

2011



## **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual International Strategic Conference Report**

February 2011

**Title: " Global Challenges: NATO, EU, UN  
in the New Security Environment"**





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## A few words about SI:

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*Strategy International is a premier leading Think Tank of Northern Greece. It is located in the heart of Northern Greece in the City of Thessaloniki.*

*It represents the interests of Greece to the world, the cooperation with regional actors and neighbors and the collaboration in the levels of international organizations businesses, local communities and the world.*

*It is an institute of thought, decision-making, initiatives and leadership. Its goal and estimate is to play a key role in the years to come in educating, producing new and innovative ideas and providing primary proposals in topics that after analysis can be considered and practically applied at the level of national and international politics, governments and businesses.*

*Strategy International's long-term goal is to create the first Southeastern Europe Negotiations Center that will provide the opportunity to attract academic and professional attention and capital in the City of Thessaloniki. A city that is considered the jewel of the Balkans that combines a multicultural society and that is located at the corner end of the European Union.*

*The topics and issues that SI approaches concerns Greece and the world and reflects all forms of politics both in the field of foreign and security policies.*

*Strategy International constantly complements its work. It constantly updates its mandate according to the current but also future needs and challenges.*

# Strategy International Statement:

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## Statement

*Strategy International (SI) is an International Think Tank.*

*It is a non-profit Organisation.*

**Scope:** *To create, promote and initiate Political and Strategic issues relating to joint national and international collaboration at the European, Atlantic, Regional and Global levels.*

*- To conduct Primary Research, Consult, Educate and initiate new programs of national and international concern.*

**Aim:** *- To create a National and International network of Leaders and Decision-Makers, Negotiators and Successful Professionals.*

*- To educate and train new and current professionals from a diversity of fields academic and business.*

SI Academic Board Members conduct research on cutting edge sectors that help formulate and shape policies from around the world in Greece.

Such sectors include (but are not limited to) the following:

A) Research on Geo-Strategic and Geo-Political Matters: 21st century geo-strategic and geo-political changes and challenges are regarded as strong tools for the formulation of foreign and defence policies national, supranational or international. The example of the Eurasian continent, which is at the forefront of every geopolitical activity around the globe is a pertinent one. It is the estimate that the power that Eurasia dominates, will control one of the more advanced and financially productive areas of the globe.

The geopolitical control of Eurasia automatically promotes the geostrategic control of Africa for the leading power, making the Western hemisphere and Oceania dependent upon the main Eurasian continental mass.

B) Research on Cultural Diplomacy: The introduction of cultural diplomacy as a means of conducting foreign policy via soft power is a method whose application is receiving increased focus via the major geostrategic players such as the USA and amongst international organisations such as NATO. The most successful and efficient application of all the tools afforded by cultural diplomacy, in a world where asymmetrical, terrorist-initiated threats are of increasing importance is a matter that must be researched in an applicable manner.

C) Research on Environmental Security: Environmental factors have been recognised to play a significant role in interstate disputes while their effects are transnational.

D) Leadership through Technology, Innovation, and Mediation: The Ability to make concrete analysis, create comprehensive approaches to issues of Strategy and to consult on issues of potential interests. Global Collaboration and Co-operation through Green Technology and Green Energy.

E) Global Education through Global Leadership: Prepare Professionals, Academics, Entrepreneurs, Students and Individuals on Global issues of Security and Strategic Concern in the Field of Politics, Economics, Law, Public Administration and Public Policy.

F) Through the presentation and initiation of new programs, of constructive national, regional and international collaboration, Strategy International brings forward issues for consideration with formal and important proposals that can be adopted and constructed.

The sole purpose is to bring collaboration and co-operation among national and international leading Governments, Companies and Institutes.

***Strategy International brings the World to Greece and Greece to the World***

# Strategy International's Purpose:

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Strategy International's Purpose is to promote constructive Greek Initiatives and Foreign and Security Leadership. The sole purpose is the engagement in a constructive way in international affairs, based on the central role and location of Thessaloniki in the heart of the Balkans and the Sea Side of the Aegean in the Southeastern side of Europe.

The scope is to meet the international challenges in the foreign and security strategies and politics of the 21st century. Strategy International embodies a Strategic Foreign Council. A non-partisan network of Professionals, Leaders, Negotiators and Strategists, who aim to bring ideas to power and to give power to ideas by:

- Enhancing and Stimulating Constructive Dialogue.
- Creating Initiatives.
- Develop and Create New Ideas.
- Examining Critical International Issues.
- To Enrich Public Local and International Debate.
- Promote Consensus on Appropriate Foreign Policy and Defense & Strategic Responses.
- Conducting Organizational, Governmental, Local and International Educational and Exchange Programs for the New Generations of Hellenic Leaders.
- Conduct Primary Academic and Professional Research.
- Strategy International aims to create a diverse national and international network of experts, professionals and upcoming leaders.
- The Strategic Foreign Council builds broad constituencies to support constructive Greek Leadership and Policies.

Its Program Purpose is to publish informational analyses, convene conferences and workshops among current and/or future leaders, and contribute to the public debate in order to integrate the views of

*Po Box 21638, 55236 Panorama Thessaloniki Greece*

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*Emai: [info@strategyinternational.org](mailto:info@strategyinternational.org)*

knowledgeable individuals from a wide variety of backgrounds, interests and experiences.

