



22ND Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum
Bucharest, Romania
July 6-8, 2022

FORUM REPORT

July 7th

CATEGORY: OFFICIAL OPENING - PALACE OF THE PARLIAMENT

Pavel Popescu, Chairman of the Committee on Defence, Public Order and National Security, Romania

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Chairman Popescu started the official opening by giving thanks to everyone present at the forum and opened the forum by requesting a minute of silence for the victims of war in Ukraine.

“We are gathered here for the next two days to declare our common goal more clearly. To continue to stand with Ukraine in their fight for survival. To bring back the peace in Europe and protect our democracies”, he said.

Chairman Popescu pointed out that the future generations will remember one thing, that whatever it is done today, will become forever, what we have done.

Robert Pittenger, Chairman Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Congressman Pittenger started his opening remarks by thanking everyone who attended the forum and gave a special honor to the Ukrainian members of Parliament that were present at the forum.

During his remarks, Chairman Pittenger pointed out that we need to have reverse CIFIUS legislation now to stop US and western investment capital flows to China. Even as we move forward, we are constantly reminded of the fact that freedom and free people are always under threat we have today a threat that is even more challenging than the one across the border in Russia, he said, referring to China.

Chairman Pittenger stated that as China seeks to expand its global footprint to Africa, Latin America, Europe

and Asia, it brings with it it's coercive and repressive practices.

Congressman Pittenger listed the topics to be discussed at the forum and mentioned that these are transforming how war is fought and being exploited by our adversaries.

“That reality brings us to this strategic briefing today”, he said.

Nicolae Ciucă, Prime Minister of Romania

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Prime Minister Ciucă through a video message spoke about the Russian invasion in Ukraine, and added that the EU, NATO and the collective west, made important steps and showed unity resolution and common decision to help Ukraine to resist, defend itself, and protect its citizens.

Dmytro Kuleba, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine (via VTC)

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Minister Kuleba pointed out that the Russian aggression against Ukraine it's a fundamentally challenging phenomena for global security for decades to come. The actions we take now will have long lasting consequences for all nations of the region and the world, he mentioned.

Minister Kuleba finishes his remarks by saying that a firm support for Ukraine is essential to win a lasting and fair peace for our region and the world.

Karen Enstrom, Acting Chargé D'affaires, US Embassy Bucharest

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Chargé D'affaires Ms. Karen Enstrom started by thanking the organizers for their work and effort in convening this forum. She then mentioned that in the current year (2022), they are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the strategic partnership between the United States and Romania, Romania being one of their closest partners in the black sea.

Tammy Baldwin, U.S. Senator

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Senator Baldwin started by recognizing the enormous sacrifice that average Ukrainians have been making for more than eight years, but especially since February, and the commencement of Putin's latest stage of his inhumane and illegal war.

Senator Baldwin then continued by saying that instead of a divided and fractured Europe and western alliance, Putin got a stronger and more resilient NATO, the alliance is stronger than ever before, and we have all rallied to provide the support Ukraine needs to defend itself and that support will continue.

Gen. James L. Jones Jr, Former SACEUR, Former National Security Advisor

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Gen. Jones shared his thoughts about the Russian invasion and pointed out that this is a war of unjustified aggression, driven by the imperialist ambitions of an autocrat, who rose to power by corruption, sustained through brutality, and is now marked forever by a savage war of conquest and criminality.

THE WAR IN UKRAINE: RESHAPING THE GLOBAL SECURITY MAP

Ana Revenco, Minister of Interior, Republic of Moldova

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Minister Revenco stated that the war has made it hurtfully clear for all of us that we need strong intervention mechanisms in which the European union security and law enforcement agencies cooperate and work together with the national security structures of the states for the proper and efficient functioning of the security ecosystems of Europe and the entire world.

She pointed out that Russia's aggression to Ukraine forces us all to rethink to reshape and to recalibrate the border protection systems and to prepare innovative action strategies to deal with the impact of war generated threats.

Sabin Sărmaç, Chairman of the Information Technology and Communications Committee.

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Chairman Sărmaç talked about communications, he mentioned that we are facing these days the first "Hybrid" war in the world, because the battles are not just on the ground, but it is also present in the digital yard (Social network). He stated that the Ukrainians are completely dominating the global battle from hearts and minds of the people, and this is because of the videos from Ukrainians that went viral, they have captured the world's attentions and are the ones that are telling the stories, the personal story of the victims and of the heroes of this war.

