
NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY)

Established: 1955.

Membership: 28 NATO Alliance members (Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States). Associate members include 66 representatives from 14 additional states (Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Russian Federation, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, and Ukraine).

Background: The NATO Parliamentary Assembly (PA), superseding the North Atlantic Assembly (NAA), operates separately from NATO and has no formal link to it. However, the PA enjoys a strong working relationship with NATO and represents a tangible expression of NATO's fundamental mission. Formal recognition would require amending the Washington Treaty, which is not supported by all governments or all parliaments. The idea of an assembly engaging alliance parliamentarians in collective deliberations on the problems confronting the transatlantic partnership emerged in the early 1950s and was consummated with the creation of an annual conference of NATO parliamentarians in 1955. In November 1967, the North Atlantic Council recommended that an informal relationship be established between NATO and the NATO PA. In 1974, the Belgian Parliament granted the NATO PA special legal status and, later in the year, the leaders of Allied governments indirectly endorsed the work of the PA in its Declaration on Atlantic Relations.

Objectives and Structure: The NATO Parliamentary Assembly acts as a forum for legislators to consider issues of common interest and concern to the Alliance. The assembly operates through five committees: Civil Dimension of Security, Defense and Security, Economics and security, Political, and Science and Technology. Three sub-committees operate under the Defense and Security Committee: the Sub-Committee on Defense and Security Co-Operation between Europe and North America, the Sub-Committee on the Future of the Armed Forces, and the Sub-Committee on Northern Security Issues. The

committees meet in the spring and fall assembly sessions, coordinated by the secretariat. The committees report on issues affecting the Alliance, make policy recommendations, and receive briefings from government officials, international organizations leaders, and other experts. Assembly meetings are intended to inform parliamentarians about key issues mainly in security-related areas, thereby creating "cadres" in national parliaments that are well versed in international security matters. The PA produces informative reports and non-binding policy recommendations, which are circulated to national governments, parliaments, and NATO authorities. In addition, sub-committees meet several times a year to gather facts and explore specific issues in more detail.

Since the end of the Cold War, the PA has adapted its traditional mission and structure to accord better with the new realities of Europe's fundamentally altered security and political landscape. Recent study topics have included NATO enlargement and the new democracies, Baltic security, security problems in southeastern Europe, East-West economic cooperation, weapons proliferation, and the future of the armed forces. Both the Defense and Security Committee and the Science and Technology Committee follow issues of weapons proliferation. The Standing Committee is the governing organ coordinating the work of these committees, preparing the Assembly sessions' agenda, overseeing the finances, and appointing the secretary general.

Verification and Compliance: Recommendations arising from the committees are non-binding.

Developments:

2016: On 6 January, President of the NATO PA Hon. Michael R Turner issued a [statement](#) deploring the most recent DPRK nuclear test.

On 15 February, the NATO PA [met](#) with the North Atlantic Council to discuss priorities for the upcoming NATO Summit in Warsaw. The Summit will focus on finding a balance between deterrence and dialogue in relation to the current security concerns coming from the East and the South.

2015: On 5 June, members of the NATO PA's Science and Technology Committee (STC) visited the

New York Police Department (NYPD). While the [meeting](#) focused on counter terrorism efforts, participants also discussed global disarmament efforts, especially the outcome of the 2015 NPT Review Conference.

On 18 July the PA held a [special meeting](#) in Paris for the 60th anniversary of NATO, reaffirming the unity of the Atlantic Alliance in face of the current challenges in their eastern and southern neighborhoods. In the meeting the President of the French Senate called to reaffirm that the Alliance's top priority remains the security of the Euro-Atlantic area.

On 3 August NATO PA President Hon. Michael R. Turner urged allied governments to remain firm in their condemnation of Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

2014: On 31 May, Mark Hibbs of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace delivered a [state-ment](#) to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly on the dangers posed by North Korea's nuclear program.

On 22-23 November, the Defense and Security Committee of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly met in The Hague, Netherlands. In the meeting, Claude-France Arnould, Chief Executive of the European Defense Agency (EDA), [stressed](#) European defense capabilities and cooperation. Peter Sawczak, Head of Government Relations and Political Affairs at the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), emphasized OPCW's work and achievements.

On 22 November, the Political Committee of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly submitted a [general report](#), expressing concerns about Iran's nuclear program.

2013: On 17 May, the fourth joint meeting between the North Atlantic Assembly and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly took place.

On 12 and 13 October, the NATO PA convened its [59th Annual Session](#). During the session, several key topics were discussed, including smart defense, strategic defense, transatlantic cooperation, defense spending, and Iran.

On 13 October, NATO PA urged the West to reach out to Iran regarding its nuclear programme, but not to alleviate sanctions during this process. Any lifting of international sanctions, the [memo](#) noted, should only happen after Tehran "has taken verifiable steps to prove that it is not developing a nuclear weapon."

