



ATLANTIC COUNCIL
OF MONTENEGRO

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IMPRESSUM

Atlantic Council of Montenegro

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ABOUT

The Atlantic Council of Montenegro (ACM) was founded in 2006 and since then it has been a preeminent institution devoted to promoting Euro-Atlantic values and international security. The Atlantic Council of Montenegro was admitted into membership of the Atlantic Treaty Association at the General Assembly held in Athens in 2006.

The Atlantic Council promotes constructive leadership and engagement in international affairs based on the central role of the Atlantic community in meeting the international challenges of the 21st century.

The Atlantic Council stimulates dialogues and discussions on critical international issues with a view to enriching public debate and promoting consensus on appropriate responses in the Government, the corporate and non-profit sectors, and the media in Montenegro and among the leaders in Europe and the USA. At the same time, important contributions by the Atlantic Council include identifying and shaping responses to major issues facing NATO and transatlantic relations, as well as building consensus among political parties towards NATO and Euro-Atlantic integration.

The objective of the Atlantic Council is to actively shape the security and international policy discourse in Europe and beyond by fostering dynamic involvement of Montenegro and South East Europe Region in international affairs. The Atlantic Council is the main organizer of the To Be Secure (2BS) Forum, the largest politico-security conference in South East Europe.

MISSION AND GOALS

VISION: Becoming the most reliable source of political ideas and analysis in Montenegro and the SEE region.

MISSION: The mission of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro is to strengthening democracy, security and stability in Montenegro and the Western Balkan region through the organization and coordination of scientific-research activities in the field of defence, security and diplomacy. Atlantic Council of Montenegro aims to become a platform for dialogue and discussion on key international issues, processes and changes in the Trans-Atlantic area and the SEE region through its projects and analysis of political processes. In this way, Atlantic Council of Montenegro is approaching its vision of becoming a leading think-tank in Montenegro and the SEE region.

GOALS

- Raising public awareness on NATO and Euro-Atlantic ideas and values
- Emphasizing the role and the importance of small countries, such as Montenegro, which can be a place for debates and discussions on global issues
- Promoting Euro-Atlantic integration in Montenegro and within the region
- Improving the collective security system
- Strengthening regional cooperation
- Conducting youth educational and exchange programs

ACTIVITIES

APRIL 17-18, 2017- LECTURE OF THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS, H.E. BERT KOENDERS

The Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro and the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, in cooperation with the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Belgrade, organized a lecture of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, H.E. Bert Koenders. The lecture was intended for students and the representatives of youth organizations.

The lecture was held in English language, on April 18th, starting at 10:45 am at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Montenegro.



MAY 11-13, 2017- TO BE SECURE FORUM

The Atlantic Council of Montenegro, under the auspices of the Government of Montenegro and with the support of NATO, US Embassy in Montenegro and Balkan Trust for Democracy (BTD), organized the seventh 2BS Forum from May 11-13, 2017.

Under the title “THE CHALLENGES OF CHANGING POLITICS AND SHIFTING ALLIANCES”, the seventh 2BS (To Be Secure) Forum addressed some of the major issues of international relations and security. Its goal was to encourage vivid discussion regarding the most important dilemmas in the field of international security. The Forum has once again, managed to justify high standards set in the previous years and remained the platform for political, expert, critical and constructive discussion. Forum gathered in one place a number of high officials from the country and abroad, thus creating possibilities for stronger cooperation and connections among these countries. This year’s Forum was especially important having in mind that it was held less than one month before Montenegro delivered the ratification document to the State Department and became the official NATO member on June 5th.

2BS Forum speakers addressed some of the most pressing issues of European and global security today with a primary focus on defining and redefining US-NATO-Russia relations. Taking that into account, additional attention was paid to how those global relations affect the region and thus Montenegro.



OCTOBER 17, 2017- VISIT OF CHINA INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (CIIS) TO THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL OF MONTENEGRO

During the official visit to Montenegro, the Delegation of the Chinese Institute of International Studies (CIIS) met with the members of the Governance Board of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, composed of Dr Savo Kenter, Dr Igor Lukšić and prof. dr Milica Pejanović-Đurišić.



At the meeting of the delegation of the China Institute of International Studies with the Governance Board of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, the importance of NATO in dealing with modern security challenges was discussed. It was also pointed out that NATO itself needs to adapt and adopt new approaches and new methods to combat these challenges. The necessity for establishing various channels of cooperation in addressing global challenges and threats is also emphasized.

In particular, there was a discussion on the need for an increasingly active role of China on the international scene, as well as on the need for taking on more responsibilities when global security is in question, and in that context, the possible establishment of NATO-China Council is also proposed.

