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NATO Summit Warsaw 2016: a primer

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Summary

The NATO summit in Poland begins on Friday 8 July 2016. The Secretary General of NATO expects it to be a 'landmark' summit. NATO faces challenges on two fronts: to the east from Russia and to the south from ongoing conflict in Middle East and North Africa.

The Summit will see NATO adopt further measures, building on those made at its previous summit in 2014, to deter Russia from any military aggression against its members. This includes the deployment of four multinational battalions to the Baltic States and Poland (one of which will be led by the UK). In addition the summit will discuss how the Alliance address instability in North Africa and the Middle East, including countering Daesh/ISIS and the refugee and migration crisis. This will include a joint statement with the EU. Members are expected to reaffirm the commitment to spend 2% of GDP on defence.

Other topics include missile defence and cyberspace as an operational domain. Montenegro will be at the Summit as an observer nation, while it awaits the formalities of joining NATO as the 29th member of the Alliance to be completed.

Key information

Poland hosts the next summit meeting of NATO heads of state and government in [Warsaw](#) on 8-9th July. Decisions are issued in declarations and communiqués throughout the two day summit. The last summit hosted by the UK in Newport in Wales in September 2014. Defence and Foreign Ministers of the 28 members of the Alliance meet regularly between summits. Warsaw is the 27th summit since the Alliance was created in 1949. Jens Stoltenberg is the Secretary-General of NATO. All decisions are taken by consensus.

What's on the agenda?

How NATO responds to the different yet equally challenging situations along its eastern and southern flanks will dominate the summit. NATO faces a “more complex array of challenges and threats than it has since at least the end of the Cold War” with an “aggressive and assertive Russia” to the east and an unstable Middle East and North Africa to the south, both right on NATO’s doorstep, according to a senior [NATO official](#). A Financial Times editorial on 4 July says the summit “will pose a serious test of the nerve of the western alliance.”

This will be a “landmark Summit”

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg

Two themes are driving the Summit’s agenda: [balance and adaption](#). According to NATO’s deputy Secretary-General, balance means two things. Firstly, to balance the major threats to NATO coming “from two strategic directions at the same time” and secondly to balance deterrence with dialogue: to deter Russian aggression towards allies while also wishing to continue to have a dialogue with Moscow.¹ Unstated is the need to balance the competing demands of NATO members who may prioritise differently these two challenges depending on their own personal circumstance and geographic location. ‘Adaption’ means continuing to adapt NATO’s force posture to ensure it is able to deter and defend against potential threats.

Specific decisions are expected to include:

- An ‘enhanced forward presence’ of four battalions, provided on a multinational, rotational basis, in Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland (the UK is expected to lead the one in Estonia) to act as a deterrent to Russia. Other measures may include an enhancement of NATO’s presence in the Black Sea region, continuing the high tempo of multinational exercises and improvements to NATO’s logistical capabilities in Eastern Europe.
- A joint statement with the EU about closer NATO-EU relations
- Enhance its naval presence in the Mediterranean and Aegean seas to support EU efforts in responding to the migration crisis and to disrupt human traffickers
- Continue Operation Resolute Support in Afghanistan beyond 2016
- Reaffirm the Defence Investment Pledges: to spend 2% of GDP on defence and 20% of defence spending on equipment within a decade
- A greater focus on cyber-defence with cyberspace an operational domain

In terms of broader themes, expect much talk about NATO’s core purpose: the collective defence of its members. This is enshrined in Article 5 of the Washington Treaty (NATO’s founding document) which states that an attack against one is considered an attack against all. Article 5 has only been invoked once, after the 9/11 attacks in 2001. Russia’s annexation of Crimea in 2014 has spurred NATO allies, particularly those who border Russia, to reassert the principle of collective defence.

To that end there will likely be a reaffirmation of the pledge made at the [Wales summit](#) that it will “maintain the full range of capabilities necessary to deter and defend against any threat to the safety and security of our populations, wherever it should arise”.

¹ [“NATO at 67: What \(complex\) agenda for NATO’s Warsaw Summit? Remarks by NATO Deputy Secretary General Alexander Vershbow”, 8 April 2016](#)

Deterrence involves an “appropriate mix of conventional, nuclear and missile defence capabilities.”