He stated that communications are today very important, and a resilient communication infrastructure is one of the pillars of any powerful and secure state.

Larry Pressler, Former U.S. Senator

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Former U.S. Senator Larry Pressler stressed that former Congressman Robert Pittenger has done an immense service to the United States, and to the world, by organizing these Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Fora. He quoted former President Dwight Eisenhower, who once said "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." These Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Fora, Senator Pressler said, keep us all a little more vigilant than we otherwise would be.

Senator Pressler noted the particular importance of maintaining our dominance of the technology sector, with 5G being of the utmost significance.

He concluded by encouraging attendants not to fall asleep at the wheel, and thanked Congressman Pittenger for his work to prevent this weariness.

Special remarks on food security and logistics

Irene Rosberg, Programme Director, Executive MBA in Shipping and Logistics, Copenhagen Business School

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Ms. Rosberg defined food security as all the people having physical, social and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food, to maintain a healthy and active life.

She then mentioned that there are nearly 800 million hungry people, and that this does not happen because there is a lack of food, it happens because food is mainly out of reach, and therefore, the actual problem is about the distribution of food which will also be affected by the war.

Short Interventions (1/2 minutes)

Olga Vasylevska, MP Verkhovna Rada, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Payment and Information Systems and Prevention of Money Laundering, Tax and Customs

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Hon. Vasylevska stated that Russia has already used almost three thousand different cross missiles against Ukraine, and that the number of air bombs and rockets hitting Ukraine cities simply cannot be counted. She pointed out that just in one day of war Russia spends more than 200 million dollars, given this need for resources buying or transporting Russian oil, maintaining contacts with Russian banks, paying taxes and custom duties to the Russian state, means financing act of terror. Selling Russia goods means giving terrorists weapons components, she stated.

Halyna Vasylchenko, MP Verhovna Rada, Member of the Committee on Finance, Tax and Customs Policy

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Hon. Vasylchenko shared the gratitude of Ukraine towards all states that united in assistance to help Ukraine with the military, humanitarian and financial support. And mentioned that to win this war the support of all these states will still be needed.

Yelyzaveta Yasko, MP Parliament of Ukraine, Head of Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Bilateral and Multilateral Relations

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Hon. Yasko stated that we must not get tired from the war and from the internal clashes in different countries, because that is exactly what Putin wants so he can take advantage of the weakness that sometimes is happening in the internal processes and then use that to win the war.

She mentioned the importance of naming the things with their real names if we want to have peace in the future in our countries, after saying that at the U.N. voting, not everyone is brave enough to call Russia “aggressor”.

Denis Zvizdić, Deputy speaker of House of Representative of Parliamentary assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Deputy Speaker Zvizdić said that the Ukrainian people have chosen the right side of history because they respect moral values and they never give up an honorable fight for the freedom of their homeland, he then mentioned that we must not allow the same scenario that once happened in Bosnia & Herzegovina to be repeated in Ukraine.

He emphasized that if we want long-term peace in Europe, it is not guaranteed if only Scandinavian countries become members of the NATO alliance, all countries of the Western Balkans region must become full members of the European Union and Bosnia and Herzegovina must become full members of the NATO as well. Without a stable and peaceful Western Balkans there is no stability in Europe, he said.

Victor Guido Gonzalez, Member of Congress of Deputies of Spain

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

During his speech, the Honorable Gonzalez said that there is a growing confidence in the western alliance about the course of the war in Ukraine and although this confidence seems to have grounds to be justified, it is no less true that poses a potential danger.

Sonia Krimi, Former member of Parliament, France.

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Hon. Krimi suggested for a long-term goal there should be more women at the power. Because the war is not only for men, but it also affects the women, and there should be more places for women to be involved in the political life.

Maria Fernanda Cabal Molina, Senator, Senado de la República de Colombia

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Senator Cabal pointed out that they have been fighting communism for 80 years in Colombia, and that today they have former barbarians, guerrilla members, war criminals in Congress.

Senator Cabal mentioned that the police in Colombia discovered that Russia paid violent people to be in the streets of Colombia and discovered that there were more than seven thousand fake accounts in the network, and media, promoting violence. This is the use of media for war, and we must defeat it, we have to defend human dignity and freedom, she said.

