
“A New Era of Security Through Global Development”.

27 & 28 January 2012
Thessaloniki, Greece
A few words about SI:

Strategy International is a leading Think Tank, with an International oriented perspective, located in Thessaloniki, Greece. It represents international cooperation and collaboration, consultation and negotiations. Its purpose is to collaborate regionally with international organizations, international businesses as well as local communities throughout the world.

It is an institute of thought, decision-making, initiatives and leadership. Its goal is to play a key permanent role in creative thinking in the fields of education, politics and economics through National, European and International audiences. It seeks to produce new and innovative ideas, providing primary proposals of concern that can and will be applied.

Strategy International is working on topics of prime concern. It seeks a practical application post analysis. Strategy International’s long-term goal is to create the first Southeastern Europe Negotiations Center, providing the opportunity to attract academic, professional and political attention; to resolve issues and draw international attention but also a house or prosperity and resolution of issues. It goal is to permanently house itself within the City of Thessaloniki, in the heart of Makedonia, Greece; a city considered the jewel of the Balkans, combining a multicultural society and located at the corner end of the European Union.
Strategy International’s Purpose:

Strategy International’s Purpose is to promote constructive initiatives and foreign and security leadership. It seeks to create a political culture; a culture of security, strategy and international relations.

Its sole purpose is the constructive engagement 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 and counter with proposals 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, aiming to bring ideas to power and to give power to ideas by:

- Enhancing and stimulating constructive dialogue.
- Creating initiatives.
- Developing and creating new ideas.
- Examining critical international issues.
- Enriching public local and international debate.
- Promoting 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 and International leaders.
- Conducting primary academic and professional research.
- Creating a diverse national and international network of experts, professionals and upcoming leaders.
The Strategic Foreign Council building broad constituencies to support constructive Greek Leadership and Policies.

Its purpose is to publish informational analysis, convene conferences and workshops among current and/or future leaders, and contribute to the public debate in order to integrate the views of 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 as well as maritime security.

- Creating and Using Technology and Innovation as methods in 21st century Politics, social media and cyber-defense.

- 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:

The 3rd International Security Conference of Security & Development was a two-day conference held on January 27 & 28 2012. It attracted people from different professional and professional fields and countries. They were driven by an interest in major international affairs, security policies and issues of development.

The conference was crowned by the participation of distinguished academics, politicians and professionals but also young leaders, as well as representatives from the armed, alliance and international armed forces.

Issues of multiple national and international interests were addressed in an attempt to depict the dynamic scene in terms of security and cooperation, in a time of austerity measures, between nations and international organizations. The role of International Security Affairs and Development were explored. In view of emerging security, economic and social challenges worldwide, we aimed to create and produce innovative ideas. We hope that all anticipated results will have a positive impact; that they will formulate national and international foreign and security policies.

All participants to the conference had the chance to gain inside information; on international and Global issues; in Understanding how global politics is shaped and how important is the exchange of knowledge.

Dr. Marios Efthymiopoulos

President
Chief Editor, Strategy International
Foreword:

On Behalf of Strategy International we would like to express our gratitude and to thank all involved parties to the organization of this conference.

Our supporters and 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 and the Institute for International and Strategic Affairs France IRIS, for providing us the know-how above all.

We would like to thank the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and in specific NATO’s Public Diplomacy Division for their support in making the event possible. We also need to thank Sakkoulas A.E, Publications for their support.

To thank our communication supporters in making this event possible:

The periodical Press Code

Most importantly thank Porto Hotel Thessaloniki Greece, for hosting our annual event.

Finally, we would like to thank Team Strategy International, for making our 3rd international conference a yet another successful event.

Ms. Fenia Kfatsi
Outreach and Press Officer
Strategy International, February 2012.
About Us:

Strategy International (SI) is an international institution. It is a Nonprofit, Public and International Policy Organization based in Thessaloniki, Greece. SI members are leading experts, academics and professionals. SI also includes a Young Global Leaders Network.


SI formulates, consults, shapes & applies innovative policies, nationally, internationally and around the globe.

Mission:
To conduct primary and high level International quality, independent research. To provide innovative, practical and credible recommendations that advance the following goals:

- Strengthen International and Global Cooperation in Strategic and International Affairs.
- Secure a Safe, Democratic, prosperous and cooperative international system.
- Networking through Political & Business Communication & International Relations.
- SI aims in the next decade to rank amongst leading global influential institutions with credible policy applications.

“An Institution Where Ideas Are Born & Where Ideas Become Possible”. 
Day 1: 27 January 2012. Porto Palace Hotel

Day 1: Introductory Remarks.

Welcoming Remarks.

Mr. Efthymios Efthymiopoulos, Vice-President of Strategy International, welcomed all delegates and invited guests. As Chief Executive Officer, he inaugurated the 3rd Annual Security & Strategy International Conference on behalf of Team Strategy International.

He acknowledged and expressed his gratitude to our sponsors, international organizations, our supporters, foreign governments and embassies. He also referred to our young leaders' network that has been in the forefront of organizing such a successful event for yet again a 3rd consecutive year.

These include: NATO and NATO's Public Diplomacy Division. Especially the Head of Public Diplomacy Division in South-east Europe and Greece, Ms. Ino Afentouli.

Mr. Efthymiopoulos proceeded with the following statement:

“….big changes are about to come. We are to discuss security and development opportunities of national, international and global concern. These are the true security and practical challenges, throughout Southeastern Europe the Transatlantic area, The Mediterranean region and our Europe…”

“…This year Strategy International’s Security & Strategy International Conference, will end with an excitement, an excitement for a new era. An era full of opportunities, worth of exploration and of education towards a more stable, growth oriented and credible future…”

“…Allow me to invite you all to approach this year event with an open and discovering mind, taking advantage of the many ways and the new and many options that we will be facing as strategic options for cooperation and collaboration, nationally and internationally…”

**Hr. Kostas Zervas**, Vice-Mayor of Environmental Issues at the Municipality of Thessaloniki, stressed the need for “a new social contract”. This would include, for both Greece and the EU to explore, analyze and negotiate the current and future security challenges. To ensure a safe transition towards a world of growth and development in a way that sustainability will be safeguarded. According to Mr Zervas, “…we live in a vulnerable situation…” the world is experiencing very rapid changes, things that seemed to have been established have been disrupted, dogmas are out of date. Any possibility of shortage in natural sources may lead to tensions in different areas of the planet. As such, proposals should be sought in this upcoming conference.
“...We expect to hear proposals and ways to promote sustainable development in practice...”.

Mr. Kostas Zervas, finally welcomed the initiative of Strategy International. The initiative to create an International Think Tank in Thessaloniki that aims to welcome and cooperation with world renowned institutions universities, organizations and governments at a time of austerity measures both socially and fiscally, nationally and internationally. He thanked the organizers and assured of the steady strong personal and professional ties that he holds with the Institute both as a professional but also as a representative and as Vice-Mayor of the Municipality of Thessaloniki.

