



The Intangibles of Security

For sixty years NATO has been directly involved in defense activities. It has worked as a political alliance supported by a military structure. After the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Warsaw Pact Organization, the Atlantic Alliance has entered in a process of review of its missions while it was enlarging to new members. The concept of security has become increasingly important because the Alliance had to consider a wider diversity of threats and challenges in a changing world.

At the same time many organizations like the European Science Foundation, the National Science Foundation of the USA, and institutions like the EU, struck by the instability of the post cold war began to consider that they needed to review the security problem which for years has been very low on the agenda. Not only the so called “soft” dimension but also the “hard” part of security required a greater commitment for more research and creativity.

Those requirements have been motivated by several challenges.

First, the necessity to use measured but appropriate military force in situation of human disaster generated by the unleash of illegitimate and savage aggressions

by irregulars or paramilitary forces against civil populations like in Kosovo or in Sudan.

Second, the deliberate organization and perpetration of a new kind of terrorist aggressions, using suicide bombing, in the US and on the European soil. Unexpected cultural tensions have created concern about possible break up of democratic and tolerant societies.

Third, the globalization of environmental unrest and actual or potential disasters, including pandemics, requiring global response and transnational solidarity.

The concordance of all these events have generated a new perception of greater vulnerability to a large variety of natural phenomena and manmade dangers, deliberate, or not, which could disrupt the peaceful activities of the average citizen all over the world. At the same time the sense of responsibility and solidarity has increased.

The conference will deal with all these aspect in order to deliver new paths and new opportunities to those researchers who will bring innovative solutions. It will also contribute to demonstrate the there is a wide and profound common ground between two organizations one which looking for a *policy for long term research* and another which desires to have *mid-term research for policy*. For three years we have worked on that, bringing together almost one hundred researchers and experts in various disciplines covering most of the fields of humanities and other social sciences, creating a network of competences for the future.

The Conference will not only present the results of that joint effort but will be aimed at defining the future for more cooperation on security research in the coming years.

Through four joint ESF-NATO workshops (plus one last November 2008) the French Institute for Strategic Analysis (IFAS), in charge of the program, has found that the word **Security** have different meanings for different people in

different countries, according to their history, culture and religion. It is a complex combination of subjective perceptions intertwined with objective factors.

What is the meaning of security in China? In Brazil, In South Africa? Security of what and of whom? The individual or the leadership? The freedom of thinking and speech or the preservation of traditional culture and “sacred values” of the country?

What does security means for the Israelis and the Palestinians? Do Nations feel more secure by building large armies and sophisticated weapons? Or do they prefer to rely upon quiet relations with their neighbors based upon a low level of armament?

Just like peace is not the absence of war, security cannot be reduced to the temporary absence of insecurity.

It has to establish its norms, values, consider its roots, elaborate a strategy for preservation, prevention, augmentation, and reparation as an ultimate resort, in case of disruption.

The Conference

“The Intangibles of Security”

Will present to a large audience of competent people directly concerned by those issues the results of two years of research, discussion and cooperation.

Furthermore, that gathering is aimed at contributing to an enhanced knowledge and the opening of further and enlarged research in the areas jointly recognized and pre-explored.

On that basis,

The conference will consider the commonality of interests which are shared by the entire spectrum of the actors: average citizen, the people, the leadership and the Nation as a whole.

It will present those security concerns no one can avoid, forget, neglect in the 21st century, the age of information.

It will address the challenges for the coming generations in the field of research for the political and human scientists at a global level.

It will provide orientations for those research institutes and think tanks which will consider all the aspects of security and will be able to deliver solutions to the problems, -short term as well as long term- including what should be considered as “intangible”.

The Challenge of Security, global and local, profoundly intertwined, requires a deep transformation in the current and traditional approaches.

The scope of the conference is to settle a common ground for research, for innovation and for the delivery of pragmatic solutions.

The scope is to stimulate a spirit and a practice of cooperation between countries, between research laboratories, between disciplines.

Important note: Each participant is encouraged to present her/his point of view put forward proposals which will be included in the final report dispatched to the security network of expert generated by the program.

THE CONFERENCE

Location: **Bedford Hotel**, Brussels, Belgium, 21-22 April 2009.

Early arrival Monday April 20th afternoon and evening

First Day: Tuesday, April 21st Morning 9.30am - 1pm

- **9 - 9.30 am:** Registration of the participants.

PLENARY

- **9.30 – 10.15 am:** Welcome address by Pr GERE, program director.
“Thinking about the unthinkable security requirements”.

