

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear distinguished guests,

In my capacity as Vice-Rector for International Affairs, **let me welcome you** at the National University of Public Service. It is an honour to greet you this morning as our University is always keen to maintain and enhance our cooperation with NATO. We have enjoyed great cooperation with every branch of NATO, and it is especially true for Allied Command Transformation. We have had the privilege of hosting a lecture by *Denis Mercier*, the previous Supreme Allied Commander Transformation just last year, and this event fits perfectly into the continuing great cooperation between ACT and NUPS.

We are at the Ludovika Campus, the best possible location for this workshop, since modernity meets tradition here. Although – in its current form – our university was established only in 2012, the history of military higher education in Hungary dates back to 1808. The Royal Hungarian Ludovika Academy was established on these grounds that year, and even today, we consider this institution as one of the spiritual predecessor of NUPS. Nowadays, NUPS has a wide training portfolio. Next to military officers, we train other public servants on all three levels of tertiary education, and we also undertake further education programmes for the entire Hungarian public sector.

As a research institution we are keen on maintaining and expanding our international partner network in cooperation with our allies.

NATO has been the cornerstone of Hungarian defence policy in the last 2-2,5 decades. We have enjoyed a mutually beneficial cooperation, but as great general Napoleon Bonaparte have said: “History is the version of past events that people have decided to agree upon.”, so we must focus on enhancing our cooperation of the future.

In this respect the Allied Command Transformation is the most important command of NATO, since it is the facilitator of change and improvement. Thus, it is an even greater honour to host this event. Both the Framework for Future Alliance Operation and the Strategic Foresight Analysis reports are documents of considerable importance, as they do the most difficult job: predicting the future. No one knows for sure what the future brings and – although it is a cliché to say – we must be prepared for everything that arises. The work ACT does in this field is unquestionable, and it is great that NUPS can be a part of it, and host this great event.

In my closing remarks, let me wish you all a fruitful discussion both today in the upcoming other days as well! Thank you for your attention and I wish you a pleasant time here!