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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 21, 2010

## **CNS Experts Available for Comment on NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting Discussing Nuclear Weapons**

On April 22 and 23, NATO foreign ministers will hold informal meetings in Tallinn, Estonia, and discussions will include the alliance's stance on nuclear weapons. During the first few months of 2010, the fate of non-strategic nuclear weapons (NSNW) in Europe received far more attention from political elites, professional observers and publics than it has for many years. As a result, momentum appears to be growing for the withdrawal of at least some of the estimated 200-250 NSNW that are believed to remain in Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey. Governments in Brussels, Berlin and Amsterdam are on record saying that they would welcome the removal of U.S. NSNW from their territories.

Despite the movement, NATO's European members remain far from united in their views on the merits of withdrawing the weapons, or the conditions under which they would be willing to support such a move. The Obama administration's Nuclear Posture Review did not articulate a clear U.S. policy on the issue, following a long-standing tradition of deferring to NATO as a whole, out of fear of undermining alliance solidarity. According to U.S. officials, the issue will be discussed this year as the alliance moves forward in laying out a new Strategic Concept, and any decision will represent a consensus of the alliance. While Washington at least appears to be opening the door for discussions on removing NSNW from Europe, Russia—which possesses far more of these weapons—has remained largely silent. Moscow continues to reject Western proposals that foresee reduction of Russian NSNW and demand the withdrawal of the remaining U.S. NSNW from Europe as a precondition for substantive discussions of these weapons. Significant progress on the issue, it appears, will require a careful balancing act among the United States, NATO, and Russia not only on the issue of NSNW, but also on issues such as strategic arms, missile defense, and advanced conventional arms.

CNS experts, who have recently written extensively on the subject matter in the [Guardian](#), [World Politics Review](#), the [Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists](#) and in various [reports](#), are available for interviews:

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