



Regional Security and Stability Issues for Georgia

Why Georgia Matters for Europe?

- ▶ Not only Georgia is a European country, but Georgia is part of Europe
- ▶ Georgia is a transport corridor between East and West



Why Georgia Matters for Europe?

- ▶ Europe should build on its success in Georgia and finally, get the country into its political, economic and security structures
- ▶ It is of paramount importance for Georgia that liberal democracy in Europe is not defeated against nationalism and crude populism

“Norway has managed to balance its relations first with the Soviet Union and now with Russia, not DESPITE Norway was a member of NATO, but BECAUSE of Norway was a member of NATO”
- Ian Stoltenberg, NATO Secretary General

- ▶ Georgia can serve as a model for other countries in the region

Security Situation in Georgia

- ▶ Georgia does not have foes and enemies in the region except of Russia
- ▶ The armed forces of the Russian Federation remain in Georgia and illegally occupy 20 percent of its territory
- ▶ Russia does not live up with commitments it made neither over Georgia or Ukraine, nor over Syria
- ▶ Following the annexation of Crimea Russia has pursued an annexation policy vis-a-vis Abkhazia and South Ossetia
- ▶ Georgia and Ukraine alone cannot resist to Russian policy that is to force Europe and the world to recognize Moscow's sovereignty over Crimea as well as over South Ossetia and Abkhazia
- ▶ Strong support and solidarity from the EU and US are needed as ever

Challenging Region

Russian Occupation

Conflict between Bordering Countries

North Caucasus

Conflicts in Near Neighborhood



Geography Matters

Denmark's neighborhood



Russian Factor

- ▶ Russia is a real threat to the countries of the former Soviet Union and it is increasingly challenging the security and stability of Europe
- ▶ *“Russia of today is more dangerous than the Soviet Union. An increasingly unpredictable Russia is engaging in a “hybrid war” with Europe, seeking to destabilize states from within, and is more dangerous now than during the days of the USSR” - Anders Fog Rasmussen*
- ▶ Russia is not only violating the rules, it is trying to break international order, to splinter any body or group that might hold it to account (*Economist Magazine*)
- ▶ War in Syria and war crimes in there perpetrated by Russia Syria is producing more and more casualties and human suffering, more refugee flows to Europe are inevitable

Russian Tactics and Strategy

- ▶ Negotiating as a “responsible” partner in global affairs and then unraveling agreements
- ▶ “not a single European issue can be resolved without Russia’s opinion” - Sergey Lavrov
- ▶ All know what Russia’s opinion means in practice - tanks and aircrafts, military bases, occupation and annexation
- ▶ Why Russian people continue to tolerate this kind of authoritarian regime?
- ▶ Putin has successfully managed to silence any dissent voices in Russia
- ▶ Things will go worse before they may get better in Russia

Impact of Conflict in Ukraine

- ▶ History repeats itself from time to time – *“not all of today’s conflicts and crises could have been prevented. Yet the effect of many could have been mitigated had we acted sooner”*
- ▶ Conflict in Ukraine does not belong to Russia-Ukrainian Slavic affair, but it has a direct bearing on the security architecture in Europe. Hybrid warfare run by Russia with Europe may not be an end but a beginning of even worse to come in Europe if not successfully countered by Europe and US together
- ▶ Moscow exploits every single opportunity to widen “self-doubt” in Europe and undermine its solidarity in order to make Europeans walk away from their own commitments even knowing that Russia has not met a single commitment it has made

Years of War Syria

- ▶ Prospects of protracting the bloodshed for the future years pose significant challenges to Georgia's and region's security and stability
- ▶ Russia has done everything to protract the war there and to make it even more hideous
- ▶ European governments should explain to their public that Russia has contributed to immigration crises in Europe



Turkey's Role

- ▶ Turkey comes on the top of the list of Georgia's trade partners
- ▶ Turkey's role in international oil and gas routes running through the Georgian territory is irreplaceable and Turkey has been a strong supporter for Georgia's sovereignty since the very beginning of its independence
- ▶ Failed military coup attempt and its handling poses a challenge to the country's democratic prospects
- ▶ Flirt played between Turkey and Russia is short-lived and will not unravel a strategic balance in the region
- ▶ Whether the current process of 'de-militarization' and 'de-islamization' of Turkish politics will eventually strengthen the building of democratic institution in Turkey remains to be seen

Conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh

