

Security Challenges in the Balkans Region

7 June 2024

8th edition

Timișoara



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

This event is held under the Patronage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania.

08.30-09.30 – Registration

09.30 – 09.50 Official opening: **Mr. Marilen Gabriel Pirtea**, Rector of West University of Timișoara, **Mr. George Scutaru**, CEO of New Strategy Center, **Mrs. Ana Tinca**, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romania (via VTC)

09.50 – 11.30 Panel I. Current Challenges in the Balkans Region in the Context of the War in Ukraine

Chair: Ambassador Gheorghe Magheru, Member of the Scientific Council of the New Strategy Center, Romania

- ▶ **Mrs. Irina Zidaru**, General Director for Strategic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romania
- ▶ **Brigadier General Constantin Nicolaescu**, Commander, NATO Multinational Brigade South-East, Romania
- ▶ **Mr. Jochen M. Richter**, Chair Global Security Forum at Diplomatic Council, Luxembourg
- ▶ **Ms. Nevenka Vuksanović**, Director, Centre for Democracy and Human Rights, Montenegro
- ▶ **Mrs. Edina Bećirević**, Co-founder, Atlantic Initiative, Bosnia-Herzegovina
- ▶ **Mr. Vuk Vuksanovic**, Senior researcher, Belgrade Center for Security Policy, Serbia

11.00 – 11.30 Open discussion

11.30 - 11:45 Break

11.45 – 13.15 Panel II. The Balkans Fatigue? EU and NATO enlargement in the Western Balkans

Chair: Brigadier General (ret.) Eduard Simion, Senior associate expert, New Strategy Center, Romania

- ▶ **Amb. René Troccaz**, Special Envoy for the Balkans, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France
- ▶ **Mr. İlhan Saygılı**, Director General for the Balkans and Central Europe, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Türkiye

- ▶ **Mr. Leonard Orban**, Member of the Scientific Council of New Strategy Center, former EU Presidential Advisor, Romania
 - ▶ **Mrs Violeta Nicolescu**, Director General, Defence Policy Department, Ministry of Defence, Romania
 - ▶ **Ms. Maria Simeonova**, Head of Sofia office, European Council on Foreign Relations, Bulgaria
 - ▶ **Mrs. Irma Qehajaj**, Communications Manager, Cooperation and Development Institute, Albania
- 12.45 – 13.15 Open discussion

13.15 – 13.30 Presentation of the NUPI and New Strategy Center study on Russian Disinformation Campaigns in the NATO Space in the Context of the War in Ukraine – Mr. Răzvan Ceuca, Expert New Strategy Center, Romania in a dialogue with **Ms. Ileana Rotaru**, Associate Professor, Faculty of Political Science, Philosophy and Communication, West University of Timisoara, Romania and **Ms. Larisa Vasile**, PhD. Candidate, West University of Timisoara, Romania

13.30 - 14:45 Break

14:45 - 16:15 Panel III. Regional Prosperity in the Age of Economic Security.

Chair: Mr. Alexandru Jădăneanț, PhD., Dean, West University of Timisoara, Romania

- ▶ **Mr. Casian Nițulescu**, State Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Romania (VTC)
- ▶ **Ms. Ana Maria Boromisa**, Head of the department for international economic and political relations, Institute for Development and International Relations, Croatia
- ▶ **Ms. Ligia Ardelean**, Country Manager Atos GDC Romania & Bulgaria
- ▶ **Mr. Alexandru Maximescu**, Vice president, OMV Petrom, Romania
- ▶ **Mr. Cristian Octavian Goiceanu**, Chief Security Officer, Banca Comerciala Romana, Romania

15.50– 16.15 Open discussion

16.15 – 16.30 Break

16:30– 18:00 Panel IV. The Race for Artificial Intelligence. Lessons (To Be) Learned for the Future

Chair: Mr. Claudiu Brândaș, Professor, West University of Timisoara, Romania

- ▶ **Mr. Marius Poșa**, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Research, Innovation, and Digitalization, Romania
- ▶ **Mr. Octavian Stancu**, Head of Cybersecurity Services - GDC Romania & Global Head of Cloud Threat Management - BDS – Eviden, Romania
- ▶ **Mr. Alexandru Mărgineanu** – MS Security Practice Leader, Nokia, Romania
- ▶ **Mr. Horia Bogdan Velicu**, Head of Innovation Lab, BRD-GSG, Romania

17.45– 18:00 Open discussion

18.00-18.05 Concluding remarks: Mr. Claudiu Brândaș, Professor, West University of Timisoara, Romania

Note - *Simultaneous translation into English and Romanian is available.*

**VTC – video conferencing*