## AT: Strategic Concept DA

### Diverg inevitable

#### NATO divergences inevitable --- differences over Ukraine

Mamedov 6/30/22

(Eldar Mamedov, “NATO boasts unity but potential for division lies ahead,” pg online @ <https://responsiblestatecraft.org/2022/06/30/nato-talks-unity-but-potential-for-division-lies-ahead/> //um-ef)

Given that the eastern Europeans perceive the threat from Russia as existential, they are not going to compromise on their reliance on NATO and United States in favor of a more (Western) European-centered security arrangement. Current and future U.S administrations may opt to deepen ties with them not only to counter Russia, but also to keep in check any real moves towards strategic autonomy by Europe’s Western nations. That was, in essence, Trump’s policy. With its enhanced military deployments in eastern Europe, Biden is continuiung it, even if cloaked in a more friendly language towards the “allies.” France, Germany, and Italy, as a consequence, will be incentivized to pull themselves more tightly together to preserve their relevance and interests, particularly if, as expected, the economic situation becomes more dire and calls for an end to war grow more vocal. That also explains these countries’ relative lack of enthusiasm (except in the German Green Party) towards the prospects of Ukraine’s membership in both EU and NATO — in their view, such moves will further displace Europe’s geopolitical center of gravity towards the east, with the concomitant increase of American influence at their expense. The more prolonged the war in Ukraine, the more divergent national perspectives within NATO and the EU will pull its members in different directions. The talk of transatlantic unity will do little to address the emerging cleavages.

### Split Over Ukraine

#### Lack of unity and coherence on strategy --- splits on Ukraine strategy

Osborne 7/8/22

(Tony, “Europe Commits To Defense, But Is Unity Cracking?,” pg online @ <https://aviationweek.com/shownews/farnborough-airshow/europe-commits-defense-unity-cracking> //um-ef)

NATO and EU leaders have spoken warmly of the unity demonstrated by member states, and across the continent, European allies have set in motion spending hikes that could reverse decades of swingeing cuts imposed since the end of the Cold War. Traditionally nonmilitarily-aligned Finland and Sweden have submitted requests to join NATO, and a Danish referendum has chosen to end the country’s long-standing opt-out to Europe’s Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP). Many European countries, along with Australia, Canada and the U.S., have supplied ever-increasing amounts of weapons and equipment to Ukraine while backfilling equipment into those Eastern European countries that are transferring Soviet-era gear eastward. Yet as the war approaches its 150th day, fractures are appearing. Nations appear divided over how the conflict should end, either through negotiated settlement between Kyiv and Moscow or the complete removal of Russian forces from Ukrainian soil. There is also disagreement over how to manage the social, political and economic impact that the conflict and sanctions imposed on Russia are having on everyday life in Europe, as energy prices skyrocket and propel inflation to historic highs. Questions remain about the levels of military equipment to supply to Ukraine, too, as well as where Europe’s renewed defense spending should be directed, where equipment will be sourced and whether—after years of cuts—armed forces will have the resources to absorb the vast amounts of equipment they are gearing up to buy. “European unity has been much stronger than [Russian President Vladimir] Putin probably would have expected,” says Bastian Giegerich, the director of defense and military analysis at the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies. “But my worry is that we are past peak coherence on this matter . . . and beginning to see some splits emerge.” He cites recent struggles among EU members to agree on new sanctions packages. “This doesn’t mean it will all fall apart, but I think it’ll be more difficult now to keep the pressure on,” he adds.

#### Ukraine support low now

Brotman 7/5 [Alexander, political risk and intelligence analyst with a focus on EU politics and security developments; “Opinion – The NATO Madrid Summit and the Alliance’s New Dawn”; July 7, 2022; <https://www.e-ir.info/2022/07/05/opinion-the-nato-madrid-summit-and-the-alliances-new-dawn/>; Accessed 7/25/22; Lowell-ES]

In addition, the cost-of-living crisis, economic, and energy security factors are likely to test European member states’ support for Ukraine as the autumn and winter loom. This has already divided NATO member states between those who wish to see a full Russian withdrawal and for Ukraine to regain control of the entirety of its territory, versus those who think Kyiv should accept a peace settlement with Russia to avert further bloodshed and economic pain in Europe. Poland, the Baltic states, the US, and the UK fall into the first camp, whilst France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, and several others fall into the second. The alliance may now be formally united in recognizing the scale of the threat from Russia, but it is not united as to the degree that that threat should trump individual member states’ economic and security needs. ‘Ukraine fatigue’ is already setting in and it looks likely to increase as the months drag on, something that Moscow is all too eager to exploit.

