

Key Existing Cooperative Initiatives in the Euro-Atlantic Region

This document provides additional background to Building Mutual Security in the Euro-Atlantic Region: Report Prepared for Presidents, Prime Ministers, Parliamentarians, and Publics, available in English and Russian at www.BuildingMutualSecurity.org.

I. Institutions and Forums

NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)–Russia Council (NRC)

Members: 28 NATO members and Russia

The NRC was established in 2002 as a mechanism for consultation, consensus building, cooperation, and joint decisions and actions. The NRC is intended to provide a forum whereby NATO members and Russia work as equal partners. It works on the premise of consensus and seeks to promote continuous political dialogue on security issues with a view to the early identification of emerging problems, determination of common approaches, development of practical cooperation, and conduct of joint operations.

The agenda of the NRC focuses on areas of mutual interest as identified in the NATO-Russia Founding Act (new areas may be added to the agenda by the mutual consent of its members). A number of working groups and committees have been established to develop cooperation on various issues, including terrorism, proliferation, missile defence, and defence reform. The NRC typically meets monthly at the level of ambassadors and military representatives, twice yearly at the level of ministers and chiefs of staff, and occasionally at the summit level.

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Members: 57 members including Russia and states across Europe, the Caucasus, North America, and central Asia

The OSCE is the world's largest regional security organisation. It provides a forum for political negotiations and decision making in the fields of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, and postconflict rehabilitation. All 57 participating states have equal status, and decisions are taken by consensus on a politically, but not legally, binding basis.

The OSCE has a comprehensive approach to security that encompasses political, military, economic, environmental, and human aspects. It therefore addresses a wide range of security-related concerns, including arms control, confidence- and security-building measures, human rights, national minorities, democratization, policing strategies, counterterrorism, and economic and environmental activities.

II. Agreements and Initiatives

New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START)

Members: United States and Russia

The New START Treaty further reduces the limits on strategic offensive arms held by the United States and Russia, limiting each side to no more than 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads and no more than 800 deployed and nondeployed ICBM and SLBM launchers and heavy bombers equipped for nuclear armaments. This treaty mandates a verification regime that includes national technical means, on-site inspection activities, and notifications and establishes the Bilateral Consultative Commission to resolve questions related to compliance.

The New START Treaty was signed on April 8, 2010, by President Barack Obama and President Dmitry Medvedev in Prague. It entered into force on February 5, 2011.

Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE)

Members: 30 states across Europe, the Caucasus, and North America; Kazakhstan; and Russia

The CFE Treaty was signed in Paris on November 19, 1990, by all members of NATO and the Warsaw Pact. The treaty sought to create a secure and stable balance of forces in Europe. The CFE Treaty imposed equal limits between NATO and Warsaw Pact force levels in five equipment categories: tanks, armoured combat vehicles, artillery, combat aircraft, and attack helicopters in the area from the Atlantic to the Ural Mountains. These were group limits for each alliance, and subsequent national limits were derived by negotiation among the respective alliance members. The CFE Treaty established significant transparency through information exchange and on-site inspections. It also created the Joint Consultative Group (JCG) to resolve future questions related to compliance.

Following the end of the Soviet Union, its successor states met at Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in 1992, and negotiated respective national totals from what had previously been allocated to the Soviet Union. The Baltic nations refused to attend this conference because they argued that they were not successor states. Consequently, these nations are no longer bound by any restrictions under the original treaty.

In 1996 parties adopted the CFE Flank Agreement to provide higher equipment levels in the treaty's flank (north and south) regions. This agreement entered into force in 1997. In 1999, the Adapted CFE Treaty, together with the CFE Final Act, was adopted. The agreed revisions transformed the original CFE Treaty into one based on limits for individual state parties. The treaty also included an important provision that allowed for individual states to accede to this new regime. The associated CFE Final Act contained political commitments to resolve Russian stationing-of-forces issues in Georgia and Moldova.

Russia ratified the Adapted CFE Treaty in 2004; NATO allies took the position that until the CFE Final Act political commitments were fulfilled (relating to the removal of Russian forces from the territory of Georgia and Moldova), they would not ratify the Adapted CFE Treaty. In December 2007, Russia suspended CFE implementation, refusing to accept inspections and ceasing to provide information to other CFE parties on its military forces as required by the treaty. In November 2011, the United States and all NATO allies announced they would cease carrying out certain obligations with regard to Russia.

