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## NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY)

**Established:** 1955.

**Membership:** 26 NATO Alliance members (Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States). Associate members include 59 representatives from 13 additional states (Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, and Ukraine).

**Background:** The NATO Parliamentary Assembly (PA), superseding the North Atlantic Assembly (NAA), operates separately from NATO and has no formal link to it. However, the PA enjoys a strong working relationship with NATO and represents a tangible expression of NATO's fundamental mission. Formal recognition would require amending the Washington Treaty, which is not supported by all governments or all parliaments. The idea of an assembly engaging alliance parliamentarians in collective deliberations on the problems confronting the transatlantic partnership emerged in the early 1950s and was consummated with the creation of an annual conference of NATO parliamentarians in 1955. In November 1967, the North Atlantic Council recommended that an informal relationship be established between NATO and the NATO-PA. In 1974, the Belgian Parliament granted the NATO-PA special legal status and, later in the year, the leaders of Allied governments indirectly endorsed the work of the PA in its Declaration on Atlantic Relations.

**Objectives and Structure:** The NATO Parliamentary Assembly acts as a forum for legislators to consider issues of common interest and concern to the Alliance. The assembly operates through five committees: Civilian Affairs, Defense and Security, Economic, Political, and Science and Technology. Three sub-committees operate under the Defense and Security Committee: the Sub-Committee on Defense and Security Co-Operation between Europe and North America, the Sub-Committee on the Future of the Armed Forces, and the Sub-Committee on Northern Security Issues. The committees meet in the spring and fall assembly sessions, coordinated by the secre-

tariat. The committees report on issues affecting the Alliance, make policy recommendations, and receive briefings from government officials, international organizations leaders, and other experts. Assembly meetings are intended to inform parliamentarians about key issues mainly in security-related areas, thereby creating "cadres" in national parliaments that are well versed in international security matters. The PA produces informative reports and non-binding policy recommendations, which are circulated to national governments, parliaments, and NATO authorities. In addition, sub-committees meet several times a year to gather facts and explore specific issues in more detail.

Since the end of the Cold War, the PA has adapted its traditional mission and structure to accord better with the new realities of Europe's fundamentally altered security and political landscape. Recent study topics have included NATO enlargement and the new democracies, Baltic security, security problems in southeastern Europe, East-West economic cooperation, weapons proliferation, and the future of the armed forces. Both the Defense and Security Committee and the Science and Technology Committee follow issues of weapons proliferation. The Standing Committee is the governing organ coordinating the work of these committees, preparing the Assembly sessions' agenda, overseeing the finances, and appointing the secretary general.

**Verification and Compliance:** Recommendations arising from the committees are non-binding.

### Developments:

**2009:** From 26-30 January, a delegation of 35 NATO parliamentarians from the Defense and Security Committee visited the United States. They met with U.S. leaders and discussed critical issues regarding the U.S.-NATO relationship, with particular attention to missile defense. The delegation visited the headquarters of the U.S. Missile Defense Agency and [reported](#) that "a broad bipartisan consensus in the United States regarding the overall value of pursuing missile defenses continues to hold."

On 4 April, NATO-PA President John Tanner gave a [speech](#) at the NATO Summit of Heads of State and Government in Strasbourg, France. He highlighted

the importance of three issues: NATO's need to help "bring stability to Afghanistan," improve its relationship with Russia, and update its Strategic Concept, which was last revised in 1999.

On 22-26 May, the NATO-PA hosted its Spring Session in Oslo, Norway. The Science and Technology Committee submitted a report on "[Combating WMD Proliferation](#)." The report recommended making acceptance of the Additional Protocol mandatory and initiating talks towards the creation of a WMD-free zone in the Middle East, and asserted that the only "permanent resolution" to the Iranian crisis would be "to find a political compromise that would promote a strategic decision by Iranian leadership not to seek nuclear weapons." The Sub-Committee on Energy and Environmental Security drafted a report titled "[The Nuclear Renaissance](#)." The report underlined the danger of weapons proliferation that might be caused by the expansion of nuclear energy, and argued that the best way to manage this threat "is to promote internationalisation of nuclear fuel cycle, including establishment of multinational uranium enrichment and spent fuel reprocessing centres as well as international nuclear fuel reserve under the aegis of the IAEA."

