**Position Paper**

**Delegate:** Erin Neva Yenicelik

**Country:** Estonia

**Committee:** North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

**Agenda(s):** Potential NATO Measures to Counter the Growing Danger Posed by the Eastern Bloc.

Estonia, a NATO member since 2004, lies on the northeastern border of NATO, near the Eastern Bloc. The growing threat posed by Russia and its aggressive actions, particularly in Ukraine, has led to increasing insecurity in Europe. Estonia believes it is vital for NATO to unite and strengthen its defenses to ensure the protection of its members and prevent further escalation of aggression.

The Eastern Bloc, particularly Russia, presents several challenges to NATO. The key issues are as follows:

 Military Threats:

Russia is building up its military near NATO countries and holding provocative exercises. NATO is responding by increasing its defenses, including sending more troops to places like Estonia, Latvia, and Poland.

Cyberattacks and Misinformation:

Estonia has faced cyberattacks, and Russia uses misinformation to create distrust in NATO and destabilize societies..

 Energy Control:

Many European countries, including Estonia, depend on energy from the Eastern Bloc. This gives these countries economic power over Europe, making energy security important for NATO.

Dividing NATO Members:

The Eastern Bloc tries to weaken NATO by causing disagreements among its members. This weakens NATO’s unity and security.

What Estonia Proposes:

More NATO Troops in Vulnerable Areas:

Estonia wants NATO to send more troops to areas at risk of Eastern Bloc aggression. This will help defend borders and show NATO’s commitment to security.

 Stronger Cyber Defenses:

Cyberattacks are a growing threat, and NATO must enhance information sharing and joint training to counter these risks. Estonia is well-equipped to lead these efforts, given its experience in cyber defense.

Faster Movement of Troops:

NATO forces should be able to move more quickly in a crisis. Improving infrastructure and cutting delays will help troops reach areas in need faster.

Better Technology:

Investment in advanced military technology, such as missile defense systems and anti-drone capabilities, is critical to countering new and evolving threats from the Eastern Bloc.

Fighting False Information:

NATO must work to combat misinformation by educating the public on recognizing fake news and responding quickly to false narratives. Countering propaganda will strengthen NATO's credibility and unity.

Joint Military Exercises:

NATO member countries should conduct more joint military exercises. These drills foster cooperation, enhance strategic coordination, and ensure readiness for potential conflicts.

Energy Independence:

NATO should reduce dependence on Eastern Bloc energy by investing in renewable energy and finding new energy suppliers. This will help protect against energy manipulation.

Estonia believes that NATO’s strength lies in unity and collective defense. To effectively counter the growing threat from the Eastern Bloc, NATO must increase its presence in vulnerable regions, bolster cyber defenses, improve military mobility, invest in advanced technologies, combat misinformation, and ensure energy security. Estonia is committed to working with NATO allies to ensure a safe and secure future for all member nations. Together, we can defend our shared values and protect our societies from external threats.

Sources:

<https://www.nato.int/cps/is/natohq/topics_133127.htm>

<https://www.nato.int/cps/de/natohq/topics_78170.htm>

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/content-series/ac-turkey-defense-journal/how-prepared-is-nato/>

<https://www.nato.int/cps/uk/natohq/topics_49212.htm?selectedLocale=en>

<https://academic.oup.com/ia/article/100/2/531/7617211?login=false>

<https://www.gisreportsonline.com/r/nato-defense-russia-deter-strategy/>

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/natos-mine-countermeasures-unit-transferred-to-turkiye-for-6-months/3426104>