



\* This event is co-sponsored by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

## Security challenges in the Balkans

**26-27 May**  
**Bucharest**  
**National Military Club**

*Known as a troublemaker in European politics, the Balkans have played an increasingly active role between the major actors who have interests in the area. The regional conference **Security challenges in the Balkans** aims to identify the security challenges in the Balkans from a multiple range of expertise; to facilitate a dialogue platform for think tanks, academia, and public administration from the Balkan region and NATO member states; reflect on the vision and means to consolidate the security in the Balkans and create partnerships among stakeholders to increase cooperation in the Balkans.*

✓ **Thursday, 26 May**

09:15– 09:45 Participants' registration (Marble Hall)

10:00 – 11:00 **Event official opening**

*\* This session will be opened to press*

**Speakers:** **Mr. Ionel Nițu** |President of New Strategy Center|, **Mr. Mircea Dumitru** |Rector of the University of Bucharest|, **Mr. Alexandru Victor Micula** |Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs|, **Mr. Ștefan-Alexandru Tinca** |State Secretary for Defence Policy and Planning, Ministry of National Defense|, **Mr. Sorin Ducaru** |NATO Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges| (video message)

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee break

11:15 – 12:15 **Panel I: The NATO Summit in Warsaw and the security consolidation in the Balkans** (Marble Hall)

*\* This session will be held under Chatham House rules*

Moderator: **Mr. Sergiu Celac** |New Strategy Center Scientific Council member|

**Speakers:** **Mr. Nicolae Ciucă** |The Romanian Chief of General Staff|, **Mr. Sebastian Huluban** |State Advisor for Defense Policy, Presidential Administration|, **Mr. Nikola Zecevic** |Montenegro – Representative of the University of Donja Gorica in Podgorica|, **Mr. Dan Dungaciu** |Director of the Romanian Institute for Political Sciences and International Relations|, **Mr. Arian Starova** |Albania – Board member of Albanian Institute for International Studies|

12:15 – 13:10 Open discussion

13:10 – 13:20 Conclusions: **Mr. Sergiu Celac**

13:20 – 14:30 Lunch (Moorish Saloon)

14:30 – 16:30 **Panel II: Risks and vulnerabilities to the security in the Balkans** (Marble Hall)

*\* This session will be held under Chatham House rules*

Moderator: **Mr. Teodor Meleșcanu** |New Strategy Center Scientific Council member|

**Speakers:** **Mr. Leonard Orban** |Presidential adviser for European Affairs|, **Mr. Bekim Maksuti** |The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>1</sup> - Deputy Minister of Defense|, **Mr. Akkan Suver** |Turkey – President of Marmara Group Strategic and Social Research Foundation|, **Mr. Vlad Nistor** |Representative of the University of Bucharest|, **Mr. Giorgos Triantafyllou** |Greece – Research Fellow at Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy ELIAMEP|, **Mr. Mladen Mrdalj** |Serbia – Project Manager at Center for International Relations and Sustainable Development|, **Mr. Denis Hadzovic** |Bosnia&Herzegovina – Executive Director at The Centre for Security Studies|

16:30 – 17:50 Open discussions

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<sup>1</sup> Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

17:50 – 18:00 Conclusions: **Mr. Teodor Meleșcanu**

18:00 Official Reception (Byzantine Hall)

✓ **Friday, 27 May**

10:00 – 11:15 **Panel III: Energy security in the Balkans – challenges and cooperation means (part one)** (Marble Hall)

\* *This session will be opened to press*

Moderator: **Mr. Laurențiu Pachiu** |New Strategy Center|

**Speakers:** **Mr. Michael Ruehle** |Head, Energy Security Section, in the Emerging Security Challenges Division in NATO's International Staff|, **Mr. Vasile Iuga** |Senior Partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers Romania|, **Mr. Martin Vladimirov** |Bulgaria – Senior Analyst at Center for the Study of Democracy|, **Mrs. Alexandra Gătej** |New Strategy Center Scientific Council member|, **Mr. Sandro Knezovic** |Croatia – Senior Research Associate at Institute for Development and International Relations|, **Mr. Dan Apostol** |General secretary ROPEPCA - Romanian Petroleum Exploration and Production Companies Association|

11:15 – 12:00 Open discussions

12:00 – 12:15 Coffee break

12:15 – 13:15 **Panel III: Energy security in the Balkans – challenges and cooperation means (part two)** (Marble Hall)

\* *This session will be opened to press*

Moderator: **Mr. Laurențiu Pachiu** |New Strategy Center|

**Speakers:** **Mr. Arturas Petkus** |Head of Strategic analysis and research division, NATO Energy Centre of Excellence|, **Mr. Radu Dudău** |Director of the Energy Policy Group|, **Mr. Răzvan Nicolescu**, |Senior consultant Delloitte România|, **Mr. Ylber Sela** |The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>2</sup> - Director at Institute for Political and International Studies|

13:15 – 14:00 Open discussions

14:00 – 14:10 Conclusions: **Mr. Laurențiu Pachiu**

14:10 – 14:30 Event conclusions

14:30 – 15:30 New Strategy Center cocktail (Moorish Saloon)

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