The Council's work includes:

- Shaping responses and creating new practical initiatives in major issues concerning the European Union, the Transatlantic Relations, Strategic Regional and Local Concerns.
- Building Consensus on Greek Policy concerns and issues towards Russia, China, Asia and Oceanic States, too.
- Promoting new and balanced responses and proposals to growing energy needs and environmental protection.
- Creating and Using Technology and Innovation as methods in 21st century Politics.
- Drafting roadmaps for Greek Foreign and Security Policy for the Balkans, Africa, North and South America, Middle East and the Mediterranean region.
- Training, Engaging, and Educating Students from across the Euro-Atlantic area, the Mediterranean, in the processes of International and Peripheral Organizations, Strategies, International Politics and International Relations.

# Foreword by the Editor in Chief:

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*I would like to express my gratitude for having been given the opportunity to offer my services to the International Think Tank Strategy International. The two-day conference held on February 10 and 11 attracted people from various fields who were driven by an interest in international affairs. The conference was crowned by the participation of distinguished academics, politicians and professionals representing the military.*

*Issues of multiple national and international interests were addressed in an attempt to depict the scene that is continuously changing in terms of security and cooperation between nations and international organizations. The role of NATO, the UN and the EU was explored in view of emerging challenges worldwide in order to produce innovative ideas which will formulate national and international foreign and security policies.*

*All participants to the conference had the chance to gain insight in the ways the New Strategic Concept of NATO is being shaped globally facing threats of interstate and intrastate conflicts, and also threats of environmental and other nature. Autonomy and heterogeneity were juxtaposed to a unified attitude as elements that should be taken into consideration in order to tackle issues of mutual concern among European, Eurasian and Euro-Atlantic and Arab states.*

*Sincerely,*

*Ms. Maria Pachta*

*Editor in Chief, Strategy International*

# Foreword:

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*On Behalf of Strategy International I would like to express my gratitude and thankfulness to all involved parties to the organization of this conference.*

*I would like to thank in specific, the Hellenic Ministry of Defense and the Minister and honorable Professor Mr. Evangelos Venizelos, The Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in Specific the deputy Minister Mr. Spyros Kouvelis, the MPA' Director General of the D2 Directorate, the honorable Ambassador Mr. Eustathios Lozos, The North Atlantic Treaty Organization and in Specific Mr. Ino Afentouli, Head Liaison Officer for Public Diplomacy Division in Southeast Europe, Sakoulas Publications A.E and in specific Ms. Marina Diorinou head of Production, The Hellenic Police, The Chief of Hellenic Police Mr. Oikonomou and the General Chief of Police in Thessaloniki Mr. Papadopoulos as well as the Met hotel of Chandris Group, in Thessaloniki for their exceptional reception and Organization.*

*I would also like to thank our supporters and joint collaborators, The General Consulate of the United States in Thessaloniki and in Specific the honorable Consul General Ms. Catherine E. Kay, the General Consulate of the French Republic and in specific the honorable Consul General Monsieur Christian Thimonier, The George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Germany, The Center For Transatlantic Relations, CTR, at the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, Washington DC, USA, The Center for National Security, Ministry of Citizens Affairs (KEMEA) and in specific the President and Vice President of Kemea.*

*I would finally like to thank our supporters in making this event possible: the periodical Defence & Diplomacy, the Periodical Press Code, as well as the company e-leoforos.gr and Rotary Anatolia, Rotary International for advertising this event.*

*Finally, I would like to thank Team Strategy International, for making this event successful. Also to thank Ms. Maria Pachta, Editor in Chief, for making this report possible.*

*Below you shall find the results of this conference which was conducted on the 10 & 11 February 2011 at the Met Hotel in Thessaloniki. The topic of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Strategic Conference was on NATO, UN, UN and the Global Security Challenges.*

*Sincerely,*

*Dr. Marios Panagiotis Eftymiopoulos*

*President*

*Team Strategy International*

# Introduction:

## Discovering the New security challenges

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On Thursday 10 February 2011, “Strategy International”, hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> International Security and Strategy Conference, in Thessaloniki. The aim of this annual event was to bring some of the most renowned experts, to interact and exchange views, to draw conclusions and to present issues for consideration at national governments and international organizations. The conference’s primary goals are to attract national and international attention of communities and governments, academics and entrepreneurs for negotiations on issues of both bilateral and multilateral concerns and interests.

The International conference’s aim was to examine at a time of a constantly changing security environment, the New Security Challenges as seen from the geographical location of South-Eastern Europe. For this reason some of the world renowned professionals and academics agreed to join discussions. The aim was to concretely understand and to propose issues that can have a practical impact on the international and national security agenda. At the same time, the perspective was to attract international and national attention in proposing specialized issues for consideration in relevance with Greece’s bilateral and multilateral foreign and security agendas but also to consider regional and peripheral international community options in issues that are of mutual international interest.

For this reason, both the Minister of Defense, Professor, Evangelos Venizelos and Deputy Foreign Minister of Greece Mr. Spyros Kouvelis, agreed to join this discussion after the discussions and issues introduced and proposals put forward by academics and professionals from Greece, the EU and the United States of America.

This conference was organized with the highest quality standards. It anticipated the need to discuss issues and put forward proposals in relevance to the new international challenges.

