

NATO's Future Seminar 2019

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PANEL 1:

Boon & Bane of **Social Media** in a Changing Communication Environment - How Should NATO (Re)Act?

Whether a Tweet by Trump or a NATO Insta Story – political opinions and strategic information are available as easily and quickly as never before in the history of mankind. The boundaries between propaganda, lies and harsh reality are all too blurred. The exact assessment of what information is trustworthy in the context of security policy is of high relevance. Aggressive behavior or tactical maneuver, war or peace? These questions are answered with the right information. How this information is produced, used and received by the population is therefore vital to NATO's survival.



PANEL 1: Boon & Bane of **Social Media** in a Changing Communication Environment - How Should NATO (Re)Act?



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PANEL 1: Social Media and NATO



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PANEL 1: Social Media and NATO



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With respect to Social Media, we recommend that NATO ...

1. ... **EMPLOYS PROACTIVE STORYTELLING** methods **IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES** to spread positive messages and personal narratives related to NATO's mission, especially stories told from the perspectives of women and minorities.
2. ... **DEVELOPS A PLATFORM OF CONSTANT DIALOGUE** with social media companies, tech companies and other stakeholders regarding early warning systems for emerging disinformation techniques such as Deep Fakes.
3. ... **ENCOURAGES** all member states **TO DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS** that teach civilians, especially vulnerable populations, media literacy.
4. ... **REDUCES INSIDER THREATS** among NATO personnel and relatives by raising awareness of the risks of improper social media use.
5. ... **DEVELOPS CAPABILITIES FOR** real-time **ANALYSIS OF**, and responses to, **DISINFORMATION THREATS**.



PANEL 2:

The Concept of a **European Army** and NATO - Useful Addition or Undermining Contradiction?

The President of France calls for combined European Military Forces, a national minister of defense becomes President of the European Commission and the American President demands an increase of investments in defense from the European states. On a first glance all signs indicate the path towards a European Army. However, reality also looks like this: From a defense policy oriented perspective, Europe seems like a patchwork – national reservations impede even the smallest steps towards military integration and defense budgets are only slowly increased towards the set goals.



PANEL 2: The Concept of a **European Army** and NATO - Useful Addition or Undermining Contradiction?



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With respect to the concept of a **European army**, we recommend that NATO ...

1. ... **CREATES A COMMON WORKING STRUCTURE** with European defence programs.
2. ... **ALIGNS THE NDPP AND CARD**. This will harmonize:
 - a) procurement standards
 - b) operational planning
3. ... **ENSURES ALL MEMBERS** have **ACCESS TO EUROPEAN DEFENSE PROCUREMENT** programs.
4. ... **UTILIZES THE BERLIN+ AND FNC** to coordinate operations.
5. ... **CONSIDERS GRANTING THE EU OBSERVER STATUS** in the NAC.



PANEL 3: Troubled Waters? NATO's Relationship with North Africa and the Mediterranean

NATO's Southern flank lies on the natural border of the Mediterranean Sea and poses a set of unique challenges to the alliance. The region calls for a policy response framework that reflects the heterogeneity and instability of its landscape. Libya and Syria are the examples which have defined the insecurity of the region, yet few solutions have been proposed so far. NATO's interventions in both countries, with an aim to protect civilians from the Gaddafi regime on the one hand and to contribute to the international coalition fighting ISIS on the other, have created a responsibility on NATO's part for the future of these societies. Indeed, it is in the interest of NATO member states to build on existing foundations and revisit the questions of priorities in this region. The migration flows triggered on land and sea by the failed states are a persistent challenge with direct domestic political consequences for European members of the alliance. The current situation poses several questions about NATO's ability to contribute to peace-building efforts.



PANEL 3: Troubled Waters? NATO's Relationship with North Africa and the Mediterranean



Leaders

PANEL 3: North Africa, the Mediterranean and NATO



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With respect to North Africa and the Mediterranean, we recommend that NATO ...

1. ... finds a common ground on the most burning issues in the region and **DEVELOPS A JOINT VISION**, which is sorely lacking, as a basis **FOR FUTURE INTERACTION** with the countries in North Africa and Middle East **TO TACKLE COMMON SECURITY CHALLENGES**.
2. ... **ENHANCES COOPERATION** with countries **WITH STABLE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE** in the region, specifically Tunisia. Concretely, NATO should **ALLOCATE A GREATER SHARE OF RESOURCES** available to the Mediterranean Dialogue to Tunisia in order to achieve this goal.
3. ... **ESTABLISHES A TRUST MECHANISM** to support civil emergency planning in any country of the region, in order to, for example, prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and land mines.