Fatmir Mediu, MP, Former Defense Minister, Albania

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

During his intervention, the Honorable Mediu pointed out that we should keep in mind the penetration of Russia and China in our part of the world is going to create more issues of security and more issues for our economy.

Khan Agha Rezayee, Chairman of the Internal Affairs and National Security Committee,
Afghanistan

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Chairman Rezayee during his intervention mentioned that the NRF of Afghanistan continues to fight for their shared values for a democratic Afghanistan and is actively and militarily defending the dignity and fundamental right for their people against narco- terrorist regime.

Andi Grosaru, Member of the Assembly of Deputies of Romania

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

During his intervention, Hon. Grosaru mentioned that the advancement of technology exposes us to increasingly large and complex threats, with state actors that must show increased ability innovation and major resilience to these threats on multiple fronts.

IS DIPLOMACY DRIFTING? THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Rt Hon Baroness Neville-Jones DCMG, Member, House of Lords of the United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Hon. Baroness Neville-Jones said that the lesson that Russia learnt was that land grab could be achieved at low cost and the war in Ukraine is a consequence of inaction over the seizure of Crimea and that we must accept that.

She pointed out that there's a very big diplomatic agenda ahead of us, the time has come to stop drifting and get on with the work and it requires us to knuckle down and face the fact that we have some very hard work ahead.

Nury Turkel, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute, Chair of US Commission on International Religious
Freedom

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

During his speech, Mr. Turkel mentioned that China is watching the level of resolve regarding Ukraine and has felt secure in making assertions regarding its own imminent assault yet on another sovereign democracy. He then mentioned that the alignment between Russia and China is beyond mere pragmatism, it is ideological.

He then pointed out that the future of democracies is at stake and the weight of history presses us to prevent the free world order from falling, we're already engaged in a battle for freedom and democracy, and one that will not be fully equipped to fight, unless we fully recognize and acknowledge the gravity and urgency of the threat and act swiftly.

Nathan Sales, Former Ambassador-at-Large and Coordinator for Counterterrorism, Former U.S. Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, Nonresident Senior with the Scowcroft Middle East Security Initiative and Middle East Programs at the Atlantic Council

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

During his presentation, Former Ambassador Sales pointed out that the energy sanctions need to be stepped up dramatically, he mentioned that energy exports account for 63 percent of Russian exports, that is why the west has been providing on average One Billion Dollars a day to Putin's war machine. Ukraine is not going to win the war if the west spends more money on Russian oil and gas than it spends on military assistance, he added.

Rihards Kols, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of the Republic of Latvia

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Chairman Kols outlined that the European Union must be more than a soft power, we need hard power too, however, we need to realize that the concept of hard power cannot be reduced to military means, it is about using the full range of our instruments to achieve our goals, it is about thinking and acting in terms of power and bit by bit the conditions for this to happen are being fulfilled.

Dmytro Natalukha MP, Chairman of the Economic affairs committee, advisor to the MOD of Ukraine

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Hon. Natalukha mentioned that unless the European Union, the collective West, has a unified single policy on Putin, the war will continue to go on, because it directly affects the speed, the velocity, and the hesitation, in terms of the military assistance to Ukraine. We need a single unified Putin policy of the west, he mentioned.

Yehor Cherniev, Member of Parliament, Ukraine, Chair of the Ukrainian delegation to the NATO PA

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

During his speech, Hon. Cherniev mentioned that unfortunately, there is no room for diplomacy in the current situation and that the only way to defeat Russia is on the battleground because they don't listen to anything except the language of power. He then mentioned that Ukrainians will keep on looking for support to continue facing Russia's invasion and that they will fight until the last drop of their blood if necessary.

SECURITY, INTELLIGENCE AND DEFENSE CHALLENGES

Mihai Șomordolea, Secretary, Supreme Council of National Defense

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Secretary Șomordolea pointed out that the Russian invasion in Ukraine is a deliberate violation on the international law and a brutal act of violence against a sovereign and independent country and mentioned that it has caused the most severe security and humanitarian crisis in decades.

Simona Cojocaru, State Secretary and Chief of the Department for Defense Policy, Planning and International Relations

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Ms. Cojocaru spoke about the current dynamic security environment, NATO's consolidation of allied posture and the importance of the black sea region. She mentioned that black sea is without question today, a hot spot, with an intensified strategic amplitude undergoing a sea change transformation.

