

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2019

WELCOMING RECEPTION

19.30 – 21.00 Hosted by Srđan Darmanović, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro and Slobodan Filipović, State Secretary, Ministry of Defence of Montenegro
Venue: Splendid Hotel, Pool Area

FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2019

Venue: Conference Hall Balšić, III floor, Splendid Hotel

OFFICIAL OPENING:

10.00 – 10.30 **Savo KENTERA**, President, Atlantic Council of Montenegro
Judy Rising REINKE, U.S. Ambassador to Montenegro

OPENING KEYNOTE SPEECH:

Duško MARKOVIĆ, Prime Minister, Government of Montenegro

PANEL I: "WESTERN BALKANS: GREMLINS OF THE PAST AND FAIRY TALES OF THE FUTURE"

Western Balkans has, alike the rest of Europe, been experiencing "the very taste" of geopolitics, with growing influence of Russia, China and Turkey that are exercising their role and influence in the region through carefully crafted soft power "recipes". But to be fair, many of the region's problems are still internal. From Serbia-Kosovo dispute, ethnic tensions and divisions in Bosnia and Herzegovina to high corruption and unemployment rate and generally unenviable economic situation. These issues in combination with lurking external influences can have crucial impact in shaping the future of this region. However, not everything is gloomy, Montenegro marks this year its second anniversary of NATO membership and has made important progress towards its EU membership. Following its steps, Macedonia represents a bright example that if there are political will and leadership, solutions are possible. It has managed to resolve, almost three decades long name dispute with Greece and is set to become 30th NATO member. Can Bosnia and Herzegovina follow these examples and find common ground among the entities in pushing the country towards European and Euro-Atlantic integration? What about future prospects of integration for Serbia?

KEYNOTE SPEECH: "Steering the Wheel of Europe Against High Tides and Winds of Change"

10.30 – 12.15 **Milo ĐUKANOVIĆ**, President, Montenegro

KEYNOTE SPEECH:

Borut PAHOR, President, Slovenia

MODERATOR: Ali ASLAN, TV Presenter & Journalist, Germany

PANELISTS:

Marina PENDEŠ, Minister, Ministry of Defence, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Thomas SILBERHORN, Parliamentary State Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Germany

Péter SZTÁRAY, State Secretary for Security Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary

Igor LUKŠIĆ, Former Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Director of SEE, PwC, Montenegro

Damon WILSON, Executive Vice President, Atlantic Council, USA

12.15 – 12.45 **COFFEE BREAK**

PANEL II: "SECURITY REIMAGINED: THE IRONCLAD COMMITMENT TO THE TRANSATLANTIC ALLIANCE PUT TO TEST"

We don't need to look much further in the past than last century to see valuable history lessons. The two world wars taught us what horrific events and tragic losses derive when international relations are not grounded in commonly accepted rules and institutions. Even though NATO's primary purpose was to safeguard against Soviet Union, nowadays when we mark its 70th anniversary, it seems unjust to qualify NATO only as the most successful military alliance in modern history. NATO is a political alliance as much as military one, in a sense that it requires political commitment of each member state to one another as allies. Transatlantic Commitment is under pressure on several fronts, from disputes over the need for increased budget spending for NATO, stronger voices and calls for European "Army", growing security threats, eroded relations between Russia and the West, to the reemergence of the nuclear and chemical threats. How these challenges affect transatlantic divide? Is the commitment of the Allies to this 7-decade long partnership still unwavering? Will the EU member states and institutions take a leap forward and establish truly capable European forces? In marking the 70th anniversary of NATO one thing is certain, we must remind ourselves that strong solidarity and commitment based on shared values among allies is what keeps us united and resilient to the diverse and multiple challenges we face and continue to face for many decades to come. As Benjamin Franklin put it: "We must, indeed, all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately."

12.45 – 14.15

KEYNOTE SPEECH:

Srđan DARMANOVIĆ, Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Montenegro

MODERATOR: Steven ERLANGER, Chief Diplomatic Correspondent in Europe, The New York Times

PANELISTS:

David KONECKÝ, Political Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic

Bruno LÉTÉ, Senior Fellow, Security and Defense, GMFUS

Robert PSZCZEL, Senior Officer for Russia and the Western Balkans, NATO PDD

Stefano STEFANINI, Brussels Director, Project Associates

Judy ANSLEY, Senior Advisor, Future Europe Initiative, Atlantic Council, USA

14.15 – 15.45 **LUNCH**

PANEL III: "THREE SHADES OF RED: RUSSIA, CHINA AND TURKEY – CHANGING GLOBAL POWER DYNAMICS?"

For decades, the United States has been "a shining city upon a hill" that led and shaped international - unipolar order, peerless in its influence over the rest of the globe. But power constellations across the globe are shifting and the world order we know is struggling to endure these shifts. Rise of the new global and medium powers that deny important aspects of the world order, as well as the surge of many non-state actors, sub and supranational entities increasingly challenge the order and existing power constellation creating a space for alliances which otherwise would be unlikely to happen. With "America First" policy of President Trump and growing skepticism toward some of the major international topics, such as global trade and climate changes, the World's only superpower is turning inward, leaving an opening for other global and medium powers -Russia, China, Turkey- to seize the larger power slices and play more prominent role on global chessboard, shaping the order by its own measure and size. Russia and China are steadily forming closer economic and strategic relations and together with Turkey starting to align on some of the pressing international issues, exercising stronger influence across different regions and countries. Is the "great new partnership" among the three looming behind the corner and can it usurp the global power constellations? Is China really seeking to overthrow the United States' position as the leader of a global order and what about Russia? Has any power for that matter, let alone a superpower, given up its number one easily?