The conference was as such divided into thematic topics that would be of specialized concern to International Organizations such as NATO, national governments and ministries as well as think tanks. The initial goal was to introduce multiple opinions, ignite new discussions, take bold new initiatives on issues that could be of relative interest to all involved parties and invite more parties to join future discussions. As such it was concluded that the Conference would be a two-day international meeting, organized in eight sessions. Each day, the conference included four sessions, which were titled as follows:

**Day 1:**

Session 1: New Challenges and New Security Concepts.

Session 2: The Regional Security Challenges

Session 3: The Financial Crisis and Implications to Security

Session 4: Environmental Security

**Day 2:**

Session 5: Maritime Security Challenges

Session 6: Facing Unconventional Threats

Session 7: The Public Opinion Challenges

Session 8: Greece and the New Security Environment.

Below you shall find the detailed conference report. This is the report of Strategy International following its second annual conference. Strategy International will host every year this annual event, in order to bring the best and most interesting academic, professional conferences organized in Thessaloniki, Greece. Our aim is to host, introduce, engage and propose constructive and real issues for consideration, with the perspective to create the network of people and the timeframe to explore new opportunities for issues concerning issues of foreign and security policies vis a vis Greece, the region, the periphery and the world.

What is written in this report are the opinions solely of the invited authors to the conference and are presented as such.

This 2<sup>nd</sup> annual event was open to all business people, professionals, academics and students that are directly or indirectly engaged in international politics.

## Day 1

### Welcoming Speech, Introductory Remarks

Mr. Efthymios Efthymiopoulos, Vice-President of Strategy International, opened the Conference on behalf of Team Strategy International as the Chief Executive Organizer of this event. Mr. Efthymiopoulos expressed his gratitude to all the participants and organizers as well as sponsors, acknowledging the contribution of NATO and especially the Head of Public Diplomacy Division in South-east Europe and Greece, Ms. Ino Afentouli. He then proceeded with the following statement with regard to the new security environment and challenges:

#### Quote:

*“...We are in the middle of grave changes. A new security and strategic framework is being built for new geostrategic policies in an era of global challenges. The security network is being re-built at a time of a changing balance of power...”*

*“...Strategy International is here to start deliberations and offer services to our national and international communities. To bring closer involved parties. To negotiate issues that can be practically considered a positive impact factor to our global societies...”*

### **Opening Key Note Speaker: The New Security Environment**

**Mr. Eustathios Lozos**, General Director of Security issues MPA', Director of the NATO and WEU the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic stressed the need for Greece to frame strategies at an international level in view of imminent and latent threats. He referred to the New Strategic Concept of NATO as it is evolving after NATO's Lisbon Summit - alliance and flexibility being its principal components. According to Mr. Lozos, it is imperative that “...clear strategic objectives...” are set in the light of the new security environment, which encompasses a wide range of countries like the USA, China, Brazil and Russia. The concept of comprehensive security was highlighted, shedding light to the fact that international and global economies are

interrelated with environmental security, which has an impact on our societies. Three pillars of European Alliance were identified and proposed:

*“...Transparency, Predictability and Security...”*

## **Session 1: New challenges and New Security Concepts**

Session 1 was opened by *Professor Alan Henrikson*. **Professor Henrikson, being the Chair of Diplomatic Studies at Tufts University and a Visiting Fulbright Professor at College d' Europe**, attempted to explore the global challenges for a global NATO. “*...Is Europe becoming global?...*” or “*...Is NATO global?...*” were some of the questions that were put forward. Professor Henrikson argued that although the geographic denomination of NATO implies its rather restricted character, NATO needs to become global under the prism of today's nature-related problems and earth-based concerns. Mr. Henrikson supported the role of NATO as “*...a political instrument that is capable of forming links with other security organizations and engaging in political outreaching...*”. According to Mr. Henrikson utmost importance should be given to collective security at a time when “*...terrorism is mutated into a global franchise...*”. Conclusively, the thrust of his argument could be summarized in the following quote:

*“...NATO needs to transform into a forum of global consultation...”*

The focus was then set on “New Counter-Terrorism Methods” with **Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago, Professor Robert Pape**, who talked about the explosion of suicide terrorism. He quoted the former Secretary of Defence, Donald Rumsfeld, in order to elaborate on the question “*...Are we creating more terrorists than we are killing...?*”:

*“...Suicide terrorism is the lung cancer of terrorism...”*

Mr. Pape provided evidence which supports that “*...suicide terrorism kills twice as many as a terrorist attack...*”. Close examination of the pivotal risk factors can help determine the patterns of suicide terrorism.

He mentioned that the data assembled during a project on security in the University of Chicago classify the people who were involved in suicide terrorism with regard to their social and economic status. The data showed that the largest percentage - almost 88% of suicide terrorists – had a certain ideological affiliation, and was not identified with Islamic fundamentalism. Over 95% of the incidents were response to foreign occupation by American and European troops. Therefore, Professor Pape suggested that ending of occupation, will mean ending of suicide terrorism, while the alternative to military occupation onshore in countries like Afghanistan or Iraq could be offshore balancing. According to the data presented, upon the withdrawal of troops suicide terrorism fell to 95% or even sometimes to zero. Mr. Pape estimates that the transition from ground forces control to air and naval forces, the latter being more rapidly deployable, will take from 2 to 3 years. Mr. Pape rounded off his speech adding:

*“...The role of Greece is crucial in this process and important international commitments will be made for years to come...”*

Following up on “Countering Violent Extremism”, **Ms. Ino Afentouli, Head of NATO Division, Public Diplomacy for Southeastern Europe**, deliberated on the need for Greece to “...Open up to the world and extend partnerships worldwide...”. Cyber-crime and climate change are globalized threats, which should be anticipated in consultations within international organizations and security bodies. Ms. Afentouli, put forward heated questions to provoke thought as to the causes of today’s crisis and conflicts: “...Is it not all linked to the exploitation of natural resources or is not economy the epicenter of conflict?...”. The key element in foreign and security agendas appears to be collective security accompanied by the legitimization of actions at an international level, according to Ms Afentouli.