The barbaric invasion of Russia in Ukraine was a strategic shock for the European Euro-Atlantic and mostly the regional stability and security, the biggest security crisis in Europe since the end of the World War II, she mentioned.

General Daniel Petrescu, Chief of Defense, Romania

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

General Petrescu spoke about Russia's intentions, motivations and implications of the Russian actions during the Russia's invasion in Ukraine, and explained that the invasion showed once again that Moscow is willing to use armed forces in order to maintain its spheres of influence.

Major General (r) Allen Batschelet, CEO Horizon Strategies, U.S. EUCOM J3, USAREUR G3, CG USARC and CoS USSTRATCOM

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

General Batschelet pointed out that we are at a strategic inflection point and must act with a sense of urgency as a window of opportunity will be fleeting.

Russia's war on Ukraine reacquainted us to old terrors so as we design and train forces for the future, we must understand the difference between war's nature and character, confusing the two can result in flawed assumptions related to deterrence conflict termination and victory, confusing the two also can give civilian and political leaders an inflated sense of control over wars conditions and lead to ill-formed concept system acquisitions and fielding, he mentioned.

James Carafano, Director of the Douglas and Sarah Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies and Vice- president of the Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for International Studies at The Heritage Foundation

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Mr. Carafano spoke about four important tasks that if they happen, they demonstrate that the free world has learned its lessons and is seriously about protecting its own freedom, prosperity and security in the modern age.

First, to break the connections between China and Russia because they represent a joint threat- Second, he mentioned *energy*, and stated that we are going nowhere unless we have reliable/affordable/dependable energy that's not dependent upon buying things from our enemies and

that includes oil and gas in Russia, and it also includes a range of green technologies from China as well. Third, he pointed out the issue of the connectivity between these two great theaters of the indo-pacific and western Europe and spoke about the self-defense problem as the fourth task.

Brig. Gen. (r) Eduard Simion, Senior Associate Expert at New Strategy Center, Former NATO HUMINT Center of Excellence Commander and Former SACT Representative in Europe

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

During his speech, Gen. Simion spoke about two main topics such as the NATO summit in Madrid and the implication for the black sea and the intelligence lessons learned from the Ukrainian war.

General Simion stated that NATO's strategy for the black sea region must include a response to Russian threats in the hybrid warfare domain and must coordinate with the European Union and other international entities on economic security measures, specifically regarding energy and food.

CYBER, 5G AND EMERGING TECH THREATS

Dan Cîmpean, Director of Romanian National Cyber Security Directorate

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

During his speech, Hon. Dan Cîmpean stated that cyber operations and straightforward attacks are occurring against Romania, against European Union member states, and against our allies, and they

are truly increasing in frequency, complexity, and magnitude.

The Hon. Cîmpean mentioned his concern about small businesses being increasingly vulnerable to cyber-attacks. Hon. Cîmpean emphasized that in Romania, they must think about half a million small enterprises that have started being systematically targeted. He also indicated his concern about offensive capabilities that are being increasingly deployed, in the context of hybrid operations.

Sorin Ducaru, Director, SATCEN

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Hon. Sorin Ducaru spoke about the aspect of new technologies or technological developments from a strategic perspective. There are changes in the technology world with tectonic strategic implications. Hon. Ducaru emphasized that we are already in an era of tech geopolitics. There is more emphasis on sheltering the breakthrough technologies by those who succeed. There's another dimension to what Hon. Ducaru called the human-centric dimension of technology development.

Brig. Gen. Anton Rog, Head of National Cyberint Center, Romania Intelligence Service, Romania

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Brig. Gen. Anton Rog mentioned that Romania's cyberinc center has worked to identify and prevent encounters with vulnerabilities, risks, and threats to Romanian cyber security. Gen. Rog expressed his concern that small businesses are becoming more vulnerable to cyber-attacks. He emphasized that we must not ignore or neglect the need for support that cyber, and technology professionals require.

Dustin Carmack, Research Fellow at the Center for Technology Policy at The Heritage Foundation (via VTC)

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Hon. Dustin Carmack stated that the explosion in commercial space enterprises and companies such as Elon Musk Space will change the paradigm. Hon. Carmack also mentioned that data access and privacy are another area where we are still grappling with the broader privacy law apparatus. The U.S. must continue to research and develop solutions for cyber threats to operational technology assets.

