



REPORT on the NATO Parliamentary Assembly 2025 – Ljubljana Annual Session

Dates: 10–13 October 2025

Venue: Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre

Host: National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia

Author: *Matic Kosirnik, President of the Youth Section of the Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia (YATA Slovenia)*

The 71st Annual Session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from 10 to 13 October 2025. This landmark event gathered over 245 parliamentarians from NATO's 32 member states and partner countries to debate pressing security challenges, adopt resolutions, and shape policy recommendations for the future of the Alliance.

Matic Kosirnik, President of the Youth Section of the Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia (YATA Slovenia), represented both **YATA Slovenia** and **YATA International**.

The delegation of the Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia comprised **six members of the Youth Section (YATA Slovenia)**, alongside the representatives of the **Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia (ATA Slovenia)** — **Prof. Dr. Iztok Prezelj**, President, and **Dr. Jelena Juvan**, Vice President. Their presence strengthened the link between the national and international dimensions of Slovenia's Euro-Atlantic engagement and youth contribution to transatlantic security dialogue.

The Ljubljana session represented a significant diplomatic and parliamentary milestone for Slovenia, and a meaningful opportunity for young professionals to observe NATO's decision-making processes, parliamentary diplomacy, and multilateral coordination in action.

1. Context

- The 71st Annual Session brought together over **245 parliamentarians** from NATO member and partner states (some sources cite up to 260 attendees)
- The Assembly convened for the first time since the 2025 NATO Summit in The Hague, offering legislators a forum to reflect on Summit commitments and develop follow-up recommendations.
- Ahead of the session, President Marcos Perestrello emphasized that Russia had escalated hostile actions—airspace violations, disinformation campaigns, and attempts to divide Allies—and that the Assembly must deliver a robust political signal of unity and resolve.



2. Key Themes & Strategic Priorities

Theme	Highlights & Emphases
Defence Spending & Deterrence	The Assembly strongly urged Allies to reach 5 % of GDP annual expenditures on defence and security expenditures by 2035, pressing that this goal be operationalized promptly rather than deferred. It also called for a “five-fold increase” in air and missile defence along the Alliance’s eastern flank.
Support to Ukraine & Strategic Assistance	Delegates pressed for continuing and expanding supply of air-defence systems, long-range precision weapons, missiles and ammunition, and for authorizing their use to counter attacks within Ukraine and (in some cases) against military targets in Russia. They also advocated for tightened sanctions on Russia and non-recognition of its territorial annexations.
Democratic Resilience & Foreign Interference	A key resolution urged that foreign interference be treated as a strategic threat , calling for whole-of-society resilience, deeper partnerships among democratic institutions, and more robust countermeasures against disinformation and cyberattacks. Advancing this theme, the Assembly highlighted election vulnerabilities and the hybrid tactics increasingly used by malign actors.
Technology, Uncrewed Systems & Emerging Domains	The Assembly adopted a resolution on preparing NATO for uncrewed warfare (drones, autonomous systems) and integration of new technologies. Reports also focused on the security of space, Arctic challenges, and the future of defence industrial bases.
Transatlantic Economic & Security Partnership	In Resolution 500 , adopted by the Plenary, the Assembly called for deeper transatlantic coordination on defence investment, trade policy, industrial cooperation, and efforts to manage geo-economic fragmentation.
Regional Stability & Partnerships	The Western Balkans resurfaced as a major focus, with the Assembly urging reconciliation, rule of law, and integrating those states with Euro-Atlantic structures. It also spotlighted NATO’s posture toward the Indo-Pacific, the Black Sea, Arctic, and Middle East in its committee reports.