2012: On 14 March, NATO Parliamentary Assembly Defense Committee [visited](#) France to discuss the implementation of the Lisbon Summit. France agreed to honor its commitments made at Lisbon. They also discussed missile defense systems, noting the continuing, and at times accelerating, proliferation of missiles. Members of the Assembly warned against decreasing defense budgets and instead called for increased cooperation in defense procurement.

On 4 May, the Sub-Committee on Energy and Environmental Security issued a [draft report](#) entitled "Nuclear Energy After Fukushima." The report examines the Fukushima nuclear accident and offers an analysis of its impact on the politics of nuclear energy.

On 7 May, the Science and Technology Committee of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly [issued](#) a draft general report entitled "The Iranian Nuclear Programme: Gauging Iran's Intentions." The report addresses the recent developments in the Iranian program's pursuit of a full nuclear cycle, and provides insight into the sites and facilities of the Iranian program.

From 25-28 May, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly held its 2012 Spring Session in Tallinn, Estonia.

On 26 May, U.S. Congressman David Scott warned the NATO Parliamentary Assembly that Iran's nuclear program was increasing the risk of conflict in the Middle East. He stated that although military action was not Washington's preferred approach, the United States would be willing to consider all options if Israel was attacked by Iran. However, several parliamentarians argued for a more cautious approach, arguing that a preemptive strike by Israel against Iran could be even more destabilizing than Iran's development of nuclear weapons.

On 8 October the North Atlantic Assembly adopted a report on the [developments](#) in Syria and its security implications. The report details the regional instability which the conflict may provoke as well as mentioning the danger of Syria's chemical weapons stockpile and the Syrian government's threat of using such weapons.

2011: On 26 March the 76th Rose-Roth Seminar concluded in Tbilisi, Georgia. The meeting brought together journalists, NGOs, and government officials from NATO and Partner countries. The seminar was organized by the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and the Parliament of Georgia, with the support of the Swiss Ministry of Defense. It addressed Georgia's remarkable efforts made toward Euro-Atlantic integration by committing to economic liberalization,

political reforms, fight against corruption, and transparency. Giorgi Baramidze, Vice Prime Minister of Georgia and a State Minister on European and Euro-Atlantic integration, pointed out that the integration will provide the security Georgia needs to continue with its democratic developments. As a part of its democratic reform, a new constitution will be drafted and will introduce a separation of powers, with a checks and balances system. NATO is enthusiastic about extending its membership to Georgia; in 2 to 3 years the country will be eligible to join the alliance as long as it continues with its developments. Regarding the conflict between Georgia and Russia, it was stated that the two countries should work together on their common interests such as energy, economy, and fighting against terrorism and criminal networks, among others. Other areas discussed were security in the South and North Caucasus, education, judicial reforms, media, and civil-military relations.

On 9-12 May, the Science and Technology Committee of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) met with the Head of the German Delegation and President of the NATO PA, Dr. Karl Lamers in Germany. Various German private companies, members of think tanks, as well as government officials attended the conference to address the biological and chemical threats facing the global community. The delegation discussed various topics, including Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) terrorism, climate change, and energy security in Europe. An official from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety informed the delegation about the effects of the Fukushima Dai-Ichi nuclear plant incident on Germany's nuclear energy policy.

On 27-30 May, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly held its Spring Session in Varna, Bulgaria, bringing together 250 parliamentarians from 28 NATO member countries, delegates from partner countries, as well as observers. Various topics were addressed during the meeting: the arrest of Ratko Mladic, Western Balkans' incorporation into the Euro-Atlantic Integration, developments in North Africa and Afghanistan, cyber security, continued support of the Alliance's security agenda by the member states, food and water shortages, and NATO's relationship with China, amongst other vital topics. NATO placed great emphasis on the threat posed by ballistic missiles to Europe and stated that a missile shield is necessary for the allies to provide regional security. Additional funding of 200 million Euros is needed to build a system that would cover all of NATO's European territory. However, some concerns were expressed about the project, such as the budget and the technical feasibility of the systems.

On 21-24 June, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly held the 77th Rose-Roth Seminar in the Arctic Circle city of Tromsø, Norway. The seminar published a [report](#) entitled "Changes in the High North: Implications for NATO and Beyond."

On 4-5 July in Maddalena, Italy, political leaders, parliamentarians, and experts from NATO Member, Associate, and Mediterranean Associate countries gathered for a to discuss the current security situation in the Middle East and North Africa. The majority of the senior leaders attending the seminar were from Italy, Egypt, and Iraq. The Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ali Ahani, also attended the event. He presented his country's view on the current events taking place in the region by stating that foreign actors are the cause of the current unrest in the Middle East and North Africa. He emphasized that Iran is committed to achieving a nuclear-free world, despite the conflicting accusations surrounding Iran's nuclear program. In addition, he declared that his country does not have and is not pursuing the development of missiles of greater range than 2,000km.

The speech given by Ali Ahani was not accepted well by the Israeli delegation, which left the venue during the presentation. Numerous concerns were raised by other delegates about Iran's violation of human rights, smuggling of nuclear and other illicit materials, unfulfilled IAEA obligation, support of extremist groups, and threats made to the security of Israel.

