



1st South Caucasus Security Forum (SCSF)
“Security Sector Reform in South Caucasus and Black Sea Region“
after the Vilnius Summit

Tbilisi, 10th-11th December 2013

Venue: Hotel Holiday Inn Tbilisi, 26 May Square, Tbilisi 0171, Georgia

Organizers

Centre for European and North Atlantic Affairs (CENAA)
Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies (GFSIS)

Partners

Institute of International Relations, Czech Republic
Polish Institute of International Affairs, Poland
Hungarian Institute of International Affairs, Hungary
Center for Strategic Analysis, SPECTRUM, Armenia
Center for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Introduction

The South Caucasus Security Forum is co-organized by GFSIS and CENAA in cooperation with partners from Central Europe (Poland, Hungary, and Czech Republic) and South Caucasian countries (Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan). The strategic goal of organizers is to establish a tradition of broad, highly appreciated international security conference in the region of South Caucasus organized on annual basis.

The conference has ambition to be the main forum for decision-makers, academics, think-tank representatives, experts and media representatives from South Caucasus as well as countries and international organizations involved in region to discuss most challenging issues related with the broader region.

Despite the fact, that the majority of topics will geographically cover the region of South Caucasus and Black Sea, the involvement of experts from 4 continents and more than 20 countries will guarantee broad international attention.

Official language of the *1st South Caucasus Security Forum* is English.

For Twitter please use: [#1stSCSF](#)

PROGRAM

DAY 1

9.30-10.00

OPENING REMARKS

Alexander Rondeli, President, GFSIS

Robert Ondrejcsák, Director, CENAA

Karla Wursterová, Director, International Visegrad Fund

10.00-10.30

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Alex Petriashvili, State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration

10.30-11.00

COFFEE BREAK

11.00-12:45

PANEL 1

Perspectives of South Caucasus after the Vilnius Summit

The Eastern Partnership summit held in November 2013 in Vilnius, Lithuania, EU's presiding country, is generally perceived as a milestone in relations of South Caucasian countries and the European Union. Each capital has particular expectations as well as ambitions related to the Summit. The main goal of the panel is to assess how these particular ambitions were fulfilled in Vilnius and what are the perspectives of future development of relations with the EU. What will be the implications of the summit for the EU's relations with its eastern neighbours? What are the obstacles that stand in the way of closer cooperation between the EU and its neighbourhood? Was the support of Visegrad countries in Vilnius relevant? And what the V4 could do more or better?

Speakers:

Giorgi Nikolaishvili, Political Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

Amb. Vaidotas Verba, Ambassador-at-large for Eastern Partnership, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania

Asim Mollahzade, Member of Parliament, International and Interparliamentary Relations Committee, Azerbaijan

Moderator:

Jarostaw Cwiek-Karpowicz, Programming Director, Polish Institute of International Affairs

12.45-14.15 NETWORKING LUNCH

14.15-16.00 PANEL 2

Different integration ambitions and visions of South Caucasian countries – clash of concepts or searching for synergy?

Each country of South Caucasus has different view on its integration perspectives in the field of security and foreign policy. Georgia prefers as fast integration to Euro-Atlantic structures, including NATO, as possible. Azerbaijan on the one hand balancing between relations with NATO and the United States and with Russia on the other. Armenia prefers close security cooperation with Moscow and continues to be a part of CSTO. The goal of the panel is to discuss perspectives of these ambitions, their potential as well as impact of different security orientation of South Caucasian countries on overall strategic situation in the region.

Speakers:

Tornike Sharashenidze, Full Professor, Georgian Institute of Public Affairs

Richard Giragosyan, Director, Regional Studies Center, Armenia

Bakhtiyar Aslanbayli, Professor of Security and Energy Politics, Baku State University

Moderator:

András Rácz, Senior Research Fellow, Hungarian Institute of International Affairs

19.00-21.00 GALA DINNER (upon invitations only)

DAY 2

9.30-09.45 KEYNOTE SPEECH

Gen. Vakhtang Kapanadze, Chief of General Staff of Georgian Armed Forces, Ministry of Defence of Georgia

9.45-11.45 PANEL 3

Black Sea region: theoretical concept or geopolitical reality?

