



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

“ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES IN THE FRAGMENTING SECURITY ARCHITECTURE: COUNTERING RUSSIAN HYBRID ACTIVITIES”

April 27, 2023, Sofia Balkan Palace

PROGRAM

Working languages: Bulgarian and English

Time: EET

9:00 - 9:30 - Opening and Key-note speech

- Yordan Bozhilov, Director, Sofia Security Forum
- H.E. Nikolay Milkov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria

9:30 – 10:30 - How does the war in Ukraine change the world: implications for the global and regional security and international rules-based order?

The Russian aggression against Ukraine challenges the established principle-based world which was based on clear principles. Is it possible to return to the previous state and under what conditions, or we are moving towards a broader instability and construction of new norms?

Moderator: Vessela Tcherneva, Vice-President and Head of Sofia Office, ECFR

Speakers:

- *Dr. Neil Melvin, Director, International Security Studies, RUSI, UK*
- *Amb. Ilian Vassilev, Chairman of The Board at Alternatives and Analyses NGO, Bulgaria*

10:30 - 11:00 – Coffee-break

11:00 – 11.40 – Towards the Next Summit in Vilnius: NATO’s approach to the Global and Regional Security Challenges - Mr. Nicola de Santis, Head of the Engagements Section of the Public Diplomacy Division, NATO (VTC)

Moderator: Ms. Irena Dimitrova, Ambassador at large for building resilience, Directorate General for Political Affairs, MFA, Bulgaria
Discussant: Petar Karaboev, Deputy Editor in Chief, Dnevnik.bg, Bulgaria

11.45 – 13:00 – Countering the Russian hybrid warfare. Have we learnt our lessons?

The war is being waged not only on the battlefield. Russia is using all forms of hybrid influence against democratic societies, including in Bulgaria. The end of the war in Ukraine will not necessarily be an end of the hybrid warfare. How to protect ourselves and build resilient societies? The role of NATO and other allies in guaranteeing peace, security, in accordance with democratic principles

Moderator: Yordan Bozhilov, Director, Sofia Security Forum

Speakers:

- Jesus Manuel Perez Triana, Security and Defence Analyst, Spain*
- Mr. Aleksi Aho, Community of Interest on Vulnerabilities and Resilience, Hybrid CoE, Finland*
- Simona Veleva, PhD, Expert on Media Law*
- Vladimir Petreski, Metamorphosis Foundation, Media Projects Coordinator, North Macedonia*

13.00 – 13.45 – Lunch

13:45 - 15:00 – What are the implications of the war in Ukraine on security in the Black Sea region and the Western Balkans. The role of NATO and the EU.

The Russian military aggression against Ukraine has negative consequences for the security of the Black Sea region and the Balkans, adding to an already complex picture. What are the risks to the region posed by the war?

Moderator: Monika Panayotova, PhD., Assist. Professor, University of National and World Economy, Vice-President of the Sofia Security Forum, Professor at the UNWE.

Speakers:

- Stefan Surlic, Executive Director, RESECO, Serbia*
- Oana Popescu Zamfir, Director of the GlobalFocus Center, Romania*
- Mykola Davydiuk, Political scientist and author, Ukraine (VTC)*
- Nikolay Krastev, Journalist, Bulgaria*

15.00 – 15.15 Coffee – break

15.15 – 16.30 – The Future of the International system. What to prepare for after the war in Ukraine?

The war in Ukraine will end later or sooner. It is difficult to predict when, under what modalities and with what consequences. But we must be prepared for what will happen next. What will the world look like after hostilities are over?

Moderator: Cvetana Balabanova, International Editor and reporter, BTV

Speakers:

- Dr. Raphael Bossong, Deputy Head of Research Division EU/Europe, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Germany*
- Dr. Plamen Ralchev, Head of Department of International Relations at University of National and World Economy, Bulgaria*
- Roland Freudenstein, Vice President, Head of GLOBSEC Brussels*

Closing remarks and wrap up