Presentation of the goals by NATO and ESF:

- Dr Michael STOPPFORD Deputy Assistant Secretary General, NATO.
- Dr Marc HEPPENER, Director of Science and Strategy Development, ESF.

- **10.15 - 11.15 am:** Key-note speakers: “*Security expectations: today and tomorrow*”.

- Pr Andrew MACK, Director of the Human Security Report Project, School for International Studies, Simon Fraser University, Canada.

- Dr Nayef AL-RODHAN, Senior Scholar in Geostrategy and Director of the Program on the Geopolitical Implications of Globalization and Transnational Security, Geneva, Switzerland.

- Madame Anne BADER, Senior Fellow, The Atlantic Council, USA.

- Pr Joseph LIOW, Deputy Dean S.Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

- **11.15 - 11.30 am** coffee break.

- **11.30 - 11.50 am:**

Pr François GERE, IFAS, *Program Director* : « *What is Security? Key -findings and the state of the art* ».

- **11.50 - 12.45 pm:** General discussion

BUFFET

First Day: afternoon

- **2 - 6.30pm**

Participants will split in three separate parallel groups in order to identify the “intangibles” and the new paths for related research.

Parallel Session 1:

➤ **Identity, Loyalty and Security:**

- Chair: Advocate Mary SHARPE, Cambridge, UK
- Speakers:
Dr Sara SAVAGE, Faculty of Divinity, Cambridge, UK
Ms Fatima LAHNAIT, Université de la Sorbonne, France

4 – 4.30 pm: Coffee break

4.30 – 6.30 pm:

- Discussant: Bryan WATTERS, University of Cranfield, UK
- Rapporteur: Ryan WILLIAMS, Cambridge, UK.

Parallel Session 2:

➤ **Ethics, Law and Justice:**

- Chair Dr Peter BURGESS, PRIO, Oslo, Norway.

- Speaker: Pr Mervyn FROST, Head of War Studies Department, King College, London, UK.

4 – 4.30 pm : Coffee break

4.30 – 6.30 pm:

- Discussant: Dr David RODIN, Oxford, UK.
- Rapporteur: Serena SHARMA, Oxford University, UK.

Parallel Session 3:

➤ **Management of Security: Successes and Failures :**

- Chair: Pr Bruce SEELY, MTU, Michigan, USA.
- Speaker:
Dr Pierre BERTHELOT, University Paris II Panthéon-Assas, France.
Dr Ben RUSEK, The National Academies, USA.

4- 4.30 pm: Coffee break

4.30 – 6.30 pm:

- Discussants:
Elaine ENARSON, Independent scholar and consulting sociologist,
Lyons, CO, USA.
Iulian CHIFU Professor of international relations, National School of
Political and Administrative Studies, Bucharest, Hungary.
- Rapporteur: Pr Rachelle HOLLANDER, National Academy of
Engineering, USA.

Views from different professions: scientists, journalists, servicemen, diplomats.

Evening Free

Second Day: Wednesday April 22nd

Morning

- **9 - 12.30 am** Parallel sessions resume

The groups reconvene and discuss the rapporteurs presentations of the first session.

Session 1: 9 - 10.30 am

- Rapporteur presentation
- Remarks from participants

10.30 – 11 am: Coffee break

11 - 12.30am:

- Guest speaker: Pr Emilio MORDINI, HIDE Project, Rome, Italy :
“*Bioethics and security*”.
- Discussion

Session 2: 9 – 10.30 am

- Rapporteur presentation
- Remarks from participants

10.30 – 11 am: Coffee break

11 – 12.30am :

- Guest speaker: Pr Jeroen VAN DEN HOVEN, 3 TU Center for Ethics and Technology, The Netherlands.: “*Ethical Normes and Technology for Security*”.
- Discussion

Session 3: 9 – 10.30

- Rapporteur presentation
- Remarks from participants

10.30 – 11 am: Coffee break

11 – 12.30am:

- Guest speaker: Dr Petrus DE KOCK, executive director Geopolitical solutions, South Africa: “*security, technology and the African culture*”.
- Discussion

BUFFET

Second Day: Afternoon

Plenary Session 1.30 - 5pm:

- **1.30 - 3 pm:**
 - Rapporteurs present the results of the sessions
 - General Discussion

To be directly followed at

- **3 - 4.30pm:** Conclusions:

Addressing the future of security research: new areas, new methodology, new thinking. Chair: Pr WEDIN.

Proposals for new steps: strengthened cooperation, enlargement to other countries. Chair: Pr GERE.

- **4.30 - 5pm:**

Final Remarks: Mr Jean-François BUREAU, Assistant Secretary General, NATO.

Farewell address: Pr Bruce SEELY.