Egyptian Assistant Foreign Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Mohammed Moustafa Kamal, stated that Egypt's new constitution will be based on democratic principles as well as on Sharia law. Kamal stresses that his country will continue to abide by its peace agreement with Israel as well as its other international treaties.

Developments in Iraq were addressed by former Prime Minister Ayad Allawi and former Prime Minister of the Kurdistan region Nechirvan Idris Barzani. Mr. Allawi stressed that the economic and security situations in Iraq are still unstable and that international support is needed. In particular, the Christian population is in need of protection from being victim of numerous attacks.

Mr. Barzani stated that the Kurdish region of Iraq is recovering following numerous tragedies experienced by the Kurdish community. He also stressed that the

Kurdish people will not seek separation and establishment of their own state.

On 12-16 September a delegation from the NATO Parliamentary Assembly visited Beijing and Shanghai and met with senior government and Communist Party officials of China as well as non-governmental experts. The host country representatives [stated](#) that China will make greater contributions toward peace and security, but within its capabilities and limits. It supports a multilateral approach over a hegemonic path toward resolving international challenges. In addition, the Chinese delegation acknowledged that increased dialogue is essential in order to improve its relationship with NATO.

On 9 October, lawmakers from across the NATO Alliance [urged](#) allied governments to step up efforts against the growing threat of chemical and biological weapons.

On 10 October, the Assembly adopted [Resolution 391](#) on Countering Biological and Chemical Threats presented by the Science and Technology Committee.

On 3-4 November, the Assembly's most senior officers, including President Dr. Karl A. Lamers [visited](#) Moscow to enhance Parliamentary dialogue with Russia. A meeting with such a senior group from NATO had not occurred since 1989.

On 7 November, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly's Defence and Security Committee issued the [report](#), "Missile Defence: The Way Ahead for NATO." The report outlines NATO's Missile Defense Systems.

On 8 November, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly's Science and Technology Committee issued the [report](#), "Countering Biological and Chemical Threats: The Way Forward." The report outlines the importance of not forgetting the threat posed by chemical and biological weapons amidst the high concerns over nuclear weapons programs.

On 21-22 November, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly held the 78th Rose-Roth Seminar in London, UK. The Seminar was entitled "2011-2014: Afghanistan Towards Transition," and released a [report](#) by the same name.

On 22-25 November, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly's Sub-Committee on Transatlantic Defence and Security Cooperation [visited](#) the UK. The main topics of discussion were the UK's Nuclear Deter-

rent, the UK and Missile Defense, the UK's Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition, and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) assets, and NATO's Counter-Piracy Efforts.

On 5-6 December, the 11th Annual Parliamentary Transatlantic Forum [met](#) in Washington DC. Among the topics of discussion was the Iranian nuclear issue. The Forum noted, "A lack of access to fissile material appears to be the primary constraint on Iran's nuclear weapons program. (...) All this means that the only real option now is to contain and deter Iran."

2010: The 73rd Rose-Roth Seminar was held from 11-13 March in Yerevan, Armenia. Entitled "Regional Developments in the South Caucasus: Challenges, Opportunities and Prospects," the seminar gathered 41 parliamentary members from 16 NATO and partner countries, as well as 72 representatives from various research institutes, NGOs, inter-parliamentary Assemblies, international organizations, and NATO. The seminar featured panels on security issues in the South Caucasus region. Among the topics discussed were tense relations, energy security, and the Northern Caucasus. The relationship between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh has continued to deteriorate and blocks the most direct transit routes for energy companies, resulting in a substantial loss of potential profit and the potential for regional conflict. Also, Russia's "creeping annexation" of South Ossetia and Abkhazia following the 2008 war have led to a feeling in Georgia that time is running out for a solution that recognizes their interests. The most heated discussions, however, centered on the Turkey-Armenian rapprochement, although both countries acknowledged that failure to follow through on the protocols would leave the situation worse than before. In regard to the Northern Caucasus it was established that the Caucasian republics of the Russian Federation pose a distinct threat to regional stability as they continue to be plagued by extremely high unemployment, rampant corruption and a failure of the federal and local government to provide basic services. This has resulted in a resurgence of Islamist groups and a belief that the imposition of Sharia law in the region would be an improvement.

On 13 April, the PA officially presented its proposals for a new Strategic Concept to NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen at NATO HQ in Brussels. The final report, which was adopted at the end of March, followed two years of substantive consultation and deliberation by all five of the PA's Committees. The new Strategic Concept acknowledged that the nature of the threats is now more var-

ied and that NATO should thus be prepared to act in new ways in order to respond appropriately to challenges in cyber-security, energy supplies, maritime communications and WMD proliferation. It also suggested that NATO look at Article 2 of the Washington Treaty to fully explore the possible scope for Alliance cooperation. The Strategic Concept also references Article X, which specifies that NATO membership is open only to European States, declaring it should end speculation about potential NATO enlargement beyond Europe's borders.

