



NEW CHALLENGES BETTER CAPABILITIES

21st - 22nd October 2009

SLOVAK ATLANTIC COMMISSION
SLOVENSKÁ ATLANTICKÁ KOMISIA
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ACCOMPANYING CONFERENCE OF THE NATO DEFENCE MINISTERS MEETING IN BRATISLAVA, OCTOBER 2009

CONFERENCE ANNOTATION

- Main organizer:** Slovak Atlantic Commission
- Co-organizers:** Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic, NATO Public Diplomacy Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic
- Conference venue:** The conference will take place in the historical building of the National Council of the Slovak Republic at Župné námestie 12, Bratislava. Since we expect the participation of some key NATO defence ministers and the NATO Secretary General, the conference venue will be a part of the overall security area.
- Languages:** English (with simultaneous interpretation to Slovak language)

SHORT SYNOPSIS:

Slovakia will have a unique opportunity to host the NATO Defence Ministers Meeting in October this year. At this occasion, it is expected the participation of more than 28 defence ministers and tens of other important guests from both sides of the Atlantic. Slovakia has never hosted such an important event and it will be the only opportunity to host such a significant one for a long time. It is a unique opportunity for Slovakia and its capital Bratislava to present the ability of the country to step up for the current security challenges and to bring own solutions to them. In order to utilize and multiply the presence of the defence ministers in Bratislava, the Slovak Atlantic Commission will organize – in cooperation with the Slovak Ministry of Defence and NATO Public Diplomacy Division – the only official accompanying conference of the NATO Defence Ministers Meeting in Bratislava.

The intention of the conference is to interconnect the political debate, which will take place in a confidential atmosphere in a closed circle of the defence ministers, with a broader Slovak and international security community in the region and to transfer the debate to a more informal setting outside of the murals of the official NATO meeting. The conference intends to integrate a broader circle of security players – the security community in Slovakia and the region including corporate sector – to the security debate taking place in Bratislava. The conference will thus multiply the messages of the official defence ministers meeting. This conference represents a unique opportunity to shape the international and domestic security discussion with the key players of the most successful security and defence organisation and its key members. In this way, the conference may represent a gateway of the ministerial meeting to the broader security community and through media to broader public. Vice versa it will be a unique platform to influence the shaping of NATO's security agenda from an independent expert and corporate community level.

TARGET GROUPS:

At the conference, we expect an exclusive target group. Since the defence ministers will be accompanied by a high number of security advisors, general directors of sections from ministries of



Co-organizers:





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defence and other distinguished guests, they will have the opportunity to take part in the accompanying conference. Information about the conference and the participation will be part of the official communication of the Slovak Ministry of Defence with the ministerial delegations. Besides this target group, we will focus on the regional dimension of the conference impact. We will invite key security players from the Central and Eastern European region including political directors of the ministries of foreign affairs, members of national parliaments, key security stakeholders, opinion builders, experts and media. A very important target group is the corporate sector, which will have the possibility to interact with the governmental representatives on the solutions of the actual security challenges.

We expect to fill the whole capacity of the conference venue which is approximately 250 sitting places by the target group: members of the official national delegations at the defence ministers meeting, Slovak and international security community, Slovak and international governmental and parliamentary representatives, representatives of international organizations, foreign policy and security experts and analysts, representatives of non-governmental and corporate sector, media and academia, opinion makers, decision makers.

KEY SPEAKERS:

The **“New Challenges – Better Capabilities”** conference will be the first conference for the new NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen to take part, at the same time it will be one of his first public speeches in his new position. Therefore, we expect that the new NATO Secretary General will use this opportunity to deliver political messages about his policies and priorities as well as his approach to NATO's future. For this reason, we may expect also high international media coverage of this event. At the conference we also expect the presence several NATO defence ministers. We also expect the presence of key security advisors to U. S. president and European allies, internationally known security experts and thinkers.

FORMAT:

The conference will take part in two consecutive days and will begin around noon day before the official beginning of the defence ministers meeting. The conference will be thus the first to kick of the security debate in Bratislava by the Slovak Minister of Defence and some of his key counterparts and the NATO Secretary General. The conference is considered as the part of the official NATO Defence Ministers Meeting in Bratislava and will be thus included in all communication at NATO and Slovak Ministry of Defence level. The time schedule and format will be coordinated with the organizing team of the defence ministers meeting. The conference will be divided to several discussion panels with a moderator and mostly four speakers in each panel discussion. The discussion will be leaded by an experienced moderator as a television interview, or debate while enabling the participation of the audience in the discussion as well. During the conference, we will allocate special time for keynote speakers in several keynote speeches.

TOPICS:



Co-organizers:





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The topics of the conference will reflect the most pressing issues of international security, which are on NATO's agenda. The conference will highlight those topics, which will represent the priorities of the defence ministers' agenda in Bratislava (modernisation, defence capabilities, interoperability, Afghanistan). The respective conference panels will touch upon the NATO's continuing transformation, the future NATO – EU – Russia relationships triangle as well as more practical issues of the new NATO Strategic Concept and the impact of financial and economic crises on defence budgets and security agenda. The event will also focus on the new initiative of the U. S. President on nuclear disarmament. The discussion will be focused and concrete rather than general political discussions.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

We expect substantial domestic and international media coverage of the conference. The organizing team of the official NATO Defence Minister Meeting expects the accreditation of around 300 journalists from press agencies, international and domestic TV and radio stations. A big number of the accredited journalists to the official defence ministers meeting will be accredited also to the conference. Furthermore, journalists will have full media service from the conference, including live-streaming, headline, press releases, photo and video feeds at the official media centre which will be installed in Incheba Expo Arena. The accompanying conferences at similar events in the past have proven to have multiplication effect on media coverage of the whole event. The conference will thus utilize not only the presence of defence ministers and distinguished guests, but also the presence of the high number of journalists.

Accreditation of journalists is available via the online form:

<http://www.ata-sac.org/ncbc/media/accreditation/>

For more information please contact the PR department
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