

H. Res. 59

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

November 2, 1999.

Whereas for 50 years the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (hereafter in this preamble referred to as “NATO”) has served as the preeminent organization to defend the territories of its member states against all external threats;

Whereas NATO, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law, has proved an indispensable instrument for forging a trans-Atlantic community of nations working together to safeguard the freedom and common heritage of its peoples, and promoting stability in the North Atlantic area;

Whereas NATO has acted to address new risks emerging from outside the treaty area in the interests of preserving peace and security in the Euro-Atlantic area, and maintains a unique collective capability to address these new challenges which may affect Allied interests and values;

Whereas such challenges to NATO Allied interests and values include the potential for the re-emergence of a hegemonic power confronting Europe; rogue states and non-state actors possessing nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons and their means of delivery; transnational terrorism and disruption of the flow of vital resources; and conflicts outside the treaty area stemming from unresolved historical disputes and the actions of undemocratic govern-

ments and sub-state actors who reject the peaceful settlement of disputes;

Whereas the security of NATO member states is inseparably linked to that of the whole of Europe, and the consolidation and strengthening of democratic and free societies on the entire continent, in accordance with the principles and commitments of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, is of direct and material concern to the NATO Alliance and its partners;

Whereas the 50th anniversary NATO summit meeting, held on April 24–25, 1999, in Washington, D.C., provided an historic opportunity to chart a course for NATO in the next millennium;

Whereas NATO enhances the security of the United States by providing an integrated military structure and a framework for consultations on political and security concerns of any member state;

Whereas NATO remains the embodiment of United States engagement in Europe and therefore membership in NATO remains a vital national security interest of the United States;

Whereas the European members of NATO are today developing within the Alliance a European Security and Defense Identity (ESDI) in order to enhance their role within the Alliance, while at the same time the European Union (EU) is seeking to forge among its members a Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP);

Whereas the Berlin decisions of 1996 provided the framework for strengthening the European pillar in NATO;

Whereas NATO should remain the core security organization of the evolving Euro-Atlantic architecture in which all states enjoy the same freedom, cooperation, and security;

Whereas NATO has embarked upon an historic mission to share its benefits and patterns of consultation and cooperation with other nations in the Euro-Atlantic area through both enlargement and active partnership;

Whereas the membership of the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland has strengthened NATO's ability to perform the full range of NATO missions and bolstered its capability to integrate former communist adversary nations into a community of democracies;

Whereas the organization of NATO national parliamentarians, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, serves as a unique transatlantic forum for generating and maintaining legislative and public support for the Alliance, and has played a key role in initiating constructive dialogue between NATO parliamentarians and parliamentarians in Central and Eastern Europe; and

Whereas NATO Parliamentary Assembly activities, such as the Rose-Roth program to engage and educate Central and Eastern European parliamentarians, have played a pioneering role in familiarizing the new democracies with democratic institutions and a civil society: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
- 2 resentatives that—
- 3 (1) the North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- 4 (hereafter in this resolution referred to as “NATO”)

1 is to be commended for its pivotal role in preserving
2 trans-Atlantic peace and stability;

3 (2) the new NATO strategic concept, adopted
4 by the Allies at the summit meeting held in Wash-
5 ington, D.C. in April of 1999, articulates a concrete
6 vision for the Alliance in the 21st century, clearly
7 setting out the continued importance of NATO for
8 the citizens of the Allied nations, and establishing
9 that defense of shared interests and values is as im-
10 portant for peace and stability as maintaining a vig-
11 orous capability to carry out collective defense;

12 (3) the Alliance, while maintaining collective de-
13 fense as its core function, should, as a fundamental
14 Alliance task, identify crisis management operations
15 outside the NATO treaty area, based on case-by-case
16 consensual Alliance decisions;

17 (4) the Alliance must recognize and act upon
18 the threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of
19 mass destruction and terrorism by intensifying con-
20 sultations among political and military leaders, and
21 deploying comprehensive capabilities to counter these
22 threats to the international community at the ear-
23 liest possible date;

24 (5) the Alliance should make clear commit-
25 ments to remedy shortfalls in areas such as logistics,

1 command, control, communications, intelligence,
2 ground surveillance, readiness, deployability, mobil-
3 ity, sustainability, survivability, armaments coopera-
4 tion, and effective engagement, including early
5 progress in the NATO force structure review;

6 (6) the Alliance must ensure equitable sharing
7 of contributions to the NATO common budgets and
8 overall defense expenditure and capability-building;

9 (7) the Alliance should welcome efforts by mem-
10 bers of the European Union (EU) to strengthen
11 their military capabilities and enhance their role
12 within the Alliance through the European Security
13 and Defense Identity (ESDI);

14 (8) the key to a vibrant and more influential
15 ESDI is the improvement of European military ca-
16 pabilities that will strengthen the Alliance;

17 (9) in order to preserve the solidarity and effec-
18 tiveness that has been achieved within the Alliance
19 over the last 50 years, it is essential that security
20 arrangements elaborated under the EU's Common
21 Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) complement,
22 rather than duplicate NATO efforts and institutions,
23 and be linked to, rather than decoupled from NATO
24 structures, and provide for full and active involve-
25 ment of all European Allies rather than discrimi-

1 nating against European Allies that are not mem-
2 bers of the EU;

3 (10) the Alliance should remain prepared to ex-
4 tend invitations for accession negotiations to any ap-
5 propriate European democracy meeting the criteria
6 for NATO membership as established in the Alli-
7 ance's 1995 Study on NATO Enlargement and sec-
8 tion 203(d)(3)(A) of the NATO Participation Act of
9 1994 (22 U.S.C. 1928 note), on the same conditions
10 as applied to the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Po-
11 land;

12 (11) while maintaining its unchallenged right to
13 make its own decisions, NATO should seek to
14 strengthen its relations with Russia and Ukraine as
15 essential partners in building long-term peace in the
16 Euro-Atlantic area; and

17 (12) the Alliance should fully support the
18 NATO Parliamentary Assembly's activities in en-
19 hancing and stabilizing parliamentary democracy in
20 the nations of Central and Eastern Europe, ensuring
21 ratification of appropriate new NATO members,
22 continuing to deepen cooperation within the Alliance,

- 1 and forging democratic links with the new European
- 2 democracies.

Attest:

Clerk.