Latvia hosted the NATO Parliamentary Assembly's Spring Session on 28 May-1 June, in Riga. 29-30 May were devoted to meetings of each of the PA's five committees: , , , and . The Committee on Science and Technology addressed issues in the field of WMD arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

Before the official opening of the Spring Session, Assembly Vice President Sven Mikser of Estonia affirmed that [nuclear deterrence](#) "will obviously be an important component of the new Strategic Concept." Vice President Mikser expressed the general consensus of member states that a combination of nuclear and conventional deterrence is necessary for maintaining NATO's overall deterrent. However, he noted the continuing debate between European NATO members regarding the presence of US nuclear weapons on European soil. The Assembly also noted U.S. President Barack Obama's 2009 call for a nuclear-free world. Vice President Mikser [maintained](#) that the Assembly would not "be talking about global zero within the lifetime of the new Strategic Concept."

The Science and Technology Committee (STC) began consideration of the draft General Report on Nuclear/WMD Proliferation and Missile Defense: Forging a New Partnership with Russia prepared by David Scott, of the United States. The report outlined steps made by the United States that were consistent with Global Zero, such as the disclosure of the precise number of U.S. nuclear weapons.

On missile defense, the report urged Russia to reconsider its opposition to U.S. proposals, which represented a unique opportunity for mutually beneficial co-operation between the two states. The Report affirmed that joint efforts of the Euro-Atlantic community and Russia towards reaching Global Zero through disarmament, the strengthening of the WMD non-proliferation regime and the development of anti-missile shields were favorable means for building on the relationship between the Alliance and Russia.

Members from the Russian associate delegation called for including the issue of the weaponization of outer space and the need for engaging Israel, India and Pakistan in the global disarmament effort in the report.

Poland hosted the NATO Parliamentary Assembly's 56th Annual Session in Warsaw, on 12-16 November. The STC considered the draft report on Partnering with Russia on WMD Security and Missile Defense and discussed several amendments submitted by the Polish, Turkish, Lithuanian, Russian and Norwegian delegates. The Committee deemed the majority of the amendments to be acceptable.

H.E. Ambassador Jacek Bylica, head of the NATO WMD Non-Proliferation Centre, on NATO's policies and activities in the field of WMD arms control. Ambassador Bylica initiated a discussion on NATO's current policies in the field and affirmed the Centre's plans for a workshop on the role of parliaments in WMD arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation together with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF). In response to questions regarding Russia's new nuclear doctrine, Ambassador Bylica noted Russian supremacy over NATO in terms of tactical nuclear weapons deployed in Europe. In addition, he presided over discussion on the problems arising from growing energy production based on nuclear technology and the difficulty of discerning military and civilian use of nuclear material and facilities.

Lukasz Kulesa, Deputy Director of the Strategic Analyses Department of the National Security Bureau, presented on the topic of missile defense, stressing that planned anti-missile systems could be the "new glue" for the Alliance. He affirmed that the project could improve cohesion among the Allies and, if acceptable, could also build trust with Russia. Although Moscow objects to the proposed U.S. anti-missile system as a threat to the country's nuclear deterrent, Deputy Director Kulesa contended that the planned U.S. phased adaptive approach to missile defense was directed against medium and intermediate range missiles, which Russia does not possess in accordance with the INF treaty. He stressed that Russian participation in collaborative missile defense would bring numerous advantages. Although a joint NATO-Russian command and control system does not appear feasible, data exchange as well as consultation on the development of the MD systems would be realistic.

On 15 November, the Defense and Security Committee adopted Dutch parliamentarian Raymond Knops'

report on U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe, in which he called for increased transparency. The Subcommittee's draft report, titled *US Non-Strategic Nuclear Weapons in Europe: A Fundamental NATO Debate*, outlines certain means for updating NATO's nuclear strategy, such as the possible declaration of sites, reducing the number of deployed sites or of warheads, and strengthening NATO's non-nuclear deterrent capabilities through the missile defense project.

On 16 November 2010 the Assembly elected German MP Karl A. Lamers as the new President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly by acclamation. He succeeded U.S. Congressman John Tanner.

2009: From 26-30 January, a delegation of 35 NATO parliamentarians from the Defense and Security Committee visited the United States. They met with U.S. leaders and discussed critical issues regarding the U.S.-NATO relationship, with particular attention to missile defense. The delegation visited the headquarters of the U.S. Missile Defense Agency and [reported](#) that "a broad bipartisan consensus in the United States regarding the overall value of pursuing missile defenses continues to hold."

On 4 April, NATO PA President John Tanner gave a [speech](#) at the NATO Summit of Heads of State and Government in Strasbourg, France. He highlighted the importance of three issues: NATO's need to help "bring stability to Afghanistan," improve its relationship with Russia, and update its Strategic Concept, which was last revised in 1999.