In continuation, **Professor of National Security Studies at George C. Marshall European Center, Sharyl Cross**, proposed ways of tackling violent extremism and emerging challenges internationally.

*“...The practical utility of the Conference to better equip national and international societies in order to face challenges today...”*

By presenting the work projected and implemented at the George C. Marshall Center, Professor Cross mentioned the level of engagement in issues such as politics and theology. The “goal is to explore also the ideological dimensions of terrorism”. Overall, so far work at the Center has yielded the conclusion that terrorist motivation is a complicated question. Adopting an interdisciplinary and policy-relevant approach, issues such as moral and family values, religion and democracy are investigated. According to Ms. Cross “...unprecedented levels of institutional and international cooperation have been achieved to date...”.

Further on, she highlighted that “...The principal aim is to build policies in order to combat terrorism in its infancy...”. The USA not having invested enough in academic research in the past, it is becoming practically essential to study root-dynamics in order to delve into the psychological and social pressures on people involved in terrorism. Quoting Barack Obama she made clear that “...Terrorism is a tactic not an enemy...”, and accordingly, “...it is impossible to be at war with a tactic...”. Professor Cross referred to the involvement of the George C. Marshall Center in countering the image of the war of religion emphasizing:

“...We need to disassociate ourselves from the image of war against a specific religion...”.

**Dr. David Wisner, Professor of International Relations, Dukakis Chair at the American College of Thessaloniki**, in his effort to elaborate on worldwide security architecture, started his speech on an optimistic note asserting that “...This Conference may open new horizons as to what regions of the world will be significant over the next decades...”. “...The US continues to dominate international politics, while at the same time perceptions of threat are mutual at an international level...”, he stated. Today the relation between America and China is acquiring a new dimension, he added, while during the Bush administration it was not evident whether China could play the role of a strategic partner or a hostile rival. Professor Wisner quoted Barack Obama on the relation between the US and China: “...I’m not going to settle for a situation where the United States come in second place...”. Mr. Wisner also affirmed that “...One country we do not want to see surpass the USA is China...” and recognized the inevitable tension between the two countries. Professor Wisner added that US democracy is today’s oldest democratic regime and concluded:

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Emai: [info@strategyinternational.org](mailto:info@strategyinternational.org)

*“...There is an increasing need for bigger citizen participation at a time when there seems to be more democracy than ever before...”.*

## **Session 2: Regional Security Challenges**

**Mr. Constantinos Verros, the News and Information Director of Macedonia TV**, was the moderator of the second panel. In his introductory speech to the session, he attempted to provide a brief overview of the major historical events in the Pre-NATO and Pre-EU era. According to his testimony, the world has now changed. The geostrategic, geopolitical and economic balances altered both the international and regional scenes. He made special reference to points of major geostrategic interest, such as the Black Sea and the Dardanelles, which still constitute part of the new security challenges framework for both NATO and the EU.

**Ms. Catherine E. Kay, the US Consul General of Thessaloniki**, stressed the need for continuity and sense of purpose in order to address regional security issues. Speaking on behalf of the US she noted:

*“...So far America has shared this commitment with its European allies...”.*

NATO is reaching out to more countries, while the map of NATO is being extended, with Montenegro having recently joined the list of possible for future evaluation NATO member countries. Ms. Kay stressed that strong economies are the crucial foundation for regional security.

She expanded on the application of alternative methods, which indicate that

*“...The new norm is rapid change...”.*

She provided examples of new military coalitions, and US troops training the Afghanistan police and army. It is evident that there is cooperation between Bulgarian and Turkish counterparts in order to fight illegal immigration. The US Consul General insisted that

*“...Sovereign states need to prove their national defense as opposed to entity-based defense...”.*

Ms. Kay stated that Iran's nuclear aspirations have to be obstructed by the US, giving Iran a clear choice: "...to either prove the peaceful character of its nuclear program or stop it...". Prioritizing and coordinating foreign and security agendas to address bilateral and multilateral concerns are the

*"...cornerstone of cooperation between NATO and the EU..."*.

**Mr. Christian Thimonier, the Consul General of the French Republic in Thessaloniki**, opened his speech by presenting a portrait of Thessaloniki as a city with a long past and a promising future. He noted that emerging countries mean emerging interests too, and fierce competition is inevitable. Mr. Thimonier argued that defense is dependent on a country's budget, which reinforces that Greece needs a solid economy. All EU countries face the same challenges and share the same economic interests. This creates a sense of solidarity that is of paramount importance. It is vital that

*"...All European societies work towards a more unified attitude within Europe..."*

Mr. Thimonier also stated a clear distinction between a unified model of defense, and the possibility of each EU country in securing its own territory. He referred to the project for a future Mediterranean Union. He stressed the role of Greece as that of a main pillar of such a union. Following his words, the outstanding economic development of Turkey could serve as an example, if we try to see it in a pragmatistic way, and also presents a big opportunity for Greece and a collateral benefit for Cyprus. The key element in Turkey's economic success is according to Mr. Thimonier

*"...Reconciliation with its roots and history..."*.

