



Summit meetings of Heads of State and Government
Strasbourg, France / Kehl, Germany
3-4 April 2009

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President Obama's Participation in the 60th Anniversary NATO Summit Celebration In Strasbourg-Kehl

The White House

April 4, 2009

President Obama joined NATO leaders at the NATO Summit in Strasbourg-Kehl to celebrate sixty years of peace and security within the Alliance as the foundation for a Europe whole, free and at peace. The summit demonstrates the transatlantic commitment to the success and ongoing transformation of the Alliance to meet today's security challenges. From meeting NATO's crucial security tasks in Afghanistan to adapting NATO to confront new threats, NATO remains as vital to our common security in the 21st century as it was in the 20th century.

NATO's Commitment to Success in Afghanistan

Allies strongly endorsed President Obama's strategy for Afghanistan, reaffirming and building on the strategic consensus achieved at the March 31 International Conference on Afghanistan in The Netherlands, and committed to helping Afghans take on more responsibility for their political future and for protecting the Afghan people. In what was a down payment on greater international support for this strategy, NATO Allies and partners announced today that they will:

- Establish a NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan, drawing on NATO's successful experience training in Iraq, to oversee higher level training for the Afghan National Army while training and mentoring the Afghan National Police;
- Support this Afghan National Police training, including through the contributions of several allies who have committed over 300 new para-military trainers and mentors;
- * Fully resource the remaining requirements identified for the Election Support Force by deploying additional forces to assist the Afghan authorities in safeguarding the upcoming elections, which involves the deployment of over 3,000 new maneuver forces and required equipment from both allied and partner nations;
- * Provide over 70 NATO embedded training teams (OMLTs - Operational Mentoring Liaison Teams) required for 2009 to support the progressive enlargement of the Afghan National Army to a size of 134,000;
- * Expand the NATO Afghan National Army Trust Fund to include sustainment costs for an expanded Afghan National Army (allies provided a down payment of over \$100 million);
- * Build a broader political and practical relationship with Pakistan;

* Increase ongoing civilian reconstruction commitments through substantially enhanced support for civilian efforts and reconstruction (allies noted about \$500 million in ongoing and new civilian support today).

NATO leaders also:

- Underscored allied political will and commitment to meet the crucial common security challenge of assisting the Afghan government and the international community to establish a stable Afghanistan;
- Agreed that NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission in Afghanistan – NATO's largest and most challenging mission in its history – is key to preventing Afghanistan from becoming a safe haven for Al Qaeda and the Taliban, and a base for terror attacks that threaten all allies and the entire international community;
- And following close and intense consultations with the United States on its Afghanistan-Pakistan review, updated NATO's strategic political-military plan for its ISAF mission, stressing that success requires a stronger regional approach that involves all of Afghanistan's neighbors and greater civil-military coordination and civilian resources.

A Reinvigorated NATO Alliance

Today, the President participated in his first North Atlantic Council meeting in Strasbourg-Kehl. The summit showcased a renewed U.S. commitment to Europe and to restoring a sense of cohesion, community, and shared purpose in transatlantic relations. Over the past two days, NATO leaders:

- Celebrated the 60th anniversary of NATO, highlighting the Alliance's successes while reaffirming the value and the strategic purpose of the Alliance in providing collective defense and working to build a Europe whole and free and at peace;
- Agreed to renew NATO's shared sense of family united by common values; a commitment to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law;
- Welcomed France's decision to return, after over 40 years, to the integrated NATO military command structure, and agreed that France's full participation in NATO is a symbol of a renewed European commitment to NATO, which will strengthen the NATO Alliance and strengthen Europe.

- Welcomed Albania and Croatia as NATO's newest Allies, reinforcing the message that NATO's door remains open and that countries in Europe's East can become members when they meet NATO's performance-based standards and are able and ready to contribute to Allies' common security;
- Committed to a new transatlantic approach on Russia and Europe's East that deepens cooperation with NATO aspirants and advances positive engagement with Russia, including by restarting dialogue and cooperation through the NATO-Russia Council, and agreed to build pragmatic cooperation with Russia in areas of shared interest, such as in Afghanistan, counter-piracy initiatives, arms control, and counterterrorism;
- Committed NATO to meeting new challenges; confronting new asymmetric threats to include terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, cyber-attacks, environmental degradation and energy disruptions, and the fallout from failed states and the economic crisis;
- Issued a "Declaration of Alliance Security" as a first step to balancing NATO's traditional collective defense responsibilities with the need to modernize and transform to address new threats through the subsequent preparation of a new "Strategic Concept," NATO's mission statement for the future (last updated in 1999), to ensure that NATO remains as vital to our common security in the 21st century as it was in the 20th century.
- Selected a new Secretary General, Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen, to lead the reform of the Alliance so that it retains the flexibility and resources to meet the new challenges of our time.
http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Fact-Sheet-On-NATO-Summit-4-04-2009/

