

The success of the reform process in Ukraine, in particular its military component, will be crucial if Ukraine is to play the fullest role possible in the Partnership for Peace and in European security generally. NATO can help but, as is the case in every Partner country, the success of the reform process depends ultimately on the commitment of the Ukrainian leadership, the domestic political process and the people themselves.

As you know, NATO has a brand new partner in the European Union. The EU has made significant progress developing its European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). This progress has presented NATO with another challenge: that of accommodating the EU's legitimate aspirations to play an increasing role in crisis management.