He concluded with recognizing the solid culture of NATO and juxtaposed it with the factor of heterogeneity, which cannot be underestimated:

*"...European sensibility should be very beneficial in a NATO-centered reality..."*

**Mr. Huseyin Ozdemir, the Consul General of the Turkish Republic in Thessaloniki,** started his speech by commenting on the changing regional dynamics at national and international level. Following Mr. Ozdemir,

*“...Peace at home, peace in the world...”*

is the decree of Turkey’s foreign policy, which goes in line with the changes in the international environment.

*“...Nowadays challenges are more demanding as global interdependence has grown...”*

He considered such challenges as epidemics, the shortage of water or food, conflicts, and climate change. He argued that the basic principles in international relations, should be

*“...high-level dialogue and strategy cooperation...”*

Mr. Ozdemir elaborated on convergence points between Greek and Turkish foreign policy encouraging bilateral agreements in the light of the close economic and cultural ties that exist between the two countries.

The essential role of international organizations such as NATO, the EU and OSCE was highlighted by Mr. Ozdemir, who expressed Turkey’s commitment to continue close cooperation with international security bodies. Mr. Ozdemir acknowledged the Palestinian issue in the heart of the problem in the Middle East and Israel’s

*“...sheer violation of international law...”.*

Turkey, according to the Turkish Consul General, tried to assume a facilitating role in Afghanistan, Iraq and Israel in order to promote comprehensive security and lasting peace. A case in point is the trilateral meeting between Turkey, Afghanistan and Pakistan leading to the right direction so that these countries *“...take their rightful place in the community of nations...”.*

**Dr. Sotiris Servos, rapporteur in this session, Lecturer in International Relations at Democritus University of Thrace**, reported on the speech of the three Consuls General emphasizing a) the soft-power approach Greece should adopt and b) speaking of the North African countries, when given the choice between democracy and stability, according to Mr. Servos, the answer is straightforward: “...*We should choose stability...*”.

He summarized by stating:

*“...Soft-power, structural economic reforms and bilateral agreements can contribute to stability...”.*

### **Session 3: Financial Crisis and Implications to Security**

**Dr. Paraskevi Naskou-Perraki, Professor of International Law and International Organisations at the University of Macedonia**, was the moderator of this session.

Opening the third session on “Financial Crisis and Implications to Security” **from the Vice-President of the International Business Association, Mr. Kiriakos Loufakis**, suggested that

*“...We see opportunity in the current crisis...”.*

The statistics that were presented on the economic deficit create a trend that as he suggested we should follow:

*“...We have to become international as growth can come from international business...”.*

Problems of the Greek economy such as liquidity and political obstacles were pointed out. Mr. Loufakis talked about targeted measures that should be taken in order to increase Greek exports, support medium-sized enterprises and collaborate with the public sector. Advantages of the geographical position of Greece and its well-trained workforce should be maximized

*“...by promoting transit trade and encouraging innovation...”.*

**Professor Elias Carayannis, at the Business School of George Washington University,** reinforced the view that innovation and entrepreneurship will lead to economic growth, which is the answer to today’s crisis.

*“...Sustainable and robust competitiveness can be achieved through strategic implementation and integration...”.*

Professor Carayannis, stated that

*“...innovation takes virtue and boldness...”*

He sustained that success of innovation lies in the added value to what we have already invested on; therefore, sustainability could be interpreted in the motto

*“...Invest to reinvest...”.*

Development in the field of politics and security may involve counter-insurgency, anti-piracy and socio-technical networking clusters, according to Mr. Carayannis. He furthermore, insisted on the need to

*“...Increase convergence of standards allowing less degree of freedom...”.*

Finally, he talked about the perspective of a future “Innovation Union” based on “Innovation Diplomacy”, which will aim at bridging distances and other divides.

**Dr. Christos Fragonikolopoulos, Assistant Professor of Journalism and Mass Media at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki,** commented on the necessity to improve or rebrand the Greek political identity.

*“...Greece is full of contradictions...”*,

the Greek being open but at the same time inflicted by xenophobia and introversion.

*“...The need to craft a consistent extrovert policy is more urgent than ever before...”*

*“...Greek people need to overcome insubstantial stereotypes...”*,

which still exist when it comes to the Balkan countries since 90's. Moreover, a change of attitude is vital in respect of the Turkish people, he added; Mr Fragonikolopoulos further stated that

*“...Greece functions as a bridge between East and West...”*

**Dr. Pythagoras Petratos, Visiting Lecturer at the University of Thessaly**, as the rapporteur of the panel, mentioned the previous speeches and pointed out the following points:

*“...Innovation, New Public Diplomacy and Openness in exports...”*.

Clusters of innovation can be created by financing new enterprises, whereas less bureaucracy and financial aid will pave the way to better investments. Mr. Petratos stressed the crucial role of NATO in helping to solve scarcities in energy security. He also made explicit the fact that strategic initiatives and green investments can create an environment where

*“...Greece can be a paradigm...”*.

He emphasized that economic development goes hand in hand with green development, and therefore, should be enhanced in Greece.

