



**EUROPEAN
LEADERSHIP
NETWORK**



RIAC
Russian International
Affairs Council

Towards a more stable NATO-Russia relationship

Workshop One. 16-17 July, 2018, Moscow, Russian Federation

The working languages of the workshop will be English and Russian.

Agenda

16 July

18:30-22:00 **Working dinner: The nature of NATO - Russia relationship: desired vs. realistic futures (President Hotel, Bol'shaya Yakimanka, 24)**

Issues for discussion:

- What are the main factors fueling the instability and NATO-Russia confrontation, and how can they be addressed?
- What are realistic possibilities for the future of NATO-Russia relations: Continued confrontation? Conflict? Stabilization of mutual deterrence? Limited cooperation? Other?
- What should be the goals of this Track 2 dialogue?

Open discussion (in English, side translation in Russian provided), moderated by:

- **Dr Andrey Kortunov**, RIAC Director General
- **Sir Adam Thomson**, Director, ELN

17 July

Venue: Alexander House Business Centre, 1 Bolshaya Yakimanka St, Moscow

09:00 -09:30 **Registration and welcome coffee**

09:30-09:45 **Opening remarks: objectives for the project and the workshop**
Dr Andrey Kortunov, RIAC Director General
Sir Adam Thomson, Director, ELN

09:45-11:15

Session 1. Russian and NATO military doctrines

Issues for discussion:

- Which features of the Russian doctrine does the West / NATO see as escalatory, incl. the nuclear aspects?
- Which features of the NATO doctrine does Russia see as escalatory?
- How to avoid miscalculation and escalation due to misreading of the respective military postures and exercises?
- Recommendations for addressing the most destabilizing features of the doctrines (Changes or clarification of doctrines? Regular mil-to-mil dialogue? better crisis communication?)

Moderator: **Łukasz Kulesa**, Research Director, ELN

First discussants:

Professor Dr Katarzyna Zysk, Director of Research, Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies (IFS)

Dmitry Danilov, Head of the Department of European security, Institute of Europe, Russian Academy of Sciences

11:15-11:30

Coffee break

11:30-13:00

Session 2. Deterrence signaling in peacetime and crisis

Issues for discussion:

- Are Russia and NATO currently reading each other's deterrence signals correctly? What Russia signals to NATO? What NATO signals to Russia?
- The dangers of misreading the deterrence signals.
- Recommendations for conducting "peacetime" deterrence signaling responsibly.
- Recommendations for Russia and NATO on credibly signaling the willingness to de-escalate tensions during a crisis.

Moderator: **Sir Adam Thomson**, Director, ELN

First discussants:

Russian Participant, TBC

Alexander Vershbow, Distinguished Fellow, Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security, Atlantic Council, former NATO Deputy Secretary General
TBC

13:00 -14:00

Lunch

14:00-15:30 **Session 3. Military deployments and introduction of new military capabilities**

Issues for discussion:

- Facts vs. perceptions: what are the armament and deployment trends for Russia and NATO countries?
- Which specific deployments and new capabilities are particularly destabilizing / threatening? Why? How can this be addressed?
- Recommendations for making military deployments and aspects of modernization less destabilizing (voluntary restraint? transparency? arms control measures?)

Moderator: **Dr Katarzyna Kubiak**, Policy Fellow, ELN

Introductory Presentation: **Łukasz Kulesa**, Research Director, ELN

First discussants:

Air Marshal Sir Christopher Harper, former Director-General of the NATO International Military Staff

Russian Participant, TBC

15:30-15:45 **Coffee break**

15:45-17:00 **Session 4. Military exercises**

Issues for discussion:

- Is it possible to conduct military exercises which achieve the objectives of training, maintaining readiness, deterrence etc. without being destabilizing? How?
- Which types or elements of Russian/Western exercises participants consider as particularly threatening, and why?
- Recommendations on managing better the destabilizing effects of exercises (More voluntary transparency and information exchange? Mutual restraint? Formal limitations? Modernized or new arms control and confidence-building instruments?)

Moderator:

Dr Andrey Kortunov, RIAC Director General

First discussants:

Aleksandr Khramchikhin, Deputy Director of the Institute for Political and Military Analysis in Moscow **TBC**

General Knud Bartels, former Chairman of NATO Military Committee **TBC**

17:00-17:15 **Closing remarks, preview of the London workshop**

Dr Andrey Kortunov, RIAC Director General

Sir Adam Thomson, Director, ELN