

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

17-18 November
2022 ESPAS Annual Conference

GEOPOLITICS IS BACK

CHARTING A COURSE FOR THE EU
IN A WORLD OF SHIFTS AND SHOCKS

EUROPEAN FORESIGHT DAYS

DAY ONE

Thursday, 17 November 2022

12.00-13.00: *War in Europe: Towards victory in Ukraine and a lasting security*

The main questions raised and discussed were:

- How Europe will support security in Ukraine/in EU going forward?
- How the EU security architecture will look like after the war?
- Challenges highlighted in NATO's Strategic Concept – Did the war change this analysis? No, because the security environment has been deteriorating

Three main trends that are still a key to understanding the shifting environment.

- Persistent fragility
- Recurring shock
- Strategic shock

NATO

- Relationship with Russia has been deteriorating for many years, since Crimea
- War in Ukraine is a “super-accelerator” for the end of our dependence on Russian energy.
- How has the EU responded in terms of defence?
 - European Peace Facility Programme – 2.5 billion
 - Defence procurement programme
- European defence Agency: in terms of national priorities and programmes, a change in mindset is required, but the tools are there
- The EU has responded well collectively, but there are still doubts on Member States' (MS) national responses
- However, Member states take the situation seriously, EU-NATO is complementary
- New future: will MS get serious about strengthening their defence capabilities? This is the main question, not there yet on Strategic Autonomy
- NATO remains the tool for defence
- There is a need for more cooperation in the EU, there is leeway to use the EU framework more extensively

Ukraine:

- Needs more weapons

- Not the time for negotiations
- How it will shape the world – future of European security: need to start discussions about what Russia will be

EUISS

- Strategic Compass is a guidance for the next 5-10 years
- 81 strategic objectives, out of which 53 should achieve great progress by the end of this year, some are more complex
- Military Capability action plan – increase in defence expenditures, understanding the need to spend more in common projects

How is NATO preparing for a future Russia? No matter what, there is a need to prepare for long-term instability in our neighbourhood. Transition from one security order to the other will be a bumpy ride. In terms of policies, we need to build-up resilience and maintain a steadfast support to Ukraine.

Ukraine:

- The coming winter will not have an impact on military operations!
- The current objective is to cut the connection between Russia and Crimea and then move on to Crimea or Luhansk.
- Needs long-range missile/defence: missile attacks are what weakens Ukraine now. We also need to support its economy
- Future: Ukraine will win, no doubt – the shape of security integration in Ukraine will likely be more decentralised and connected to regional situations

What is the threat for Baltic States/bordering countries?

No immediate increased threat

Now is about Ukraine

Defeat could lead to major transformations inside Russia and instability

There are profound disagreements on Russia – the key issue for the EU is on Western security structure and how to integrate Ukraine/Ukraine democracy into these structures

This will have impacts on Russian security.