

Stability and Security in an Enlarged Europe

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INTRODUCTION

Ladies and Gentleman

I have been given the opportunity to speak to you about the future of European security, an opportunity for which I am most pleased. I will begin my speech by touching upon some of the new security issues of present day and what remedies we might have at our disposal.

NEW THREATS

The world is facing new kinds of asymmetric threats. Global terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the existence of rough or failed States that destabilise entire regions are all examples of such new threats. There are several hotspots around the globe that demands our attention. Areas such as the Middle East, North Africa and the Caucasus are going through political and social transitions of historical dimensions. This transition will not be easy and there is a potential risk of spillover since instability will not be confined to the areas in which it originates. All these facts work against the traditional understanding of geography as the main source of protection.

Since the horrible events of September 11th much has been done to combat these threats. The removal of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan was the first tangible result of the international coalition against terror and clearly shows the potential danger of failed states supporting terrorism and the like.

TERRORISM

Terror is not just a new threat but has been around for decades. What is new is the means of terror, in form of mass kidnappings and suicide missions. The fact that the terrorist of today, doesn't fear the loss of their own life's or deliberately sacrifices themselves in their operations, making the problem a lot more complicated than previous incidents of terror. Terrorism used to be about getting peoples attention and not about causing mass slaughter, as we have seen in the attacks of the World Trade Centre, the bombing of the USS Cole and the recent attack on the Moscow theatre. These terrorists doesn't refrain from using themselves as deadly suicide bombs putting innocent lives at risk in order to accomplish their goals whatever they might be.

Present day asymmetric threats are taking full advantage of the technologies of the modern society in order to sustain a truly global network, therefore must our response be comprehensive in a way that allows us to keep the upper hand in this deadly game.

NATO ENLARGED - STABILITY VS. SECURITY.

With the newly enlarged NATO we face a new a range of issues. How is the relationship between stability and security, what are the implications of the enlargement as regards to the alliances ability to provide efficient security?

One could argue that a further enlargement of NATO would jeopardise the efficiency of the alliance, since too many states, with too many different views of dealing with problems, would be involved in the solution. On the other hand, further enlargement of NATO to include more countries would mean an increase in European stability and a closer co-operation between countries on security matters. This is a delicate balancing act with an uncertain outcome. NATO therefor faces both an external problem, in form of the before mentioned threats, as well as an

internal problem, consisting on "how to cope" with the institutional reform and the overall change of focus that has taken place during recent years within the organisation.

EU - NATO MUTUAL REINFORCEMENT

How can we combat terrorism? The fight on terror must be fought on many fronts. Purely military means are not sufficient to deal with the problems of terror, we must instead employ a truly multivector strategy that seeks to cover the many aspects of modern society that might be challenged by terrorism.

Two of the most important tools at our disposal are the EU and NATO. NATO's Prague capabilities commitment, and the EU's headline goal, are essential components for a strong security community both inside and outside Europe.

The EU and NATO demonstrated a will to take a broader responsibility when co-operating on solving the emerging crisis in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

NATO is now incorporating 7 new member states, together with the previously admitted states of Poland, the Czech republic and Hungary, the alliance now includes 9 former Eastblock members. It's my belief that NATO will gain from this accession, and it has certainly changed the way we perceive threats in Europe. The threat of instability and war is no longer coming from the eastern part of Europe, but rather from outside Europe in forms of failed states, terrorism, international crime and massive waves of refugees fleeing a hopeless and uncertain future. Many of these problems pass through what was the former Eastblock, which underlines the importance of a tight border controls and enhanced intelligence across Europe.

EU and NATO can play a mutual role in solving these problems. The EU has got extensive capabilities and experiences in the field of soft security and combined with the effective command structure and military expertise of NATO, we possess a valuable tool in remedying the conflicts of today and tomorrow.

This said however, there are still areas where further improvement is badly needed.

CAPABILITIES GAP

In order for us to be successful in solving the conflicts of today adequate force projection is vital for success. The NATO interventions in Kosovo and Afghanistan have revealed a considerable lack of modern equipment among the European members of the alliance leaving it to the Americans to do all the demanding high tech jobs.

This capability gap poses a very real threat to the cohesiveness of the alliance. Europe must improve its military capabilities, or else the European partners risk not being taken seriously by our American partners - the integrity and effectiveness of NATO will suffer as a result of such a demise in trust.

NATO needs forces that are slimmer, tougher and faster, forces that can stay in the field for a longer period of time. The traditional army of both West and Eastern Europe, with its vast numbers of heavy tanks, artillery and men, are no longer needed. The security threats of today demands highly specialised troops that can be moved around the globe in a matter of days or weeks, not months. In this aspect the Europeans are lagging behind their American counterparts.

Europe needs to improve its airlift capacities and develop more specialised units in order to make a difference in international security matters and keeping up with the Americans.

Military capabilities are crucial for our security, since it directly translates into political credibility. And without political credibility NATO is without influence and purpose in the international system.

Many of the alliance members are small states that can not bare the burden of acquiring all the aspects of modern warfare. The solution to this problem comes in part from specialisation. The small states in Europe, need to find their own speciality, or niche if you like, working together with the other alliance members to form a complete response. In the future one could imagine a military consisting of only 2 branches instead of the traditional 3 (army, navy, airforce), but with a higher degree of specialisation and modern weaponry.

On this particular point, the old members of the alliance can learn a valuable lesson from some of the new members. The Baltic States are a fine example of how to build up a modern military structure from scratch with only limited funds to do so. The Baltic States share some aspects of their defences, such as air surveillance (BALNET), officers training (BALDEFCOL) as well as their participation in international peacekeeping missions in the Balkans (BALBAT).

INVOLVING RUSSIA

Russia is playing a major role in the future European security framework. The establishment of a NATO - Russia council is a great step towards enhanced co-operation in Europe. NATO no longer sees Russia as part of the problem, but rather as part of the solution. Differences aside, Russia faces the same problems as we do. As we have seen recently with the Moscow tragedy where terrorism once again showed its atrocious face.

In the future one could imagine Russia participating in operations under NATO leadership, or maybe even the establishment of a NATO - Russian rapid reaction force that could be deployed at a global scale if needed.

Keeping Russia close to Europe is important but Russia needs to be part of the process and not just a passive bystander. There is an urgent need in Russia for military reform. The Russian military is overdimensioned and without a clear focus, still reflecting the real ides of yesterday rather than those of tomorrow. Before Russia can enter into a meaningful military relationship with the west, these issues needs co be addressed.

CONCLUDING REMARK

Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you for your time, it has been a pleasure addressing you on these issues today in the lovely city of Vilnius. I hope that you will all enjoy the remaining of the conference as much as I have enjoyed it so far.