



BUCHAREST SECURITY CONFERENCE



with the support of



Bucharest Security Conference 2017

Situated at the Euro-Atlantic frontier, Romania is facing today great challenges and opportunities that demand both a more assertive role in the region and increased cooperation with its neighbours, in order to tackle the dramatic changes that affect the regional security environment. These developments have also brought EU and NATO's attention to the region. The most recent cooperation formats – the Bucharest format (B9) and the Three Seas Initiative (3SI) – represent a great opportunity for Romania to consolidate its regional stances and strengthen its position inside the EU and NATO.

Within the context of these evolutions, The National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA) organizes, between 28-30 September 2017, the second edition of the *Bucharest Security Conference*. This international conference is meant to address the most recent security developments and evolving threats on the Euro-Atlantic frontier and the necessary decisions to respond to them, by offering a platform of debate and dialogue that brings together decision makers and experts from the security field. Organised by *NATO Partnership Studies Center* within the Department of International Relations and European Integration from SNSPA, Bucharest Security Conference aims at increasing NATO visibility and to raise awareness on the new challenges.

The Conference aims to answer some questions that – we believe – cannot be ignored.

- What trends we discover in the present security environment?
- What evolutions we decipher in what happens around us?
- How is the future security environment crystallizing?
- What kind of definition is suitable for the present hybrid war?
- What do we foresee as the next stage: urban guerilla movements?

These are some of the objectives and questions that we intend to address and answer in the context of this conference.

On the other hand, new developments and new formats of cooperation, such as the relationship between the European Union and the North Atlantic Alliance, the B9

format within NATO, the Three Seas Initiative (3SI) become more and more relevant in the future. The EU-NATO declaration from Warsaw and the implementation of the decisions stipulated in it are extremely important. The decisions taken at the Bruxelles NATO Summit from May 2017, the EU summit from June, the presence of the US president Donald Trump in Warsaw at the Summit of the Three Seas Initiative represent a marking point for the future relations between the main actors in the region. Given the present security environment, this conference will analyze NATO's actions and regional formats of cooperation as B9 and 3SI, being the first one to assess the implications of the 3SI.

Until recently our assessment departed from the perspective that the Western elites are facing stringent challenges and in this context the idea that these problems may be related to the 2004-2007 enlargement process arose. The solution of a multiple-speed Europe seemed to send our region in a peripheral area. The security/military situation in the region from a NATO point of view seemed inertial, based on the decisions of the former USA administration on forward defence. Nowadays, the NATO actions in the region, the deployment of troops, the 2017 year of execution, the B9 Format, the US support for the Three Seas Initiative and the regional cooperation seem to set new rules and a new security architecture in the region.

We intent to continue our close cooperation with NATO, based on our strong tradition of working with NATO Headquarters and the NATO Defence College (see the inception of the "NATO Studies Centre" of the National University). This conference is part of our strategy of creating a broader framework for excellence in education and research projects. The project will be most relevant also for the regional dimension of SNSPA's academic programmes and our presence in the Wider Black Sea area. The overarching goal of the whole project is to increase NATO visibility and to raise awareness on the new challenges, on NATO policies with a strong emphasis on its firm commitment to collective defence, the development of NATO's partnerships and its global role in crisis management. The conference gathers high level decision-makers, academics and experts who will provide strategic reflections on the implementation of key decisions taken at Warsaw's Summit and Brussels Meeting (2017), respectively, will debate the necessity of a new strategic concept, on the future of NATO's partnerships, in particular the welcomed recent impetus in NATO-EU relations and will highlight Romania's role in the region as a factor of stability. The purpose of this conference is to enhance dialogue and promote a shared vision among all allies regarding the risks and threats we are confronted with.

The first edition of BSC was organized between November 11th and November 12th 2016. It gathered more than 50 international speakers: high representatives of NATO Headquarters, of the EU, high officials from the ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs from NATO member states of the B9 format, together with academics, NGOs and

mass media. Also, more than 15 sponsors and partners and over 150 participants took part in it. The event facilitated contacts between experts in the field and decision makers from the highest levels, while bringing attention to the regional threats and challenges. BSC thus established itself as a platform for debate and consensus reaching regarding the most ardent security issues that affect the region.

We appreciate that the first edition of BSC was a success and, therefore, we intend to continue the debate regarding Allied security and defence in this region. During the two days of the first edition of the Conference, we have discussed subjects related to military challenges and threats on the NATO Eastern and Southern flanks, cyber-threats and cooperation in intelligence.

The 2017 edition will mark a novelty for the format of the conference, as it will initiate an award under the high auspice of the Royal House of Romania for personalities with a major contribution in the security and defence debate from the region.

For the 2017 edition we already have the confirmation of high level officials such as ministers of Foreign Affairs, Chiefs of the General Staff, academics, NATO, UN and EU officials.

The objectives of the conference will translate into a series of both immediate and longer-term deliverables that we consider equally relevant contributions for NATO and for Romania, as well as for fostering regional cooperation.

Apart from the clear immediate benefit of constructive interaction and networking of senior representatives of institutional, political and academic communities, our conference will deliver a policy report. This will be based on the decision arising from each regional framework of cooperation, in order to contribute to the process of enhancing regional cooperation and to enrich the substance of the Euro-Atlantic Stability.

The second immediate deliverable is represented by the substantive volume that will be published after the conference, comprising the contributions of the speakers. This conference proceedings volume will be published by a respected publishing house and will be disseminated to the stakeholders involved.