



Country: Croatia

Committee: NATO

Topic: Potential NATO Measures to Counter the Growing Danger Posed by the Eastern Bloc

The Parliamentary Republic of Croatia has shown efforts to exist and achieve her freedom from all sorts of authorities for a long time in history. Ever since Croatia liberated herself from the oppression of Serbia in Yugoslavia, the country has been under threat by pro-Russian influences. As a proud member of the NATO since 2009, Situated at the crossroads of Southeastern Europe, Croatia plays a vital role in safeguarding NATO's southern flank and ensuring stability in the Balkan region, where Russian influence seeks to undermine progress toward peace and integration.

One of the key reasons why Russia currently has leverage over NATO in conflicts is because of the oil Russia exports to countries which are associates of NATO. A great countermeasure to this energy dependance is the Krk LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) Terminal, allowing Croatia to import LNG from areas like The United States and some African countries, in turn reducing the dependency on Russia. With the current annual technical capacity of the terminal being 2.9 billion cubic meters (LNG Hrvatska), it is sufficient to cover the domestic needs of Croatia and even export some of the stored LNG to neighboring countries like Slovenia, Hungary and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Although Croatia plays a crucial role in defending the eastern areas of Europe and countering the energy dependance on Russia, Croatia gets affected negatively from the conflicts around the area and lacks support from NATO in defensive aspects. The region is increasingly vulnerable to Russian hybrid tactics including disinformation, energy manipulation and military incursions. Moreover, the instability of the region during the Russia-Ukraine war, Serbian pressure in the area and the threatening number of nuclear warheads available in the borders of the Eastern Bloc are factors which are putting stress on Eastern European NATO associates. As the delegation of Croatia, we believe that NATO must increase its military presence in Southeastern Europe, particularly in the Black Sea, Balkans, and the Adriatic. Furthermore, NATO must take initiatives against Russian propaganda to avoid any divisions in the Balkan region. If provided the mentioned opportunities, NATO will be able to effectively protect its territory in the area.