

THE FUTURE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

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From a diplomatic point of view, November, 2010 is going to be a busy period. There is going to be the XXII. NATO Summit on 19-20, November in Lisbon, then comes the official meeting of the EU and the U.S., and finally in the first few days of December will be the OSCE (*Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe*) summit in Astana, Kazakhstan. The significance of the meetings is indisputable, as these institutions, the NATO, the EU, and the OSCE, have enabled peace and prosperity in Europe, and are able to provide the framework within which we can address security, human rights, rule of law and economic challenges of our days.

The NATO summit

Today NATO has to face different threats and challenges than it did during the Cold War, but it is no less essential. The end of the Cold War has made the world much safer, but also much more complex. NATO has had to adapt in order to address new issues of nowadays such as terrorism, nuclear proliferation, cyber attacks, or even piracy.

The Lisbon meeting is an essential step of this adaptation process, during which the NATO will strive for the adopting a new Strategic Concept with a forward-leaning vision; developing 21st century capabilities such as territorial missile defence and cyber early warning systems; undertaking organizational reform to make NATO more efficient; and remaining open to new partnerships and deepening existing partnerships. Moreover, the Lisbon summit will reaffirm NATO's commitment to Afghanistan's future through a NATO-Afghanistan partnership declaration.

However, the issue of Afghanistan remains the United States' top foreign policy, and the support NATO is providing underscores the strength of the security alliance. . Since President Obama announced his strategy for Afghanistan in December 2009, European nations have sent 7000 additional troops, more than 100 training teams for the Afghan army and police, and nearly \$300 million for the Afghan National Army trust fund. Right now European nations have nearly 40,000 troops in Afghanistan, thus along with the U.S., Hungary and 46 other countries, this is the largest coalition in the history of the world.

Hungary is a significant contributor in this coalition. The Provincial Reconstruction Developmental Team led by Hungarian soldiers is undertaking serious stabilizational efforts to improve governance in Baghlan province. A Hungarian contingent has just taken over the supervision of Kabul International Airport. The Hungarian Operation Mentoring and Liaison Team, in cooperation with the Ohio National Guard, is doing tremendous work to improve the capabilities of the Afghan National Army, while an Air Mentor Team supports the preparation of the Afghan National Air Force. Before the Hungarian soldiers deployed to Afghanistan, they train together with American troops here, in Hungary, which provides them the opportunity to experience multi-cultural work environment.

The EU-U.S. summit

The EU-U.S summit will directly follow the NATO meetings. The interesting point of the summit is that it will be the first EU-U.S. summit since the entry into force of the Lisbon treaty. America fully supports the process of the European Union aiming at establishing a consistent, comprehensive and effective common foreign policy. The Lisbon treaty was a major step in the process. The United States hopes to see increased engagement by the EU in the most important economic and security issues. The parties expect to discuss the followings:

1. Promoting economic growth and recovery by addressing regulatory barriers to trade and by cooperating on innovation in fields such as green technology;
2. Coordinating the U.S. and EU resources to meet the development needs of poorer nations;
3. Enhancing the parties' common efforts on counter-terrorism and security;
4. Working together on key foreign policy issues such as Iran, Pakistan, or Afghanistan, and the Middle East Peace Process;
5. Reaffirming the parties' commitment to ensure that human rights and rule of law remained the fundamental building blocks of international stability.

In this regard, in a short time Hungary will have a significant role. The upcoming EU presidency provides opportunity to make considerable progress of the transatlantic issues, as well as energy security and the Eastern Partnership. Also in the previous years, Hungary has been a strong supporter of keeping EU membership open for Western Balkan countries, and is actively helping to advance Croatia's accession. Even the Eastern Partnership summit in next May will be hosted by Hungary. The European Union will not be complete until all the Balkan countries are EU members. To mention only one example, no country has more to gain with EU membership than Serbia. This is the step exactly Serb economy needs, as it would transform the economic structure and anchor the entire region in Europe.

Making Europe stronger would also mean strengthening Europe internally, and the settling of the Roma issue in Europe is an essential part of it. Hungary has identified Roma inclusion as priority for its presidency. The United States has urged governments of European nations to continue their efforts to address the plight of Roma, to end discrimination and to ensure equality of opportunity in education and employment.

Hungary has already shown its commitment to solve the Roma question through its national policies promoting integration and its bearing pressure on the EU for a common European strategy improving the lives of Europe's Roma. Hungary has knowledge to share with the rest of Europe in key areas of Roma integration and inclusion. By empowering Roma communities and creating jobs, Hungary tries to settle the matters of poverty and unemployment; Hungary has taken steps to desegregate schools and raise the quality of education for Roma youth. This conception and willingness to do is have to be spread across whole Europe. The Hungarian EU presidency provides unique opportunities for it.

The OSCE summit

Finally, a third significant summit will take place in this autumn, the OSCE summit in the first few days of December in Astana, Kazakhstan. Usually, the OSCE does not receive the same level of attention as NATO and the EU, but it is an integral part of the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security architecture. It contributes to governmental and military transparency and to the advancing of fundamental freedoms on a global level.

The summit in Astana will be especially important for several reasons: this will be the first OSCE summit in Central Asia, and this fact provides an opportunity to specifically address issues in this region, to identify security challenges, and to develop a common action plan. Furthermore, the summit also tries to revitalize the OSCE in its three dimensions: political-military; economic and environmental; and human rights. The participants want to emphasize the role of civil society, especially in protecting the freedom of expression, to enhance energy security and to support transparency and good governance, and to create a common OSCE crisis response capability.

The Astana OSCE summit will mark the 35th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act that, elevating human rights and territorial integrity as inviolable principles, was a significant diplomatic achievement at the height of the Cold War. At the OSCE summit, the members will emphasize that the commitments and principles of the Act still equally apply to each of the 56 participating states.

We are entering a busy period that could strengthen the community of the North Atlantic Treaty with America being an integral part. As Secretary of State Hillary Clinton noted at the beginning of this year, for America the European security is far more than a strategic interest; it expresses values represented by the United States. America stands with Europe today, as it stood with Europe for decades. The two communities are linked by their common understanding of freedom and liberty, and also by the fact that the members have fought and died for each other's freedom and liberty. These ties cannot and should never be broken. By helping to maintain peace and security in Europe both parties seek to reinforce these ties.

On one of his first foreign trips in April, 2009 President Obama told an audience in Strasbourg: “The United States came here to listen, to learn, and to lead.” Even the Americans have realized that America cannot meet the new challenges of globalisation, nor can Europe meet them, without America. Globalisation set new tasks for the world that require the collaboration of America and Europe. And this is the central element of the common vision of the two parties.

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The article was written on the basis of the presentation held by U.S. Ambassador to Hungary, *Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalankis*, at Corvinus University Budapest, on November 4, 2010.

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