DECEMBER 12, 2017- WINTER SECURITY WORKSHOP

The Atlantic Council of Montenegro organized the Winter Security Workshop (WSW) Montenegro in partnership with the Atlantic Treaty Association and with the support of the U.S. Mission to NATO and the U.S. Embassy in Podgorica. WSW: INFORMATION WARFARE AND THE NEW WORLD ORDER: CASE STUDY WESTERN BALKANS was held at Hotel Hilton and it addressed several key issues concerning Russian propaganda representing serious threat to the democracy, cyber-attacks and issues concerning new chaos theory of political warfare.

The workshop has gained importance as the speakers discussed issues that whole Western Balkan region are facing, issues caused by cyber-attacks aimed at undermining democratic institutions in Western Balkan. It was also pointed out that it is to be expected that Russia will continue to position itself as a geopolitical opponent to Western democracies.

WSW gathered key state authorities, IT experts, High Officials, business leaders, NGOs, academics and students to provide them with the opportunity to address relevant security issues in Western Balkan related to information warfare and Russian modern strategy.



PARTICIPATION

MARCH 22-23, 2017- NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY IN SARAJEVO

The President of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, Dr. Savo Kentera, spoke at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly held in Sarajevo. The Assembly was particularly focused on the chances of EU and NATO enlargement towards the Western Balkans, on regional cooperation and security in this region, strengthening the rule of law and democratic institutions, the fight against terrorism and radicalism and many other topics.

April 3-7, 2017- ADVANCED TRAINING COURSE- CIRACRESEE IN OHRID

Representatives of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, Vanja Banović, Luka Nešković and Andrija Pejović attended the advanced training course “Countering ISIS Radicalization Activities through the Cyberspace in the Region of South East Europe (CIRACRESEE)” , which was held from April 3rd to April 7th in hotel Belvedere, Ohrid, Macedonia. The project was organized by the Military Academy in Macedonia and the Institute of Information and Communication Technology in Bulgaria, under the sponsorship of NATO Science for Peace and Security Program. The topic of the program referred to the prevention of ISIS activity on the SEE region through Cyberspace.

April 6-7, 2017- NATO DEFENCE COLLEGE CONFERENCE

Dr. Savo Kentera, the President of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, spoke at the NATO Defence College conference held in Rome. Among other topics, this conference was also focused on security and stability of the Balkans, the rule of law, the fight against organized crime and terrorism. Dr. Kentera pointed out that NATO membership is not a gift, but a success that Montenegro has earned through hard work in the previous period. In addition, the membership reflects the trust that the 28 Alliance member states have in Montenegro. In that regard, Montenegro is ready to, as a member state, once again prove its commitment and dedication to the Western values and to contribute to strengthening the rule of law and to the fight against terrorism and organized crime.

MAY 3, 2017- SIXT EU-SE EUROPE SUMMIT

The President of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, Dr. Savo Kentera, participated in the sixth EU-SE Europe Summit organized by the renowned magazine The Economist, from London. The Summit was held on May 3rd 2017, in hotel Hilton, Podgorica.

The topic of the Summit was: „EUROPE RECONSIDERED: CAN MONTENEGRO ACHIEVE STABILITY AND GROWTH?“, and it was explored through five panels, the participants of which were government representatives of the SEE countries, the representatives of political and academic lives of these countries and the EU, as well as, of course, economy representatives.

June 28, 2017- ATA COUNCIL MEETING

The President of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, Dr. Savo Kentera and a representative of the YATA Montenegro, Ema Kaluđerović, took part at the Atlantic Treaty Association's (ATA) 63rd Council Meeting.

On this occasion, ATA held a conference at the European Parliament in Brussels on 28th June 2017, on the topic of cyber security.

This conference brought together experts, policy makers, officials, and many others who analyzed the best practices already being used by their respective nations, institutions, and organizations to provide specific policy recommendations in order to implement a cooperative cyber security strategy within the context of a more effective NATO-EU partnership.

October 31, 2017- MACEDONIA2025 SUMMIT

President of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, Dr. Savo Kentera, was taking part at the Macedonia2025 Summit from October 31st to November 3rd in Skopje. Speaking at the panel "What We Learned and How Can We Implement Best Practices in Macedonia and the Region?" Kentera stressed that that we can't speak about stability of the Balkans until all countries of the region join NATO and that in this regards he sees Macedonia as the next member of the Alliance.

He also pointed out that by electing a new Government with Prime Minister Zaev, citizens of Macedonia have chosen a path toward brighter future, based on European and Euro-Atlantic values and if they persist on this path towards NATO and the EU, they will soon be able to see results in economic and any other aspect.