Treaty on Open Skies

Members: 34 members including the United States, Russia, and many European countries

The Treaty on Open Skies is a legally binding agreement that allows countries to address concerns about the military capabilities and intentions of other nations by obtaining aerial imagery of military bases or other areas of interest without any access restrictions. The treaty stipulates the terms, conditions, and quotas for reciprocal territorial access and establishes camera performance specifications. The images obtained from Open Skies flights can be shared among all 34 treaty signatories.

More than 840 reconnaissance missions have been flown over Europe, Russia, and North America since 2002. Uniformed military personnel from different nations share in the planning, execution, and staffing of these monitoring missions. For countries without satellite systems or national technical means of verification, Open Skies is their only means of alleviating security concerns through timely overhead imagery. Currently, Russia receives and conducts roughly 80 percent of the missions flown.

Vienna Document (updated 2011)

Members: OSCE members

The Vienna Document includes a range of Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBMs) designed to prevent crisis, inhibit intimidation, control escalation, reduce the likelihood of surprise attack, and manage risk. Commitments are politically, but not legally, binding. The CSBM regime includes routine evaluation visits of conventional forces, observations of military exercises above a certain threshold, and short-notice on-site inspections of specified areas. In the absence of the CFE Treaty, countries have relied increasingly on the CSBM evaluation visits. This increased demand for CSBM evaluation visits means the relatively small quota is used up early in the calendar year.

NRC Cooperative Airspace Initiative (CAI)

Members: 28 NATO members and Russia

This initiative was designed to prevent terrorist attacks which use civilian aircraft by sharing information on movements in NATO airspace and Russian airspace and by coordinating interceptions of renegade aircraft.

The CAI provides a shared NATO-Russia radar picture of air traffic and allows early warning of suspicious air activities through commonly agreed procedures. In situations in which an aircraft behaves erratically, the air traffic coordination system offers increased information sharing and communication to ensure rapid, joint responses to terrorist threats.

The system has two coordination centres—in Warsaw and Moscow—and local coordination sites in Kaliningrad, Rostov-on-Don, and Murmansk, Russia; Warsaw, Poland; Bodø, Norway; and Ankara, Turkey. The CAI is one of the priority areas of the NATO-Russia Council.

Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA)

Members: European Union (EU) countries and Russia

The PCA has been the framework of the EU-Russia relationship since 1997. The agreement regulates the political and economic relations between the EU and Russia and is the legal basis for the EU's bilateral trade and investment relations with Russia.

In 2003, the EU and Russia agreed to reinforce their cooperation by creating, in the long term, four common spaces in the framework of the PCA on the basis of common values and shared interests. These common spaces cover the following issues:

- The Common Economic Space, covering economic issues and the environment
- The Common Space of Freedom, Security, and Justice
- The Common Space of External Security, including crisis management and non-proliferation
- The Common Space of Research and Education, including cultural aspects

The PCA was signed in 1994 and entered into force on December 1, 1997. The EU and Russia are currently negotiating a new agreement.

Dayton Accords

Signatories: Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

The Dayton Accords were signed in November 1995, ending the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Annex 1A of the agreement included ambitious arms-control and confidence-building proposals for the signatories to be negotiated under the auspices of the OSCE in Europe. All states agreed and, in June 1996, signed a treaty which placed limits on their respective conventional forces. The associated numerical limits on holdings of tanks, artillery, armoured combat vehicles, combat aircraft, and attack helicopters are modelled on CFE. The participating states in this agreement designed it this way to allow them to eventually accede to the Adapted CFE Treaty and, consequently, enter a Pan-European security framework.

Wassenaar Arrangement

Members: 41 countries around the world

The Wassenaar Arrangement promotes transparency and greater responsibility in transfers of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies, thus preventing destabilising accumulations. Participating states seek, through their national policies, to ensure that transfers of these items do not contribute to the development or enhancement of military capabilities, which undermine these goals, and are not diverted to support such capabilities. The decision to transfer or deny transfer of any item is the sole responsibility of each participating state. All measures with respect to the Wassenaar Arrangement are taken in accordance with national legislation and policies and are implemented on the basis of national discretion.

Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI)

Members: More than 100 countries around the world

The PSI is a global effort that aims to stop trafficking of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), their delivery systems, and related materials to and from states and nonstate actors of proliferation concern. It was launched by President George W. Bush in May 2003 at a meeting in Kraków, Poland.

More than 100 countries have now signed the PSI and agreed to abide by the Statement of Interdiction Principles. This document defines the activities which are to be undertaken by the initiative, specifically "to establish a more coordinated and effective basis through which to impede and stop shipments of WMD, delivery systems, and related materials flowing to and from states and nonstate actors of proliferation concern, consistent with national legal authorities and relevant international law and frameworks, including the [United Nations] Security Council."