#### NATO ununified and not set on plan

Global Times 7/30 [Global Times; “‘Unity of NATO’ a disguise of its existential crisis”; June 30, 2022; <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202206/1269395.shtml>; Accessed 7/25/22; Lowell-ES]

On the issue of the Russia-Ukraine conflict alone, there are different demands among Western countries, as Germany, France and Italy want to stop the war as soon as possible, and the US is calling on all NATO countries to make a common cause against Russia. Wang Shuo, a professor at the School of International Relations of Beijing Foreign Studies University, believes that in this situation, many European countries are questioning whether NATO can solve the crisis in Ukraine. If it cannot work, what's the point of NATO's existence? At the moment when Europeans believe that NATO needs to play a role, it proved itself disunited and incompetent, another sign of NATO's existential crisis.

#### Current strategy fails and no cohesion

Than 7/23 [Krisztina, manager of Hungarian relations at Reuters; “Orban urges new EU strategy on Ukraine, says sanctions have failed”; July 23, 2022; <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/hungarys-orban-calls-new-eu-strategy-ukraine-war-says-sanctions-failed-2022-07-23/>; Accessed 7/25/22]

"A new strategy is needed which should focus peace talks and drafting a good peace proposal...instead of winning the war," Orban said in a speech in Romania.

Orban, reelected for a fourth consecutive term in April, reiterated that Hungary - a NATO member - would stay out of the war in neighbouring Ukraine.

He is facing his toughest challenge since taking power in 2010, with inflation in double digits, a weak forint and EU funds still held up amid a dispute with Brussels over democratic standards.

Orban has said before that Hungary is unwilling to support EU embargoes or limitations on Russian gas imports as that would undermine its economy, which is about 85% reliant on Russian gas imports.

He said in his speech that the Western strategy on Ukraine has been built on four pillars - that Ukraine can win a war against Russia with NATO weapons, that sanctions would weaken Russia and destabilise its leadership, that sanctions would hurt Russia more than Europe, and that the world would line up in support of Europe.

Orban said this strategy has failed as governments in Europe are collapsing "like dominoes", energy prices have surged and a new strategy was needed now.

"We are sitting in a car that has a puncture in all four tyres: it is absolutely clear that the war cannot be won in this way," Orban told his supporters.

He said Ukraine will never win the war this way "quite simply because the Russian army has assymetrical dominance".

Orban said there was no chance for peace talks between Russia and Ukraine.

"As Russia wants security guarantees, this war can be ended only with peace talks between Russia and America," he said.

#### Fighting in squo

Pettypiece 6/29 [Shannon, American print and broadcast journalist and currentSenior White House Correspondent for NBC News Digital; “U.S. to boost land, sea and air power in Europe in response to invasion of Ukraine”; June 29, 2022; <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/biden-seeks-united-front-nato-summit-deal-add-finland-sweden-rcna35718>; Accessed 7/25/22]

The alliance will also make it clear in its so-called Strategic Concept that it no longer views Russia as a “strategic partner” but as a “direct threat to our security, to our values, to the rules-based international order,” he said at a news conference Monday.

But a number of questions remain this week, such as how to fund efforts to build up NATO’s defenses. Just nine of the member countries are meeting the NATO target of spending 2 percent of their gross domestic product on defense, an amount that Stoltenberg said is becoming the “floor and not the ceiling.”

“This constitutes the biggest increase of our collective defense and deterrence since the Cold War, and to do this we need to invest more,” he said.

Defense costs are rising as many countries feel the economic effects of rising inflation, particularly soaring energy prices, and German officials have warned that Germany could slip into a recession if Russia were to further cut the amount of gas it is piping to the country.

While the U.S. and Canada have already banned all Russian oil imports, the European Union is taking a more gradual approach, aiming to stop importing Russian oil by the end of the year. But the move has been opposed by Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, who has been an ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

China has been another area of differing approaches among NATO members. The group is expected for the first time to discuss the “challenges Beijing poses to our security interests and values,” Stoltenberg said. While Biden has pushed for a hard line on China, other member countries have been hesitant in how far to go, given their economic dependence on China as a trading partner.