**Hr. Apostolos Tzitzikostas**, Regional Governor, of the Periphery of Central Macedonia referred to today’s globalized environment, fiscal instability and the need for society’s change. The need for interaction between states in social, energy, and economic issues are constantly interconnected with each other. The need for joined interaction and joined work is constantly increasing. As such, according to Mr Tzitzikostas, there are three things that need to be done:

“... concentration, partnership, and concurrence...”

Mr. Tzitzikostas finally thanked Strategy International and reaffirmed his commitment to the help and support of increasing the impact factor of joined, effective and positive oriented policies of Strategy International nationally and internationally. He also re-affirmed his support in all actions made by Strategy International on behalf of Thessaloniki, the Periphery of Central Macedonia for a brighter future of Macedonia, of Northern Greece.
Session 1: “Development Opportunities Via New Global Security Challenges: Strategic Thinking Ahead”.

Chaired by: Dr. Marios Efthymiopoulos, President, Strategy International

Hr. Ms. Ino Afentouli, Public Diplomacy Division, Southeastern European Affairs, NATO, opened the first session of the conference by introducing the position and understanding of the new global and security challenges. According to Mr. Afentouli, NATO is preparing its agenda for the Chicago Summit that is to be held on the 20 & 21st May 2012. At the same time NATO celebrates Greece’s 60th Anniversary in the Alliance. Ms. Afentouli concentrated on the following issues: Public Diplomacy and Social networks, New Security Challenges and the way forward for the Alliance. Along the same lines, smart defense was mentioned and General information was provided on the agenda of negotiations that is to follow on the subject of smart defense. What it is and what is to be expected by alliance members. Extensive information was given on the outcome and success of the NATO Operation in Libya. Along the very lines, information was given on the future of current security challenges, the future of enlargement of NATO and the outreach program of the Alliance with countries and organizations such as the UN and the Arab League. NATO is an international and security organization. It supports actions made that are of international collaboration. It is the sole military-political Alliance that has changed and continues to change to counter all measures and challenges of the 21st century. Ms. Afentouli stressed that:

“...we need all actors in the international scene to act and cooperate together...”

NATO, has learned its lessons, from its missions; whether this is Kosovo, Afghanistan but also Libya. Yet, it seems only clear that NATO needs to go beyond. NATO will explore, it will evolve. Smart Defense seems to be a key asset for further interoperability and further capacity building. Despite problems, NATO members have managed over the years to work together and to
successfully counter all challenges posed and will be posed as also to act where it is needed and shall be required to do so.

**Dan Solomon**, Director of Homeland Security, Atlantic Council of the UK, Senior Partner at Hawk, specializing in analysis and strategic affairs, concentrated on the emerging threats in the Middle East in an era of Arab Spring. Mr. Solomon analyzed the raising questions on Iran. He explained and forecasted possible scenarios on Iran’s nuclear program and on Iran’s policy to the world. He raised the importance of security stability and as such raised security concerns with regards to the policies of Iran to the world and neighboring states.

Along the same lines he introduced Israel-Greece’s strong ties and relations. They were strongly welcomed from the delegates and the attendants being at the security conference in Thessaloniki.

As political and security affairs progress in the middle-east he estimated that new regional challenges now reflect real security concerns and strategic options in the area of Southeastern European but also the Mediterranean region. Proposals were put forward as to counter issues. A central focus of joined interests, were included to the description of the geostrategic importance of the transatlantic alliance. Given Iran’s prolonged interference in Iraq it will be very “tempting” for Iran to seek also interference with events currently occurring in Syria:

“...There is every chance that this could provide a source of provocation...”

Dr. Solomon has also referred to the instability associated with security concerns raised in Egypt and the social disruption. It is estimated that what is yet to happen in the Sinai Peninsula may have a profound effect to the region. As he claims there is a rapidly growing Jihadist presence in the region. A possible
action is a reality. Any possible action by these small groups could trigger or precipitate a possible conflict with Israel.

As such:

“A successful strategy will require greater international unity, and the collaborative requirements of all types of action are considerable.”

Fabio Liberti, Head of Research at IRIS, France mentioned that Iran seems to be the key point of concern in international relations and international security. It will be of central interest to analysts, professionals and international relations experts for the next 10 years.

As such the EU has to decide its strategic options and methods of approaching issues that are of real concern.

He further stated:

“...do we want to be part of the Western alliance against the rest of the world...”.

The question that he was called upon to talk about was on how the world will be looking like in 2020?

The EU according to Mr. Liberti, is going through the worst existential and debt crisis since its inception. This is the case as financial markets know that the European zone can break apart.
Per the fiscal market he mentioned that Europeans speculated against Greece because they knew of the fiscal disintegrating situation.

“...European solidarity was not strong...”

He further stated that there are many scenarios of what might happen to the European Union and its future.

Forecasting on the future of the current fiscal and social crisis in Europe he stated:

“...None of the solutions to the crisis would be long-standing...”

“...Tensions would erupt between European states due to the debt crisis...”

“Places of dispute would appear or get worse all around the world...”

He finally proposed that relying on a true European Identity maybe the only solution.

Valbona Zeneli, Professor of National Security, George C. Marshall Center, Germany concentrated on:

“commitment to deeper International Cooperation and Participation”.

She concentrated in explaining methods on strengthening Institutions for security stability and growth.

Her analysis was mainly concentrated in the region of Europe and in specific the western Balkans and Southeast Europe. As it seems states in the western Balkans
are now looking towards Euro-Atlantic Integration. Fiscally this is anticipated as a move in joining what is known as the ‘family’ of global market economies.

Concentrating in possible future scenarios in the years to come, through fiscal and social analysis in the region of Southeastern Europe and the western Balkans, she claimed that although willingness is there, that still several states are not ready just yet to join global markets.

While also and as long as global markets rapidly change, due to the fiscal crisis concentration in Europe seems to be laid in explaining the way that the market has failed to produce constant growth in its own region. Taking into account that in the very first years in the European Markets (namely the Eurozone since 2001), economic growth seemed to be the key point in regions such as Romania, Bulgaria Croatia. Countries that then were outside of the EU, namely in the Balkans seemed to progress. They provided signs of sustainable development. This allowed them to believe that enlargement of the EU to the western Balkans would now be feasible. As such, countries such as Albania, Kosovo and FYROM, countries that are not part of the developed and global markets seemed also after many years of turmoil to be having the largest percentage of GDP growth and volume of exports.

Yet, severe fiscal issues raised both in the region and the European Union in 2007-2008, created an immediate crisis that would slow down development and would jeopardize their fiscal future in joining global fiscal markets.

"GDP in the region slowed down or declined since 2008".

