



Long Report

MO responsible for the project	The Centre Party International Foundation in cooperation with Academy of Liberalism.
Title of the project	Russia, NATO & Nuclear Weapons: How do we protect liberal values in a new security context?
Dates, place and titles of events (if applicable)	03-05-2019, Fores National Office, Kungsbrogatan 2, 112 27 Stockholm.
Targeted audience	Politicians, members of parliament, ambassadors, civil society, think tanks and organizations of concern.
Number of participants	17
VIPs present	<p>Marko Mihkelson, Member of the Estonian Parliament, Reform Party. Mihkelson is also Deputy Head for the Estonian Delegation to the NATO PA.</p> <p>Keit Pentus-Rosimannus, Member of Estonian Parliament, Reform Party. Pentus-Rosimannus was earlier Foreign Minister of Estonia.</p> <p>Kerstin Lundgren, Member of the Swedish Parliament, The Centre Party. Lundgren is spokesperson on Foreign policy and security and deputy speaker of the Swedish Parliament.</p> <p>Jens Petersson, Coordinator for peace and security at UNA Sweden.</p>
Media presence and media response (add links if applicable)	At the time of writing no media has picked up the event.
Applied media strategy. Please give examples.	We did live stream the seminar with CPIF's Facebook-page, which is available to view retroactively as well. This was the best way to get coverage.
Short summary for social media (150 words max.)	“Russia, NATO & Nuclear Weapons: How do we protect liberal values in a new security context”? The seminars’ purpose was to enlighten the issues in protecting liberal values in Europe. From a Nordic-Baltic region perspective, looking into Russian activities and how NATO could be a cure against illiberal values. The seminar brought different perspectives to the table regarding NATO’s increasingly important role for European security, and how the Nuclear protection is crucial in one point.

EUROPEAN LIBERAL FORUM (ELF)

RUE DES DEUX ÉGLISES 39 • 1000 BRUSSELS • BELGIUM

+32 2 669 13 18 • LIBERALFORUM.EU • INFO@LIBERALFORUM.EU • [f](https://www.facebook.com/EUROPEANLIBERALFORUM) / EUROPEANLIBERALFORUM • [t](https://twitter.com/EURLIBERALFORUM) @EURLIBERALFORUM



	<p>Representatives from Swedish authorities in the security-field existing of Kerstin Lundgren, Niklas Granholm and Magnus Christiansson discussed from a Swedish point of view. Marko Mihkelson and Keit Pentus-Rosimannus offered their perspectives on security issues in the Nordic-Baltic region.</p> <p>The seminar also included several concrete policy recommendations, such as efforts to put the European safety on decision-makers agenda, and NATO as a mean for it. Regarding the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear weapons, both the Estonian representatives and the Swedish participants saw problems in signing the Treaty in its' existing form.</p>
<p>Narrative report of the project (1,500 words max.– also used for publication on website), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relevant quotes, • conclusions; • policy recommendations. 	<p>The core-theme of the seminar was to discuss how to protect liberal values in a new security context. Liberal values, which includes free-trade, civil- and human rights, freedom of speech and freedom of the press, are under heavy pressure from countries with different ideological foundations.</p> <p>With that in mind, it has been highly relevant to seek a common understanding about the threats in the Nordic-Baltic sea region, and how they impact the liberal democracies in the area. Sweden and its neighbours have been forced to operate under the shadow of an increasingly aggressive Russian presence. The lessons learned from the past shows that Russia is not afraid of taking military action to secure important geopolitical territory (see Georgia 2008; Ukraine 2014).</p> <p>Niklas Granholm, deputy director of studies at the Swedish Defence Research Agency, focused his introduction on global threats factors and what security-effects they have on the Nordic-Baltic region. „There is a clear realisation among all the Nordic-Baltic states that Russia has developed a broader concept of operations, that is ranging from influent operations to over so-called grey zone operations and also to open conflict scenarios “. Granholm also emphasised the uprising illiberal trends in eastern Europe as a problem for future security-cooperation.</p> <p>Magnus Christiansson, Research fellow at the Swedish Defence University, implicates that the greatest challenge NATO faces is nuclear blackmail from Russia. „The Russians now have, arguably, after investing in a number of systems, a regional escalating dominance on the European continent “. Christiansson mentions that NATO is in need of a strategy, consisting of three components; attitudes, doctrine and capabilities. Attitudes in a way that a new generation of politicians need to understand how nuclear weapons have changed since the 1940s. It is also important for NATO that the policy regarding nuclear-sharing stands firm and is not divided amongst NATO-members. Lastly new capabilities are necessary, especially an</p>



