

would have a positive effect on Russia as it has had on other NATO candidates. And it could help all states get beyond Cold War mindset and work for peace across the continent.

d) Reactions of Other States

Most of the East European states are against Russia fully joining to NATO because they themselves joined largely out of a desire to be protected from Russia. If Russia joined, this would strip them of their security guarantee. However, a Russia fit to join NATO might be more palatable to them. So far the reaction towards the new NATO-Russia Council has been positive.

The fears of some West European states center on the belief that Russia's NATO membership would probably mean a shift in the alliance's power structure, reducing the influence of western European countries as interests shift in favour of US-Russian concerns.⁵⁶ To quote the German magazine *Die Welt*, "Cuddling in the Kremlin, that remains a risky matter. It is vaguely said that, on certain subjects, NATO could grant the Russians a kind of vote and veto power. That would be totally unworldly: a bit of a veto is as impossible as being a bit pregnant."⁵⁷ However, September 11 now has West Europeans more worried that NATO is becoming irrelevant. In particular, they worry that NATO was not the instrument that the US decided to use in its war against the al Qaeda and Taliban.

3.3 Option #3 Develop the Russia-EU Security Relationship

While Russia is not going to be fully joining NATO in the short-term, it does have the option to expand its institutional security ties with the European Union. Already well before September 11, Russia had turned to the EU as its would-be strategic partner partly because it saw the EU as a significant actor but also out of fear of being marginalized to eastern periphery of Europe as the EU expands. In fact, the EU was perceived as a more substantial way of influencing the West than NATO or the OSCE.

⁵⁶ *Frankfurter Allgemeine*, 19 November, 2001.

⁵⁷ Nikolaus Blome "Cuddling in the Kremlin", *Die Welt*, 25 November, 2001.