

I will mention one final element of the partnership challenge: NATO relations with Russia and Ukraine. The NATO-Russia relationship is one of the most significant developments in European security. It represents a conscious decision by NATO to replace the suspicion of the past with a new partnership based upon transparency and mutual respect. Its creation was a challenging process, yet considerable progress has been made. The NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council has been an invaluable forum for discussions on a wide range of security issues, including military doctrines, the conversion of defence industries and Russian participation in KFOR.