

Informacije iz ATA (v angleščini)

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15.02.2002

Statement by the Secretary General of the Atlantic Treaty Association on the 50th Anniversary of Greece and Turkey in NATO

Fifty

years ago, two South Eastern European countries took their seats in NATO. Coming from a traditionally unstable zone, and known by their bilateral historical disagreements, those two great Nations recognised their interest on belonging to an Alliance in which equality, freedom and democratic values were the basis for a sustainable security and understanding environment.

They took the right decision, as far as their own interests were concerned. The Allies, by admitting them, extended their security system to a region of the utmost strategic importance.

For the last 50 years, and in spite of having crossed so much difficult times, Greece and Turkey have been, and are, faithful and reliable partners in the Alliance. They strongly contribute to security and stability in their region, as well as in the entire Euro-Atlantic world.

The Atlantic Treaty Association

has for long the honour of having, amongst its members, the Greek Association for the Atlantic and European Cooperation and the Turkish Atlantic Association, both outstanding civil society bodies that have most contributed for the work of our confederation, for the spreading of NATO values in their respective public opinions, and for the permanent understanding and rapprochement of their own countries.

To them, and to their Presidents, Mr. Theodossis Georgiou and Ambassador Ümit Haluk Bayülken, the Secretary General of ATA extends his congratulations and his thanks for their steady and untiring work and for their contribution to freedom and stability in the Euro-Atlantic world.

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European Army debate

Paris - An

uneasy French government… asked the National Assembly yesterday (Feb. 11) for permission to continue its efforts to organize a European Defence Community… Robert Schuman will probably win approval for… the

integration of military units of…

News published on the 12th February 1952.

Nobody
at the time would guess, or believe, that the way to go was such a long
one. Fifty years later one is still debating more or less the same!

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The ATA Bureau will meet in Paris on the 8th March 2002.

A ATA High Level Seminar will
be held in NATO HQ, on May 28. Some quite outstanding speakers will
address the ATA Council Members and their guests. The Council will meet
for the usual internal affairs on the 27th. A diner will be offered by
NATO this day. We are hoping to have a special key note speaker to
address it.

Our Chairman, Alan Lee Williams,
is now in the USA for a two weeks speaking tour, namely in the Atlantic
Council in Washington, in the CSIS, in several English Speaking Union
sections, etc.

The Chairman and the Secretary General will
attend, on the invitation of the Romanian Government, the Vilnius Group
Summit that will be held in Bucharest on March 26 and 27. The purpose
of this visit is to try to "re-launch" our declining Romanian member
association.

The ATA visit to Russia is
scheduled for April 14-18. In the program, a wide range of political,
military and press meetings, as well as a Seminar and a press
conference are included. Invitations to join the ATA party were send to
Bureau members, to the Presidents of the associations, and to several
ATA leading personalities.

The ATA visit to Ukraine is scheduled for middle May. Further information will be forwarded in due time.

The possibility of organising an ATA Youth Conference, in Prague,

Czech Republic, on the occasion of the NATO Summit, is under evaluation. I will send to our Members some separate information about it. I do not know if we can meet the conditions, mainly financial, to implement this very challenging project.

Mr. Theodossis Georgiou, President of the Greek Association for Atlantic and European Cooperation, made a statement during the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, Greece, Romania and Turkey, Feb. 13, in Athens, in the margins of the OIC and EU Joint Forum. We would like to remind you that 50 years ago, on February 18, 1952, NATO extended its first invitation to Greece and Turkey to join NATO. Now, 50 years later, in a totally different Euro-Atlantic security context, NATO is expected to extend further invitations in Prague… said our former Chairman.

Pursuant to the first step on the way to the contemplated cooperation between the ATA and the CIOR (Inter Allied Confederation of Reserve Officers), which was the vivid presentation of CIOR in Bled, our Vice-Chairman, Mr. François Moreau de Balasy was given the opportunity to present the ATA to the plenary session of the executive committee of CIOR (joint with the Inter Allied Conference of Reserve Military Medical Officers) in Brussels, NATO HQ, on Feb. 8. A letter of intend about the idea of a fruitful rapprochement between the parties was signed by Mr. de Balasy. According to Chairman's Williams mandate, this letter will be presented to the Bureau during its meeting of the 8th March in Paris, as well as the main lines of a memorandum of understanding to be set up, defining the ways and means of implementation for the shared purposes in both parties specific fields of interests and responsibilities.

NATO, Terrorism & a new World Order was the general theme of the Stoke Rochford Conference, held by our colleagues of The Atlantic Council of the United Kingdom, in cooperation with the Trades Unions Centre for European and Transatlantic Understanding. More than one hundred people attended this gathering, held under the Chairmanship of Alan Lee Williams and Peter Robinson. Most of the ATA members were represented. It was quite a fruitful weekend, in which, apart from the traditional, but always deserving to be underlined, Stoke Rochford hospitality, we have had the occasion to hear a number of outstanding speakers on the main present defence and security issues. Lord Robertson contributed with a video special statement. I do hope that our British colleagues will be able, as usual, to circulate the proceedings of this very important conference.

The annual international Conference organised by our Albanian Member took place in Tirana in the end of January. The ATA was represented by Chairman Alan Lee Williams and Vice-Chairman Fabrizio Lucioli. About 300 people attended this conference. The Albanian Defence Secretary made an outstanding political intervention, and had a private meeting with Alan Lee Williams that proved to be most interesting, using the words of our Chairman's report. Congratulations to our Albanian colleagues and to their leader, Dr. Alfred Moisiu.

António Borges de Carvalho