

A New Euro-Atlantic Security Community

FEBRUARY 3, 2012—Today, 26 former generals, senior policymakers, and businesspeople from Russia, North America, and Europe warned that the security situation in the Euro-Atlantic region is sliding backward, and called for the creation of a new, more ambitious security dialogue in the region.

Two decades after the end of the Cold War, the Euro-Atlantic region remains blighted by Cold War postures and thinking, concluded the report of the Euro-Atlantic Security Initiative (EASI) released today at the 2012 Munich Security Conference. The report argues that a serious “deficit of trust” in security issues is placing the entire region under strain. Bred from old twentieth-century divisions, this distrust leaves the region dangerously ill prepared to handle the challenges of the twenty-first century.

Unveiling their findings, the members of EASI laid out a series of concrete steps in six areas to improve relations between Russia, Europe, and the United States, leading to the eventual creation of a genuine Euro-Atlantic Security Community:

- Missile defense cooperation in Europe
- Lengthened early warning and decisionmaking time in the military sphere
- Resolution of protracted conflicts
- Reconciliation of historical grievances between states
- Stabilization of the European Union-Russian gas relationship
- Collaboration in the Arctic

“None of us has ever participated in an effort of this type before, which includes not only the West, or Europe, or the United States, but also Russia,” said Wolfgang Ischinger, one of EASI’s three co-chairs and chairman of the Munich Security Conference.

“The way you begin to address the problem with distrust is to work together on projects that are important,” said Sam Nunn, EASI co-chair and former United States senator. “One recommendation we are making is to create more warning and decision time so that no country in the Euro-Atlantic area will be subject to a quick attack.”

“During the Cold War, no one spoke about the issue of energy security,” said Igor Ivanov, EASI co-chair and former Russian foreign minister. “In the Arctic we feel we have to avoid the previous mistakes, starting with the struggle around the zones of influence. It’s better to have the Arctic as a zone of cooperation that is on a clear legal basis which respects the interests of each country.”

In addition to the final report, EASI also released five working group papers on nonstrategic nuclear forces, Turkey’s role in the region, historical reconciliation and protracted conflicts, missile defense and early warning systems, and energy security.

About EASI

To move toward the goal of an inclusive Euro-Atlantic Security Community, a unique process was created in 2009 called the Euro-Atlantic Security Initiative (EASI) by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

For the first time, former policymakers, diplomats, generals, and business leaders from Russia, the United States, Canada, Central Europe, and European Union nations came together to chart a roadmap of practical action that would allow the region to leave its past behind and to start to build a more secure future based on mutual trust and cooperation.

EASI was co-chaired by Igor Ivanov, Wolfgang Ischinger, and Sam Nunn. The final report has the unanimous support of all commission members.

To find out more go to carnegieendowment.org/EASI.

Press Contact

Karly Schledwitz
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
kschledwitz@ceip.org
+1 202 939 2233