The UK Government has promised a vote in Parliament on the renewal of the UK’s strategic nuclear forces, Trident, which the Summit declaration notes “contribute to the overall deterrence and security of the Alliance.” No date has been given for the vote though press reports have speculated it could come before summer recess on 21 July 2016.

Box 1: The UK and NATO

The UK’s membership of NATO is unchanged by the result of the referendum on membership of the EU. However this is the first NATO meeting to be held since the UK voted to leave the EU in the referendum on 23 June. As such, while strictly speaking not on the agenda, it will inevitably be a topic of conversation.

The UK is a founding member of NATO and one of its largest military forces. It is one of only a handful of members able to deploy an operational headquarters – i.e. to command a mission.

Defence Secretary [Michael Fallon](#) has identified the UK’s goals for the summit as: supporting the NATO response to Russia; press Allies to comply with the commitment to spend 2% of GDP on defence, as the UK does; and make the Alliance more adaptable to deal with new threats, including cyber and hybrid warfare. [Fallon](#) has also spoken of moving beyond a posture centred on deterrence and reinforcement to one which can enhance NATO’s resilience to hybrid warfare.

Response to Russia: the Readiness Action Plan

NATO has implemented the “[most significant strengthening](#)” of its collective defence posture since the end of the Cold War in the last two years in response to Russia’s actions in Ukraine, its annexation of Crimea and build of military forces along NATO’s eastern flank.

NATO adopted the *Readiness Action Plan (RAP)* at its summit in Wales in response and the Alliance will build on this plan in Warsaw. Library Briefing Paper [NATO’s military response to Russia](#) provides a more detailed examination of RAP and action taken by NATO.

Briefly, the Readiness Action Plan is divided into Assurance and Adaptive measures:

- Assurance measures seek to reassure the members of the Alliance that border Russia. These include bolstering air policing and air surveillance in the Baltics and along NATO’s eastern flank and a more visible military presence in these states by means of a significant increase in multinational exercises and training.
- Adaptive measures seek to adapt NATO’s force structure to strengthen the ability of the Alliance to respond to any crisis that may occur. These include significantly enlarging the existing Response Force to 40,000 personnel, creating a new ‘spearhead’ Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF) of around 5,000 troops, establishing new small headquarters and pre-positioning equipment in member states along the eastern flank.

Members of NATO who border Russia have repeatedly voiced their fears of their vulnerability to a Russian attack, particularly the Baltic States. A recent study by [RAND Corporation](#) suggested the Baltic States could be overrun by Russia in a matter of days. This warning is echoed in a study authored by three former high-level NATO military commanders for the Estonian International Centre for Defence and Security (‘[closing NATO’s Baltic Gap](#)’) which recommends the deployment of a battalions to each of the Baltic States to provide a credible deterrence to Russia. [Poland](#) has expressed similar concern about its vulnerabilities.

Not all in NATO agree. The German foreign minister, [Frank-Walter Steinmeier](#), has accused NATO of inflaming tensions with Russia by “warmongering and stomping boots.” Russia has long argued that it believes NATO broke a promise made after German reunification not to expand eastwards. [Vladimir Putin](#) argues NATO is looking for an external enemy to justify its existence.

Likely announcements at Warsaw

An “enhanced forward presence” of four battalions which will be based in the three Baltic States and Poland on a multinational, rotational basis. Defence Ministers agreed this at their February 2016 meeting and the detail will be revealed in Warsaw. The UK, Canada, Germany and the United States are expected to be the lead nations, with the UK expected to take command in Estonia. This will be confirmed, with details, at the Summit.

Further improvements to logistics and communications to enable quick reinforcements across Allied territory. This includes reducing the red tape to ease movement of munitions and personnel. The UK’s chief of the Army, General Sir Nicholas Carter, expressed frustration with these restrictions in evidence to the [defence committee](#) before the summit. Jens Stoltenberg says NATO states have made significant progress in cutting red tape and updating procedures to improve movement.

Continuing a dialogue with Russia. The collapse of the Soviet Union prompted a fresh relationship between NATO and Russia, who signed the Founding Act in 1997 and established a NATO-Russia Council in 2002. That changed in 2014 and NATO condemned Russia’s actions in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine. The Council met for the first time in two years in April 2016, [Stoltenberg](#) said afterwards that while keeping channels of communication is important there is no return to business as usual. A Russia-NATO Council is expected after the summit. [Reuters](#) has reported a NATO-Russia Council will be held after the Summit.

