

## *Disarmament Committee*

### *Considering the creation of demilitarized zones in Central Europe*

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#### *Introduction - Definition:*

A “ Demilitarized” zone is an area agreed upon between the parties to an armed conflict, which cannot be occupied or used for military purposes by any party to the conflict.

Demilitarized zones can be established by a verbal or written agreement in times of peace or during an armed conflict fulfilling the following conditions:

- a) all combatants as well as mobile weapons and mobile military equipment have been evacuated
- b) no hostile use is made of fixed military installations or establishments
- c) no acts of hostility are committed by the authorities or by the population and
- d) all activity linked to the military effort has ceased.

The agreement should define and describe with precision the limits of the demilitarized zone and lay down the methods of supervision. Police forces may be of help to maintain order. The concept of a demilitarized zone is not far removed from those of hospital zones and localities, neutralized zones and hospital and safety zones and localities.

*Problem- Target:* The target is more demilitarized zones to be developed and created all throughout Central Europe and get to know which are the most appropriate zones to be demilitarized.

#### *Geography of the place:*

Central Europe includes West Central Europe and East Central Europe.

The countries of West Central Europe are Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Slovenia. These countries are on the border of Central Europe and Western Europe and they can be classified as either.

In East Central Europe is included the Slovak Republic, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

Other countries which are included in Central Europe are Serbia, Romania and Croatia. According to German tradition of geographical delineation the countries of Northern Europe are held as part of Central Europe.

One of the most important historical events concerning Central Europe is the Cold War which was a “game” of authority, impressions, nuclear weapons and political dominance. After World War II the Yalta Conference divided Europe in two parts the Eastern (Communist) and the Western. Result of the Cold War was a political war of equipment and prestige with a terror balance of equipment. No one will be more forceful in weapons to cover the others.

The cold war was a period of high tension between the two superpowers USA and USSR (Union of the Socialist Soviet Republics) which had created vast alliances, NATO for the USA and the Warsaw Pact states for the USSR.

The war was considered as a “cold “ war, because it was fought with nonmilitary means (espionage, diplomacy, information to denigrate the opponent). The strong internal pressure led the Soviet president Gorbachev to find a solution for the central European countries. The Soviet troops would withdraw from the territories of the Warsaw Pact. The promise was given that NATO would not move its troops to those countries .

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the situation changed very quickly. The NATO promise was not respected and 13 new states joined NATO putting its armies and missiles very close to the Russian territory.

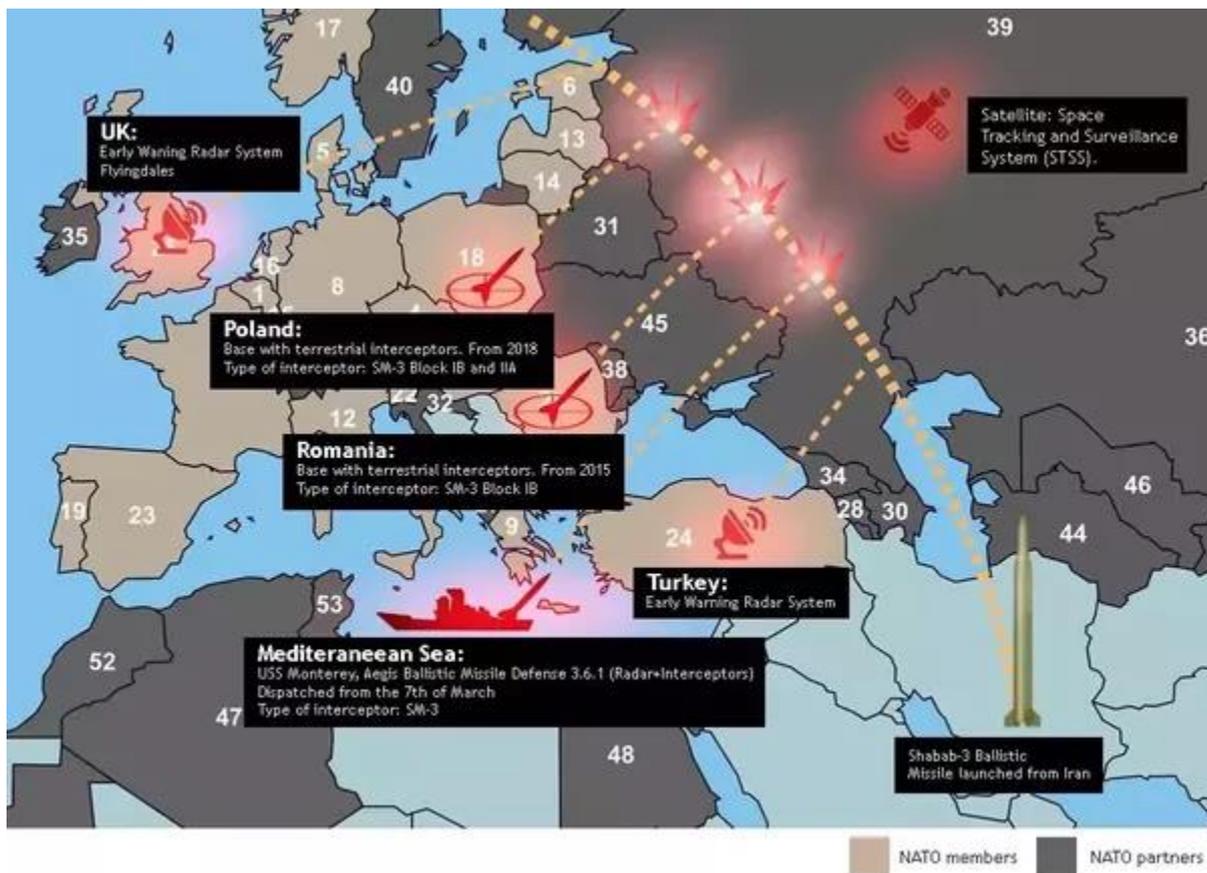
<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-shiffrinson-russia-us-nato-deal--20160530-snap-story.html>