## Session 4: Environmental Security

Towards the end of the first day of the Conference and opening the last session on “Environmental Security”, **Deputy Foreign Minister of Greece, Mr Spyros Kouvelis**, talked about “Green Challenges in a Green Security Era”. Before Mr. Kouvelis took the floor, Dr. Marios Efthymiopoulos, President of Strategy International, commented on the expertise of Mr. Kouvelis in environmental economics, and his administrative ability which combines continuity and change in shaping a comprehensive strategy for specific environmental issues based on a global view, and a cultural mindset.

The three main axes around which Mr. Kouvelis’ speech evolved were “Environment-Security-Economy”.

*“...We live through the era of Green intelligence...”*

Sustainable economy and “green security” are interdependent, according to Mr. Kouvelis. Consequently environmental collapse equals social crisis.

*“Low-cost food warning”*

was a title on a clipping from a newspaper, which provoked the Deputy’s argument that low-cost food does not mean development; on the contrary it indicates a problem, the engineer behind it being climate change. Environmental disasters, food and water availability, epidemics are all connected in a vicious circle, he stated.

The Deputy Foreign Minister presented a lucid picture of the South Mediterranean cities converting into “Megacities”. Conflicts and riots, such as the recent riot in Tunisia over bread price, result in massive population moves. That coupled with asymmetric threats like fires, pressure on land-use by rural workers and exhaustion of energy resources lead to the ecosystems’ degradation.

*“...Environmental degradation has to be seen as a security issue...”*

This requires green strategies in order to formulate a green diplomacy, said the Deputy Minister. Although it is difficult to predict the effects of a natural disaster, Mr. Kouvelis supported that prevention, mitigation of the effects, preparation, and finally, adaptation are imperative.

Mr. Kouvelis stressed that all nations are equally susceptible to environmental threats, which makes cooperation with developing countries and between international organizations vital. He mentioned UN conventions on biodiversity change as a global response to climate change, and talked about national priorities in the development process within the Greek territory. He concluded that

*“...Low-quality products is not what Greece needs...”.*

The Public needs to be aware and sensitive to issues of this nature. We need to get everyone involved in the reconstruction of a real economy that will lead to a real development and consequently a new and secure environment.

## Day 2

### Session 5: Maritime Security Challenges

**Associate Professor of International Relations and Security at the University of the Aegean, Panagiotis Tsakonas**, was the moderator of this session.

**Professor Andrew Lambert, from the War Studies Department, Kings College London**, opened the session on “Maritime Security Challenges” with his speech on “Sea Power and the Construction of Strategy”. After making a historical overview on the traditional sea powers of the past drawing on historians or strategists such as Thucydides, he stated that

*“...the West constitutes a cultural expression which unites free international trading countries ...”.*

*“...The sea power is the alternative to land power militarily and culturally...”*

Mr. Lambert supported that democracy is at the heart of sea power in contrast to autocracy, which lies at the heart of land power;

*“...The navy is not as threatening as the military force...”*,

he added. For countries dependent on sea power it is important to realize that strategic sea power is not a choice but a necessity, and sometimes is reckoned to be a weakness as failure of sea power may have an absolute impact. Traditional sea powers recognized their weakness as such, and counted on their navy to defend themselves, and to resist the creation of a universal state. Professor Lambert concluded that the sea is critical in globalization as

*“...Sea power is founded on economic interests, and controls economic movements...”.*

**Mr. Thanos Makris Commander of the NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Center (NMIOTC)**, commented on the contribution of Thucydides to our understanding of the geostrategic relations, which determined the geopolitical setting of the past. Shifting the focus

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to the present, he elaborated on the main strategic pillars of the NMIOTC, which are cooperative security, deterrence, collective defense and crisis management. He then demonstrated the core values of navy operations, which are essential in order to mitigate threats. Mr. Makris mentioned maritime security challenges, and classified them into casual factors and maritime terrorism, referring mainly to piracy. Finally, he exemplified with the help of statistics the advance which has been made in the field of maritime training.

**Dr. Miltiadis Sarigiannidis, Lecturer at Law Faculty in Aristotle University,** presented the existing framework for “the Law of the Seas” concerning piracy. In the first place he clarified that piracy is a crime against humanity subject to universal jurisdiction. He exemplified that the legal framework to combat piracy is expanding to substitute a more narrowed definition currently in force, under the Convention of Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation. According to Dr. Sarigiannidis, the expanded legal framework limits the jurisdiction requirements, eliminates the motive of piracy - whether public or private ends are involved- and applies to any ship navigating to, from or through a port. And he continues:

*“...Legal action is now undertaken not only in high seas but also in territorial sea, and in violent acts of piracy or armed robbery...”.*

In conclusion, Dr. Sarigiannidis acknowledged that piracy is a unique matter for the Security Council to tackle, and

*“...The gaps existing in the legal framework are detrimental to security...”.*

**Mr. Ioannis Chapsos, Commander of the Hellenic Navy from the Joint War College of Greece in Thessaloniki,** talked about human security in maritime security affairs, which used to have a state-centric character, but is now acquiring a human-centric aspect. He attempted to give a broader view of the recent geopolitical changes in North Africa in relation to values like freedom, equality and justice.

*“...There is sheer interdependence between development and security...”*

he argued, in order to sustain that socio-economic inequalities generate violence.

