

Forum: Security Council: Sanctions, NATO expansion

Issue N.2: Working on possible tension increase between NATO and Russia due to joining of Finland and Sweden in the alliance

President of Security Council: Akim Dyulger

Vice-president of Security Council: Sofia Muller



### Description of Issue:

30 nations from North America and Europe make up the NATO security alliance, which was established in 1949 with the signing of the Washington Treaty. The main objective of NATO is to protect the freedom and security of the Allies through political and military action. NATO continues to be the transatlantic community's key security tool and a representation of its shared values. It serves as a realistic link that binds North American and European security together indefinitely.

At the heart of the Alliance is a pledge of collective defence found in Article 5 of the Washington Treaty, which states that an attack against one Ally is an attack against all. Article 4 of the treaty guarantees consultations between Allies on security issues of shared interest, which have widened from a narrowly defined Soviet threat to include the crucial mission in Afghanistan, peacekeeping in Kosovo, new security threats like cyberattacks, and international threats like terrorism and piracy that affect the Alliance and its network of partners around the world.

Vladimir Putin's actions have shattered a long-standing sense of stability in northern Europe, leaving Sweden and Finland feeling vulnerable. Despite their long neutrality history, both Sweden and Finland decided to join NATO due to the unstable situation in the world caused by their neighbour country - Russia.

The main aim of the Security Council is to prevent possible upcoming escalation of aggression and provocations towards Finland and Sweden as Russia strongly opposes the two states joining and has used the expansion of the West's defensive military alliance as a pretext for its war in Ukraine.

## Background Information:

Russia's first intention was to conquer Ukraine and overthrow its government, terminating for good its intention to join the Western defence alliance NATO. After a month of setbacks, he abandoned his quest to conquer the capital Kyiv and moved his goals to Ukraine's east and south. He declared his intention to "*demilitarise and de-Nazify Ukraine*" when he began the invasion on February 24. His stated goal was to defend those he claimed had been the targets of the Ukrainian government's eight years of intimidation and genocide. Assuring Ukraine's neutrality was shortly added as a new goal.

The events in Ukraine have a haunting feeling of familiarity for many Finns. Finland was invaded by the Soviets in late 1939. Despite being vastly outnumbered, the Finnish army put up a valiant fight for more than three months. They managed to evade occupation but ultimately lost 10% of their area. Based on this unstable situation in the world and the aggressive actions of a neighbouring state, Finland and Sweden, with the support of the peoples and parliaments of their countries, decided to apply for NATO membership.

On May 18, 2022, Finland and Sweden simultaneously delivered their official letters of application to join NATO to NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg following extensive deliberations throughout their whole communities and with significant parliamentary majorities supporting the decision. Finland and Sweden were invited to join the Alliance by NATO Heads of State and Government during the Madrid Summit on June 29. After the conclusion of the accession negotiations, the accession protocols for both nations were signed on July 5. Allies must now adopt the protocols in accordance with their own national standards.

The addition of Finland and Sweden to the 30-member alliance, which is NATO's largest expansion since the 1990s, was approved by the US Senate on Wednesday. The Senate easily exceeded the two-thirds majority of 67 votes necessary to support ratification of the two countries' accession articles by voting 95 to 1 in favour.

Any European nation capable of fulfilling the requirements for membership and making a positive contribution to regional security is still welcome to join NATO. Through eight rounds of enlargement, NATO's membership has grown from 12 to 30 nations since 1949. On March 27, 2020, the Republic of North Macedonia joined the Alliance as the newest member.

