THE *Opening* CEREMONY

AND SO IT BEGINS...

Excitement,determination and elegance-just a few words to prove that the 4th edition of the Bucharest Model NATO Conference has begun!

The event commenced with a very intriguing speech from our special and exciting guest, Jose-Maria López-Navarro, who spoke about the true meaning of NATO and its capability of implementing a feeling of solidarity between nations.

After a long round of applause, Mr. Dragos Manea expressed his appreciation for today's teenagers and their desire to revolutionize the world and encouraged everybody to take any opportunity that arises.

" A desire, a wish, a family"-those were the exact three words that our third guest, Mr. Silviu Georgescu, used to describe what NATO means for Romania. He also pointed out the big role that our country plays in this organization, as well as NATO's journey of becoming such a significant part of the world we live in.

Last, but definitely not least, we got to hear Mr. Juan Ozores Masso talk about his admiration regarding the broad knowledge of the English language that Romanian students prove to posses and the importance of taking pride into one's native country in order to continuously try and develop it.

Day 1

On the first day of Bucharest Model NATO Conference, The North Atlantic Council's chairpersons informed us that after long negotiations between the member countries, which did not come as prepared for the Council they were part of, finally reached a consensus, vocalized through two communiques. Although they all mainly had the same view and ideas, it was fairly interesting to notice the delegates' commitment to their country's official positions.

The Political Affairs Committee touched on subjects such as, "NATO intelligence showing for decision making" .Delegates got temporarily distracted by an argument about the importance of a potential NATO-China cooperation framework, but soon went back to addressing the topic at hand.By and large,the debates were productive and most times led to novel approaches to the issue of intelligence sharing and decision making.

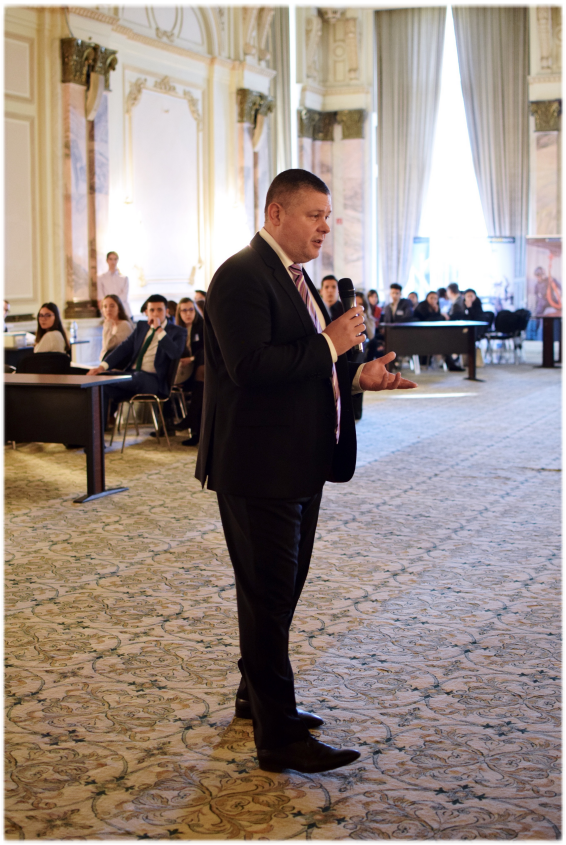
Furthermore, the Military Planning Committee discussed the following : the NATO exercise schedule, for 2018 and beyond, Afghanistan: allied contributions to Operation Resolute Support, Maritime security: an enhanced

role for NATO in the Mediterranean and Black Seas.Despite the fact that the majority of the delegates were first timers, they engaged in fruitful and intriguing debates.

The Nuclear Planning Committee discussed two main topics: the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the Contemporary Nuclear Threats that we are facing.For the second topic, they decided to strongly encourage NATO Countries to solve Contemporary Nuclear Threats and express their desire to build a safer world without nuclear weapons based on mutual trust and positive cooperation.

The Partnership and Cooperative Security Committee exchanged views on NATO's Capacity Building, a role in post-ISIS Iraq. Their delegates' resolution included ides such as: prompting all NATO members to fund the reconstruction of damaged areas in Iraq, establish humanitarian movements to help children recover from mental wounds, construct a defensive military system that would assure protection against remaining dispersed terrorist groups.

And last, but not least, the Committee on Emerging Security Challenges firstly approached the topic of Climate Change, and found solutions such as encouraging all countries to change their military transportation equipment and promote acquiring more fuel efficient transportation, implementing mandatory educational climate change programmes, or discouraging each country to support the industrial agriculture's harmful activities, as this industry is responsible alone for 14% of global greenhouse gas emissions.