**2008:** On 6-8 March, the [68<sup>th</sup> Rose-Roth Seminar](#) was held in Baku, Azerbaijan. Members of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly met with their Central Asian counterparts to discuss security in the Caspian and Central Asian regions. This [seminar](#) marked the first time that delegations from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, along with participants from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, met with NATO parliamentarians. Central Asia's role in NATO's mission in Afghanistan was intensely discussed. Security in the South Caucasus was also discussed, specifically including the armed conflicts between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the independence of Kosovo.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly met in Berlin from 23-27 May. NATO officials [emphasized](#) the importance of closer cooperation with Russia in combating the proliferation of WMD. The principal conclusion emerging from the NATO-Russia [Parliamentary Committee session](#) was that the two sides had to engage in a much more constructive dialogue to make further progress. The PA also addressed issues related to Central Asia, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and the situation in Afghanistan.

From 14-18 November, the NATO PA met in Valencia, Spain, for its [54<sup>th</sup> Annual Session](#). The PA addressed the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan,

received briefings on the United States' new Africa Command, discussed the integration of women in the armed forces of the Member States, urged governments and parliaments of NATO member and partner countries to remain committed to securing peace and stability in Kosovo, and received a letter from the President-elect of the U.S., Barack Obama, pledging to work closely with the incoming NATO PA President, U.S. Congressman John Tanner. On 18 November, the PA passed a resolution urging governments and parliamentarians of NATO Member States to increase cooperation with Russia, particularly in the military sphere, and improve public diplomacy efforts towards Russia, while at the same time reducing certain activities with Russian parliamentarians. The PA also adopted reports on [nuclear disarmament](#), suggesting that NATO should be involved in discussing the issue, [the Iranian nuclear file](#), arguing that the international community should continue its two-track approach offering Iran incentives and penalties, and [missile defense](#), concluding that a limited system should be implemented and additional clarifications should be pursued with Poland, the Czech Republic, and Russia.

**2007:** The NATO Parliamentary Assembly met in Madeira, Portugal on 25-28 May. The main topics of discussion included Kosovo, military support in Afghanistan, and US missile defense radar systems in Poland and the Czech Republic. PA President Jose Lello opened the conference with a speech calling for a new NATO Strategic Concept. He also referred to Afghanistan as NATO's "top priority." For the first time in NATO PA history, parliamentary delegations from Pakistan and Afghanistan attended the meeting. In addition, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia transitioned from "parliamentary observers" to "associate members."

On 24 March in Budapest, Hungary, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly's Standing Committee appointed a new Secretary General, [David Hobbs](#). Hobbs, a British national, started his mandate once Simon Lunn's term expired on 31 December 2007. On that day, Mr. Lunn stepped down after more than 10 years of service to the organization.

From 5-9 October, 26 members of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly met for the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Session in Reykjavik, Iceland. [Two resolutions](#) pertaining to NATO's role in Afghanistan and the further development of NATO's relations with the Russian Federation were passed. During the plenary meeting, many delegations expressed their support for Albania, Croatia, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to join the Alliance. Other topics discussed

include territorial issues pertaining to the opening of the Northwest Passage; Canada and Russia in particular voiced concerns.

**2006:** The NATO Parliamentary Assembly's [52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Session](#) took place in Quebec City, Canada on 11-17 November. The five main bodies of the Parliamentary Assemblies met on 14 and 15 November. Major issues addressed included: current operations in Afghanistan, the maintenance and extension of partner nations, and the Alliance transformation. The PA further affirmed that NATO's success depends on the support provided by the Alliance's governments. It was expected that an Alliance-focused dialogue would better facilitate the Riga Summit (28-29 November) where NATO heads of state and government were to reconvene. During the session, on 17 November, the Science and Technology Committee presented a policy recommendation entitled [Resolution on The Nuclear Weapon Test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea](#). The policy condemned the North Korean nuclear test, supported the UN Security Council's Resolution 1718, and advocated diplomatic measures through NATO and Six Party Talks.