On 22-26 May, the NATO PA hosted its Spring Session in Oslo, Norway. The Science and Technology Committee submitted a report on "[Combating WMD Proliferation](#)." The report recommended making acceptance of the Additional Protocol mandatory and initiating talks towards the creation of a WMD-free zone in the Middle East, and asserted that the only "permanent resolution" to the Iranian crisis would be "to find a political compromise that would promote a strategic decision by Iranian leadership not to seek nuclear weapons." The report also discussed the need for nations to take the threat of biological and chemical weapons more seriously. The Sub-Committee on Energy and Environmental Security drafted a report titled "[The Nuclear Renaissance](#)." The report discussed the economic, energy security and environmental benefits of nuclear power in addition to the perils that might result. The report found that a new generation of nuclear power is a viable option, both economically and environmentally, but only if the outstanding issues of nuclear waste disposal, IAEA

monitoring of fuel enrichment and reprocessing, and universal adherence to nuclear safety standards are addressed. The best way to manage the threat posed by the expansion of nuclear energy "is to promote internationalization of nuclear fuel cycle, including establishment of multinational uranium enrichment and spent fuel reprocessing centres as well as international nuclear fuel reserve under the aegis of the IAEA."

On 26 June, NATO PA held the [71st Rose-Roth Seminar in Astana, Kazakhstan](#), the first seminar to convene in Central Asia. It was also the first Rose Roth Seminar ever organized in conjunction with a NATO Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) Security Forum. More than 50 parliamentarians from NATO and partner countries, senior government officials and representatives of international organizations, academia and civil society attended the seminar. The major themes of the EAPC Forum included energy security, Central Asia's contribution to security and development in Afghanistan, and regional challenges and cooperation in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

The major themes of the NATO parliamentary delegation that visited Boston, Livermore, and Monterey from 6-10 July were nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, energy security, and the security implications of new technologies. The delegation consisted of 17 members of the Science and Technology Committee (STC), led by STC Vice-Chairman Senator Pierre Claude Nolin (Canada). They were briefed by and had discussions with eminent American experts and scholars, and visited leading R&D institutions in the field of defense technology.

On 26 September, John Tanner, President of the NATO PA, concern regarding the revelation of a previously undeclared nuclear facility in Iran. Tanner announced that this discovery "demonstrates that Iranian statements on the extent of their nuclear activities have been incomplete, and show that the government of Iran has yet to fully understand the depth of international concern about the nature of its nuclear programme" and that it is "not an issue of whether or not Iran has a right to develop nuclear power for civilian use. This is about restricting and restraining the proliferation of nuclear weapons that would set off a destabilizing wave across the region."

From 13-15 October, the NATO PA held its [72nd Rose-Roth Seminar](#) in Lviv, Ukraine. The seminar hosted 34 Parliamentarians from 19 different countries and focused primarily on Ukraine and its relations with NATO and the EU. In addition, the seminar addressed broader regional and energy security

issues between Russia, Georgia, Moldova, and Belarus. Many of these states feel that they are receiving undue pressure from Russia in the form of energy deals, which has strongly impacted their foreign policy options. The challenge addressed at the seminar involved attempting to balance the states' relationships with Russia while maintaining their sovereign rights.

From 13-17 November, the NATO PA met in Edinburgh, United Kingdom, for its [55th Annual Session](#). During this session the PA addressed its position in Afghanistan, with most agreeing on a continued international commitment with an emphasis on development for the Afghani people. The issue of Iran's nuclear program was discussed in the PA, with Iran expert Professor Ali Ansari suggesting that the international community should diminish the pressure they put on Iran, as the program faces substantial opposition domestically. Policy recommendations that were forwarded to NATO included reinforcing the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, engagement in Pakistan, and NATO's enduring commitment to Afghanistan. A resolution on a comprehensive and coordinated response to piracy off the coast of Somalia was also adopted by the PA. A report from the PA's Science and Technology Committee examined loopholes "that allow ambiguous nuclear programmes", particularly that of Iran. The Committee Report on "[The Growing Threat of Piracy to Regional and Global Security](#)" discussed the evolving threat of piracy, using Somalia as a case study, and discussed the possibility of enhancing the global response. The report "[Afghanistan: A Turning Point?](#)" covered the continuing insecurity in Afghanistan, but discussed a possible turning point as a result of a new approach by the United States and a renewed commitment by NATO. "" covered the role Pakistan plays in achieving stability and security in Afghanistan. In addition, the concern generated by Pakistan's unstable security environment and its possession of nuclear weapons was addressed by evidence that Pakistan has established checks and balances that ensures the security of their arsenal.

2008: On 6-8 March, the [68th Rose-Roth Seminar](#) was held in Baku, Azerbaijan. Members of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly met with their Central Asian counterparts to discuss security in the Caspian and Central Asian regions. This [seminar](#) marked the first time that delegations from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, along with participants from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, met with NATO parliamentarians. Central Asia's role in NATO's mission in Afghanistan was intensely discussed. Security in the South Caucasus was also discussed, specifically including

the armed conflicts between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the independence of Kosovo.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly met in Berlin from 23-27 May. NATO officials emphasized the importance of closer cooperation with Russia in combating the proliferation of WMD. The principal conclusion emerging from the NATO-Russia [Parliamentary Committee session](#) was that the two sides had to engage in a much more constructive dialogue to make further progress. The PA also addressed issues related to Central Asia, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and the situation in Afghanistan.