Foreign Direct Investment with tourism, real-estate and banking systems be at the core of investment, seemed also to slow down as the region seemed to be on the rise in the beginning of the 21st century.

To what concerns Greece, fiscal instability seems to create a problematic and domino effect of social and fiscal crisis in the Western Balkans. Greece may not
be able to play a pivotal role in the region due to the severe effects of its fiscal concerns.

Greece's agenda of 2014 (Greece's program of Total Western Integration of the Balkans) will not be able to be concluded as the fiscal crisis has hit hard on Greece's negotiating tools for West Balkan Integration.

Greece's direct investments have been halted in the region due to the fiscal crisis. This involves real estate, heavy industries, telecommunications and the banking system accounting for 20% of the total Balkan region, being the largest investor in the region to this day.

Competitiveness and innovative growth seems to be a key point to change; from crisis to growth. This however, needs institutional and political change.

What should be note is that this region will never and should never lose its proximity importance. As Dr. Zeneli stated:

"The region offers unique opportunities in terms of strategic position, proximity, human resources and private capital".

"The problem is not in the quantity but the quality of education and public expenditure to education, policy formulation and experimentation".

Some further key points that were stated include:

Investment to permanent education and growth of societies in education and entrepreneurialship international and “intra-trade” between states.

The European Stability pact as being an important European pact as it promotes regional cooperation and supports integration of the western Balkans in the EU.

Finally, what was importantly noted is that the characteristic of the state sovereignty will be altered. What we need nonetheless to make sure is that we
do not lose our solidarity and hope for cross-cultural and cross-border collaboration no matter how big and important is the social and the fiscal crisis.


Chaired by: Ms. Ino Afentouli, Public Diplomacy Division for Southeastern Europe, NATO

Hr. Tasos Mitsopoulos, Parliamentary Representative of DISY party in Cyprus, presented his views on the future of Security in the Southeastern Mediterranean Region.

The Mediterranean region according to Mr. Mitsopoulos, a traditional highly fragmented region, still harbours deep rooted tensions and potential instability. Towards the interests of NATO and the EU, Mediterranean Security seemed not to be a new issue of concern. This include event pre- and post, East-West Tensions. Along the same line were the issues of the Arab-Israeli conflicts and regional instability in the wider area of the Middle East. It was never nonetheless a central focus of attention to the practical interests and the expected impact factors of those organizations to this region till very recently.

To what concerns the southern Mediterranean countries according to Mr. Mitsopoulos the Barcelona process in 2005 and the previous negative impacts on security and stability the 9/11 terrorist acts created a North South European ‘discrimination’.

The Barcelona Process according to Mr. Mitsopoulos included “...an agenda were security interests of the West, particularly the fight against terrorism...” were
negotiated. “...The main purpose of the meeting, instead of celebration...” to the deeper integration, “... was to streamline efforts by the southern Mediterranean countries in the fight against extremism and terrorism without addressing the root causes of such phenomena. The consequence was that high-ranking officials of the Arab countries decided not to attend...”.

This resulted to the “...uneven level of development between the EU and all the southern Mediterranean countries...”.

“...This is not measured only in terms of statistics, but also in terms of economic mentality and political culture...”.

Per the Arab Spring he stressed that “...The Arab Spring movement that is still ongoing and may last over several years...”.

The reaction of the EU did not result to a positive outcome for the interests of the Union.

“...It lacks flexibility in dealing with a new situation that shows the structural shortcomings in the construction of the foreign policy institutions within the European Union.

“...European leaders were caught completely unaware by the spectacular unfolding of history in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Syria, because over the past years their focus has been elsewhere...”.

Per the Arab spring, he acknowledged those that wish to put an end to suffering, courage and determination “...whom people despite violence and repression, have clearly shown their will to put an end to authoritarian rule and to transform their countries into free, open and democratic societies...”.
Shortly before the Arab Spring, the European Union concentrated its efforts in reshaping Euro-Mediterranean partnership through the launching of a new project.

“...The project of the French president Nicholas Sarkozy, a Union for the Mediterranean, despite of the ambitious goals set, unfortunately failed to produce any concrete results...”.

Coming back to the shift of interests to the region of Southeastern Mediterranean Region, Mr. Mitsopoulos noted, that the Arab spring is now and constantly increasing. NATO/EU interests are now moving towards the South and the East.

Per the Regional bilateral relations and the triangle, Israel, Cyprus, Greece, Mr. Mitsopoulos noted, “...Improving Cyprus – Israel relations is a win – win situation for both countries and the region”. This is evident by the following actions:

1. “...a new round of presidential and ministerial visits which will be marked by the first ever official visit of an Israeli Prime Minister in Cyprus by the mid of February...”.

2. “...Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Liberman recently in welcoming Nicos Anastasiades, the leader of the opposition and chairman of my political party, who has been officially invited by the State of Israel, for a round of talks both in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv...”.

In contrast Mr. Mitsopoulos raised concerns with relations to the Cyprus-Turkey-Israel relations the Exclusive Economic Zone issue:

“...We raise our serious concerns regarding Turkey’s reaction on the issue which disputes Cyprus’ legitimate rights on its Exclusive Economic Zone and is therefore
contrary to the international law. It is an attitude which further undermines the prospects for overcoming the tensions of the past on the basis of a new approach that will give boost to the promotion of common interests and the vision for a win–win situation in the region…”.

Mr. Mitsopoulos concluded with the final proposals:

“...It is of crucial importance that the EU and NATO to join forces in finding ways to support home-grown democratic and secular initiatives without interfering in an arrogant and unilateral manner...”.

“...Political democratization, secularization and economic development along with the resolution of the Palestinian problem... will provide the impetus for long term and lasting peace, security and co-operation...”.

He ended his speech by some ethical and philosophical as well as political words by Aristotle that mention:

“if liberty and equality, are chiefly to be found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in government to the utmost".

We will try to highlight the prospects of the area and especially these of the Middle East countries, refer to the emergence of new alliances and we will focus on the role of Political Islam in the contemporary Eastern Mediterranean region. We will also point out the risks of the aforementioned alterations.
Mr. Kleanthis Kiriakidis from the Joint War College & Harvard University School of Public Policy presented his analysis on Regional Cooperation in the East Mediterranean basin after the “Arab Spring”. Examining on the Perils and Prospects in the region.

Mr. Kiriakidis introduced the international political and security and fiscal environment in the Region of Southeast Europe and the East Mediterranean region. His analysis concentrated on the financial turmoil in Greece and Italy the Frictions between Turkey and Israel yet as acknowledged as emerging regional actors he later on concentrated to the analysis of the issue on “the perspectives and role of Political Islam and its emergence as a challenge to the Western World.

The Arab Spring a key characteristic of the modern region, was sparked by the collapse of regimes, while the Death of Osama Bin Laden located in Pakistan and later on the Death of the Libyan Dictator Muammar Gadhafi in Libya, gave the opportunity to re-draw the strategic interest to the region.