Russia fears the eastbound development of NATO forces and answers in a harsh way: Crimea was pushed to accept an annexation to Russia in March 2014.

The Kremlin has often announced plans to station Iskander missiles in Kaliningrad to counter the US missile shield being developed in Eastern Europe (Poland, Romania, Turkey). Washington claims that the shield is to counter possible missile attacks by Iran.

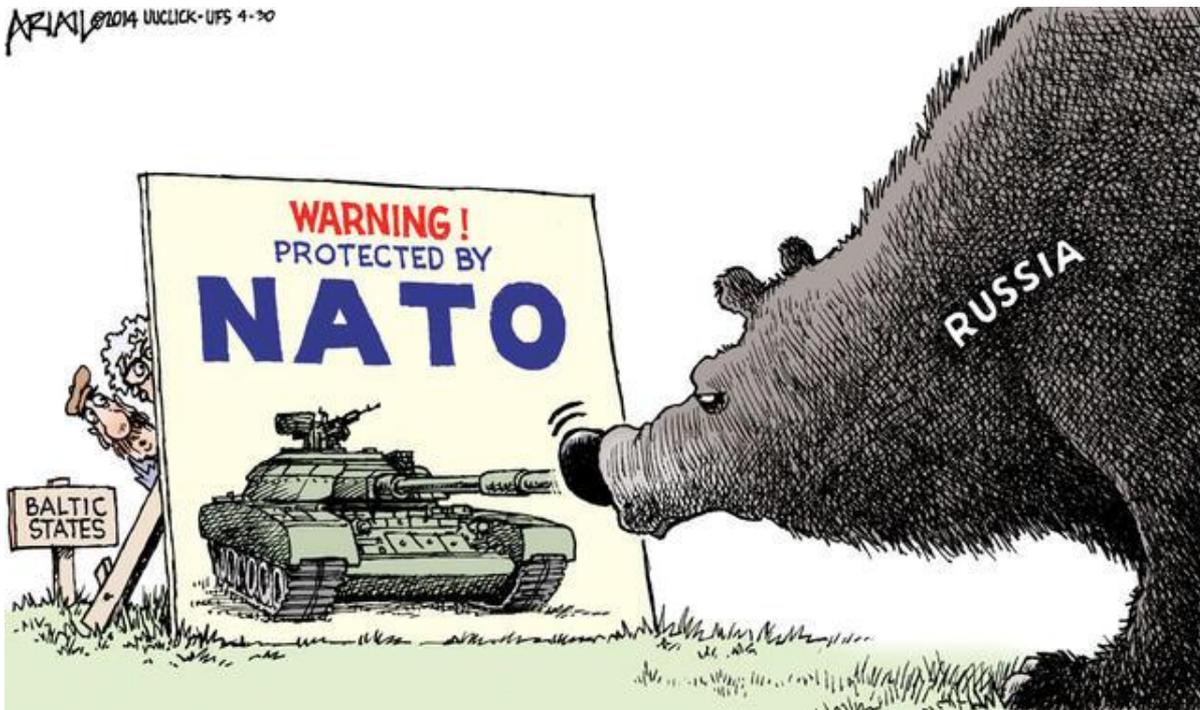
However, Russian officials say it is directed against their country.