Mr. Chapsos talked about non-state factors such as cyber-crime, pandemics, illegal bunkering, piracy, which constitute new input in security challenges. He commented on the reluctance of littoral states to thwart piracy, and expanded on the lack of governance which justifies the lack of human security in the homelands of pirates.

*“...Cargo on ships’ hulls constitutes 80% of global trade, which necessitates a secure supply of links...”*

He further stated:

*“...Violence is not the means to fight piracy as it usually leads to a significant escalation of violence...”.*

He also noted that a new market has opened for private security companies which offer their services from supplying ships with armed guards to providing crew training. Finally, Mr. Chapsos showed how blue-water navies and merchant ships are increasingly keen to protect their supplies of fuel and raw materials from threats such as piracy and terrorism.

***Dr. Marios Efthymiopoulos, President of Strategy International and Visiting Scholar at the Center for Transatlantic Relations, SAIS, Johns Hopkins University, USA,*** elaborated on the need for a civilian maritime security concept, in order to prove that naval challenges are traditionally connected to supra-national interests, and therefore involves all entities. He noted that it is important to realize that joint interests are at stake, which is why interests of entrepreneurs should all be united under the same umbrella.

*“...More cooperation is needed between civilian and military forces...”,*

so as to promote and defend human security.

Dr. Efthymiopoulos elaborated on public diplomacy, which needs to incorporate innovative performance, and commented on the global character that diplomacy should acquire. The foreign strategic dogma should be seen from the human perspective as a down-to-earth practicability, according to Dr. Efthymiopoulos.

*“...Legality and standardization procedures under NATO are necessary...”*

in order to supranationalise the new geostrategic concept. Dr. Efthymiopoulos stressed the necessity for private donations by shipping or maritime companies to support this project, which translates into national contribution to

*“...the construction of the conceptual framework upon which innovative ideas will be built...”*

## **Session 6: Unconventional Threats**

***Vice President of KEMEA, the Center for Security Studies, Professor Dimitris Xenakis***, was the moderator of this session.

***Rear Admiral Mr. Alberto Cervone, Professor of Security Studies, Italian Defense Chair***, gave his view on the Mediterranean as a mix of entities, which makes it difficult for decision-makers to maintain an inclusive vision. He noted that North African countries show a limited degree of integration in a potential framework of multilateral cooperation because of lack of civil and political freedom. The recent turmoil in North African countries gives a new perspective to the democratization of authoritarian regimes, and to a common framework of cooperation;

*“... A new quest for democracy from the start...”*,

gives a new context for bilateral and multilateral cooperation between the Arab world and the West. Professor Cervone ascertained that at this moment North African countries are looking for social and cultural cooperation, which will help generate an important framework for

cooperation. He mentioned the economy of Morocco, which displays a good level of integration in the European market, as a positive instance towards this direction.

**Associate Professor of International Relations from the University of Macedonia, Dimitris Keridis**, commented on the international scene as is being shaped in our times, while conflicts within state borders, intra-state civil war and terrorism create a new security environment worldwide. Contemplating on the US war with Afghanistan and Iraq, Professor Keridis expressed his view that the US approach was over-militarized, and therefore, over-exaggerated, with islamo-fascism becoming a fashion among conservatists in the USA.

He also talked about the geographical position of Greece, which makes it more susceptible to modern threats like massive migration.

*“...Our ability in predicting the rapid changes in the political scene is weak...”*

stated professor Keridis, in his effort to depict the emerging political environment where new technologies and supra-state actors play a major role. Finally, talking about the environmental degradation, Mr. Keridis supported that the EU is in the lead in environmental policies, and its position can be as effective as its economic weight is in the world.

**Dr. Markos Papakonstantis, Europe Team Member, European Commission in Greece and Advisor to the Vice-Minister of Internal Affairs** talked about migration as a security issue in the context of global challenges in the European Union. Immigrant populations contribute to the richness of culture in a multi-cultural environment and offer a solution to the demographic problem of developed countries, according to Dr. Papakonstantis.

*“...However, increasing immigration flows pose a threat to social cohesion...”*,

causing marginalization of immigrants and their opposition to society.

*“...Social integration of the immigrants and measures to combat all forms of discrimination are believed to be the key to internal security in the EU...”.*

Dr. Papakostantis commented that the EU policy intends to determine the qualitative and quantitative features of immigrants:

*“...The EU needs legal immigrants but only enough to cover the needs in the workforce and no more than can be socially integrated...”*

he stated. Bilateral agreements and close cooperation with transit or origin countries of immigrants will help contain the phenomenon of illegal immigration. With the development of the European Border surveillance system (Eurosur) and Frontex

*“...an integrated border administration model is applied and cooperation between member states is secured...”*

**Dr. Sotiris Serbos, Lecturer in International Relations at Democritus University of Thrace,** elaborated on the implications of the internal and external policies of EU countries in order to juxtapose the national realm to the European realm.

*“...The economic crisis is a destabilising factor in the foundation of the European Union...”*,

*“...Wisely united governments can help recuperate external debt...”*

he further added. In the international scene, it is necessary that the US re-evaluates its allies as it cannot be in isolation, Professor Serbos prompted that *“...the EU has to assert its identity in the globalization era...”*, concluding that the inner-strength of the EU has been its ability to take swift decisions.

**The President of Strategy International, Dr. Marios Efthymiopoulos,** concluded this session by reporting on the previous speakers to point out “the new-age cultural politics”, which will

shape the emerging political environment. In the modern era of supranational actors and unconventional threats to the security environment, “...it is essential to promote bilateral cooperation between the EU and the US...” in order for both entities to maximise their geographical potential.

