



B | S | T The Black Sea Trust
for Regional Cooperation
A PROJECT OF THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND



BLACK SEA AND BALKAN PERSPECTIVES *A Strategic Region*

High-Level Conference

*Organised by the NATO Defense College Foundation,
under the High Patronage of the President of the Italian Republic*

*In co-operation with the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation, the NATO Public Diplomacy Division
and the NATO Defense College*

Rome, 28th of July 2021

Venue: *Parco dei Principi Grand Hotel & Spa, Via Gerolamo Frescobaldi, 5, 00198 Roma RM*

28TH OF JULY 2021

15,00 - 15,30 Participants Registration

15,30 - 15,35 WELCOME REMARKS

- **Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo**, President, NATO Defense College Foundation, Rome **

15,35 - 16,25

SESSION 1 COMPETITION FOR INFLUENCE AMONG GREAT POWERS

Since a long time, the whole area is evidently the object of strategic competition by powers like Russia, Middle Eastern countries vying for influence and with China that is quietly structuring its multi-bilateral relations with several instruments (FDI, BRI, medical geoeconomics, etc.). At the same time the EU remains the most important economic actor and donor that will carry out its enlargement policy across the next decade.

Chair: **Alexandra von Nahmen**, Correspondent, Deutsche Welle, Brussels Bureau, Brussels **

- **Helena Legarda**, Senior Analyst, China Security Project, Mercator Institute for China Studies, Berlin **
- **Amer Kapetanovic**, Political Director, Regional Cooperation Council, Sarajevo **
- **Dmitri Trenin**, Director, Carnegie Moscow Center, Moscow *

Q&A

16,25 – 17,00 Discussion Break

17,00 – 17,55

SESSION 2 THE CHALLENGE OF REGIONAL SECURITY AND INCLUSION

The Balkans and the Black Sea area have some evident concerns, namely the consequences of the illegal annexation of Crimea and the destabilisation of Ukraine, but there is much more than meets the media eye. On the one hand there are several frozen conflicts that affect regional security from the Adriatic to the Black Sea area. On the other existing and future critical infrastructures need to be protected. The Alliance's versatility and resilience will be essential in preventing future crises.

Chair: **Zoran Jolevski**, former Minister of Defence, Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, Skopje**

- **Solomon Passy**, President, Atlantic Club of Bulgaria, Sofia **
- **Vlad Nicolae**, Acting Executive Director, Aspen Institute Romania, Bucharest
- **Oleksiy Melnyk**, Co-Director, Foreign Relations and International Security Programme, Razumkov Centre, Kyiv *
- **Andrei Popov**, Head of Multilateral Cooperation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova, Chisinau

Q&A

17,55 – 18,10 Discussion Break

18,10 – 19,00

SESSION 3 ILLICIT THREATS FROM NON-STATE ACTORS

If terrorism captures the headlines, reality on the ground shows that trafficking and organised crime are a much more serious and lethal threat, undermining democracy, rule of law, economic development. Moreover, within the grey areas created by frozen conflicts, organised crime tends to network from a safe haven to neighbouring countries. Extending multilateral and regional cooperation, what are the priorities and the most effective choices?

Chair: **Fatmir Mediu**, former Minister of Defence of the Republic of Albania, Tirana **

- **Rabië W. Sédrak**, Center for Security Research, Sofia **
- **Snejana Maleeva**, Director General, Southeast European Law Enforcement Center, Bucharest **
- **Walter Kemp**, Director, South East Europe Observatory, Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime, Geneva **

19,00 – 19,10 *Concluding Remarks*

Piero Fassino, President, Foreign Affairs Committee, Chamber of Deputies, Rome

* CONFIRMED VIRTUAL

** CONFIRMED IN-PERSON

Special Thanks to Philip Morris International