While Examining the case of Turkey acknowledged as an emerging and vibrant economy and Moderate Muslim Country that balances the needs of the West has also some negative effects:

It is characterized by “Hyperextension”, “not being a role model for the Arab world” still has frozen issues that need to be solved and is adding problems as friction with Israel seems to be on the rise.

Turkey’s relations with Greece, seem to be of positive nature yet its relations with Cyprus are expected to freeze while the president is run also by the Cypriot Government.
On its internal problems such as the Kurdish Insurgency and the Ergenekon Trials are still pending issues that put stability, security and prosperity at stake.

Per the Arab Spring, he mentioned that were two groups of uprisings: the peaceful ones such as, initially, in Egypt and then Tunisia and later on the Bloodbaths in Libya with Syria to be next in line.

Political Islam according to the speaker then seems to be on the rise post fall of the regimes. It is according to the speaker “won” by Political Islam. The reasons why Political Islam is won is because in Arab democracies the majority rules, there is evident a social role, that provides welfare, there is a lifelong struggle that is yet not elitist, a perfect organization in its infrastructure and location, While Muslim society increases in population so do supporters of religious islam, while seem to be recruiting people with same religious beliefs while at the same time there is no common ideology amongst people giving it a touch of democracy in its own way.

Touching on the new ways and approaches to Regional cooperation of Muslim states and state collaboration, otherwise called “Muslim Brotherhood according to the speaker, the prospects of cooperation can be located to the Muslim brotherhood in Egypt, Syria and Jordan post-revolution, in the Ennahda Movement in Tunisia in Palestine Via Hamas, via Hezbollah in Lebanon, the AKP in Turkey and the Justice and Development Party in Morocco.

Post Analysis, the conclusions regarding the Muslim Brotherhood are concentrated on:

“a Very Pragmatic political Approach”, where, Neo-Liberals with regards to economics support capitalism as an economic system of rule” and they seem to be
moderate religiously and hold rhetoric as well as being less or no extremist” when in power.

In contrast the perils within the Eastern Mediterranean can be located according to the speaker today in Libya, were civil unrest followed by an open conflict may lead yet to Islamist takeover of the country. While in Syria, Bashar Al Assand holds a sectarian character and Syria itself seems to be in the verge of break up. However, this is to be seen as the Russian and Chinese influence may be able to overturn it. In Turkey, the Kurdish issue and the deterioration of Turkish-Israel Relations is in question against the boosting financial future of Turkey. Finally, Israel that seems to be raising many concerns against Iran while also Syria seem to be examining the possibility of intervention of its armed forces to those that it feels that is threatened by.

For the region of Eastern Mediterranean, regional actors believe that there is an increasing number of western states that are threatened by Islam therefore the characteristic of Islamophobia is noticeable; creating tensions to Arab societies about “Western Arrogance”. About Iraq it is expected to have a possible civil war or possible break-up of the region, while in Iran there is an increasing possibility of intervention and therefore “Probable War if the Iranians respond to the EU oil Embargo with closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

Mr. Kiriakidis finally concluded with the following Proposals.

*The West “needs to regain credibility in the Middle East, by taking side to Democracy and democratic rule and by fully cooperating with Political Islam”.*

*“There are permanent interests which most of the times can be backed by enduring and universally accepted moral principles”.*
Finally the west needs to be clear. To choose whether it is preferred that “interests should be protected or our values projected”.

Mr. Serafim Papapostolou, Lt. General (ret), Honorable Commander of the NDC-GR, 3rd Corps Greece, presented Greece's appointed leadership to NATO’s NRF for 2012.

According to the speaker:

“NATO has developed the capability to operate globally. This is demonstrated by NRF, the high-readiness multinational joint force – NATO Response Force (NRF)”.

In 2012, Greece is the lead nation for the Land Component Command (LCC) of NRF and 3rd Corps / NATO Deployable Corps - Greece formed the core of the LCC headquarters. The NRF land forces provided the Greek 71st Airborne Brigade.

According to the speaker, during their long preparation for NRF 2012, the Hellenic Armed Forces had a very complex training programme requiring a lot of effort from the staff of different HQs in Greece and NATO.

Within the framework of “Smart Defense” initiative, Greece according to Hr. Papapostolou, has the opportunity to share the NATO Deployable Corps - Greece HQ with the Balkan NATO and PfP member countries, combining their efforts in areas such as operations, command and control, military training and education. There is already much experience in Greece of such collaboration.

“…On 12 Jan 2012 the official Handover-Takeover ceremony of the Flag of NATO Response Force (NRF) was held at the C’ Corps-NATO Deployable Corps Greece
(NDC-GR) HQs, in the “PEDION AREOS” camp, here in Thessaloniki. Within this context the Commander of NATO Deployable Corps Greece (NDC-GR), undertook responsibilities for the Land Component of the NRF 2012 from the Commander NATO Rapid Deployable Corps of Turkey (NRDC – TU)...

The NRF provides a mechanism to generate a high readiness and technologically advanced force package made up of land, air, sea and special force components that can be deployed quickly on operations wherever needed.

This can be guaranteed by the fact that the international mission of this Army Corps has the support of the Hellenic Government and the majority of the Hellenic political parties had already accepted this.

Mr. Papapostolou stressed that “...Greece as a member of international organizations, develops military diplomacy to promote and maintain good relations, establish constructive cooperation and resolve potential problems and disputes with peaceful means. In the framework of NATO, Greece participates actively in, exercises, operations and decision making mechanisms of the Alliance, with a view to the protection and furthering of our national interests...”.

The severe global economic crisis being the main reason of direct negative impact on Greece budget, means that NATO members will not be able to reach further defense transformation and modernization levels.

“...NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen has announced an ambitious "Smart Defence" agenda for the next summit of NATO in May 2012. NATO Secretary General calls for better spending and better investment for money available, to help NATO nations to preserve capabilities and to deliver new ones. It means that NATO must prioritize, specialize, and seek multinational approaches and solutions. Taken all this together—this is Smart Defense...”.
Per the support operational center of the NRF to Greece, Mr. Papapostolou mentioned:

“... the fact that this headquarters (NDC-GR Thessaloniki) has been included in NATO’s NRF LCC HQs, beside the substantially increased expeditionary standards will affect our philosophy of participation in peace support operations...”.

“...the Armed Forces in the first quarter of the 21st century is a tool of the State, one that is modern, agile, flexible, perfectly represented in NATO and the international environment...”.

He finally concluded on the NRF by saying:

“...The Alliance can certainly rely on our HQ that represents an outstanding example in the national and international environment...”.

Dr. Marios P. Efthymiopoulos, President of Strategy International and Visiting Scholar at the Center for Transatlantic Relations at SAIS Johns Hopkins University presented his views, analysis and proposals. He concentrated on discussing the future of Southeastern Europe and the Euro-Atlantic Integration.

