

The Republic of Slovenia

Positions for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

I. NATO-Russia Relations

The Republic of Slovenia (Slovenia) believes that the Russian Federation (Russia) lately has moved in an aggressive direction towards Member States, and therefore believes that this is something that needs to be further addressed by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). **Internationally**, Slovenia supports the Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperating and Security, which was agreed upon in 1997, and was a part of the NATO-Russia summits in Rome in 2002, and in Lisbon in 2010, held by the NATO-Russia Council (NRC). Slovenia condemns the military actions made by Russia in Georgia, 2008 and in Ukraine, 2014, and fully endorses the statements made by the NRC. As a newly inducted member of NATO, Slovenia stood behind the declaration *NATO-Russia Relations: A New Quality*, which again formed the NRC. The NRC provides as an open forum for communication and exchange of information, but the right use of the forum, not all parties will be able to use this communication the right way. This communication has been used thoroughly the last years, and through the NRC, Slovenia criticize the ongoing military build-up actions made by Russia through Ukraine and Crimea during their meeting in Warsaw in July 2016. Slovenia emphasizes *the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty*, seeing Russia's latest aggression with military exercises on and over the border to its neighboring Member States. Slovenia supports NATO decision on increasing the NATO Response Force (NRF) by establishing a Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF), and through the VTJF, Slovenia is assisting with forces on the ground. Slovenia is also a part of the NATO-Russia Resettlement Centre that lasted from 2002 to 2008. Through this program, Russian military personnel were integrated into different societies in different Member States. **Regionally**, Slovenia has been a part of the "Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe", which helps future Member States in East Europe to possibly join NATO and the European Union (EU), while they are still a buffer to Russia. In May 2000, Slovenia, among other participating Member States, signed the *Ancona Declaration* to strengthen regional collaboration to ensure stability both economically and politically, to create a solid base for future Eastern European states to join NATO, without the threat of Russia. Slovenia later was able to join NATO in 2002 because of this action, and then in 2004, the EU. Through Stability Pact, Slovenia is engaged in stabilizing the situation in South-Eastern Europe with economic co-operation in Member States in the Baltic region. Slovenia's participation in the Stability Pact engaged the Centre for Protecting Mental Health of Children and the International Centre for Inter-Ethnic Relations to further contribute the stabilization of South Eastern Europe, and to further create a safe place for them to live. Slovenia has also co-chaired the Working Table several times, but highlights especially the Working Table of Security Issues (WT3), where Slovenia took part in activities within the Sub-table on Defence Security Issues. With the EU, Slovenia are eager to increase the European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP), and in 2000 at the ministerial meeting of EU members and candidates in Brussel, Slovenia offered assistance in many ways, among an infantry squad, Military Police platoon, transport helicopter, medical unit and officers and noncommissioned officers for the EU to be in charge off. Slovenia is also a part of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which regularly monitor the situation of the Russian borders and held meeting regularly on issues that might come up. **Nationally**, Slovenia has supported 141 military personnel to stabilization operations in South Eastern Europe, with focus on Bosnia and Herzegovina (SFRO) and Kosovo (KFOR). The new National Security Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia was adopted by the Parliament on 21 June 2001, and implements the Defence Strategy recommendation made by NATO in 2001. Slovenia has established several bodies to deal with future crises, among the National Security Council, the National Crisis Management Centre and the Interdepartmental Analytical Group. The Slovenian Armed Forces (SAF) are involved in international operations, and after Slovenia joined NATO, the SAF was tasked with Slovenia's obligation to NATO in accordance with Article 5 of the Washington Treaty, and further the

case of stabilization on Russian borders to NATO. The SAF has since 2002 participated in the Multinational Land Force (MLF), the South-Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial (SEDM) and the Central European Nations Co-operation in Peace Support (CENCOOP). Slovenia therefore proposes the following **3-point Action Plan**: **1.** Establishing the Collective Action Act, proposed by the Republic of Slovenia in June 2017, using the framework of the National Crisis Management Centre; **2.** Create a Military Schengen, that will allow troops, aircraft, tanks, trains and other equipment to cross borders unhindered to the Eastern European Member States, focusing on the Baltic states; **3.** Examine the possibility for basing troops permanently in the Baltic States and Poland, to sustain the strength and decrease the odds for a possible crisis.

II. NATO and Cybersecurity

The Republic of Slovenia (Slovenia) recognizes the importance of strengthening everyone's cybersecurity, having the recent attacks in our minds, and works intensively to enhancing cybersecurity overall. **Internationally**, Slovenia recalls the original North Atlantic Treaty from 1949 and more specifically the mutual defense pact. This part of the treaty states that any attack on any Member State is viewed as an attack on all of the Member States, and Slovenia believes that this should be taken into consideration of cyberattack as well. Slovenia has been working closely with Member States, such as Germany, the United Kingdom, and in addition to several Scandinavian Member States to find an efficient solution to combat against cyber terrorists and criminals. Slovenia does take part in several exercises for cybersecurity, and in 2012, was an active participant in an exercise held by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and through these exercises, all Member States will have access to the knowledge gained from them. Slovenia continues to work on this issue through different the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU), NATO, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and plays an active role in knowledge transfer of cyber security. **Regionally**, Slovenia has been part of the cybersecurity exercise organized by the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA) in 2010 as an observer, and was therefore able to gather more information to rely to other Member States in its region. In collaboration with different Member States such as Italy, Croatia and Austria, information and knowledge are shared to increase the intelligence about potential threat against participating Member States. Slovenia has worked efficiently with the Council of Europe, and with the *Budapest Cybercrime Convention* in mind, to create a working framework to punish offenders for their crimes. **Nationally**, Slovenia has increasing their budgets to further prevent cyberattacks, as well as enforcing harsher penalties and punishment for cyber terrorism, through the working plan Secure Information Submit (SIS). Through SIS, private sectors, more specifically companies that have a vast amount of resources and financial tools at their disposal, continues to develop the level of security on the cyber web and share their knowledge for public use. The national response centre, the Slovenian Computer Emergency Response Team (SI-CERT), is responsible for conducting information about occurrences related to cyber security and information and communications technology (ICT). SI-CERT is also responsible for the national awareness program, "Safe on the Internet", which promotes safe internet use and will in the future prevent potential cyberattacks. An independent response centre for the public administration systems, SIGOV-CERT, are being monitored by SI-CERT. The Electronic Communication Networks and Services Agency of the Republic of Slovenia (AKOS) works closely with the government of Slovenia and are participating in the cyber security system, and plays an important role in the central coordination of the national cyber security assurance system. Slovenia proposes the following **3-point Action Plan**: **1.** Encouraging Member States to share information and knowledge about their own national state of the internet and cyber realm and how Member States have been combating cyber terrorists to other Member States; **2.** Increasing the cyber security exercises throughout different organization such as NATO, EU and the UN, to further share knowledge about important aspects that needs to be tackled. **3.** Further work with the Council of Europe and make the framework of the cooperation global.