



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**UPDATED: List of signatories has increased to 45 and now includes former NATO Secretary General, Javier Solana**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL: 00:01, Friday 18 May 2012 (BST)**

### **Europe's Strategic Elite Sets a New Benchmark for Success at Chicago**

At a time of economic crisis, changed geo-politics, and growing nuclear dangers, a group of over 40 senior European politicians, military figures and diplomats have urged NATO leaders to deal with more than Afghanistan when they meet in Chicago this weekend.

In a [jointly signed statement](#), much of Europe's strategic elite calls for:

- urgent changes to NATO nuclear policy, including an immediate 50 per cent cut in NATO's non-strategic nuclear weapons stationed in Europe and for a negotiated increase in warning and decision times related to nuclear weapons left on high states of alert;
- the lessons of European capability gaps, exposed by the operation in Libya, to be learned;
- recognition of the threat to transatlantic unity posed by declining defence budgets across the Alliance, but especially in Europe, and for a major increase in joint defence projects to off-set the consequences;
- fresh attempts to engage Russia on a range of Euro-Atlantic security issues from ballistic missile defence to non-strategic nuclear weapons and conventional forces.

The Group, coordinated through the [European Leadership Network](#) (ELN), a new pan-European defence and security organisation based in London, challenges the Alliance to use its Deterrence and Defence Posture Review (DDPR) to learn the lessons of the Libya operation and to strengthen NATO's overall defence capabilities against 21st Century threats. It also urges the alliance to focus on the legacy systems of the Cold War in Europe by taking practical action to reduce nuclear risks on the continent, and to re-think what is needed to strengthen core NATO concepts such as burden-sharing, alliance solidarity and the transatlantic link.

### **Key Points from the Statement:**

- NATO committed itself at the Lisbon Summit in 2010 to work to create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons yet it continues to deploy tactical nuclear weapons in Europe two decades after the Cold War has ended. Across the NATO-Russia area too many nuclear weapons also remain on high states of alert.
- NATO also holds a unique position in the global nuclear order. Three of the five NPT nuclear weapon states and eight of the 14 states that have nuclear weapons on their territory are NATO members. Therefore the Alliance has a special responsibility to act to reduce nuclear risks.
- NATO leaders should make good on their commitment to the goal of creating the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons. Concrete contributions would be:
  - For NATO to announce an immediate reduction of 50 per cent in the total number of US non-strategic nuclear weapons stationed in Europe. Whilst reducing numbers, this would not undermine the symbolism of a US nuclear presence in Europe or the principle of nuclear burden and risk sharing among alliance members.
  - To change NATO's declaratory policy to state that the fundamental role of nuclear weapons is to deter nuclear attack, bringing it into line with the declaratory policies of the US and UK, who principally provide NATO nuclear capability.
- Europe has to ensure the most efficient and cost effective use of resources through an increased emphasis on collective conventional defence solutions, such as joint defence projects, regional cooperation, and the pooling and sharing of assets. This is essential for the provision of adequate and credible conventional forces which represent the core of NATO's collective deterrence and defence strategy, its ability to fulfil the Article 5 commitment and to protect the interests of NATO members at strategic distance.
- With competing demands for scarce resources, NATO needs to be clear both on the overall cost to European countries of missile defence and to pursue ballistic missile defence cooperation with Russia.

### **SIGNATORIES OF THE STATEMENT:**

1. **Malcolm Rifkind** MP, former Defence Secretary and Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom
2. **Javier Solana**, Former NATO Secretary General, Former EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and former Foreign Minister of Spain
3. **Margaret Beckett** MP, former Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom
4. **Michel Rocard**, former Prime Minister of France
5. **Volker Rühle**, former Defence Minister of Germany
6. **Ana Palacio**, former Foreign Minister of Spain and former Vice President of the World Bank
7. **Massimo D'Alema**, former Prime Minister and former Foreign Minister of Italy
8. **Gro Harlem Brundtland**, Former Prime Minister of Norway and former Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO)
9. **Des Browne**, former Defence Secretary of the United Kingdom