In an era of a true, difficult global fiscal and social crisis Dr. Efthymiopoulos introduced new and innovative political ideas as well as options on the future of security, stability and most importantly prosperity for the region of southeastern Europe.
About his speech, he stated that:

“... this is the new plan of change and of growth...”

This road plan includes:

- A map for enlargement
- A procedure of integration of southeastern states in the Euro-Atlantic Family.
- A plan of future security in the region.
- A plan of institutionalization and key solving solutions.
- A new way of cooperation and perspective viable and long-term alliances that will help support and help boost credibility and market trust.
- A plan of innovative and practical initiatives and credible consultation for practical application.

Per Greece Dr. Efthymiopoulos stressed that:

- We need to make concrete proposals that are feasible, applicable and credible.
- We need to resolve outstanding issues. Cyprus issue, Greek Turkish Relations and the EEZ or the exploitation of natural resources. Amongst others. We also need to pay our debt while constantly and massively update.
- We need to boost our economy. From Crisis to development. The tools to do it is via the use of innovative technology as to reintroduce and explain new ways of creating capital and paying off our debt.
We need a government. A solid and elected government that is capable of delivering results. That means new figures that do take the lead and do take decisions. That know-how to make cooperation and have a true market economy and experience oriented market.

We need to be outgoing. We need to go deeper greater, go where our allies and friends go where we are needed and appreciated. We need to be close enough with our neighbors. We need to solve issues.

Dr. Efthymiopoulos concluded his speech by saying:

“As Europeans and Euro-Altantisists we need to stress that we will be alongside the international community and we will commit to viable and long-term dreams that will become a reality. We need to have a Strategic Thinking Ahead. A Plan, a project and the will”


Session 3: Transatlantic Relations Through Regional Co-operation, Local Investment & Global Development.

Chaired by: Dr. Marios Efthymiopoulos, President Strategy International

Dr. Miltos Sarigiannidis, Lecturer, School of Law, University of Thessaloniki introduced the subject on International Organizations as factors of Stability and Social Justice. The subject also questioned whether International organizations are a success story.

His speech concentrated on social justice through International Organizations. It referred to both theoretical and practical applications. But did question on how
and whether international organizations have actually succeed to present social justice collectively through international organizations.

He noted that as an idea Global Justice through the prism of International Organizations seems right and noble. As such it should be discussed analyzed and explored.

According to Dr. Sarigiannidis Social Justice itself is a theoretical issue without many examples of success.

Yet, “...Present peace relations amongst the countries have been achieved and developed through the progress of the international organizations...”.

International organizations do not have enough power to materialize ideas or noble ideas such as Social Justice they do so.

“...The UN Charter does not make specific distinctions between social and global justice...”.

“...Justice is associated with respect according to the very first article of the preamble for respect of International law and sovereign equality in article 2...”.

Dr Sarigiannidis also mentioned that the UN Charter itself is dealing only with Nation-States. Human aspect is not its priority, but it does play a pivotal role as well.

The Universal Declaration of human Rights does however the rights of Human beings. It represents the needs in its 30 articles. It is a “catalogue” of and for Human Rights.
The Covenant of 1966 of social and cultural justice refers as well to the issue of justice.

While social justice is explained and introduced, the Charter on economic rights and duties of states, refers as well to chapter 1 that includes the social justice issues. In it the 13th principle refers to social justice: Sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence of states and amongst others human rights and social justice in its essence and practice.

Referring to equality and equity laws, articles do refer on equal treatments and legal clauses to people and states.

Per the UN and in specific the UN Security Council, Dr. Sarigiannidis mentioned, that the Security Council is the structure that has become the “only visible arm” of power decision-making in the UN. It has established the decision-making process as it should. It provides the sole way to decision-making in issues that reflect security and strategic issues of global or regional concern.

Solidarity and all clauses on solidarity refer to the issue of social value that should enhance collaboration even in a global economy.

By proposing and concluding, Dr. Sarigiannidis stated that the UN although aims to protect and enhance social justice, in its modern era still faces political challenges. It is trying to achieve global equity and equality.

As we live in an era of technology, and as justice cannot be fully achieved its goal in an ‘analog way’, global justice and therefore social justice can be promoted via the use of technology.
To what is now expected from the UN in an era of new challenges, Dr. Sarigiannidis, noted that the UN must now convince its most powerful countries to keep solidarity support actions and support actions made by the UN for global justice and equality.


His speech was concentrated on the roots of the fiscal crisis. While concentrating his analysis on financial innovation, development and security, effects on Prosperity, Stability and Security and finally he concentrated on the Policy Implication for the Sovereign debt crisis.

The roots of fiscal crisis he estimated started by the following issues:

The Scandal of the Lehman Brothers, US housing Market, the interlinked financial markets, liquidity and the banking system crisis and finally the sovereign debt crisis.

The role of the financial Markets is greater above all in the global market economies.

He therefore questioned whether the Financial Markets responsible. Why are they considered as responsible. Are there any institutional weaknesses?

Dr. Petratos also questioned on how to achieve development and Growth in international financial markets:
His proposals were:

“Through fiscal innovation, by increasing wealth through creation of new capital and international investment in new and innovative industries, by increasing volatility, through open challenge and optimize trade-off”.

Concerning development and security he proposed:

- **Innovation through Human Security.**

- **Through fighting international terrorism that will create more stability.**

- **Through sustainable growth both in the short term and the long-term, in regional and international levels.**

- **Financial engineering.**

- Optimizing equity and homogeneity in Europe and the region around it.

- Increase liquidity and stimulate growth through capital investments (Bonds, debt write off, new arrangements for sovereign debt

- Financing big projects both regional and transnational

- Financing Small and Medium size Businesses through the idea of "Microfinance".
Finally, Dr. Petratos requested:

- Institutional innovation “that is only part of the resolving solution innovation”, through also regulatory changes.

- Harmonized mechanism to boost liquidity and growth.

- Political will.

- Citizens to be involved in the practical actions for capital growth.

- Greater involvement of the private sector with however a greater risk to the financial market regulated by the national governments.

Dr. Sotiris Serbos, Lecturer at the Department of Politics University of Thrace presented the subject of Security and Business Interests, Transatlantic Needs and Global Co-operation: The Enhanced Relations between Greece and Turkey.

Dr. Serbos concentrated on the bilateral context of Greece and Turkey, going to regional and transatlantic issues on security.

According to Dr. Serbos, Turkey has now new security concerns, shifting from the integration to the EU, to a regional power with global presence.

He named this policy as an:

“external balancing strategy” against “the neutralization through integration strategy to the EU”.
In Bilateral fiscal relations he presented Turkey-Greece relations as ever expanding in an unprecedented level. Yet they are not functional as it seems.

According to Dr. Serbos

“Relations should go from High politics or try to high politics to soft policies for both”.

