

NATO New Strategic Concept main focus at 2010 SMPC - ACT

Written by U.S. Navy Petty Officer Sarah R. Langdon
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NATO's New Strategic Concept was the focus of discussion at Allied Command Transformation's (ACT) Strategic Military Partners Conference (SMPC) in Helsinki, June 14-16.

The recent work developing NATO's New Strategic Concept provided an opportunity for representatives of all NATO, Partnership for Peace (PfP), Mediterranean Dialogue (MD), Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) and Contact Country (CC) Chiefs of Defence (CHOD) attending the event to discuss strategic issues important to NATO and its partners.

According to French Air Force General Stéphane Abrial, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT), the Strategic Military Partner Conference (SMPC) could not have taken place at a better time.

"A year of reflection on the new Strategic Concept resulted in a very fruitful conclusion with the delivery of the NATO 2020 Report by Dr. [Madeleine] Albright and other notable contributors," Abrial said during the conference. "We are now at a critical juncture as we enter the consultation phase that will culminate in the drafting of the actual Concept. These collaborative efforts begin our journey down a path to its approval by the Nations at the Lisbon Summit scheduled for November 2010."

The conference hosted representatives from 49 NATO Nations and Partner countries and consisted of a Chief of Defence's (CHOD) Day and workshop. The CHOD's Day centered on promoting strategic level discussion, and question and answer sessions aimed at providing national perspectives.

The workshop, held on the second day, allowed remaining CHODs, International Staff (IS), International Military Staff (IMS) and ACT Subject Matter Experts to continue the discussion and to examine specific questions in more depth.

In his remarks at the conference, Italian Navy Admiral Giampaolo Di Paola, Chairman of NATO's Military Committee (MC), stressed the importance and value of partner contributions to NATO's transformation.

"Knowing each other leads to better understanding and mutual trust," Di Paola said. "This cultural dimension is the foundation of our ability to interact with each other and face common challenges together"

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Details from the conference will be captured in a SMPC Analysis Report to be applied within the Strategic Concept development process and disseminated throughout NATO to the NATO Secretary General and all conference participants. For more information on the SMPC, please visit the [SMPC Portal](#) .