NOVEMBER 28, 2017- ATLANTIC COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Member of the Governance Board Milica Đurišić Pejanović participated in the Atlantic Council Workshop "Region at Risk: Addressing Security Challenges in the Western Balkans" held on November 28th in Washington.

This workshop was focused on issues concerning security challenges that the Western Balkans are facing as well as on potential strategies for overcoming them. Thus during the panel discussions the speakers tackled with transatlantic cooperation, migrant crisis in the Balkan, threat of islamist radicalization, crime and corruption as well as with strategies for the short and long-term future that Milica Đurišić Pejanović was talking about.

DECEMBER 4-6, 2017- REGIONAL WORKSHOP IN SOPHIA

President of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, Dr. Savo Kenter, took part in the regional workshop: "Effective Response Mechanisms to (returning) Foreign Terrorist Fighters from Western Balkan and Bulgaria", held in Sofia on 4-6th December.

The workshop put focus on the most recent regional, national and community level challenges related to (returning) FTF, response mechanisms and policies concerning returning foreign (terrorist) fighters as well as on creating conditions for cooperation.

GENERAL OVERVIEW AND CHANGES

MONTENEGRO'S ACCESSION TO NATO

A historic event for the country itself but also an important event for NATO since it its first new member in a decade.

Montenegro became NATO's newest member on Monday (5 June 2017), upon depositing its instrument of accession to the North Atlantic Treaty with the US State Department in Washington DC. At a ceremony marking the occasion, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg underlined that Montenegro's accession to the Alliance contributes to international peace and security, and sends a strong signal that NATO's door remains open. The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Duško Marković and by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro Srdjan Darmanović and was hosted by the United States Undersecretary for Political Affairs Thomas A. Shannon. Despite the fact that Montenegro became a full member of alliance, The Atlantic Council of Montenegro will not stop making efforts in improving the regional cooperation, promoting the common values, and encouraging initiatives aimed at preserving peace and stability in the region.

NEW GOVERNANCE BOARD

At the session of the Assembly of the Atlantic Council of Montenegro held on October 10, 2017, a number of key decisions were made on the future work and operation of the Atlantic Alliance. Among other things, a decision was made to redefine the mission and vision of the activities of the Atlantic Alliance of Montenegro, as well as to elect a new Steering Committee with a two-year mandate. The new Board of Directors consists of prof. Igor Lušić, PhD, prof. Dr. Milica Pejanović-Đurišić, General John Allen, Dr. Sharyl Cross, Dr. Amadeo Watkins, and the President of the Board Dr. Savo Kenter. The vision of the Atlantic Council is to become the leading and most reliable think tank, or source of political ideas and analyzes in Montenegro and the region. It is a vision aimed at strengthening democracy, security and stability in Montenegro and the region through the organization and coordination of scientific and research activities concerning defense, security and diplomacy.

In order to achieve these goals, we rely on the expert support of the newly-formed Governance Board, whose experience and knowledge will greatly contribute to the projects and activities that the Atlantic Council will undertake in order to become a respectable platform for dialogue and discussions on key international issues.

PLAN OF ACTIVITIES

2BS FORUM

The 2BS Forum is a constructive element of the most important meeting of influential international and Montenegrin representatives, who discuss essential questions of international security and security in SEE. This Forum aims to encourage significant discussion regarding the most important dilemmas in the field of international security. 2BS Forum 2016 will address some of the major challenges of the decade. Through discussions, 2BS Forum aims to analyze these modern challenges, risks and threats and explore policy responses. The seventh 2BS Forum focus will continue to be global security, the future of Southeast Europe integration and chances are great that it will be organized in Montenegro as the 29th member state of NATO.

THE “SECURITY” MAGAZINE PUBLICATION

The Atlantic Council of Montenegro plans to continue publishing the “Security” magazine, considering its importance, significance and contribution to the security processes in the region. The “Security” Magazine is an independent, interdisciplinary and international magazine dealing with security issues in a broad sense, following the current topics on global, regional and national levels. Immediately upon issuing the first edition in 2007, this magazine was recognized by many senior executives from Europe and across Atlantic as of high quality and as a valuable contribution to security.

WINTER SECURITY WORKSHOP

Winter Security Workshop is organized by the Atlantic Council of Montenegro in partnership with the Atlantic Treaty Association and with the support of the US Mission to NATO and the US Embassy in Podgorica. The Workshop will be held in December, 2018. WSW addresses several key issues relevant to regional and international security in order to advance NATO’s role in SEE. It was organized in 2016 for the first time and the Atlantic Council of Montenegro plans to continue to organize it annually and to establish it as a traditional event.



ATLANTIC COUNCIL
OF MONTENEGRO

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