15.45 – 17.15

MODERATOR: Bobo LO, Independent Analyst and Associate Research Fellow at Russia/NIS Center, IFRI, UK

PANELISTS:

Theresa FALLON, Founder and Director, Centre for Russia Europe Asia Studies, Belgium

Pinar AKPINAR, Scholar, Conflict Resolution and Mediation Stream, Istanbul Policy Center, Turkey

Vadym CHERNYSH, Minister, Ministry of Temporarily Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons, Ukraine

Paul BOLT, Professor of Political Science, US Air Force Academy, USA

RECEPTION

19.30 – 21.00 Hosted by Savo Kentera, President of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro
Venue: Vodena Kočija

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2019

Venue: Conference Hall Balšić, III floor, Splendid Hotel

PANEL IV: "PRESIDENTIAL DISCUSSION: IN THE MIND OF A LEADER"

We will ask Presidents to share with the audience what keeps them awake at night? How they perceive most important issues of the Western Balkans? What about each of their respective countries? What are the most important steps and initiatives for deeper regional cooperation and common interest in making Western Balkans a safer and more prosperous place, able to counter global challenges in the future?

10.00 – 11.30

MODERATOR: Damon WILSON, Executive Vice President, Atlantic Council, USA

PANELISTS:

Hashim THAČI, President, Kosovo

Milo ĐUKANOVIĆ, President, Montenegro

11.30 – 12.00

COFFEE BREAK

PANEL V: "RISING GHOSTS OF NATIONALISM: BUILDING BLOCKS OF DEMOCRACY IN PERIL?"

It seems as the same forces of globalization and technological growth that brought the world closer together, blurring and shrinking both the space and time differences, increased perceived inequalities and made people more protective of their ethnic, cultural and religious identities. Carried on the wings of skepticism, anti-immigration sentiment and headed by political leaders who promise easy answers/simple solutions to complex problems, across globe, populist, nationalist and far-right parties have made significant electoral gains. It is unlikely that this populist surge will decrease any time soon. Resurgence of nationalism represents a cause for concern as it undermines the core values of open and liberal orders, and shakes the building blocks of liberal democracy. International context, which is in its transformative state, requires a determined and strong leadership that stand firm by its values and beliefs. Drawing upon famous quote of Charles de Gaulle "Patriotism is when love of your own people comes first. Nationalism is when hate for people other than your own comes first" we need to ask ourselves whom do we entrust to know the difference between the two? Has the new generation of Europeans already forgotten its own and violent past? Can we really afford fragmentation at a time when integration and cooperation is needed more than ever before? What are the building blocks of democracy that are being eroded, and why?

12.00 – 13.30

MODERATOR: Jessie HRONEŠOVÁ, Visiting Fellow, London School of Economics, UK

PANELISTS:

Miodrag VLAHOVIĆ, Ambassador, Embassy of Montenegro to the Holy See and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro

Roman JAKIČ, Former Minister of Defence and MP, Slovenia

Michael HALTZEL, Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Institute, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, USA

Damir MARUŠIĆ, Nonresident Senior Fellow of the Atlantic Council and Executive Editor of The American Interest, USA

13.30 – 14.30

LATE BRUNCH

PANEL VI: "AGE OF DISINFORMATION: LEARNING RESILIENCE AND LIVING WITH LIES"

Even though, it does not possess better technological and financial resources than the United States and Europe, Russia still succeeds in generating significant challenges during the extremely important processes. It is only that Russia anticipated before others that nowadays technology is keeping the world order. Free access to information, speed, anonymity, lack of geographical boundaries transcend traditional concepts of state which makes Russian hybrid tactics and activities much more effective, visible and multilayered. On the other side, news outlets have dropped most fact checking and critical analysis steps in order to churn out news more cheaply and quickly and as a result daft and untrue stories are appearing in mainstream news. Besides this, technological developments and advances of artificial intelligence enable picture, audio and video tampering that allow creation of completely fabricated content that can potentially have disastrous consequences. There are no easy and quick solutions. And yes, a prompt, structured, institutional answers against it, are lacking. Both individually and collectively societies will need to learn resilience.

14.30 – 16.00

MODERATOR: Aleksandar BREZAR, Journalist

PANELISTS:

Robert PSZCZEL, Senior Officer for Russia and the Western Balkans, NATO PDD

Arnīs ŠNORE, Deputy Director, CoI Vulnerabilities and Resilience, The European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats

Rufin ZAMFIR, Programs Director, GlobalFocus Center, Romania

Nicolas de PEDRO, Senior Fellow, The Institute for Statecraft

Tomáš KRÍŠŠÁK, Project Coordinator, Open Society Foundation in Bratislava