## **About NATO's "open door policy"**

- NATO's "open door policy" is based on Article 10 of its founding treaty. Any decision to invite a country to join the Alliance is taken by the North Atlantic Council on the basis of consensus among all Allies. No third country has a say in such deliberations.
- NATO's ongoing enlargement process poses no threat to any country. It is aimed at promoting stability and cooperation, at building a Europe whole and free, united in peace, democracy and common values.
- Having been invited to start accession talks to join the Alliance in July 2018, following the historic agreement between Athens and Skopje on the solution of the name issue, the Republic of North Macedonia became the newest member of NATO on 27 March 2020.
- Bosnia and Herzegovina was invited to join the Membership Action Plan (MAP) in April 2010.
- At the 2008 Bucharest Summit, the Allies agreed that Georgia and Ukraine will become members of NATO in future.
- Following Russia's brutal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the Finnish and Swedish ambassadors to NATO simultaneously conveyed the intent of their respective countries to join the Alliance by submitting official letters of application to NATO on 18 May. They completed accession talks on 4 July, and their Accession Protocols were signed by Allies on 5 July. Once Allies have ratified the Accession Protocols according to their national procedures, Finland and Sweden will be invited to accede to the Washington Treaty, officially becoming NATO Allies. (NATO int)

**To officially and fully join the alliance each candidate's joining application needs to be ratified by all the other members of NATO.**

List of countries which ratified Finland and Sweden's joining to NATO:

**Canada - 5 July**

**Iceland - 5 July**

**Norway - 5 July**

**Estonia - 6 July**

**United Kingdom - 6 July**

**Albania - 7 July**

**Denmark - 7 July**

**Germany - 8 July**

**Netherlands - 12 July**

**Luxembourg - 12 July**

**Bulgaria - 13 July**

**Latvia - 14 July**

**Slovenia - 14 July**

**Croatia - 15 July**

**Poland - 20 July**

**Lithuania - 20 July**

**Belgium - 20 July**

**Romania - 21 July**

**North Macedonia - 27 July**

**Montenegro - 28 July**

**France - 2 August**

**Italy - 3 August**

**United-States - 3 August**

**Czech Republic - 27 August**

**Greece - 15 September**

**Portugal - 16 September**

**Spain - 21 September**

**Slovakia - 27 September**

Turkey astonished its NATO partners when Finland and Sweden's NATO membership requests were first rejected. Ankara asked that the Nordic nations end their support for Kurdish armed organisations like the PKK and eliminate their restrictions on the export of certain types of weapons to Turkey. Sweden denied sheltering PKK members, despite Turkey's worries being expressed. Since the 30-nation alliance is run by consensus, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan could have prevented Finland and Sweden from joining if his demands had not been met, as he had threatened to do.

### Key Terms:

**NATO** - a political and military alliance of countries in Europe and North America established in Washington, D.C. (1949) for the purpose of collective defense against aggression.

**Ratification (ratify)** - the action of signing or giving formal consent to a treaty, contract, or agreement, making it officially valid.

**The Membership Action Plan (MAP)** - a NATO programme of advice, assistance and practical support tailored to the individual needs of countries wishing to join the Alliance. Participation in the MAP does not prejudice any decision by the Alliance on future membership.

**Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK)** - Abdullah ("Apo") Calan created the Kurdistan People's Congress, a militant Kurdish nationalist group, in the late 1970s. Although the organisation initially advocated for the creation of a separate Kurdish state, its stated objectives were eventually modified to include demands for more Kurdish autonomy.

### Countries and Organisations Involved:

**Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Bulgaria, Latvia, Slovenia, Croatia, Poland, Lithuania, Belgium, Romania, North Macedonia, Montenegro, France, Italy, United-States, Czech Republic, Greece, Portugal, Spain, Slovakia, Canada, Iceland, Norway, Estonia, United Kingdom, Albania.**

### Key countries:

**United States, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Turkey.**

Links:

<https://nato.usmission.gov/about-nato/>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-61397478>

[https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news\\_197737.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_197737.htm)

<https://www.npr.org/2022/08/04/1115537908/u-s-senate-approves-finland-and-sweden-for-membership-into-nato>

<https://www.helsinkitimes.fi/columns/columns/viewpoint/21618-joining-nato-in-the-nuclear-age.html>

[https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics\\_49212.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_49212.htm)

<https://www.nato-pa.int/content/finland-sweden-accession>

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/nato>