Continuing the high tempo of exercises held in nations in NATO’s eastern flank. The UK has significantly increased the number of personnel it has contributed to NATO exercises since 2011: in that year just under 700 personnel participated in NATO exercises. An estimated 9,000 will do so in 2016.² The largest NATO exercise this year involved 31,000 troops from 23 nations in Exercise Anakonda in Poland in June 2016, while exercise Trident Juncture held in autumn last year involved 36,000 personnel. A full list of major exercises for 2016 is available in a NATO [factsheet](#).

An increased NATO presence in the [Black Sea region](#), likely to be a land element built around a multinational framework brigade in Romania. [Romania](#) is pushing for a stronger NATO presence to deter Russia which borders the Black Sea along with NATO members Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey. Romania has floated the idea of regular NATO naval deployment to the Black Sea, although warships from countries not bordering the Sea may only remain there for 21 days.³

The Defence Committee will publish its report [Russia: the implications for UK defence and security](#) on 5 July and it will be discussed in Parliament on Thursday 7 July.

² [DEP2016-0571](#), 27 June 2016

³ The 1936 Montreux Convention restricts the movement of naval vessels to the Black Sea fleet. Specifically, it restricts the maximum aggregate tonnage of naval vessels passing through the Turkish Straits and a maximum time limit of 21 days for naval vessels of non-Black Sea nations to remain in the Black Sea.

Box 2: UK military contribution to Readiness Action Plan

The UK has contributed air, land and sea forces to NATO's Readiness Action plan:

- Three deployments of Typhoon aircraft to the Baltic Air Policing mission in 2014, 2015 and 2016
- Contribute a battle group of 1,000 personnel to the VJTF each year from 2016 into next decade
- Lead the VJTF in 2017 with up to 3,000 personnel and on rotation thereafter
- Significantly increased the number of personnel participating in NATO exercises: from 700 in 2011 to 6,000 personnel on NATO exercises in 2015 and an estimated 9,000 personnel in 2016⁴
- Sentry aircraft conducted air surveillance flights over Poland and Romania in 2014
- Warships patrolling Baltic Sea
- A frigate and a destroyer to be deployed to NATO's standing maritime group 1 in 2016, for the first time since 2010

The UK's 2015 National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review notably places a higher emphasis on a potential threat from Russia than did its predecessor document in 2010.⁵

The Warsaw summit is likely to announce the UK will lead a battalion to Estonia as part of the new 'enhanced forward presence' measures.

Russia's response

Russia has long blamed NATO for breaking perceived promises Moscow believes NATO made after German reunification in the 1990s to not expand further. Vladimir Putin [cited](#) NATO's subsequent incorporation of former Warsaw Pact countries, the Baltic States and former Soviet Republics when justifying Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014. More recently, in a [speech](#) in June 2016, Putin accused the US and its allies of using the Ukrainian crisis to "justify the existence of the North Atlantic bloc" arguing "they need an external adversary, an external enemy, otherwise what's the purpose of this organization? There is no Warsaw Pact, no Soviet Union, so whom is it directed against?"⁶

Russia published a [new military doctrine](#) in 2014. NATO tops the list of main external risks to Russia, specifically the build of the power potential of NATO, the deployment of military infrastructure of NATO members near the border of the Russian federation and further expansion of the Alliance as the first in its list of main external military risks to Russia. It also identified the build-up of military forces of foreign states in the territories of states contiguous with the Russian federation, and the establishment of strategic missile defence systems. Moscow published an update to its 2001 Maritime Doctrine in 2015 which specifically sets targets for "developing infrastructures" for Russia's fleet in Crimea and also calls for "accelerated reconstitution and completion of strategic Russian positions" in the Black Sea. It also puts a renewed emphasis upon the Atlantic and the Arctic.