The NATO PA also met in [Paris on 26-30 May](#). Topics discussed included: operations in Afghanistan, the Iran nuclear crisis, Iraq's negative effects on the War on Terror, and security threats pertaining to the Black Sea.

Reports commissioned for the 2006 Annual Session included: [The Nuclear Policy of Iran](#), [Energy Security](#), [Transition in Ukraine](#), and [Afghanistan and the Future of the Alliance](#), among others.

**2005:** On 31 May a nuclear terrorism simulation exercise, named "Black Dawn" was presented at a plenary session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Spring Session in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Approximately 300 parliamentarians from North America and Europe participated in the presentation, which explored measures to prevent nuclear terrorism and develop recommendations which NATO and individual European governments can implement now, before an attack occurs. The Black Dawn exercise specifically simulated a terrorist group attacking a European civilian reactor to acquire HEU and building a crude bomb from available materials.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly's 51st Annual session took place in Copenhagen from 11-15 November. The NATO Parliamentary Assembly's five committees (Political, Defense and Security, Economics and Security, Civil Dimension of Security,

and Science and Technology) met during this session on 12 and 13 November. There were discussions on a range of topics and crisis situations from Belarus, where the PA is supporting the democratic opposition, to the emergence of China as a great power. These topics emphasized the breadth of activities in which the Alliance and its parliamentary arm, the NATO-PA, are now involved in.

**2004:** Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia became members of the NATO-PA on 29 March.

The spring session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly began on 29 May in Bratislava, Slovakia. Major topics of discussion during the individual committee sessions included the challenge of post-conflict reconstruction in Afghanistan and Iraq, NATO's military role in Afghanistan, developments in the war against terrorism, and nuclear proliferation. Meetings of the Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security, the Political Committee, the Defense and Security Committee, the Economics and Security Committee, and the Science and Technology Committee were held on 29 and 30 May, and a plenary meeting convened on 1 June.

During the meeting of the Science and Technology Committee, Chairperson Pierre-Claude Nolin of Canada presented a report on [Nuclear Weapon Proliferation](#). The report reviewed the threats posed by nuclear armaments, existing mechanisms and agreements designed to reduce these threats, and recent proposals outlined by U.S. President George Bush and IAEA Director General Mohamed El Baradei for strengthening the nonproliferation regime. The report also analyzed the current situations in Iran, Libya, North Korea, and Pakistan and discussed the proliferation-related concerns they pose. It concluded that "revisiting and hardening the nuclear nonproliferation regime must be the centerpiece of all international strategies against the proliferation of nuclear materials and technologies," and proposed the committee use both the Bush and El Baradei proposals to generate a set of recommendations for the PA to improve the nonproliferation regime. The report received support from committee members as well as some suggestions for amendments, but was not adopted or rejected until the fall plenary meeting, as per NATO-PA procedures.

Several additional conferences convened during the summer. Members of the NATO-PA and the Russian State Duma met in Moscow from 17-18 June to address cooperation in combating terrorism, proliferation, and other issues. Additionally, from 3-6 August, 40 NATO Parliamentary Assembly legislators met at a seminar in Spitzbergen, Norway to discuss security

and environmental issues in the Arctic, including the threat of radiological pollution from nuclear facilities in northwestern Russia.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly's 50th annual session took place from 12-16 November in Venice. The five-day special session brought together close to 300 parliamentarians from North America and Europe for discussions on a wide range of issues affecting the Transatlantic Alliance, including Afghanistan and Iraq, terrorism, NATO's capabilities and partnerships, the threat from weapons of mass destruction (WMD), and the relationship between NATO and the European Union.

