



EVRO-ATLANTSKI SVET SLOVENIJE
EURO-ATLANTIC COUNCIL OF SLOVENIA



BALKAN SAYS 2023

M Hotel, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 14 – 16 September

11. Balkan SAYS 2023

PROGRAMME



This project
is sponsored by
the North Atlantic
Treaty Organization



TIMELINE OF SEMINAR (all times are given in CEST – Ljubljana time)

Thursday, 14 September, 2023

Morning –

Early Arrival of participants

Afternoon

09:00 Seminar registration opens

13:00 **Opening address**

Keynote Speech

13:15 Speaker:

- Dr Andrej Benedejčič, State Secretary for National and International Security, Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia
-

14:00 Coffee Break

Panel I – NATO Enlargement – New members - new challenges

- Will new member states improve collective security or increase internal divisions within the Alliance?
- If Sweden and Finland become new members, what does that mean for Bosnia and Herzegovina?
- How will NATO expansion affect relations with Russia and the war in Ukraine?

Speakers:

- 14.30
- Ms. Karoliina Honkanen, Ministerial Advisor, Director of the Office for NATO Integration, Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland
 - H.E. Jelko Kacin, Former permanent representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the North Atlantic Council
 - mag. Nina Kovač, Head of NATO Division, Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia
 - Mr. Andrej Slapničar, Head of Security Policy Department, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

Moderator: Matic Kosirnik (Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia)

16.20 Workshop I

19.00 Dinner



Friday, 15 September 2023

**Panel II – Contemporary Security Issues in the Western Balkans –
Can peace be maintained in the Western Balkans?**

- Are the states of the Western Balkans capable of long-term peaceful coexistence or are conflicts inevitable?
- How do unresolved issues between Belgrade and Pristina affect regional security?
- Will Bosnia and Herzegovina survive the 2020s?

Speakers:

- 09:30
- Dr Sonja Stojanović Gajić, Member of Executive Board, Belgrade Centre for Security Policy [via Zoom]
 - Dr Dušan Janjić, President of the Executive Board, Forum for Ethnic Relations
 - Mr. Peter Grk, National Coordinator for the Western Balkans, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia
 - Ms. Alexandra Karppi, research analyst at Freedom House

Moderator: Dr Brin Najžer (Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia)

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 Workshop II

12:45 LUNCH BREAK

Panel III – War in Ukraine – A return to the Cold War or the Concert system?

- How is NATO supporting Ukraine? Is it enough?
- Is the war in Ukraine reshaping the global balance of power? What does that imply for European security?
- Could this mean a return to a Cold War in Europe or a Concert of Great powers?

13:45 Speakers:

- MG Dobran Božič, Military Advisors, Office of the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia
- mag. Katja Geršak, Executive Director, Regional Dialogue
- mag. Mirko Cigler, Slovenian Association for International Relations
- Dr Brin Najžer, President of the Youth Section of the Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia

Moderator: Dr Brin Najžer (Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia)

15:15 Coffee Break



15:45 Workshop III

Panel IV – International partnerships for the 21st century – How relevant is the EU in shaping international security?

- Collaboration between NATO and the EU – how effective is it?
- Can the EU become a strategically autonomous actor?
- Is the idea of human security still relevant in the 21st century?

17:00 Speakers:

- H.E. Adrian Pollmann, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of Slovenia
- Prof. Dr Ana Bojinović Fenko, Chair of International Relations, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana
- Mr. Dino Šujak, ITF Enhancing Human Security

Moderator: Evdokija Josifoska (Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia)

19:00 Dinner

Saturday, 16 September, 2023

Panel V – Emerging technologies and critical infrastructure – Can we stay ahead of emerging threats?

- How secure is our critical infrastructure?
- What impact does the green transition have on international security?

09:30 Speakers:

- Prof. Dr Iztok Prezelj, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana; President of the Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia
- Assist. Prof. Dr Uroš Svete, Director, Government Information Security Office of the Republic of Slovenia

Moderator: Rok Kovač (Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia)

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 Presentation of Workshops conclusions



Presentation of the Contemporary Military Challenges journal

12.00 Speaker:
- Dr Klemen Kocjančič, Executive Editor of the scientific journal
Contemporary Military Challenges

12:10 Closing session and presentation of seminar certificates

13:00 Conclusion of Balkan SAYS 2023