From 14-18 November, the NATO PA met in Valencia, Spain, for its [54th Annual Session](#). The PA addressed the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan, received briefings on the United States' new Africa Command, discussed the integration of women in the armed forces of the Member States, urged governments and parliaments of NATO member and partner countries to remain committed to securing peace and stability in Kosovo, and received a letter from the President-elect of the U.S., Barack Obama, pledging to work closely with the incoming NATO PA President, U.S. Congressman John Tanner. On 18 November, the PA passed a resolution urging governments and parliamentarians of NATO Member States to increase cooperation with Russia, particularly in the military sphere, and improve public diplomacy efforts towards Russia, while at the same time reducing certain activities with Russian parliamentarians. The PA also adopted reports on [nuclear disarmament](#), suggesting that NATO should be involved in discussing the issue, [the Iranian nuclear file](#), arguing that the international community should continue its two-track approach offering Iran incentives and penalties, and [missile defense](#), concluding that a limited system should be implemented and additional clarifications should be pursued with Poland, the Czech Republic, and Russia.

2007: The NATO Parliamentary Assembly met in Madeira, Portugal on 25-28 May. The main topics of discussion included Kosovo, military support in Afghanistan, and US missile defense radar systems in Poland and the Czech Republic. PA President Jose Lello opened the conference with a speech calling for a new NATO Strategic Concept. He also referred to Afghanistan as NATO's "top priority." For the first time in NATO PA history, parliamentary delegations from Pakistan and Afghanistan attended the meeting. In addition, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia transitioned from "parliamentary observers" to "associate members."

On 24 March in Budapest, Hungary, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly's Standing Committee appointed a new Secretary General, [David Hobbs](#). Hobbs, a British national, started his mandate once Simon Lunn's term expired on 31 December 2007. On that day, Mr. Lunn stepped down after more than 10 years of service to the organization.

From 5-9 October, 26 members of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly met for the 53rd Annual Session in Reykjavik, Iceland. [Two resolutions](#) pertaining to NATO's role in Afghanistan and the further development of NATO's relations with the Russian Federation were passed. During the plenary meeting, many delegations expressed their support for Albania, Croatia, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to join the Alliance. Other topics discussed include territorial issues pertaining to the opening of the Northwest Passage; Canada and Russia in particular voiced concerns.

2006: The NATO Parliamentary Assembly's [52nd Annual Session](#) took place in Quebec City, Canada on 11-17 November. The five main bodies of the Parliamentary Assemblies met on 14 and 15 November. Major issues addressed included: current operations in Afghanistan, the maintenance and extension of partner nations, and the Alliance transformation. The PA further affirmed that NATO's success depends on the support provided by the Alliance's governments. It was expected that an Alliance-focused dialogue would better facilitate the Riga Summit (28-29 November) where NATO heads of state and government were to reconvene. During the session, on 17 November, the Science and Technology Committee presented a policy recommendation entitled [Resolution on The Nuclear Weapon Test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea](#). The policy condemned the North Korean nuclear test, supported the UN Security Council's Resolution 1718, and advocated diplomatic measures through NATO and Six Party Talks.

The NATO PA also met in [Paris on 26-30 May](#). included: operations in Afghanistan, the Iran nuclear crisis, Iraq's negative effects on the War on Terror, and security threats pertaining to the Black Sea.

Reports commissioned for the 2006 Annual Session included: [The Nuclear Policy of Iran](#), [Energy Security](#), [Transition in Ukraine](#), and [Afghanistan and the Future of the Alliance](#), among others.

2005: On 31 May a nuclear terrorism simulation exercise, named "Black Dawn" was presented at a ple-

nary session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Spring Session in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Approximately 300 parliamentarians from North America and Europe participated in the presentation, which explored measures to prevent nuclear terrorism and develop recommendations which NATO and individual European governments can implement now, before an attack occurs. The Black Dawn exercise specifically simulated a terrorist group attacking a European civilian reactor to acquire HEU and building a crude bomb from available materials.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly's 51st Annual session took place in Copenhagen from 11-15 November. The NATO Parliamentary Assembly's five committees (Political, Defense and Security, Economics and Security, Civil Dimension of Security, and Science and Technology) met during this session on 12 and 13 November. There were discussions on a range of topics and crisis situations from Belarus, where the PA is supporting the democratic opposition, to the emergence of China as a great power. These topics emphasized the breadth of activities in which the Alliance and its parliamentary arm, the NATO PA, are now involved in.

2004: Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia became members of the NATO PA on 29 March.

The spring session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly began on 29 May in Bratislava, Slovakia. Major topics of discussion during the individual committee sessions included the challenge of post-conflict reconstruction in Afghanistan and Iraq, NATO's military role in Afghanistan, developments in the war against terrorism, and nuclear proliferation. Meetings of the Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security, the Political Committee, the Defense and Security Committee, the Economics and Security Committee, and the Science and Technology Committee were held on 29 and 30 May, and a plenary meeting convened on 1 June.

