

Counsellors of national delegations and serviced by the Political Division of the I/S, although certain important issues such as MBFR and communiqué negotiations are dealt with by the Senior Political Committee, composed of the Deputy Permanent Representatives. The Political Committee exchanges information and views on political trends and developments of interest to NATO in all areas of the world, prepares studies and reports to the Council on political issues, such as the state of East-West relations and disarmament and arms control issues, and follows up and implements Council decisions. Its regular work is supplemented by Ad Hoc Political Working Groups and by Regional Experts Meetings. The Economic Committee carries out similar tasks: it acts as a clearing-house for the exchange of information on economic developments (mainly those affecting East/West relations), prepares reports on East-West economic and financial relations and studies analyzing the economic situations in Eastern countries, and monitors economic co-operation within the Alliance.

- Defence Planning is a complex process but in essence involves reviewing collectively the individual defence capabilities and plans of member nations participating in the Integrated Military Structure against the background of a collective assessment of the threat facing the Alliance, establishing five-year goals for developing capabilities to defend the Alliance against the threat, and reviewing annually progress towards achieving those goals. This work is conducted on behalf of the Defence Planning Committee by the Defence Review Committee (DRC), which is staffed by Defence Counsellors from national delegations and assisted as necessary with inputs from other NATO bodies, both military and civil. Additionally, to meet longer term needs, the Alliance has adopted longer term planning procedures designed to extend progressively the coverage and time scale of NATO and national defence planning up to 15 years or more. The DRC is also responsible for the implementation of these longer-term procedures, as well as the programme of military assistance to Greece, Portugal and Turkey. A separate NATO body, the Executive Working Group, monitors progress on special Programmes, such as the Conventional Defence Improvement Programme.
- Nuclear Planning focusses on developing Alliance policy on the strategic and tactical use of nuclear weapons and associated problems. The day-to-day work