

Position Paper for North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

The topics before the North Atlantic Treaty Organization are: Poland emphasizes cooperation between all Member States to

I. Cyber defense

As an active member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, Poland strongly supports the fight against cyber attacks, and follows the guiding thread established in “NATO 2020” in May of 2010. This one outlines the necessity of increasing the efforts toward such attacks, and the necessity of finding technological responses for all the members of NATO in order to give them the possibility to protect themselves against cyber attacks. Poland deeply believes that efficient solutions can only be found through deeper cooperation between the different members of NATO. In 2008, the Polish Minister of Defence, who was in Tallinn, met with his Estonian colleague and showed a keen interest in developing a closer bilateral cooperation in such issues as cyber defence, after Estonia had been victim of cyber attacks. In 2010, Poland started a consolidation of its cooperation with the NATO agency NC3A, which helps NATO in issues from missile and cyber defence to information dominance. Poland and NC3A agreed to meet each year in order to further talks and cooperation. Poland highlights that Cyber Attacks should be divided in different categories and considers that a special attention should be focused on political attacks, which includes espionage. In fact, Espionage is a threat for national secrets and technological know-how and could be a major factor of destabilization in a close future.

II. The Future of NATO – Strategic Goal

From the Polish perspective, the future of NATO is good and certain for one essential reason: We all need NATO. The entire world needs the Atlantic alliance to safeguard the national security of its member states as well as security and stability in the transatlantic zone and its immediate neighbourhood. This is why Poland deeply considers that there should be no criticism directed against NATO questions this basic need. Criticism mostly refers to what is not part of the alliance’s initial mandate, i.e. operations not covered by Article 5 - the so-called out of area operations. The NATO is now facing challenges that are connected with two of its main tasks, here presented in order of their significance: Article 5; and partnership with non-member states, including further enlargement.

First of all, for Poland, it is indispensable that the primacy of article 5 of the Washington Treaty is reaffirmed. For the past 20 years the alliance has dealt with many other security issues and, in the process, has taken so much upon itself that it has begun to transform itself into a collective security system. In Poland, a country situated on the borders of NATO, we do value its primary role as a collective defence organisation. In order to reinvigorate NATO’s essence - not so much in a political but in an actual sense - contingency plans will have to be updated and NATO's defence infrastructure will have to be more evenly

distributed among its member states – including those that joined NATO after the end of Cold War.

As for the second challenge, partnership and enlargement, this demands a wise combination of developing relations with Russia and, at the same time, improving the security situation of countries east of NATO's borders. It is in the interest of the alliance to maintain close relations with Russia and to collaborate on various security issues (e.g. terrorism, proliferation). However, countries such as Ukraine or Georgia that endure Russia's policy of intimidation must have the opportunity to become members of the alliance. We have offered NATO membership to these countries - and even though they are not yet ready, and even though it is still hard to determine when they will be, we have to support them on the way.

All in all, NATO should and will continue in the same way - provided it focuses on its primary tasks and resists the temptation to "do everything everywhere" and provided it will be able to learn quickly from its own mistakes.