Russia has embarked on a major military modernisation programme. The '[Closing NATO's Baltic Gap](#)' report observes that some of the most capable formations in Russia's Armed Forces are located in the Western Military District with many units positioned in the immediate vicinity of the Baltic States. NATO points to a more military assertive Russia, witnessed not just in the events in 2014 in Crimea and eastern Ukraine but with an

⁴ [DEP2016-0571](#), 27 June 2016

⁵ See House of Commons library briefing papers: [The 2015 UK National Security Strategy](#), CBP7431, 14 December 2015, and [The 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review](#), CBP7462, 12 January 2016

⁶ Andrew T. Wolff explores the history of NATO-Russia tension over expansion in an article in [International Affairs](#), September 2015.

increase in military exercises and military activity along NATO's borders, including aircraft flying near UK airspace.⁷

Instability to the south and working with the EU

The 2014 Summit was dominated by Russia. While Russia again will top the agenda equal billing will be given to the southern flank where a complex mix of interwoven threats emanate from across the Mediterranean Sea.

Closer relationship with the EU

One response to this is to improve working relations with the EU. [NATO-EU](#) cooperation is on the agenda of the NATO summit and a joint NATO-EU declaration will be issued in Warsaw by the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission and the NATO Secretary General. Jens Stoltenberg attended the European Council meeting on 28 June 2016. The [European Council conclusions](#) called for a closer relationship with NATO which "should take the form of accelerated practical cooperation in selected areas."

NATO's [deputy Secretary-General](#) has identified hybrid warfare, cyber defence and civil preparedness and resilience as areas where he sees scope for closer cooperation between NATO and the EU. The UK's [top diplomat](#) to NATO has previously bemoaned the lack of communication and cooperation between the two institutions when, he argues, hybrid threats will almost always demand a multi-institutional response.

High Representative Federica Mogherini presented the EU [Global Strategy](#) on foreign and security policy to the European Council meeting. It notes while NATO exists to defend its members from attack "Europeans must be better equipped, trained and organised to contribute decisively to such collective efforts, well as to act autonomously if and when necessary." The Strategy continues:

The EU needs to be strengthened as a security community: European security and defence efforts should enable the EU to act autonomously while also contributing to and undertaking actions in cooperation with NATO.

In terms of specifics, the EU identified the need for "coordinated defence capability development, parallel and synchronised exercises, and mutually reinforcing actions to build the capacities of our partners, counter hybrid and cyber threats, and promote maritime security."

Response to migration crisis

The European Union is leading the regional response to the refugee and migration crisis emanating from North Africa.

On 20 June 2016 the EU extended its naval operation to disrupt people smugglers and traffickers in the southern central Mediterranean, [Operation Sophia](#), until July 2017. It also added two new tasks:

- Training and sharing information with Libyan coastguard and navy
- Contributing to the implementation of the UN arms embargo on the high seas off the coast of Libya

NATO decided in February 2016 to provide maritime support to Greece and Turkey to assist with the refugee and migrant crisis. Specifically, NATO ships, deployed as Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 (including Royal Auxiliary Fleet Cardigan Bay) are patrolling the

⁷ See Library Briefing Paper [NATO's military response to Russia](#) for specific examples.

[Aegean Sea](#) providing surveillance and reconnaissance and information to the Turkish and Greek coastguards and the EU border agency Frontex.

NATO has ruled out a [combat role](#) in Libya but says it is instead ready to help the Libyan Government with [Defence Capacity Building initiatives](#), as it is already doing in Iraq and Jordan. Library briefing paper [British soldiers to Libya?](#) examines talk of a possible British training role in Libya.

Operation Active Endeavour

NATO launched its maritime operation Active Endeavour in the Mediterranean Sea in response to the 9/11 attacks in 2011 as a counter-terrorism mission. The operation is under the overall command of and is conducted from Northwood, UK. NATO is working on [converting](#) the mission into a “broader maritime security operation, including supporting situational awareness, countering terrorism and contributing to capacity-building” and further details of this may emerge at the Summit.

Daesh in Iraq and Syria

NATO is not directly involved in the US-led coalition to counter Daesh in Iraq and Syria, although all 28 NATO allies are individually involved in some way. NATO is instead focusing on what it describes as projecting stability by helping states stabilise their own countries. NATO is training Iraqi military officers in Jordan and is [discussing](#) with the Iraqi Government extending that into Iraq. NATO deployed [AWACs](#) (airborne warning and control system aircraft) to Turkey in March 2016 in response to a Turkish Government request. NATO has [suggested](#) it is looking at providing direct support to the Coalition to counter-ISIL with AWACs aircraft.

