

## **Russian MFA Spokesman Andrei Nesterenko Commentary on the Outcome of the NATO Anniversary Summit in Strasbourg/Kehl**

**Question:** How can you comment on the outcome of the NATO anniversary summit held in Strasbourg/Kehl?

**Answer:** The decisions adopted by the leaders of the NATO member countries, especially in the part concerning elaboration of the alliance's new strategic concept and relations with Russia, are being studied with regard for the consequences that the activities of the North Atlantic Alliance have for the development of the overall military-political situation in the Euro-Atlantic area, primarily near our borders.

Moscow will attentively look at the specific moves to be taken to realize the summit-approved directives for the transformation of NATO, including the declared commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It is important for us to understand how NATO's activities will be written into the efforts of the international community to bolster global and regional stability, what the algorithm will be for cooperation with the UN and other multilateral organizations, what tasks will be set for the security potential of the alliance and whether they will correspond to the norms of international law. Quite a few questions also arise in connection with the intentions to endow the alliance with functions in the spheres of energy and cyber security and climate change.

We presume that the principle of the indivisibility of security, set forth in the basic Russia-NATO Council and OSCE documents, should apply not just to the members of the alliance, but to all countries in the North-Atlantic area as well. This is the main criteria by which it will be possible to judge how serious the provisions of the outcome documents of the NATO summit are, proclaiming as they do the mindset for a constructive dialogue on streamlining the European security architecture. Today as never before, coordinated efforts by all countries and organizations active in the Euro-Atlantic region are called for.

The readiness declared at the Strasbourg/Kehl summit for an early resumption of the normal work of the Russia-NATO Council confirms the NATO leaders' awareness of the need for cooperation with Russia and preparedness to remove the artificial obstacles that arose in connection with NATO's position regarding the armed attack on South Ossetia.

We really have fundamentally different assessments of the causes and consequences of the tragic events in Transcaucasia. We hope that the countries of the alliance have drawn the necessary conclusions regarding the risks connected with the militarization of the regime in Tbilisi and the creation in it of a feeling of all-permissiveness by speedily drawing Georgia into NATO.

The further development of our partnership with the alliance will largely depend on the extent to which NATO is prepared to conduct a conversation on an honest and equal basis, with due consideration for mutual interests and concerns, and to construct relations with Russia not as an opponent, but as a partner in the realm of security.

To resume the normal work of the RNC the restoration of trust is particularly important, including a frank conversation about the necessity of the observance by our partners of the basic principles for the work of the RNC, as agreed upon at its founding. In the first place, it is about the inadmissibility of attempts to secure oneself at another's expense. Only through equal cooperation is it possible to achieve the objective proclaimed at the highest level, to erase the dividing lines in Europe inherited from the Cold War era and to create an effective capability of response to the common challenges for all our countries.

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