**2003:** On 9 and 10 April, NATO and Russian parliamentarians met together in St. Petersburg, Russia to discuss several key topics, including improving cooperation in counterterrorism efforts and major threats to the current global security environment. From 24-28 May, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly held its spring session in Prague. Primary issues addressed included the situation in Iraq and the threat posed by WMD. The Economic and Security, Defense and Security, and Science and Technology Committees met on 25 May, the Political and Civil Dimension of Security committees met on 26 May, and plenary meetings were held on 26 and 28 May. Nonproliferation, arms control, and the possible weaponization of space were among the primary issues discussed at the Science and Technology Committee meeting. On behalf of rapporteur Teresa Riera, Committee Vice Chairman Jose Lello presented a draft general report entitled "[Non-Proliferation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A Transatlantic Agenda.](#)" The report recognized the threat posed by WMD and noted the increased awareness of this issue since 11 September 2001. It addressed recent American actions, noting that the Bush administration's approach "has generated several important questions about both the nature and the effectiveness of the arms control and non-proliferation regime" and that "debate is ongoing within the international community on the need to adapt the international non-proliferation regime to a new security environment, and this has stimulated a new debate about non-proliferation." The report reviewed various international organizations, export control regimes, and treaties dealing with nonproliferation, and specifically examined the [U.S. National Security Strategy of 2002](#), the [National Strategy to Combat Weapons of Mass Destruction](#), and European responses to these documents. In it, the committee rapporteur recommended that several measures be taken to strengthen the nonproliferation regime, including the following: strengthening the NPT, expanding participation in the International Atomic Energy Agency Additional Protocol, and establishing

a permanent UN body for monitoring and verification, among others. The committee also heard an additional presentation on, and extensively discussed, broad issues of nuclear proliferation, and the draft report was put aside for the committee's consideration during the fall session, according to NATO-PA procedure.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the joint NATO-PA Parliamentary Standing Committee also took place in Prague within the context of the spring meeting, on 25 May. The primary focus of the meeting was the war in Iraq and the debate over whether or not evidence existed proving Iraq's possession of WMD.

From 5-8 June, NATO parliamentarians met with non-government officials and analysts to address the threat posed by WMD at the 55<sup>th</sup> Rose Roth seminar. They discussed the possibility of terrorist organizations acquiring chemical, biological and radiological weapons and using them to conduct mass casualty attacks, and possible scenarios of how this acquisition might take place. Most participants stressed the importance of international cooperation in managing proliferation risks. They also discussed NATO's role in this process, and the importance of civil protection and readiness. The threat of nuclear proliferation, and particularly the possibility of Iran developing nuclear weapons, was also among the topics addressed at the 9<sup>th</sup> NATO-PA Mediterranean seminar, which convened in Malaga, Spain from 9-10 October to provide a forum for discussing the situation in the Middle East.

The fall session of the Parliamentary Assembly was held in Orlando, Florida from 7-11 November. Discussions were held on the war against terrorism, the threat of WMD, and the current state of transatlantic relations. Simon Lunn was reappointed Secretary General of the NATO PA for an additional four-year term. During the session, the Science and Technology, Political, Civil Dimension of Security, Defense and Security and Economics and Security Committees each met on 8 and 9 November. The Science and Technology Committee adopted a [Resolution on Non-Proliferation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century](#). It urged NATO governments and parliaments to take several actions to reduce the risk of proliferation. These included: strengthening the NPT by implementing recommendations of the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences and making the IAEA Additional Protocol mandatory; encouraging India, Pakistan and Israel to sign the NPT and CTBT, supporting the Six Party Talks and placing North Korean activities under IAEA safeguards; encouraging Russian and American disarmament efforts, banning radiological weapons, improving the Biological Weapons Convention, the

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and export control regimes; supporting the Proliferation Security Initiative; implementing the G-8 Global Partnership, and expanding the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. In addition, committee members discussed the draft general report on “Nonproliferation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A Transatlantic Agenda,” which was presented during the spring meeting. They agreed to eventually adopt the report, but only pending the chair’s review and the reaching of a compromise between the U.S. delegate and rapporteur on some parts of the text, as some delegates expressed concerns about the report’s portrayal of the U.S. as a threat to nonproliferation. A report on Weapons in Space and Global Security was adopted unanimously.