John Strand, CEO Strand Consult

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

John Strand described the problem of Europe's reliance on Russian gas and the risk of a forthcoming cold winter. Just as At European countries are dependent on Russian gas, they have a similar dependence on Chinese telecommunication equipment from companies like Huawei and ZTE. This could become a huge problem if China invades Taiwan. He described many mobile operators which

have ripped and replaced their Huawei networks with equipment from non-Chinese providers. There are still some few European countries where most or all of the telecom equipment comes from Chinese companies. He expressed admiration for the American and European companies that have pulled out of Russia. Unfortunately, there are still companies like the French Satellite operator Eutelsat which still works in Russia. Eutelsat removed programs from democratic countries but still distributes Russian news channels to more than 15 million households in Russia. Strand said Eutelsat is an important part of Putin's Apparatus Of War Propaganda. He called for the end to Putin's propaganda and the proliferation of Chinese equipment from Huawei, ZTE, Lenovo and so on. These Chinese companies are still doing business in Russia, filling the gap from the companies from democratic companies which have pulled out.

Sohan Dasgupta, Former Deputy General Counsel at U.S. Department of Homeland Security
[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Dr. Dasgupta highlighted the benefits and risks of fifth-generation wireless technology (5G). Information technology, manufacturing, healthcare, agriculture, and so on will flourish and innovate at an unprecedented rate and scale. Dr. Dasgupta, consequently, explained that 5G's potential is transformative across industries and in both emerging and established technology—but its vulnerabilities are formidable as well. The technological revolution brought on by 5G is a matter of national security. And the U.S. Government's responses through sanctions, export controls, control lists, the Secure Equipment Act, agency actions, and the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) will need to address the national-security issues 5G presents.

Megan Bishop, Economic Officer with U.S. Department of State, US Embassy Bucharest
[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Ms. Bishop stated that for over a decade, the U.S. has worked with the international community to design and promote a framework for responsible state behavior in cyberspace with tremendous success. The Hon. Bishop also mentioned that Romania has played an important role in this work as a member of the UN group of governmental experts. The United States Department of State established a new bureau called the Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy, which has three distinct units. She empathized that the U.S. believes that by elevating these issues within the state department, we're better positioning ourselves as a country to be a global leader on the topic. 5G is transformative and will touch upon many aspects of our lives and critical infrastructure such as transportation, electrical distribution, hardware, health care, and more.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND TERRORISM

Karen Bradley, Member of UK Parliament and Co-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery, UK

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Hon. Karen Bradley stated that the Parliamentary task force on human trafficking was formed last year to ensure that this issue gets real focus across the world. Hon. Bradley also mentioned that there are estimated to be 40 million victims of human trafficking and modern slavery around the world today. She emphasized that it's not an immigration crime; this is an example of someone making money out of somebody else. It can affect people from all walks of life, all educational backgrounds, and all educational levels. She concluded that we can only tackle this situation if we work together.

Rushan Abbas, Executive Director of Campaign for Uyghurs

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Ms. Abbas spoke about the situation of the Uyghur people. She explained that because of their own language, culture, and religion, the Uyghur people are facing full-speed genocide by the Chinese regime. She mentioned that the Chinese government's war is a war on women, children, religion, and free thought. The regime offers Chinese men money, housing, and jobs to marry those Uyghur girls. If the Uyghur women refuse such forced marriages, they are sent to the concentration camps. She also stated that twenty percent of the world's cotton supply, one out of every five garments, would be tainted by Uyghur slaves' forced labor because of the genocidal policies of the Chinese regime.

Ioana Bauer, President of eLiberare and Former Policy Adviser in the Office of the Prime Minister

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Ms. Bauer mentioned that during the Ukraine crisis there was a lot of talk about human trafficking, even from the beginning of the war, sometimes in sensationalist ways that did not actually help. A lot of times, traffickers disguise themselves as people willing to help and promoting their help offers, both online and offline. Without a clear vetting system for volunteers, housing, or transportation offers and a clear tracing mechanism, we risk exposing those displaced by the war to other dangers lurking right where we are sending them for help. She believes that since we have been working so hard on this issue, it is crucial that we continue working together, coming alongside war refugees and building a community around them in order to protect them.