Probably Russia has installed Iskander nuclear missiles in the Kaliningrad region (Russian enclave in the Baltic area to counter the menace.



*Ironic cartoon showing NATO presence at the Russian borders.*



*Ironic cartoon showing Russian aggressivity and NATO weakness*

The rising nationalism in the former USSR and Comecon areas (Baltic republics see discrimination of Russian minority, the raising tension between Poland and Ukraine for border questions, the conflict between Ukraine and its rebel regions, new born states like Transnistria or Abkhazia and south Ossezia).

In the European tradition of research of peaceful settlements of dangerous moments different countries have a role to play: Sweden, Finland, Austria (the promoter of the treaty for the ban of nuclear weapons in 2017), Byelorussia, Ukraine (considering its constitution it wants to remain nonaligned to any block), Armenia.

The notion that neutrality is a phenomenon only relevant to the Cold War is false in many ways. The Cold War was about building blocks, neutrality about staying out of them. From 1975 until the end of the Cold War, neutral states offered mediation and good offices and fought against the stagnation of the détente policy especially in the framework of the CSCE. After the end of the Cold War, neutral states became active in peace-operations outside of military alliances. The concept of neutrality has proven time and again that it can adapt to new situations. In many ways, small neutral states have more room to maneuver than members of alliances or big powers. They have more acceptance and fewer geopolitical interests. Neutrality has been declared obsolete many times in its long and layered history., yet it has also made many comebacks in varying forms and contexts. Neutrality in the 21st century does not involve to staying out but

engaging. In contrast to disengagement and staying out, engaged neutrality entails active participation in the international security policy in general and in international peace operations in particular. Engaged neutrality means involvement whenever possible and staying out only if necessary.

The idea could be that of building a vast demilitarized zone from North to South across Europe.

This is an idea from a limited area, but it could become a model. The involvement and presence of the OCSE would be essential in the project.

Safe zones is not a technical term under international law and is used to describe a variety of situations. International Humanitarian Laws foresees a number of protected zones, such a neutralized zones for non-combatants and wounded combatants, non-defended localities and demilitarized zones within conflict situations, located in or outside combat areas. The neutralized zones in Croatia noted above are examples of these types of zones. The common objective of these various zones is to enhance the protection of the entire population by sheltering them from the dangers arising out of armed conflict or by placing certain areas beyond the reach of hostilities. These zones are established with agreements or recognition by all parties to the conflict.

History has shown that safe zones and no-fly zones are full of risks. At best, these types of interventions may bring short term protection and relief to civilians at huge risk. At worst, declaring an area safe with clear guarantees from all parties to a conflict or without the requisite military force can lead to devastating humanitarian consequences. Coming to present, a great help to demilitarized zones has been a United Nations Conference on July 7<sup>th</sup> 2017 122 state parties voted in favour of a Treaty that prohibits nuclear weapons. No nuclear weapons state nor their allies participated. The treaty expresses concern about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of

nuclear weapons which are widely recognized, nuclear weapon states will not give up what the root causes of the existence of these weapons are: the concept of nuclear deterrence, what they think protects them from a nuclear or massive conventional attack.

The perspectives of non- nuclear weapon states are different. They renounced nuclear weapons and joined the non-proliferation treaty of 1969. Most of them thought that it would be one way to avoid becoming a primary target in the case of a nuclear war. Even some neutral countries which wanted to stay out of the military/ nuclear blocks of the cold war experimented like Sweden and Switzerland, with the development of nuclear weapons as did Canada and Germany.

There are two opposing views of security. The nuclear-weapon states feel more protected with nuclear weapons whereas the non-nuclear- weapon states think they are more secure because they have none. It is also believed that the nuclear weapon states and their population are more in danger because they are a primary target in a nuclear exchange. The non-nuclear weapon states have the feeling that they sacrificed something by renouncing nuclear weapons. However, they did not get what they expected in exchange. The nuclear weapon states did not meet their obligation to seriously negotiate general and complete disarmament as required in Article VI of the NPT. There were two classes of parties to the Treaty the haves and have nots. That is why non-nuclear weapon states pushed for the ban treaty to close the gap, which has to be legally binding.

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