*“...Internal security is interwoven with consistency, transparency and civil values...”*

said Dr. Efthymiopoulos.

*“...Illegal migration, intra-state wars and extremism are new threats to be tackled...”*, he concluded.

## **Session 7: Public Opinion Challenges**

In this session on “Public Opinion Challenges”, **Mr Theodosios Georgiou, head of the Atlantic Treaty Association of Greece**, stressed that public opinion legitimizes institutional work within the alliances and outside of them when properly presented with such actions.

*“...Public opinion needs education...”*

Younger generations are most in need of educational programmes.

*“...Strategy International could help in this direction to educate and inform the public...”*

Mr Georgiou stated. He further on proceeded in welcoming the two invited guests and introducing them to the conference.

**Mr. George Koumoutsakos, European Member of Parliament and Vice Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee** supported that people’s consent is equivalent to democratic legitimacy. He noted:

*“...Broad consensus in the EU holds that there must be public opinion legitimacy...”*

which is in line with the vision of a supra-national parliament within the EU. In this way European citizens could secure control and accountability for decision-makers, and therefore, concurrence between governments and public opinion could be achieved, he stressed. Mr. Koumoutsakos explained that the so-called

*“Government of citizens”*

depends on popular commitment, which constitutes the most important legitimacy pillar for common European policies in defence, budgetary authority and political scrutiny.

**Mr. Margaritis Schinas, Deputy Head of the Bureau of European Policy Advisers in the European Commission** addressed the issue from a different approach in order to examine the role of the EU at a multi-dimensional level, i.e. nationally and internationally.

*“...The EU is seen as an actor of stability...”*

He supported in an attempt to de-myth the extremist attitude to rewind the trend towards stabilisation and modernisation, his main argument being the Balkan countries which face the prospect of EU accession in a most positive way. Mr. Schinas tried to tackle the question

*“...How do we go further in transatlantic relations?...”*

stressing that security is about contribution to geopolitical issues such as food, commodities and raw materials. In his approach to the volatile international scene Mr. Schinas prompted that:

*“...The EU has to engage in dialogue with all nations including China and Brazil, although coming from diametrically opposed extremes of the political spectrum...”*

**Ms. Ino Afentouli, Public Diplomacy Division Liaison Head of NATO in Southeast Europe,** touched upon the role of interactional media in the evolution of a new reality. Communication has acquired a different character making it possible for people worldwide to receive and transmit messages, thus virtually transforming communication into

*“Direct journalism”.*

However,

*“The principle of three steps”,*

which signals the distance between two interlocutors will never cease to remind us that face to face communication is most powerful. Ms. Afentouli sustained that the new social media along with non-governmental organisations can apply pressure on governments to such an extent that we can actually talk about the Internet or blog effect in a way that people talked about the CNN effect in the past. She concluded that it is a big challenge for decision-makers to catch up with the fast pace of communication due to the new generation of media.

## **Session 8: Greece in the New Security Environment**

In the final session of the Conference the **Minister of National Defence, Professor, Evangelos Venizelos**, was asked to give his overall view of “Greece in the New Security Environment”.

The Minister of Defence was welcomed and moderated by Dr. Marios Efthymiopoulos President of Strategy International and Ms. Ino Afentouli, NATO Public Diplomacy Liaison Head, for South Eastern Europe.

Minister and Professor Venizelos’ first comments were on the financial crisis and its minimal effect to the core of the Greek state. He then elaborated on the bilateral relations between Israel and Greece, which show that the way has been paved towards an autonomous strategic relation of cooperation.

*“...The balance of power in the Middle East and the Mediterranean is changing radically...”*

which requires close cooperation inspired by transparency among the 28 member states of NATO.

*“...Greece is an ardent supporter of Turkey’s accession to the EU despite the sense of threat which has been created due to critical emergencies over the last thirty-six years...”*,

Minister Venizelos stated. The bilateral relations between Greece and Turkey have considerably improved, both sides attributing due respect to the social acquis.

*“...The volatile security environment locally and regionally necessitated the New Strategic concept of NATO...”*

He stressed that the contribution of Russia in Afghanistan has been of outmost importance; therefore, NATO encourages the expansion of cooperation with other countries, Greece being in favour of FYROM’s accession to NATO, too. The Minister noted that the role of NATO is vital in the prediction as well as the management of crisis in a wider context, which might involve cyberspace, organised crime, immigration flows or environmental threats. The main issue for the EU having always been Euro-Atlantic relations, the Minister of Defence prompted that

*“...the EU should acquire a more concerted voice in the formation of its foreign policies...”*.

The UN should also try to restore its identity in order to overcome the climate of insecurity, financial crisis and strategic uncertainty, following Mr. Venizelos’ words.

Talking about the military forces the Minister expressed the need for the military to acquire a more flexible and comprehensive character, and to adapt to a development model of research and technology. He also added that Greece has been unable to integrate artillery systems into an industrial strategy, thus remaining a passive buyer of armour. Mr. Venizelos consulted that the best way to exercise politics is to interpret situations rather than events, so as to offset the addiction of the public opinion to isolated events.

Finally, he congratulated the organisers of the Conference who have succeeded in contributing to a new, authentic way of communication, and in offering insight and education at a time when it is most needed.