. That is why it is of crucial importance to put all efforts to increase the resilience against the Russian risks and threats. The measures have to be taken at the individual countries' level as well as at the level of the EU and NATO.

The participants in the one-day conference will discuss the New NATO Strategic Concept and the EU's Strategic Compass and the overall process of strategic rethinking in Europe in 2022 in order to draw conclusions and make proposals for the practical implementation of these documents. A particular focus will be given on the viewpoint of eastern flank countries, which will analyse the risks and threats and to outline the measures to be taken to strengthen the security and defense in the view of the Russian current activities and the aggression against Ukraine.

The specific objectives of the event are:

- To raise awareness of the project objectives and outcomes related to the New NATO Strategic Concept and the EU's Strategic compass;
- To conduct a public discussion and an informed debate on the future of Euro Atlantic security in a more unpredictable and competitive world;
- To contribute to the broader public's awareness on the risks and threats and the relevant measures to cope with them.

About 100 representatives from NATO, EU, state institutions, think tanks, academia, diplomatic corps, media and young people will take part in the discussions.

The event will be live-streamed through social media which will amplify the number of participants.