

The third reason why we will not disengage from European crisis management is our commitment to stability and security in the Euro-Atlantic community. That commitment did not diminish with the end of the Cold War, for like our Allies we saw in the new environment an opportunity to build a new European security architecture, in partnership with a reborn community of democratic nations. Like our Allies, we accepted that we could not walk away from the crisis on the doorstep of NATO. Like them we were, and are, determined to end conflict and suffering in the Balkans. We see in the new NATO a tool for reacting rapidly to new and different security crises. This does not mean that the collective defence aspect of the Alliance is obsolete, merely that the ability to deter attack now exists in tandem with the capacity to restore peace.