Both decision-makers and academic sphere presented several concepts about the future of the Black Sea region. The most relevant visions came from Ukraine, Turkey,

Russia and Romania; however their basic goals are showing significant differences. The main goal of this panel is to assess whether these theoretical concepts are real at time being or they did not cross the bridge between real politics and academic sphere. Is the Black Sea region more than just a geographical term – does it have a real geopolitical essence? If it is perceived as a real value what are the interests of main actors? How particular countries are able to set out their visions at level of their alliances and/or partnerships? Or do they prefer national framework in acting as a Black Sea country? What they prefer: bilateral or multilateral framework? Is there something like Russian – Turkish condominium over the Black Sea? What is the role of NATO and European Union in the region and which countries are interested to involve these organizations into Black Sea affairs?

Speakers:

Cüneyt Gürer, PhD, Chief Superintendent, Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Georgia

Andrey Ryabov, Scholar in residence, Carnegie Moscow Centre

Sergiu Celac, President & CEO, Romanian Institute of International Studies “Nicolae Titulescu”

Tengiz Pkhaladze, Chairman, International Centre for Geopolitical Studies

Moderator:

Vít Štrátecký, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic

11.45-13.15 NETWORKING LUNCH

13.15-13.30 KEYNOTE SPEECH

H.E. Thrasyvoulos Terry Stamatopoulos, NATO’s Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Security Policy
(video conference)

13.30-15.15 PANEL 4

External actors in South Caucasus: USA, Russia, Turkey, European Union, NATO, OSCE

One of the crucial determining factors of South Caucasus strategic reality is strong political, military and economic presence of regional and global state and institutional actors. Their presence could be divided into direct and indirect or their combination. The US presence is most visible in terms of political influence, while Russia’s is more multidimensional, including direct military and economic presence and interests. Turkey’s involvement into region’s development is underlined by strong economic

interests as well as special relationship with Azerbaijan. What are the strategic visions and plans of these external actors? Are they competitive (USA / NATO – Russia) or cooperative (EU – NATO, USA – Turkey)? Are these interests acting as a fuel for regions unsolved internal conflicts or the opposite is the truth and they are downsizing the potential escalation tendencies?

Speakers:

William Lahue, Head of the NATO Liaison Office in Georgia

Oktay Firat Tannisever, Associate Professor, the Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey

Edward P. Joseph, Senior Fellow, Johns Hopkins SAIS Center for Transatlantic Relations, Washington DC

Moderator:

Robert Ondrejcsák, Director, CENAA

15.15-15.30 **COFFEE BREAK**

15.30-17.15 **PANEL 5**

Security Sector Reform in Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova: main challenges and opportunities

Each South Caucasian country is on the way of significant transition, however they are in different situation both internally and externally. The security sector reform is one of the crucial elements of every successful transition, a sine qua non for countries' democratic development. Each of the three countries of the region have significant common heritage in the field of SSR – on the other hand their strategic orientation is very different. It causes serious implication also in the field of SSR. Georgia's focus on participation in military operations abroad, in particular with NATO framework, means different challenges than Armenia's focus on territorial defence or Azerbaijan's strong military build-up. The goal of this panel is to assess main challenges which the three countries of the region has to face, as well as perspectives of solutions and potential application of Central European transition experiences.

Speakers:

Nodar Kharshiladze, Senior Fellow, GFSIS

Gayane Novikova, Director, Center for Strategic Analysis, SPECTRUM, Armenia

Kamal Makili-Aliyev, Research Fellow, Center for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SAM)

Valeriu Ostalep, Director, Institute for Diplomatic and Security studies, Moldova



Oleg Kokoshinski, Vice-President, Atlantic Council of Ukraine

Moderator:

Marian Majer, Senior Research Fellow, CENAA

17.15-17.30 CLOSING REMARKS

Robert Ondrejcsák, Director, CENAA

Alexander Rondeli, President, GFSIS

19.00-21.00 GALA DINNER (upon invitations only)

The 1st South Caucasus Security Forum (SCSF) is organized with support of the International Visegrad Fund