Cooperation should be increased. And perceptions shifted.

“…As long as relations are not structured then there will not be cooperation in Economic and Cultural ties in opposition to Military balance of power between the two states”.

“…Overall balance of power can only be the sole solution in any option…”

On presenting the road ahead, Greece in the Transatlantic Framework he estimated that an unstable Greece will “traumatize not only relationship in a bilateral level between Greece and Turkey but also Greece-US and EU-US relations.

Per Turkey in a new Era in Foreign Relations AKP the leading party in Turkey brings success by bringing about structural changes in foreign policy.

Business in the key asset for Turkey. “…It redefines Turkey’s role in the region and goes beyond…”.

The new orientation is likely to improve Turkey’s economic influence and diplomatic position in the West-East alliance positively affecting relations of Turkey to NATO and the EU.
While Turkey increases its financial powers, EU-Turkish relations will have to be re-examined, while US-Turkey relations is estimated to demand more egalitarian relationship with the US “resting on equal treatment and respect for Turkish demands and interests on a global scale.

**Dr. Aristotle Tziambiris**, Associate Professor in the Politics Department at the University of Pireaus concentrated in bringing forward Greek-Israeli Relations. Looking at Investment opportunities and the transatlantic link.

According to professor Tziabiris in order to establish alliances you need to “get things right”. This entails a proper government and a corporate world.

Greece seeks its future and relations, while Israel already knows the future growth of relations.

From Greece’s point of view, Greece made a good decision to re-establish relations with Israel, while at the same time relations of Israel with Turkey is disintegrating. Recent developments have shown that in diplomatic and cultural ways we now have good bilateral relations.

December 2010 wild fires created a cooperation between Greece and Israel. 4 day mission of 70 member mission from Greece to Israel.

Academics do now try to change public perceptions in favor of Greece in Israel.

Gaza flotilla 2, Greece port authorities, banned the outbound from the port of Pireaus going to Israel.

Professor Tziambiris highlighted that in a time of austerity, relations of Greece-Israel in government and official visit relations do actually increase.
“Relations are growing stronger. Current events look like a test yet we expect to overcome any or all obstacles”.

Lastly Professor Tziambiris concentrated on the energy sector; on the Gas pipeline and the energy hub between Israel, Cyprus and Greece.

Estimating that good trade relations will make Greece a hub of energy. It will be a win-win situation for all three Cyprus, Greece and surely Israel.

Session 4: Regional & Global Security Strategies: Natural Resources, Energy Security & Technology Innovations

Chaired by Paraskevi Naskou Perraki, Professor, Department of International and European Studies, Unesco Chair, University of Macedonia.

Mr. Alex Bastien, Researcher at IRIS France, presented his opinions in energy security & consequences in Europe & the Mediterranean region post Libyan conflict.

European Member states find it difficult to have a common as he stated, “convergence” on issues that reflect our Common foreign and security policies. National security & Poverty of Nations to be example cases in the field of a common EU foreign and security policies, reflect the inability of the European Union to act together.

An example case is the Libyan uprising: Libya seems less important for countries such as Germany or Poland as examples, rather than Italy or Greece in this case. “...It is a matter of Geographic proximity, historical finites, energy models and diplomatic relations...”.

The application of this equation reflects the outcomes and reactions of the European Union to the case of Libya that maybe of positive nature but does not reflect the national interests of southern states located in the EU. This affects mostly issues that relate with natural sources exploitation and trade for the interest of the South European States.

In the EU consumption today lowers, while the fiscal crisis emerges. At the same time the Arab spring overall created new questions to seek out new energy routes that can supply the European Union, in a future enlarged and growth oriented Union.

While Europe seeks to emerge yet again from this fiscal crisis, according to the Mr. Bastien in the East, China, India and Japan reaffirms that eastern states emerge as energy suppliers but also energy exporters and large consuming entities.

In 2012 we are at cross-roads in the EU. As fiscal issues need to be resolved but also future trade issues and agreements in the exploitation of natural resources need to be resolved.

According to the speaker when the fiscal crisis in the EU will be stabilized and sustainable growth will emerge yet again as a policy, Europe shall seek new oil and gas reserves. In great numbers than it currently consumes, while we live at a time of austerity measures and fiscal overall crisis. As such, countries like Saudi-Arabia and Russian will play a pivotal role in fulfilling the needs of the Europe of today’s 27 states.

According to the speaker those that trade with the EU, namely Russia today, are inter-dependent in some ways as there is a cash flow of money that reflects
growth and in indirect ways growth in relations in multilateral terms (EU-Russia relations).

Yet in bilateral terms between states things seem to be more complicated between the exporters of energy supply and those that import.

The Commissioner on energy of the EU is affiliated with the situation. As such, the Energy Commissioner is attempting to create a proposal of re-structuring energy policy of the EU according to EU sources, as the speaker stated. It will aim to avoid any misinterpretations and misconceptions such as the recent case of Poland. The overall fiscal crisis according to the speaker's points, resulted to a national program initiated by the Polish Government so as to become the main Gas promoter by exploitation of its natural resources. This will eventually lead to a will of re-examination of the energy policy of Poland to the EU.

The same thing applied for France. France's resources can be used according to the speaker to spark a new energy map in the region. Yet, according to the speaker this may not happen in France as France seems to be more involved with Green energy policy rather than natural exploitation of its energy resources.

Renewable & sustainable energies defined in 2008 and presented in March 2010 by the EU holds some issues that need to be questioned according to the speaker. In all cases Europe will be using 20% 2025 of its energy sources by the use renewable energy sources.

This policy will help sustain a renewable energy policy that was declared by the EU as previously stated, but will close the door for making business deals in the gas and petrol community world, such as the case of the bilateral conclusion made on energy between Norway and the Russian Federation recently.
Mr. David Koranyi, Former Vice-Secretary of States of the Republic of Hungary & non-Resident Scholar at the Center for transatlantic relations at the Johns Hopkins University SAIS presented his views on the subject on developing new, innovative sectors for international co-operation: Energy investments and international cooperation in an era of austerity.

Mr. Koranyi addressed global game-changing issues that are tied into the theme of international and Transatlantic security and development in the field of energy.

As Mr koranyi stated, “...we live in an era unprecedented uncertainties...”.

He addressed his opinions on technological development, natural resource scarcity and energy prices against the backdrop of the climate change challenge

In this first issue, he claimed that low price consumption on energy, whether this is oil or gas, is no longer associated with the events that are happening since the turn of the 21st century.

“...as we entered an era of presumably high and volatile resource prices...”.

“...Since 2000, the world witnessed a 147% increase in real commodity prices and there seems to be no end in sight.

The reasons for this phenomenon are manifold:

Continuous population increase and economic growth especially in the developing world on the demand side and increasingly challenging and expensive extraction costs on the supply side represent an enormous challenge...“.
Mr. Koranyi went on to say that:

we need to “...meet that increased demand both increasing supplies and enhancing resource productivity...”.