3. Resolutions & Committee Work

- The Plenary adopted **six** resolutions laying out policy recommendations for NATO governments:



1. **Bolstering democratic resilience against foreign interference** (Committee on Democracy & Security)
 2. **Advancing NATO's deterrence and defence posture after The Hague Summit** (Defence & Security Committee)
 3. **Strengthening the transatlantic economic & security partnership** (Economics & Security Committee)
 4. **Fostering stability & reconciliation in the Western Balkans** (Political Committee)
 5. **Solidarity with Ukraine & the imperative for a just & lasting peace** (Political Committee)
 6. **Preparing NATO for the future of uncrewed warfare** (Science & Technology Committee)
- Across its five standing committees (Democracy & Security, Defence & Security, Economics & Security, Science & Technology, Political), a number of reports were adopted covering issues such as China's disinformation, Euro-Atlantic resilience, Russia strategy, Indo-Pacific defence cooperation, space and Arctic security, and the evolution of defence markets.

4. High-Level Engagement & Speakers

- **Slovenian authorities & hosts** actively participated: Prime Minister **Robert Golob**, Vice-President of the National Assembly **Danijel Krivec**, Foreign Minister **Tanja Fajon**, Defence Minister **Borut Sajovic**, Janez Žakelj (Head of Slovenian delegation to NATO PA), among others.
- International dignitaries and speakers included:
 - **Marcos Perestrello** (President, NATO PA) who framed the session's priorities.
 - **Volodymyr Zelenskyy** (President of Ukraine) addressed the Assembly by videolink and called for the acceleration of air defence assistance and support, including to counter Russia's growing campaign of attacks on Ukrainian energy infrastructure.
 - **Mark Rutte** (NATO Secretary General) attended the closing plenary session and stressed, among other things, that despite Russia's failures on the battlefield, the threat of long-range missiles and drones remains real and should not be underestimated.
 - **Robert de Groot**, Vice President of the European Investment Bank, participated in economic/security panels.
 - **Dr. Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu** of Kosovo was honoured with the Assembly's 2025 "Women for Peace & Security" award for her contributions to peace, security, and regional dialogue.
- In procedural developments, the Assembly appointed **Benedetta Berti** (Italy) as its new Secretary General, paying tribute to outgoing **Ruxandra Popa** for her service.



5. Outcomes, Implications & Challenges

Outcomes

- The Ljubljana session reaffirmed and sharpened the political will of NATO parliamentarians to push for implementation of Hague Summit commitments (notably the 5 % GDP guideline).
- The Assembly's strong emphasis on Ukraine as central to Alliance security reflects a shift from seeing Ukraine assistance as peripheral to being integral to NATO's collective defence posture.
- By linking technology, democratic resilience, and defence industrial capacity, the session attempted to bridge strategic thinking across defence, domestic resilience, and economic spheres.
- The elevation of the European Parliament's status to "Partner for Comprehensive Security" within NATO PA strengthens the parliamentary dimension of EU–NATO cooperation in security frameworks.

Challenges & Risks

- Achieving the 5 % defence investment goal will require sustained political commitment and budgetary prioritization by member states faced with competing demands (social spending, debt pressures).
- Supply chain constraints, industrial capacity shortfalls, and technology transfer barriers may limit how rapidly NATO and Allies can expand advanced capabilities (missiles, air defence, drones).
- Managing hybrid threats requires harmonized action across intelligence, cybersecurity, regulation, and media policy—areas where national capacities and legal frameworks differ widely.
- Sustaining public and parliamentary support for increased military aid and controversial policies (such as sanction enforcement or use of long-range weapons) will depend on effective communication and democratic legitimacy.
- The evolving domain of uncrewed/automated weapons raises legal, ethical, and doctrinal questions that NATO must address in parallel with capability development.

6. Outlook

- The next NATO PA session (Spring 2026) will take place in **Vilnius, Lithuania**, from 29 May to 1 June 2026.
- In the interim, the adopted resolutions and reports will be shared with NATO bodies (e.g. the North Atlantic Council) and member parliaments, intended to influence national defence plans, legislative oversight, and funding decisions.



- Parliamentary delegations will likely follow up domestically, advocating for implementation of Ljubljana's recommendations (especially defence spending, technology investment, resilience strategies).
- NATO and Allied governments may consider establishing working groups or oversight mechanisms to monitor compliance with the Assembly's guidance on Ukraine support, interoperability, and strategic technology.
- Continued integration of parliamentary input into NATO's planning and strategy could strengthen democratic accountability and public legitimacy of Alliance actions.