During the meeting of the , Chairperson Pierre-Claude Nolin of Canada presented a report on Nuclear Weapon Proliferation. The report reviewed the threats posed by nuclear armaments, existing mechanisms and agreements designed to reduce these threats, and recent proposals outlined by U.S. President George Bush and IAEA Director General Mohamed El Baradei for strengthening the nonproliferation regime. The report also analyzed the current situations in Iran, Libya, North Korea, and Pakistan and discussed the proliferation-related concerns they pose. It concluded that "revisiting and hardening the nuclear nonproliferation regime must be the centerpiece of all international strategies against the prolif-

eration of nuclear materials and technologies,” and proposed the committee use both the Bush and El Baradei proposals to generate a set of recommendations for the PA to improve the nonproliferation regime. The report received support from committee members as well as some suggestions for amendments, but was not adopted or rejected until the fall plenary meeting, as per NATO PA procedures.

Several additional conferences convened during the summer. Members of the NATO PA and the Russian State Duma met in Moscow from 17-18 June to address cooperation in combating terrorism, proliferation, and other issues. Additionally, from 3-6 August, 40 NATO Parliamentary Assembly legislators met at a seminar in Spitzbergen, Norway to discuss security and environmental issues in the Arctic, including the threat of radiological pollution from nuclear facilities in northwestern Russia.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly's 50th annual session took place from 12-16 November in Venice. The five-day special session brought together close to 300 parliamentarians from North America and Europe for discussions on a wide range of issues affecting the Transatlantic Alliance, including Afghanistan and Iraq, terrorism, NATO's capabilities and partnerships, the threat from weapons of mass destruction (WMD), and the relationship between NATO and the European Union.

2003: On 9 and 10 April, NATO and Russian parliamentarians met together in St. Petersburg, Russia to discuss several key topics, including improving cooperation in counterterrorism efforts and major threats to the current global security environment. From 24-28 May, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly held its spring session in Prague. Primary issues addressed included the situation in Iraq and the threat posed by WMD. The Economics and Security, Defense and Security, and Science and Technology Committees met on 25 May, the Political and Civil Dimension of Security committees met on 26 May, and plenary meetings were held on 26 and 28 May. Nonproliferation, arms control, and the possible weaponization of space were among the primary issues discussed at the Science and Technology Committee meeting. On behalf of rapporteur Teresa Riera, Committee Vice Chairman Jose Lello presented a draft general report entitled “Non-Proliferation in the 21st Century: A Transatlantic Agenda.” The report recognized the threat posed by WMD and noted the increased awareness of this issue since 11 September 2001. It addressed recent American actions, noting that the Bush administration’s approach “has generated several important questions about both the nature and the effectiveness of the arms control and

non-proliferation regime” and that “debate is ongoing within the international community on the need to adapt the international non-proliferation regime to a new security environment, and this has stimulated a new debate about non-proliferation.” The report reviewed various international organizations, export control regimes, and treaties dealing with nonproliferation, and specifically examined the [U.S. National Security Strategy of 2002](#), the [National Strategy to Combat Weapons of Mass Destruction](#), and European responses to these documents. In it, the committee rapporteur recommended that several measures be taken to strengthen the nonproliferation regime, including the following: strengthening the NPT, expanding participation in the International Atomic Energy Agency Additional Protocol, and establishing a permanent UN body for monitoring and verification, among others. The committee also heard, and extensively discussed, an additional presentation on broad issues of nuclear proliferation, and the draft report was put aside for the committee’s consideration during the fall session, according to NATO PA procedure.

The 2nd meeting of the joint NATO PA Parliamentary Standing Committee also took place in Prague within the context of the spring meeting, on 25 May. The primary focus of the meeting was the war in Iraq and the debate over whether or not evidence existed proving Iraq’s possession of WMD.

From 5-8 June, NATO parliamentarians met with non-government officials and analysts to address the threat posed by WMD at the 55th Rose Roth seminar. They discussed the possibility of terrorist organizations acquiring chemical, biological and radiological weapons and using them to conduct mass casualty attacks, and possible scenarios of how this acquisition might take place. Most participants stressed the importance of international cooperation in managing proliferation risks. They also discussed NATO’s role in this process, and the importance of civil protection and readiness. The threat of nuclear proliferation, particularly the possibility of Iran developing nuclear weapons, was also among the topics addressed at the 9th NATO PA Mediterranean seminar, which convened in Malaga, Spain from 9-10 October to provide a forum for discussing the situation in the Middle East.