Anne Basham, Chair of PI-SF Taskforce on Human Trafficking

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Ms. Basham mentioned that Human trafficking is one of the primary sources of funding for terrorist groups around the world. There are 27 active armed conflicts worldwide, and what occurs in these nations has an impact on Europe, the US, and the rest of the world. These conflicts fuel an increase

in mass migration around the world, and they are frequently fanned and used as a tool by terrorists, people traffickers, and other evildoers who sow chaos and suffering before profiting from it. Abuse of power is a crime, and traffickers and terrorists are motivated by the same factors, stated Ms. Basham.

Davis Opoku, Member of Parliament in Ghana

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

The Honorable Davis Opoku expressed his concern about human trafficking in sub-Saharan Africa. In terms of victim profiles and the types of trafficking that are most practiced, human trafficking in sub-Saharan Africa varies on a sub-regional basis, but there are similarities between the oppressions of traffickers and the factors that contribute throughout the region. Child trafficking is heavily entwined with human trafficking and other forms of organized crime, and traffickers and tourists frequently take advantage of the victims' desire to immigrate. Hon. Opoku also mentioned that Ghana has been severely impacted by the Russian-Ukrainian war, just like other regions of Africa. In fact, the combined effects of several conflicts, droughts, and farming have resulted in a food crisis that has impacted nearly 27 million people.

July 8th

ADVERSARIAL FOREIGN INVESTMENTS AND ABUSIVE EXPLOITATION IN
GLOBAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

Pavel Popescu, Chairman of the Committee on Defense, Public Order and National Security,
Romania (Moderator)

Olivier Cadic, Member of Senate, France

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Senator Cadic pointed out that the sanctions imposed on Russia following the invasion of Ukraine, are having an impact on Moscow's ability to access and move finances as they have been considerably restricted. He then mentioned that a recent policy brief from the global initiative against transnational organized crime entitled "Going for gold". Points to gold and illicit networks being a likely part of the answer, and it would not be the first time that these are used to bypass the sanctions, he mentioned.

Marco Zanni, Member of the European Parliament, Italy

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

During his speech, Hon. Zanni mentioned that the most important geopolitical issue right now is the protection of the sovereignty of Ukraine and the protection of their democratic values against the aggression made by the Russian regime and Vladimir Putin, however, he pointed out that another important issue and probably more relevant than Russia soon is "China". He then mentioned that we need to be independent of undemocratic countries' supply chains because if they are not able to be independent in those very important industries and technologies for our future, our bargaining power will be very weakened compared to the treaties coming from those countries.

David Rader, Deputy Director for the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, Department of Defense

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

During his remarks, Mr. David shared that in 2018 the US trade representative assessed that every year the United States loses between 250 billion and 600 billion dollars through IP theft from China. The US government spends about 1.2 trillion dollars in health care for the entire country a year so half of that is ostensibly taken off the table. He then mentioned that the degradation and the erosion of our economic might, through theft, through both front door and backdoor, economic espionage, and adversarial capital, is eroding our ability to project our power to serve our people to have an effective military around the world, he mentioned.

Mark Davis, Regional Director, Romania & Bulgaria at EBRD

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

During his speech, Mr. Davis mentioned the figure on global private equity coming into EBRD's countries of operations, in 2020 was 0.6 percent. That's 0.6 percent of roughly 648 billion dollars of private equity capital came into their country's operations, he mentioned. Mr. Davis pointed out that there needs to be a sense of urgency cohesion and good policy, and that at this stage of a market cycle with what's coming exactly what you need is dry powder. Exactly what private equity pension fund should be investing in is dry powder, that's where the opportunity is, he mentioned.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY

Stefan Popescu, Deputy Director for Public and Regulatory Affairs at Engie Romania, former Secretary of State to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania (Moderator)

PRESENTED AS A CONVERSATIONAL PANEL

[\(VIDEO LINK FOR THE PANEL\)](#)

Cosmin Ghita, CEO Nuclearelectrica, Romania

During his remarks, Mr. Ghita mentioned that mention that repower EU helps us also relieve some of our other dependency on Russia, and that is medical isotopes. One little known thing is that all nuclear power plants can also produce medical isotopes, cobalt-60, molybdenum 99, lutetium, which are the treatment of the future. A lot of the current Cobalt 60 that is developed, is produced in nuclear power plants and research power plants in Western Europe that will be decommissioned towards the end of the decade, so we need to look at other solutions and that's where nuclear electric is also working on a project to start developing these type of products and this is where putting more money into this can help us can help mobilize things forward and can help get more independence, and a cleaner future, he mentioned.

