

Country :The Kingdom of Belgium

Committee : North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

Agenda Item : Potential NATO Measures to Counter the Growing Danger Posed by the Eastern Bloc



The Kingdom of Belgium, hereinafter referred to as “Belgium” is a federal constitutional monarchy in which the king is the head of state and the prime minister is the head of government in a multi-party system. The main federal institutions are the federal government and the federal parliament, and the Communities and Regions also have their own legislative and executive bodies. Belgium is a country in Northwestern Europe, bordered to the north by the Netherlands, to the east by Germany and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and to the south and the west by France. Belgium has three official languages : Dutch , German and French. As a result, Belgium today, has three communities: the Flemish Community, the French Community and the German-speaking Community. These communities therefore correspond with the population groups.

After the World War II , Belgium recovered its economy quickly and this created an opportunity for Belgium to shift its defense with its neighbours. The Benelux was created in 1944 as a customs union. The three partners (The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg) thus took the first pioneering steps on the road towards European integration. The Treaty of Dunkirk , signed by the United Kingdom and France in 1947 was a defense pact that was enlarged in 1948 with the signing of the Treaty of Brussels to include the three Benelux states. This pact assured the participants to fifty years of collective defense against armed attack. In 1949 British worked with Washington to extend the alliance into NATO which included the US , Canada , Italy , Portugal , Norway , Denmark and Iceland.

Belgium is one of the founding members of NATO and EU. Over 1,000 public and private international organisations have established their headquarters in Brussels, Belgium’s capital city. These include the main institutions of the European Union (EU) and of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). The presence of these international organisations means that Brussels has one of the largest communities of foreign diplomats and journalists in the world. A number of European institutions, for instance the European Commission (which has its headquarters in the Berlaymont Building) and the European Council (housed in the Justus Lipsius Building), employing thousands of European civil servants, are based in Brussels – which is therefore often called ‘the capital of Europe’. Brussels regularly hosts European Council meetings and summits, as well as plenary sessions of the European Parliament and meetings of European parliamentary committees.

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BRICS is an economic cooperation group consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. It represents a large part of the global economy. BRICS's main purpose is to create alternatives to Western-based financial institutions and establishes financial structures as the BRICS Development Bank in this direction and to defend the interests of developing countries and have a greater say in the global economy. That is making BRICS a contemporary Eastern Bloc which has Russia in the middle.

There are many points where NATO and BRICS convergence and divergence: While NATO is a military alliance, it stresses collective security and defense upon the principle of Article 5, while sometimes being aligned with the West's ideological and geopolitical interests. On the other hand, BRICS includes the following countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. It is based on economic cooperation, sovereignty, and boosting the multi-polarity of the world order against the Western hegemony. Yet, striking divergences exist, especially in NATO's military interventions against BRICS with their principles of non-interference and respect for national sovereignty. NATO's eastward expansion and military operations near Russian borders escalate animosity toward Russia, the most important BRICS member. Conversely, China's rise to prominence on the world stage, through projects like the Belt and Road, fights against the economic and strategic interests of NATO.

Russia's aggressions, such as annexing the Crimea and invading Ukraine, caused NATO to reconsider its security policies and pose a threat to Russia's neighboring countries who are members of NATO in various areas. Furthermore, Russia's actions show how the Eastern Bloc can act in case of discord. NATO has also played an important role in the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. Some member countries have called for a more aggressive attitude towards Russia, while others have advocated for continued diplomatic efforts and a focus on building relationships with Russia.

As Belgium, we condemn the Russian Federation's aggressive actions and violations towards Ukraine. It is the policy of Belgium to assist Ukraine in preserving its defence and military edge amid rapid, uncertain and challenging regional political and security transformation. As of 30 April 2024, Belgium has provided Ukraine with a total of 1.072 billion euro in assistance, of which 898 million euro in military support. In 2024, Belgium will allocate at least 977 million EUR in military support on behalf of Ukraine. Since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Belgium has supported the Ukrainian forces. Belgium has been a committed and responsive contributor of military support to Ukraine and has pledged to enhance this level of support. Furthermore, Belgium has joined European efforts to form an international coalition providing Ukraine with fighter jet capability. Belgium will continue its efforts to improve the capability of the security and defence forces of Ukraine to defend itself against Russian aggression now as well as to deter

further aggression in the future, and to enhance interoperability of Ukrainian capabilities with NATO standards.

*NATO can strengthen its cybersecurity to counter the increase in Russian and Chinese influence within the cyber domain. NATO can enhance its space, cyber, and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) defence capabilities.

*Community support is an important factor for NATO's actions. Therefore, NATO can organize training programs to create a positive image in the public and receive media support to support its operations.

*NATO must balance the influence of the Eastern Bloc, especially Russia. For this purpose, it can provide economic cooperation between member countries and invest in alternative energy sources to make member countries less vulnerable to economic pressures from Russia and its allies.

*NATO must ensure its political unity as well as its economic unity among its member states against possible threats and dangers from the Eastern bloc. Because The political cohesion within NATO is the cornerstone of the alliance.

*NATO can increase its military presence in Eastern Europe; NATO has been gradually building up its military presence in Eastern Europe, directly in response to Russia's aggression in Ukraine and its general military activity in the region. The bolstering of NATO's presence in Eastern Europe is at once both a defensive measure and a commitment to collective security under Article 5 of the NATO treaty.

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