	<p>American effort based on the European mainland.</p> <p>Keit Pentus-Rosimannus, former foreign minister and member of the Estonian Parliament, focused on what Vladimir Putin really wants. „One thing that is certain, is the need for Putin to have this position where he actually can decide how and if smaller countries develop. It is also seen as facts, in economic terms, that Putin ‘s regime is really in the midget league. The real purchase power of four Russian families has in fact decreased over the last years. So, life has really got worse during this time. This makes it clear that there is need to compensate the economic loss on some other fields where it is possible. “</p> <p>Marko Mihkelson, member of the Estonian parliament and Deputy Chairman of the Foreign affairs committee, focused his introduction on the importance of enlightening politicians in Europe about the diverse security issues. Mihkelson emphasises that; „Russia did not change. Russia is the force which today is a country that does not accept the change in security architecture of Europe. And after the fall of the Berlin-wall Russia does everything to dismantle the current existing Euro-Atlantic security architecture “. Unfortunately, Europe lacks the common strategy and capabilities in Europe, that are necessary to maintain solidarity and liberal values, Mihkelso says.</p> <p>The conclusion that is made is that Europe needs a common strategy to tackle the new security context. There is regional influence of Russia in the European region that can challenge liberal values due to nuclear blackmailing. Even though there might be cheaper means than usage of nuclear weapons to fulfil Putin’s goals, Europe should not under- or overestimate Putin’s regime in this certain issue.</p>
<p>Present the output and outcomes of the project. Please connect this to the expected outputs and outcomes that were submitted in your project proposal</p>	<p>Expected outputs - „Enlighten the security context as well as producing a more updated discussion about NATO-membership “</p> <p>The NATO-debate in Sweden has often been run over by the left wing-parties, but the opinion for a NATO-membership has changed during the last years. The Social Democrats are trying hard to keep this debate under the radar but are now faced with a different opinion amongst the citizens. The seminar did enlighten different factors about NATO ‘s potential as well as its important role in protecting liberal values.</p> <p>The seminar also concluded several concrete policy recommendations, such as striving for a better NATO and put the security issue on the European agenda. Regarding the Treaty on prohibition of Nuclear weapons the panellists agreed on being very careful with the content in the treaty, due to European security. The Treaty on prohibition of Nuclear weapons</p>



	<p>should not be signed in its current form. (See Narrative Report).</p>
<p>Were further goals reached?</p>	<p>In some ways, yes. The seminar, despite its few participants, lifted crucial points of view about why NATO is one of the most important organisations in protecting liberal values from eastern threats.</p> <p>Aside from the seminar, the arrangement also connected important actors with specialisation on international relations and security issues. This types of networking and arrangement is vital for politicians, academics and political expert, especially in times when European countries domestic politics takes up a greater space.</p>
<p>Additional comments/difficulties experienced/ lessons learned</p>	<p>Kerstin Lundgren was very pleased with the output the seminar resulted in, as were our panellists. A more accurate name for the seminar would have been „Russia, NATO & Nuclear Ban Treaty “. Perhaps that would have attracted more people due to the highly topical discussion in Sweden about the Prohibition of Nuclear weapons. The seminar was also placed on a Friday, which makes it harder for people to take time off on a lunch seminar, due to assignments that must be finished before the weekend. We do not recommend future seminars to take place on Fridays.</p> <p>Even if the invitation went out to several organisations, parties, thinktanks and ambassadors the digestion was low. From our point of view, there is a point of making The Centre Party´s International Foundations Facebook-page more visible for more people. But as well informing more people about European Liberal Forums activity and purpose.</p> <p>The marketing strategy consisted mostly of sharing the event to open and closed Facebook-groups, groups of people that we know have an interest in security and international relations. As mentioned, putting the seminar on a Friday and close to the EP-election made it harder for us to gather participants for the seminar.</p>