Defence spending

One of the main outcomes of the 2014 Wales Summit was a commitment by NATO allies to aim to devote 2% of GDP on defence spending and 20% of their defence budgets on equipment (including research and development) within a decade.

The UK Government has consistently spent more than 2% of GDP on defence and the current Government committed to the target in its 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review. The Defence Committee in a [recent report](#) (HC494 2015-16) welcomed the Government’s pledge but noted it would not have achieved the figure without modifying UK accounting practices. Michael Fallon, the Defence Secretary, has said the UK will encourage other allies to meet the 2% commitment in Warsaw.

Box 3: The Defence Investment Pledge

Allies currently meeting the NATO guideline to spend a minimum of 2% of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on defence will aim to continue to do so. Likewise, Allies spending more than 20% of their defence budgets on major equipment, including related Research & Development, will continue to do so.

Allies whose current proportion of GDP spent on defence is below this level will:

- halt any decline in defence expenditure;
- aim to increase defence expenditure in real terms as GDP grows;
- aim to move towards the 2% guideline within a decade with a view to meeting their NATO Capability Targets and filling NATO's capability shortfalls.

Allies who currently spend less than 20% of their annual defence spending on major new equipment, including related Research & Development, will aim, within a decade, to increase their annual investments to 20% or more of total defence expenditures.

All Allies will:

- ensure that their land, air and maritime forces meet NATO agreed guidelines for deployability and sustainability and other agreed output metrics;
- ensure that their armed forces can operate together effectively, including through the implementation of agreed NATO standards and doctrines.

Paragraph 14 of the [2014 Wales Summit Declaration](#)

NATO released up to date information on defence spending by allies on 4 July 2016. This is available on the NATO website: [Defence expenditures of NATO countries 2009 to 2016](#).

Cyberspace an operational domain

[Cyberspace](#) is expected to be declared a separate operational domain along the same lines of land, sea and air domains at Warsaw. This was agreed at the defence ministers meeting in June 2016. The pressure to make cyber a domain has been building in recent years amid questions about whether a cyber-attack on an Ally would trigger Article 5. The Wales Summit declared that cyber-defence is part of the Alliance's core task of collective defence.

Missile Defence

NATO agreed at its 2010 Lisbon summit to develop a ballistic missile defence capability to protect NATO from ballistic missiles from outside the Euro-Atlantic area. This is clumsily known as the NATO Integrated Air and Missile Defence System (NATINAMDS). It is designed to intercept airborne objects (missiles, unmanned vehicles, aircraft) using surface-based or airborne weapons systems. NATO says this system is [not directed](#) against Russia. Rather, it is Iran's missile capability that NATO is most concerned about.

The latest component of the US [Aegis](#) missile defence system in Europe was declared operational in May 2016. US Navy Aegis ships are already based in Spain and in May, a land-based system in Deveselu, Romania, known as 'Aegis ashore' was declared operational. Other components include a radar facility in Turkey and a headquarters in Germany. A second land-based system is under construction in Poland, due to be completed in 2018. Denmark and the Netherlands are also upgrading their frigates with radar capabilities.

Afghanistan

NATO's mission in Afghanistan is [Resolute Support](#), to train, advise and assist the Iraqi security forces. NATO foreign ministers agreed in May 2016 to sustain the mission beyond 2016 and leaders are expected to confirm the mission will continue until 2020 in Warsaw and the Summit is expected to focus on funding arrangements. NATO commanded the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan from 2003 to 2014.

Enlargement

[Montenegro](#) is in the process of joining NATO and will become the 29th member. Allied foreign ministers signed the Accession Protocol for Montenegro in May 2016. This allows its representatives to participate as observers in Allied meetings. Montenegro can accede to the Washington Treaty and become a full member of the Alliance once all 28 Allies have ratified the Accession Protocol. The Government laid the Protocol in Parliament on 29 June 2016 ([Cm 9293](#)). 2009 was the last time NATO admitted new nations: Albania and Croatia.

A new Cold War?