Remarks by President Obama at Strasbourg Town Hall

Rhenus Sports Arena

Strasbourg, France

April 3, 2009

It is wonderful to be here with all of you and to have an opportunity not only to speak to you but also to take some questions. You know, oftentimes during these foreign trips you see everything from behind a window, and what we thought was important was for me to have an opportunity to not only speak with you but also to hear from you, because that's ultimately how we can learn about each other. But before I take some

questions, I hope you don't mind me making a few remarks about my country and yours; the relationship between the United States and the relationship between Europe.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-President-Obama-at-Strasbourg-Town-Hall/

Remarks by President Obama at Meeting of North Atlantic Council

Palais de la Musique et Des Congres

Strasbourg, France

April 4, 2009

President Obama words: "Thank you so much. I want to address my remarks directly to the delegation from Albania and Croatia and their leadership: Welcome to NATO. We are very excited about your participation. The Atlantic Alliance is 60 years old and it's a measure of our vitality that we are still welcoming new members".

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-By-President-Obama-At-Meeting-Of-North-Atlantic-Council/

Press Briefing by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and National Security Advisor General Jim Jones on the NATO Summit

April 3, 2009

<http://london.usembassy.gov/potus09april/potus18.html>

CONCLUSIONS

Strasbourg / Kehl Summit Declaration

Issued by the Heads of State and Government participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Strasbourg / Kehl on 4 April 2009

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/news_52837.htm?mode=pressrelease

Summit Declaration on Afghanistan

Issued by the Heads of State and Government participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Strasbourg / Kehl on 4 April 2009

In Afghanistan we are helping build security for the Afghan people, protecting our citizens and defending the values of freedom, democracy and human rights. Our common security is closely tied to the stability and security of Afghanistan and the region: an area of the world from where extremists planned attacks against civilian populations and democratic governments and continue to plot today. Through our UN-

mandated mission, supported by our International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) partners, and working closely with the Afghan government, we remain committed for the long-run to supporting a democratic Afghanistan that does not become, once more, a base for terror attacks or a haven for violent extremism that destabilises the region and threatens the entire International Community. For this reason Afghanistan remains the Alliance's key priority.

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/news_52836.htm?mode=pressrelease

Declaration on Alliance Security

Issued by the Heads of State and Government participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Strasbourg / Kehl on 4 April 2009

We, the Heads of State and Government of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, met today in Strasbourg and Kehl to celebrate the 60th anniversary of our Alliance. We have reaffirmed the values, objectives and obligations of the Washington Treaty which unite Europe with the United States and Canada, and have provided our transatlantic community with an unprecedented era of peace and stability. We have also reaffirmed our adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/news_52838.htm?mode=pressrelease

NATO's Afghanistan Report 2009

This is the second Annual Report on Afghanistan produced by NATO's Public Diplomacy Division. It does not attempt to catalogue each and every activity being carried out by all international actors, individual nations and the Afghan Government. It does, however, offer a general look at progress in each of the three main lines of effort in which NATO-ISAF is involved, directly or in a supporting role: security, governance and development. And it goes beyond setting out only what NATO-ISAF has done; it attempts to provide the reader with a broader and more balanced picture, including both elements of progress and those areas in which more needs to be done.

The conclusion we draw from this report is simple: while the challenges in Afghanistan remain huge, so is the international will and the international effort to help the Afghan people overcome them. A strong foundation is being built – more slowly than we would like, but steadily – for a better, more secure future for the Afghan people, including through this year's Presidential elections, the second after the fall of the Taliban.

http://www.nato.int/nato_static/assets/pdf/pdf_2009_03/20090331_090331_afghanistan_report_2009.pdf