



**THE EMBASSY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
IN THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES**

---

Avenue Jose Vasconcelos 204, Colony Hipodromo Condesa,  
Postal Code: 11000, Mexico City  
Tels: 5273-1305, 5516-0870 Fax: 5273-1545  
E-mail: embrumex@hotmail.com

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Russian MFA Information and Press Department Commentary Regarding  
Decisions Adopted at NATO Council Meeting in Brussels**

**Question:** How can you comment on the decisions taken by foreign ministers from the NATO member countries in Brussels – on Russia and on the issue of a Membership Action Plan for Ukraine and Georgia?

**Commentary:** We have taken notice of the proposal of the foreign ministers of the North Atlantic Alliance countries for resumption of political dialogue with Russia in the Russia-NATO Council format. And although this process is surrounded with a number of conditions, we believe that the alliance is returning to positions of realism. A majority of its countries did not tow behind attempts to reanimate the imaginary threat from the East in the Cold War spirit and are aware of the counterproductiveness of the absence of dialogue with Russia on key security issues.

That a decision was not taken to offer Georgia and Ukraine a Membership Action Plan, in our judgment, reflects the awareness of the risks linked with bringing these countries into the alliance swiftly.

Of course, in our further policy in relations with NATO we cannot but take the lessons of August into account, when the alliance failed to take steps to prevent the adventure of Tbilisi, and held the one-sided position of trying to justify Tbilisi, acting according to the “ours/theirs” logic. And when contrary to the provisions of the Rome Declaration on convening emergency consultations in the RNC in the event of crisis situations a number of countries of the alliance blocked dialogue in this format.

We are convinced that effective cooperation within the Russia-NATO Council is possible only on an honest and equal basis, with regard for mutual interests and concerns. Russia did not initiate curtailing political dialogue in the RNC. In addition,

Council members work in their national capacity, and so not one of the sides can impose its own “game conditions.” A further development of the dialogue will depend on the striving of all RNC members to jointly seek common ground.

We are not supporters of a new Cold War edition. We will continue to work towards overcoming the confrontational logic in European affairs in order to prevent the appearance of new dividing lines or areas with different levels of security.

December 4, 2008