The head of NATO expects Warsaw to be a “landmark summit.” Why? Because for the first time since the end of the Cold War NATO faces different yet equally challenging situations along its eastern and southern borders: an “aggressive and assertive Russia” and the “highly complex challenge of an unstable Middle East and North Africa”, in the words of the deputy Secretary-General of the Alliance. This has prompted a reassertion of NATO’s core purpose and deep discussions about NATO’s future.

“NATO faces a more complex array of challenges and threats than it has since the end of the Cold War and arguably ever.”

NATO deputy
Secretary-General
April 2016

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was formed in 1949 with the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington. The Treaty created an alliance of ten European and two North American nations, dedicated to ensuring their collective security and preservation and intended to counter the perceived threat from the Soviet Union and later the countries of the Warsaw Pact.⁸ NATO currently numbers 28 members.⁹

The core role of NATO is often boiled down to the term ‘collective defence’, as articulated in Article 5 of the Washington Treaty. Article 5 states unequivocally that an armed attack against one or more members shall be considered an attack against them all.

When the Cold War ended in 1989 and the threat from the Soviet Union diminished, some began to question NATO’s continued relevance. Conflict in the Balkans and instability throughout the former Soviet bloc countries in the early 1990s led NATO to develop a new role. In addition to its original purpose of collective security, NATO became a catalyst for extending security and stability throughout Europe via its peacekeeping and peace-support operations.

Article 5 was invoked for the first and only time in NATO’s history in response to the 9/11 attacks in the United States in 2001. NATO subsequently took command of international forces in Afghanistan from 2003 until the declared end of combat operations in December 2014.

Afghanistan dominated NATO’s thinking for most of the 21st century. NATO was active elsewhere: the Alliance commanded the military operation in Libya in 2011 and continues to conduct naval counter-terrorism operations in the Mediterranean and counter-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia, and provides support to the African Union.¹⁰

Russia’s illegal annexation of Crimea in early 2014 and action in Ukraine, combined with increased military activity near the borders of allies, prompted NATO to reassess its relations with Moscow. At its summit in Wales in autumn 2014 the Alliance agreed a series of measures, the Readiness Action Plan, to reinforce the principle of ‘collective defence’. This amounted to the “[most significant strengthening](#)” of its collective forces in decades. Heads of Government and State will agree further measures to strengthen the Alliance’s defence and deterrence posture in Warsaw.¹¹

Continued and growing instability in North Africa and the Middle East present equally difficult challenges to NATO. NATO is not directly involved in the international campaign

⁸ A full copy of the Treaty can be accessed online: [The Washington Treaty](#)

⁹ Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.

¹⁰ Operation Active Endeavour in the Mediterranean was launched after the 9/11 attacks. Operation Ocean Shield began in 2009. More information on these is available on the [NATO On Duty](#) webpage

¹¹ “[NATO Defence Ministers agree to enhance collective defence and deterrence](#)”, NATO, 14 June 2016

against DAESH/ISIS, although its members are. Migration and trafficking from North Africa has prompted NATO officials to raise the need for closer cooperation with the EU.

The shift in relations with Russia has prompted some to talk of a return of a Cold War mentality. This, however, is rejected by the UK's top diplomat to NATO. Sir Adam Thomson argues instead that adaptability, not Russia, should be NATO's focus in this new chapter:

If NATO 1.0 was the Cold War, 2.0 the Balkans and 3.0 Afghanistan, NATO 4.0 should not be about Russia. Or about threats from the South. Or continuation in Afghanistan. NATO 4.0 should be about adaptability, so that NATO can defend its members in continuously evolving mixes of collective defence, cooperative security and crisis management.¹²

[Jens Stoltenberg](#) has similarly played down talk of a return to a Cold War mentality, saying before the summit: "we convey a very strong message about that we don't seek a confrontation with Russia, we don't want a new Cold War. We will continue to strive for more constructive and cooperative relationship with Russia."

Key people:

- Secretary-General: Jens Stoltenberg
- Deputy Secretary-General (outgoing): Ambassador Alexander Vershbow
- Deputy Secretary-General (incoming): Rose Gottemoeller
- Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR): General Curtis M. Scaparrotti

NATO will move into its [new headquarters](#) in 2016.

¹² "[NATO and unconventional threats](#)", speech by UK permanent representative to NATO Sir Adam Thomson, 11 November 2015