John Hopkins, CEO NuScale Power

During his remarks Mr. Hopkins explained how NuScale works and mentioned three things that take a tremendous amount of energy, and these are: hydrogen production, reverse osmosis desalination for clean water, and direct air capture sequestration.

Cristian Buçoi, Chair of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy at the European Parliament

Chairman Buçoi mentioned that Europe needs to diversify supply to phase out to replace Russian gas and that they are planning to replace Russian imports with LNG Imports from the United States. He then added that the European Union will need 10 million tons of internal production of hydrogen and 10 million tons of imports by 2030 according to their target. He also mentioned about solar energy they want to install 600 gigawatts in the European Union by 2030. Chairman Buçoi said that all these measures will require a significant investment, but it will be less if we look to the \$100 billion that is being paid to Russia for imports each year.

Theodore S. Boone, Energy Practice Group, International Law Firm of Dentons and former President, American Chamber of Commerce in Hungary

During his remarks, Mr. Boone mentioned that in December of 2019, Romania signed a memorandum of association with the United States government declaring the importance of cooperation in the Civil nuclear energy field and specifically stating that its importance for energy security for other NATO countries as well as the low-carbon goals which we all share. And in 2021 another landmark agreement between Romania and the US relating to financing and other forms of cooperation for new clear civil cooperation.

ILLICIT FINANCE, ILLICIT TRADE AND MONEY LAUNDERING

John Walsh, President and Chief Executive Officer, SightSpan Inc. Washington D.C.
[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

Mr. Walsh stated that when talking about illicit finance and illicit activity we need to follow the money and we will find the problem and this is the case always. Terrorist Financing, Drug Dealing, Human Trafficking, Corruption, and all other forms of illicit activities generate a money trail. He continued his speech by stating that we should all ask ourselves what we want to represent, and what we are for. He said that it's easy to say what we're against, but it's more difficult to say what we are for. We should be for expanding businesses and money flow to democratic countries and working to open cross-board transactions with countries like Belize and throughout the world and help people grow and become more engaged within the international financial community. Mr. Walsh closed by stating that we should all be looking at overall money flows, investment types, locations, and speed of transactions and not any one aspect of financial transactions and each of the sixty countries represented at the forum partner with each other to

grow the global economy in a safe and secure manner.

Thayne Larson, SME on Organized Crime at US Embassy in Bucharest

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

During his remarks, Mr. Larson focused on transnational organized crime, and mentioned that a key part of almost all those cases is money laundering or illicit finance.

He then pointed out that organized criminal groups are doing a broad number of things, and the diversity of these methods and revenue streams link individual talk networks into functional supply chains, which move contraband and money using multiple organizations and magnify the potential impact of any single talk network, with its global reach and variety of crimes targeting the United States, talk is an intelligence and investigative priority of the FBI.

Mr. mentioned that the technological change is reshaping the way criminals operate, and that is a big understatement. The ongoing evolution in communications has created new cross-border market opportunities and exposed a wider range of society to transnational criminal activity and fostered the growth of crime as a service. Though many illicit activities will continue to involve physical commodities like people drugs and guns many criminal criminals no longer require physical contact with victim's customers or their associated networks, he added, and mentioned that it's critical for the FBI and our law enforcement partners to exploit new opportunities for infiltrating and targeting talk networks and stay abreast of the technological developments and analyze how criminals exploit new technology.

WRAP-UP SESSION

Dan Neculăescu, Permanent Representative of Romania to NATO

[\(VIDEO LINK\)](#)

The Hon. Dan Neculăescu spoke about some aspects that are very important not only for Romania and for Ukraine but for the whole alliance as well. He mentioned the strategic concept of alliance, which is very important because it says clearly in its document that Russia is by far the most significant and direct threat to Euro- Atlantic security. Hon. Neculăescu also stated that Romania is also working on that and that the new countries will be full-fledged members, which will increase the security of the whole eastern flank.