

**NATO's Partnerships and the South Caucasus:
A Strategic Approach to Regional Security**

International Conference

March 20-21, 2014

Picasso Hall

Best Western Congress Hotel, Yerevan, Armenia

Day One: March 20, 2014

09.00 – 09.30 Registration

09.30 – 09.50 Opening address:
Dr. Gayane Novikova, Founding Director, Center for Strategic Analysis

Welcoming remarks:

Mr. Arthur Baghdasaryan, Secretary of the RA National Security Council (TBC)

Amb. Samvel Mkrтчian, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia

HM Amb. Katherine Leach, Ambassador of UK to Armenia

PANEL A: The Importance of the Region for External Actors

Moderator: Dr. Gayane Novikova

- Geopolitical developments and integration prospects
- NATO's vision of the security in the South Caucasus
- U.S. Interests in the Region
- EU Interests in the South Caucasus
- An evaluation of NATO/EU roles in the region.

09.50 – 10.20 Keynote Speaker: Mr. William Lahue,
NATO Liaison Officer for the Caucasus

10.20 – 10.40 Q&A to Keynote speaker

10.40 – 11.10 Coffee break

11.10 – 11.30 Mr. Wayne Merry, American Foreign Policy Council, Washington D.C.

11.30 – 11.50 Dr. Jos Boonstra, FRIDE, Madrid, Spain

11.50 – 12.10 Dr. Gayane Novikova, Center for Strategic Analysis, Yerevan, Armenia

12.10 – 12.40 Q&A

12.45 – 14.00 Lunch

PANEL B: Internal Developments in the South Caucasus: A Stable Instability

Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia after the electoral cycle 2012-2013.

Internal developments in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, including the possibility of unrest in all three states viewed through the prism of regional security.

Moderator: Dr. Tracey German, King's College, London, UK

14.00 – 14.20 Prof., Dr. Giorgi Gogsadze, Levan Mikeladze Foundation, Ivane Javakhishvili
Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia

14.20 – 14.40 Dr. David Shahnazaryan, Center for Political and Legal Studies, Yerevan, Armenia

14.40 – 15.00 Dr. Arif Yunusov, Institute for Peace and Democracy, Baku, Azerbaijan

15.00 – 15.30 Q&A

Moderator Dr. Tracey German, King's College, London, UK

15.30 – 16.30 Roundtable discussion: The Influence of the External Actors – NATO, the EU, OSCE
-- upon Internal Developments in the South Caucasus

16.30 Tea / Coffee break

Day Two: March 21, 2013

09.30 – 10.00 Registration

PANEL C: Converging and Conflicting Interests in the South Caucasus: Russia, Iran and Turkey

Moderator: Dr. David Shahnazaryan, Center for Political and Legal Studies, Yerevan, Armenia

10.00 – 10.20 Dr. Sergey Markedonov, Russia State University for the Humanities, Moscow, Russia

10.20 – 10.40 Dr. Mitat Çelikpala, Kadir Has University, Istanbul, Turkey

10.40 – 11.10 Dr. Mohammad Hassan Khani, Imam Sadiq University, Tehran, Iran

11.10 – 11.30 Q&As

11.30 – 11.50 Tea/Coffee break

Moderator: Dr. David Shahnazaryan, Center for Political and Legal Studies, Yerevan, Armenia

11.50 – 12.30 Discussion: Regional Powers and Integration Processes in the South Caucasus

12.40 – 14.00 Lunch

PANEL D: Militarization of the South Caucasus: The Regional Conflicts as an Instrument of Influence

What role can/ should/ will the Euro-Atlantic and European institutions play in providing security and stability in the region? What is Russia's role?

Regional security: Is there mutual understanding, a common vision and common approach among the main regional and external actors? How can Armenia diversify its security strategy?

Moderator: Dr. Jos Boonstra, FRIDE, Madrid, Spain

14.00 - 14.20 Col. Christopher Langton, Independent Conflict Research & Analysis (ICRA), London, UK

14.20 - 14.40 Dr. Georgi Tarkhan-Mouravi, Institute for Public Policy, Tbilisi, Georgia

14.40 - 15.00 Dr. Tracey German, King's College, London, UK

15.00 - 15.20 Dr. Alexander Skakov, Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow, Russia

15.20 - 15.40 LTC (Ret.) Sergey Sargsyan, Center for Strategic Analysis, Yerevan, Armenia

15.40 - 16.00 Q&A

Moderator: Dr. Sergey Markedonov, Russia State University for the Humanities, Moscow, Russia

15.50 - 16.50 Roundtable discussion: How to Minimize the Conflict Potential in the South Caucasus

Discussants:

Dr. Ruben Safrastyan, Institute of Oriental Studies, Yerevan, Armenia

Dr. Kemal Kirisci, Brookings Institute, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Alexander Yeliseev, Russian Council on International Affairs, Moscow

Mr. Vali Kaleji, Center for Strategic Research, Tehran, Iran

Mr. Sergey Porkhachov, Center for Eurasian Studies, Ural State University of Economics, Yekaterinburg, Russia

16.50 - 17.00 Concluding Remarks
Dr. Gayane Novikova