Yet: “...natural resources are still abundant...”.

Per the use of all natural resources provided by the planet he stated that:

“...that the Earth is about 260 billion cubic miles in volume, while the total of the supply of minerals mined by man each year amounts to substantially less than 25 cubic miles and natural gas production amounts to not more than 600 cubic miles. Mining operations could be carried on at 100 times their present scale for a million years and still claim less than 1 percent of the Earth....”.

“...With technological development and the discovery of unconventional and Arctic resources we can burn fossil fuels for decades if not centuries to come if we are ready to pay the price....”.

However, he noted that climate change and therefore manipulation of the climate will not eventually allow us to exploit natural resources as they will be a burden to the environment as such we need to be cautious on how we use resources.

“...Instead we have to change policy course and manage a successful transformation to a low-carbon economy, by no means an easy exercise with an incredibly tight deadline....”.

In order to manage successful transformation to a positive policy outcome according to the speaker we should do the following:

“necessary technology can...” and should “…be achieved and deployed to stop climate change..”.

“...achieving global energy and climate change ambitions will require a twofold to fivefold increase in public RD&D spending...”.

“...Enhancing resource productivity....”.

“...resource productivity improvements could provide for almost 80% of the increased energy demand by 2030...”.
“…Finally, vigorously promoting zero-carbon energy investments (including nuclear energy) is the third pillar...”.

“...Green energy investments are in many case unattractive to private investors for a number of reasons, primarily because explicit or implicit subsidies provide for artificially low prices for fossil fuels. Therefore to deploy green technology on a massive scale and also to realize investments into resource productivity it is imperative to ensure a level playing field for all clean energy resources.

The best way to do this is by internalizing environmental externalities and strengthening price signals first and foremost by a carbon price...”.

Mr. Koranyi, also addressed energy issues with a combination to geopolitics.

“...new geopolitical realities constrain the West's ability to advance its interests and conduct a successful foreign policy - like in the case of Iran, Syria or Sudan earlier...”.

“...old dependencies, like Russia's grip over natural gas supplies to Central Europe are slowly being dismantled, there is a danger that new ones will emerge...”.

“...Rare earth materials, essential elements to many renewable energy technology are concentrated in a handful of places...”.

“...new geopolitical realities constrain the West's ability to advance its interests and conduct a successful foreign policy - like in the case of Iran, Syria or Sudan earlier...”.

“...the transatlantic partners are undergoing multiple crises...”.

“...The financial crisis in general constrains the ability to invest in technology, innovation and infrastructure...”.
He went on by proposing the following:

In order to support a “...secure, affordable and sustainable energy, we need to:

• enhance cooperative structures and improve international energy governance
• enable markets to function effectively and prevent cartelization
• create a favorable investment climate by transparent and stable regulatory environments and strengthening price signals
• increase public RD&D spending and support international mega-projects such as ITER
• last but not least, fight against energy poverty - according to the IEA 50 billion USD / year over the next two decades would be enough to provide basic electricity to the 1,4 billion people without...

He finally closed by saying that “...For this, we need Euro-atlantic leadership and partnership...” in a practical way.

Dr. Veniamin Karakostanoglou, Lecturer at the University of Aristotle and former head of the Stability Pact for Southeastern Europe spoke on the right of national exploration and exploitation of natural resources.

In view of the recent developments in the eastern-Mediterranean Dr. Karakostanoglou concentrated his speech in the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf in the framework of the new law of the sea that is of the 1982 Montego law of the Sea.

According to the law of the Sea the “…EEZ is a new maritime zone established in part 5 articles 55 to 75...“.

The EEZ is a “comprehensive”, according to the speaker, and “…extensive maritime zone which has revolutionized costal state jurisdiction by granting all kinds of economic sovereign rights and competencies over natural resources and other economic activities to the coastal states in a huge zone of 200 nautical miles breath
“...The impact of its adoption was almost the 1/3 of the ocean’s into national jurisdiction in the form of an economic sovereignty zone. In the 200 nautical miles areas 80% of the total oil and gas reserves and 99% of global fisheries exists...”.

The speaker further said that: “...The EEZ has been created both geographically waters sea bed and subsoil and ratione maritime that is referring to the rights and competences exercised in the zone...

“...The natural prolongation concept of the continental shelf defines the outer limits of the zone under the new geological term of the continental margin reaching even 350 nautical miles from the base lines...

He mentioned that: “...There is a clear reference of the EEZ at the article 56 paragraph 3 to the rights of the coastal states and the sea bed and its subsoil of the EEZ should be exercised in accordance to the paragraph 6 of the 1992 convention that is articles 76 to 85 referring to continental shelf...

“...Exploration and exploitation is the content of the right of the coastal state...

“...Articles 61 62 refer to conservation and utilization of the living resources in the EEZ...

Exploitation and exploration according to the speaker are defined towards the use of the living animal and fisheries. Along the same lines the natural resources but also the vegetable sources inside the sea lines.

“...Drilling is a power vested to the country...”.

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“...The establishment of the EEZ changes the character of the waters of the zone which are no more high-seas no more international waters but EEZ waters...”.

“...Article 86 of the high seas regime excludes from the regime of the high seas the EEZ a zone of Sui Generis, regime combining economic rights, sovereign rights and other competences in favor of the coastal state and freedoms of high seas in favour of all other third-states...”.

He further went on to explain what is and how is described the continental shelf.
He then moved on by proposing the following on the EEZ:

According to Dr. Karakostanoglou on the EEZ and continental shelves:

“...Energy produced by a sea-bed and sub-soil resources is to take the main profit from the continental shelf or the sea bed of the EEZ. But no one can exclude a future situation where the water column will provide vast renewable source of energy. The owners of the EEZ in that case will hold a valuable advantage providing energy security and power in the international competition.

137 countries have declared an EEZ. The few remaining governments of remaining coastal states who have not done so like Greece should not delay the establishment of the EEZ in order to protect their economic sovereignty over its seas and to delimit them with neighboring states, in order to contribute to the clarification of the maritime boundaries and through that to eliminating and easing inter-state tensions.

Continental shelf is not enough to be delimited. Sooner or later the EEZ should also find the inter-state limits...”.
Session 5: Back to the Future: Regional Security Through Local Technology Investment

Chaired by Christos Matis Journalist, Elected Member, Municipality of Thessaloniki

Hr. Margaritis Schinas, Deputy Head of the bureau of European Policy Advisers (BEPA),

“The European Commission’s Department in charge of Strategy, Policy Planning and foresight activities”,

spoke on the European Union and Regional Security. As the sole representative of the EU in this conference, Mr. Schinas spoke on regional security through investment.