The fall session of the Parliamentary Assembly was held in Orlando, Florida from 7-11 November. Discussions were held on the war against terrorism, the threat of WMD, and the current state of transatlantic relations. Simon Lunn was reappointed Secretary General of the NATO PA for an additional four-year term. During the session, the Science and Technolo-

gy, Political, Civil Dimension of Security, Defense and Security and Economics and Security Committees each met on 8 and 9 November. The Science and Technology Committee adopted a Resolution on Non-Proliferation in the 21st Century. It urged NATO governments and parliaments to take several actions to reduce the risk of proliferation. These included: strengthening the NPT by implementing recommendations of the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences and making the IAEA Additional Protocol mandatory; encouraging India, Pakistan and Israel to sign the NPT and CTBT, supporting the Six Party Talks and placing North Korean activities under IAEA safeguards; encouraging Russian and American disarmament efforts, banning radiological weapons, improving the Biological Weapons Convention, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and export control regimes; supporting the Proliferation Security Initiative; implementing the G-8 Global Partnership, and expanding the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. In addition, committee members discussed the draft general report on “Nonproliferation in the 21st Century: A Transatlantic Agenda,” which was presented during the spring meeting. They agreed to eventually adopt the report, but only pending the chair’s review and the reaching of a compromise between the U.S. delegate and rapporteur on some parts of the text, as some delegates expressed concerns about the report’s portrayal of the U.S. as a threat to nonproliferation. A report on Weapons in Space and Global Security was adopted unanimously.

2002: At the spring meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria on 25-28 May, the PA adopted the Declaration on NATO Enlargement, which stated that Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania had proved their progress towards NATO membership through successful programs of reform. In the same meeting, the leadership of the PA and the leaders of the Russian Federal Assembly agreed to create a parliamentary counterpart to the NATO-Russia Council endorsed at the Rome Summit. The parliamentary dimension took the form of a NATO-Russia Parliamentary Standing Committee that covered the same issues as the NATO-Russia Council and provided an overall coordination role concerning relations between the PA and the Russian Federal Assembly.

On 15-19 November, the 48th Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly was held in Istanbul, Turkey to discuss the adaptation of the NATO Alliance to meet the new challenges posed by the proliferation of WMD, the terrorist threats to its members, and the forthcoming enlargement of NATO.

In the session, the PA accorded priority to defense against terrorism and the proliferation of WMD, which together posed a qualitatively new threat to its societies. It recognized substantial adjustments to capabilities and structures to deal with these challenges, including the internal structures within NATO itself. The PA recognized that defense expenditures must be effective and well directed; research in the field of defense should be coordinated with particular emphasis on balanced exchanges of technology between the United States and the other members of the Alliance.

The PA stressed that NATO should endorse defense against the threat of terrorism and WMD, and particularly the threat of biological, chemical, or radiological agents, as a priority for the Allies. Defense against WMD should be given priority at all levels: arms control, counter-proliferation and disarmament, and the appropriate military capabilities.

2001: The President and Secretary General of the PA visited Slovakia and Slovenia from 12-16 November to hear the perspectives of both countries as they prepared their respective candidacies for NATO membership.

The PA held its fall assembly session in Ottawa from 6-9 October. The assembly passed a series of policy recommendations to NATO and its member governments, including support for efforts to counter nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, and an endorsement of adding new members to the Alliance the following year. The PA also discussed the substantive reports presented by the committees, which were prepared during the 27-31 May meeting in Vilnius.

2000: At the fall meeting in Berlin, the departing President, Thomas Bliley, warned that EU ambitions could weaken NATO. The new President, Rafael Estrella, called for a future EU-NATO accord on defense. Estrella enumerated various priorities for his presidency, including ensuring that the collective commitment to peace and stability in the Balkans is sustained until the mission there is completed, supporting and encouraging the efforts of those partners who have expressed the willingness to join NATO, making Serbia a priority among the new partners, pursuing a fruitful dialogue with partners in the South, and bringing relations with Russia back on track.

1999: At NATO’s 50th Anniversary Summit, held in Washington, DC from 22-25 April, the PA’s President, Javier Ruperez, addressed the meeting of Heads of State and Governments, and other leading assem-

bly members, and participated in a variety of other summit meetings and events.

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At the November plenary session in Amsterdam, the Secretary General addressed the PA on the topic of European Security and Defense Identity (ESDI). He stated that efforts to develop an independent ESDI should include all members of the Alliance, including those outside of the European Union.

1998: The PA held its spring session in Barcelona in May. During this time, the leadership of the PA and a delegation from the Russian Federal Assembly agreed to establish a joint parliamentary group to monitor the implementation of the NATO-Russia Founding Act, as well as the workings of the Permanent Joint Council (PJC) and its subordinate groups.

1997: The President of the PA, Senator William Roth, addressed the heads of state at the Madrid Summit, a meeting in which formal invitations to join NATO were extended to Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. Also at this summit the Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Co-operation and Security Between the Russian Federation and NATO was signed. In July, the NATO-Ukraine Charter was signed. The two signatories explicitly charged the PA with expanding its dialogue and cooperation with both the Russian Duma and the Ukrainian Rada.

1993: The Science and Technology Committee created a Sub-Committee on the Proliferation of Military Technology.

1990: The PA broadened its mandate when it first began to admit Eastern and Central European countries as associate members. President of the assembly, Congressman Charlie Rose and Senator Bill Roth initiated the PA Rose-Roth program of seminars and conferences to deepen cooperation with the parliaments of those countries.

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