**2002:** At the spring meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria on 25-28 May, the PA adopted the Declaration on NATO Enlargement, which stated that Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania had proved their progress towards NATO membership through successful programs of reform. In the same meeting, the leadership of the PA and the leaders of the Russian Federal Assembly agreed to create a parliamentary counterpart to the NATO-Russia Council endorsed at the Rome Summit. The parliamentary dimension took the form of a NATO-Russia Parliamentary Standing Committee that covered the same issues as the NATO-Russia Council and provided an overall coordination role concerning relations between the PA and the Russian Federal Assembly.

On 15-19 November, the 48th Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly was held in Istanbul, Turkey to discuss the adaptation of the NATO Alliance to meet the new challenges posed by the proliferation of WMD, the terrorist threats to its members, and the forthcoming enlargement of NATO.

In the session, the PA accorded priority to defense against terrorism and the proliferation of WMD, which together posed a qualitatively new threat to its societies. It recognized substantial adjustments to capabilities and structures to deal with these challenges, including the internal structures within NATO itself. The PA recognized that defense expenditures must be effective and well directed; research in the field of defense should be coordinated with particular emphasis on balanced exchanges of technology between the United States and the other members of the Alliance.

The PA stressed that NATO should endorse defense against the threat of terrorism and WMD, and particularly the threat of biological, chemical, or radiological agents, as a priority for the Allies. Defense

against WMD should be given priority at all levels: arms control, counter-proliferation and disarmament, and the appropriate military capabilities.

**2001:** The President and Secretary General of the PA visited Slovakia and Slovenia from 12-16 November to hear the perspectives of both countries as they prepared their respective candidacies for NATO membership.

The PA held its fall assembly session in Ottawa from 6-9 October. The assembly passed a series of policy recommendations to NATO and its member governments, including support for efforts to counter nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, and an endorsement of adding new members to the Alliance the following year. The PA also discussed the substantive reports presented by the committees, which were prepared during the 27-31 May meeting in Vilnius.

**2000:** At the fall meeting in Berlin, the departing President, Thomas Bliley, warned that EU ambitions could weaken NATO. The new President, Rafael Estrella, called for a future EU-NATO accord on defense. Estrella enumerated various priorities for his presidency, including ensuring that the collective commitment to peace and stability in the Balkans is sustained until the mission there is completed, supporting and encouraging the efforts of those partners who have expressed the willingness to join NATO, making Serbia a priority among the new partners, pursuing a fruitful dialogue with partners in the South, and bringing relations with Russia back on track.

**1999:** At NATO’s 50th Anniversary Summit, held in Washington, DC from 22-25 April, the PA’s President, Javier Ruperez, addressed the meeting of Heads of State and Governments, and other leading assembly members, and participated in a variety of other summit meetings and events.

At the November plenary session in Amsterdam, the Secretary General addressed the PA on the topic of European Security and Defense Identity (ESDI). He stated that efforts to develop an independent ESDI should include all members of the Alliance, including those outside of the European Union.

**1998:** The PA held its spring session in Barcelona in May. During this time, the leadership of the PA and a delegation from the Russian Federal Assembly agreed to establish a joint parliamentary group to monitor the implementation of the NATO-Russia Founding Act, as well as the workings of the Permanent Joint Council (PJC) and its subordinate groups.

**1997:** The President of the PA, Senator William Roth, addressed the heads of state at the Madrid Summit, a meeting in which formal invitations to join NATO were extended to Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. Also at this summit the Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Co-operation and Security Between the Russian Federation and NATO was signed. In July, the NATO-Ukraine Charter was signed. The two signatories explicitly charged the PA with expanding its dialogue and cooperation with both the Russian Duma and the Ukrainian Rada.

**1993:** The Science and Technology Committee created a Sub-Committee on the Proliferation of Military Technology.

**1990:** The PA broadened its mandate when it first began to admit Eastern and Central European countries as associate members. President of the assembly, Congressman Charlie Rose and Senator Bill Roth initiated the PA Rose-Roth program of seminars and conferences to deepen cooperation with the parliaments of those countries.

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