He introduced his speech in the overall context of global trends. Regional Security should be an issue framed under the framework of global trends. When we speak about regional security, we ‘should construct’ the following levels:

“...the emergence of a global sense of humanity and the interdependence of political and economic developments at the global stage;

- the progressive transition towards a world with less hegemonic powers but with many more middle powers;

- the evident erosion of state power and the incremental influence of regions and networks of likeminded people;

- the hopeful signs of a world with less poverty (i.e. in Africa) but with many more "new poor" people living around mega cities;

- the increasing pressure and demand for global regulation and the paradoxical – yet real – increasing resistance to this from extremist forces;

- the global tendency for citizens empowerment...”.

In the area of Southeastern Europe and in specific the Western Balkans but also the South Mediterranean The EU’s policy on regional affairs should be according to the speaker, a major contributor.

“...The European Union constantly strives to strike the balance between all (internal and external) security concerns with the overarching priority of economic development...”.
“...The main avenues to achieve this objective is comprised of:

- full support to all Governments in the region to guarantee democracy and the rule of law, an impartial judiciary and effective police system, the strengthening of civil society and the permanent fight against corruption, organised crime, and structural deficiencies in the political system;

- the systematic attempt to prepare countries of the region for adapting to the Community acquires, an extensive cooperative programme for investing in growth-enhancing sectors, namely infrastructure development and measures for improving the regulatory environment to foster competitiveness.

The total package of the EU structural assistance destined to address the challenges in the region amounts to approximately one billion euro, annually (until 2013)...”.

He finally proposed the following, on how to “...make it happen...”:

“...long-term planning of strategic investments to serve future European priorities, instead of fragmented national planning (i.e. transport, energy and telecommunications trans-European networks);

overcoming the conflicting memories of war and ethnic divisions in favour of a general strive towards a European model of soft power, of tolerance and peaceful co-existence...”.

Mr. Spiros Kouvelis Former Deputy Foreign Minister of Greece & Member of Parliament, presented his opinions on tools for technology innovation: Research, Management and Regional Co-operation.

He spoke on and about ‘Innovation’. He presented innovation as a tool and asset for Growth and Development but also a sustainable and valid economy.

Use of tools are technology factors and assets. Technology according to the speaker lowers costs provides, solutions and connects people and companies to the world.

At a local or regional scale the presenter stated that technology and technology tools of innovation provide a solution for regional problems, whether they are institutional or as a method to 'connect with the world'.
The advantages portrayed include:

‘Conditions of quick adaptation both in scale and needs.‘.

It is also adapted to the so called “…SWAT…“.
(Strengths/Weaknesses’/Advantages/Threats).

He then later on provided example cases:

On Energy sectors

On food and agriculture

On issues relating with medical and medicine affairs

On Transport

Regional cooperation therefore according to the speaker seems as a ‘must’.

“…There should be a synergy in the regional context, that will aim to bring together advantages...“.

As the integration requires it.

As there is much need to secure an energy-hungry and constantly changing development and industry. (Examples cases, Germany and France).

In the context of regional and non-EU states namely in the Western Balkans or Southeast Mediterranean region, the speaker stated that all innovation on sectors with large interest in sustainable growth through innovation will result to:

‘A chance to open their national markets.

Access political participation internationally.

Will create investment opportunities.‘.

He later-on projected in practice the changing map in Europe. He concentrated on the energy sources at a time when: A. technology and innovation are applied. B. A consequence of a constantly changing security environment but also the need for more suppliers for the EU members 27 (today).

“…The Map of Southeast Europe seems to change and Greece is to become a hub along with the Western Balkans...“.

“...An energy growth will produce growth in stability, tourism and culture in the region along with other issues...“.
Yet there is a need for infrastructure for ports and airports, for new roads and train lines (specified accordingly to the points of entry from Southeastern Europe to North East Europe).

He went on to propose on what should be the tools of innovation:

“...Political Stability and cooperation
Signals to the financial market on growth
Brand name of the region that wishes to be developed...”.

Dr. Nikitas Nikitakos, Professor of the University of Aegean, Department of Shipping and Trade and Transport, presented his views on Enforcing Regional Security, Using Maritime Surveillance Technologies.

He concentrated in the issue of Maritime Surveillance.

The objectives for understanding provided by the Professor were:

To understand what is and how marine traffic is done
How to prevent environmental accidents
How maritime surveillance supports operations and actions in search and rescue missions
How important is maritime surveillance to terrorism and piracy
And along the same lines how does this affect on a local and regional basis in national boundaries ports authorities and security.

Through the Automated Identification system developed the professor stated that ships can be actually identified at any given time and level located in the sea examined.

According to the IMO regulations (International Maritime Organization):

“...it is obligatory in all ships to implement safety of life at sea...”.

As such a long range identification and tracking system (LRIT) was created. This said, the LRIT calls for a position designation every 6 hours.

All LRIT devices require to respond immediately in any call from data centers.
The VTM (Vessel Traffic Management) seeks to:

“…Improve safety at sea and safe navigation, support maritime traffic, reduce of maritime accidents, facilitate search and rescue missions, to protect the maritime environment, to hold any time operations (24/7)…”.

VTM’s services include:

“…Data services (with positions, intentions, destinations, procedures of communication channels, restrictions).

Facilitation of navigation in contribution in decision support

Maritime traffic regulation that are used for prevention of dangerous situations and consulting related with maritime navigation)…”.

The Professor went on to add the following proposals for a joined European Union establishment.

“…A common basic data collected that should be collected only once.

Information should be registered and enabled by user-defined situational awareness

Sharing amongst communities and networks should be able to receive but also provide information.

The Environment should be interconnected to sect oral information systems allowing users to identify trends, threats and detect anomalies...”.

Finally he stressed the need to use Satellite monitoring systems that will include all assets of maritime surveillance expressed by the author.
Mr. Elias Aravantinos, Head of Telecom Research, at the European Institute of Law Science and Technology, Senior Advisor at Exelixisnet.com presented the last presentation on Technology-Readiness and Innovation in the field of Business and Security: The Field of Network Centric Communications.

Mr. Aravantinos an expert on social media and E-security after presenting the role and work of exelixisnet.com, he introduced his speech based on the importance to cyber-protection and e-security.

E-security stands out as a

“...readiness method proposal for public networks...”.

The potential metrics of e-security are:

- Number of received threats
- Recovery time
- System’s upgrade frequency
- Standard e-security solutions used
- Assess plan to critical resources
- Online government transactions as well as security and solution solving procedure
- A backup disaster plan...”.

As a proposal the author stated amongst others that:

“...This plan could be used accordingly by NATO and any other organization, to create an internal or external e-security shield...”.

The role of national indexes for a successful public network of e-security includes according to the speaker:

- Tools for decisions
- Free market and country Competition
- Countries’ services evaluation

And finally the lessons learned and achieved efforts for the way forward...”.
-------------THE END-------------