Razvan Buzatu, a well-known Romanian expert in European Affairs, shared the secrets that he held behind the curtains. And we decided to make the most of it, hearing his speech not only with our ears, but with our hearts as well. Each and every one of us you has a spark of leadership inside. He gave us an insight on the essence of leadership.In order to find that spark and metamorphose it into a great, leading butterfly, we have to win the war with ourselves first. We need to understand our ego and use it so that we can be above it and not the other way around. Only then our team will face a successful, powerful alteration. That is the moment when we can call ourselves "leaders". Furthermore, responsibility is on top of importance. Don't put the blame on others. If there is anyone to blame for something you did, that's you. Be responsible for everything you think, do, write and give.

Chatting to *Mr. Navarro*

"We are NATO, we are safe, we have solidarity, we support each other!"

This is how, on the second day of the Bucharest Model NATO Conference, Mr. **Jose Maria Lopez-Navarro** started his speech, as a NATO Information Officer and as our invited speaker.

We had in front of us, for two days, a powerful man, a man with a great knowledge, life experience and most importantly, a man that was willing to share it all with us. That being said, we couldn't let this golden opportunity pass by, so as soon as **Mr. Navarro** finished his lecture, our questions just kept coming and coming.

Just as every tale starts and ends with something outstanding, so did our little NATO tale, in which we were all absorbed during these four days; because every word that our invited speaker had to say about us and our event was a word of admiration. When asked about the conference and the way he finds it, Mr. **Navarro** gladly revealed that he was very happy to have attended and participated. Also, he highlighted the manner in which our agenda is very comprehensive, covering most of NATO's political agenda. Furthermore, he noticed that the Romanian people with whom he had worked so far are "*very well prepared people with high standards of education*" ; "*future people aiming to a high level of performance*"; "*excellent, generous people*" ; "*remarkable leaders in the future*" and he further admitted to be looking forward to have more occasions to engage in these sort of programs, with us.

If you do some research, it won't be so hard to find out that Mr. Navarro worked for NATO since April, 1994. That means that he has been working there for the past 23 years of his life. Therefore, our curiosity got the best of us so we just had to ask: "How does it feel to be a part of something that holds such influence over the world?" . *"Proud"* . This is one of the words that the NATO Informational Officer used, in order to answer our question. He divulged that he feels very proud to work for an organization that cares for our security, for the peace among nations and so many other issues and that NATO is unique, because of the way it responded to the threats it faced, as well as the rewarding way of seeing how it adapted to the environment since 2014.

Moreover, we talked to him about the way NATO took action to promote the role of women in peace and security, demonstrating at the same time its support to the implementation of the United Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325; because we knew that Mr. Navarro was very active in promoting this implementation. These resolutions are calling to equality between genders, they call to removing the barriers in women's participation in conflict prevention, peace and security and last, but not least, they call to the prevention of sexual violence. As an answer, he said that this is one of the most important features of NATO's policy and that all of the 44 nations should agree to it. There was seen a progress lately on it, not only because there are more women working in NATO, but also because their role is being better acknowledged and because of the awareness of their participation, prevention and protection. " *The future can only be better*", Mr Navarro said.

Day 2

During the second day of the conference, the North Atlantic Council divided its members and each and every one of them went to one of the other committees, in order to help them during the crisis simulation.

After beginning the discussions on NATO's role in stabilizing the political uncertainty, the delegates got down to business quite quickly: after only a few, intense unmoderated caucuses, they managed to submit a communique. Afterwards, the Committee was joined by the delegates of Czech Republic and Turkey from the North Atlantic Council, who helped the flow of the debate during the crisis simulation.

Obviously, there were clear disagreements: Turkey regarded its actions as being fully legitimate, while the other NATO member-states felt as though the trust inside of the alliance had been broken. In spite of all of this, a communique ended up being written and was passed.

Furthermore, the chairpersons of the Military Planning Committee were impressed by the dedication of the delegates to try and bring solutions for today's problems. The high energy of the committee helped finalize all four resolutions with the majority of votes being in favor for them.

The Nuclear Planning Committee has discussed, as well,its resolutions for the two topic.After that, the crisis situation came in so they gave their delegates a few minutes to do more research on the subject and then discussed the problem and written the resolution.

In the Partnership and Cooperative Security Committee, during the crisis simulation, the delegates proposed diplomatic talks between the parts involved, in order to offer the Kurdish minority the opportunity to ask for their rights in a peaceful manner. Just for security reasons, to avoid a military conflict, NATO will send reserve troops in the Levantine Basin of the Mediterranean Sea.

Lastly, the Committee on Emerging Security Challenges faced the challenge of Turkey launching offensive against Kurdish fighters, and demands the immediate intervention of NATO troops within Turkey in order to re-establish stability and order in the area and containing the Kurdish riots, and decides to remain actively close to the matter.

THE *Closing* CEREMONY

Our final day began in a formal manner,in which each committee expressed their final statements and conclusions, the Closing Ceremony was probably the most memorable moments from this year's Conference. The whole formal vibe was swiftly replaced by laughter when The Secretariat read notes from The Gossip Box. Following that up was an awards ceremony in which awards such as "best couple"."funniest delegate","best delegate" and "best dressed delegate" were given, filling the room with positivity and joy.

… and there couldn't have been a better ending to this story.

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