10. **Paul Quilès**, former Defence Minister and former President of the Defence and Armed Forces Committee of the National Assembly of France
11. **Arturo Parisi**, former Defence Minister of Italy
12. **Wolfgang Ischinger**, Chairman of the Munich Security Conference
13. **Hikmet Çetin**, former Foreign Minister of Turkey
14. **Søren Gade**, former Defence Minister of Denmark
15. **Giorgio La Malfa**, former Minister for European Affairs of Italy
16. **Louis Michel**, former Deputy Prime Minister, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belgium
17. **David Owen**, former Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom
18. **Niels Helveg Petersen**, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark
19. **Jan Kavan**, former Foreign Minister, former Deputy Prime Minister of the Czech Republic
20. **Hans van den Broek**, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and former European Commissioner for Foreign Relations
21. **Geoffrey Howe**, former Chancellor of the Exchequer and former Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom
22. **John Reid**, former Defence Secretary of the United Kingdom
23. **Douglas Hurd**, former Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom
24. **Michael Boyce**, Admiral, Former Chief of the Defence Staff of the United Kingdom
25. **Charles Guthrie**, General, Former Chief of the Defence Staff of the United Kingdom
26. **Klaus Naumann**, General (ret), former Chairman of the NATO Military Committee and former Chief of Defence of Germany
27. **Bernard Norlain**, General (ret), former Commander of the Tactical Air Force and Military Counsellor to the Prime Minister of France
28. **Tom King**, former Defence Minister of the United Kingdom
29. **Ulrich Weisser**, Vice-Admiral (ret), former Director Plans and Policy and Chief Political Advisory Group to the Minister of Defence of Germany
30. **Carlo Trezza**, Former Special Envoy to the Italian Foreign Minister for Disarmament, Arms Control and Non Proliferation
31. **Uta Zapf** MdB, Member of the German parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs and Chairwoman of the Sub-Committee on Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation
32. **James Arbuthnot** MP, Chair of the Defence Select Committee of the United Kingdom
33. **Menzies Campbell** MP, former leader of the Liberal Democrats
34. **Shirley Williams**, former Leader of the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords
35. **Margherita Boniver** MP, former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy
36. **John Stanley** MP, former Minister for the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom
37. **David Hannay**, former British Ambassador to the European Communities and the UN
38. **Giancarlo Aragona**, former Italian Ambassador to Russia and the UK and former Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
39. **John Kerr**, former British Ambassador to the United States and former Head, UK Diplomatic Service
40. **Federica Mogherini** MP, member of the Chamber of Deputies, Secretary of the Parliamentary Defence Committee of Italy
41. **Elizabeth Symons**, former Minister for the Middle East, Minister for Defence Procurement of the United Kingdom

42. **Michael Ancram**, member of the Intelligence and Security Committee in the House of Commons, United Kingdom
43. **David Ramsbotham**, former Adjutant General to Her Majesty the Queen, United Kingdom
44. **Francesco Calogero**, Former Secretary General of Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs
45. **Carlo Schaerf**, Chairman of the National Committee for the Physical Sciences of the Ministry of Public Education and the National Committee for Nuclear Research of the National Institute for Nuclear Physics, Italy

### **Note to Editors**

This group statement is issued only in the names of those who have endorsed it and is not issued on behalf of the ELN organisation as a whole. It has however emerged from a sub-group of participants in the new European Leadership Network (ELN) and the ELN is the point of contact for all enquiries.

**To download the statement, please click the following [link](#).**

This statement is also available in [German](#), [French](#), [Italian](#), [Spanish](#) and [Russian](#) on the ELN website in the coming days.

**For further information, please contact:**

**Dr Ian Kearns**, Chief Executive

**Tel:** +44 (0)7939 604 915

**Email:** [iank@europeanleadershipnetwork.org](mailto:iank@europeanleadershipnetwork.org)

### **About the ELN**

The European Leadership Network (ELN) is a new pan-European defence and security think tank. It has been created by a range of senior European politicians, diplomats and military leaders with the intention of promoting greater European responsibility for defence and security and for reducing Europe's, and the world's growing nuclear dangers. It is a non-partisan, non-profit organisation working to advance education in, and promote greater understanding of, these issues. It does this in particular by producing and disseminating independent research and analysis, and by providing an independent platform for international dialogue and debate. To read more about the ELN and to see its Board membership, please visit: [http://www.europeanleadershipnetwork.org/about\\_14.html](http://www.europeanleadershipnetwork.org/about_14.html)