

Committee: Historical North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Country: Germany

Topic: North Macedonia Ethnic Rivalry (2001-2003)



Beginning with the election of Konrad Adenauer in 1949, the Federal Republic of Germany had Christian Democratic chancellors for 20 years until a coalition between the Social Democrats and the Liberals took over. From 1982, Christian Democratic leader Helmut Kohl was chancellor in a coalition with the Liberals for 16 years. In this period fell the reunification of Germany, in 1990: the German Democratic Republic joined the Federal Republic. In the former GDR's territory, five *Länder* (states) were established or reestablished. The two parts of Berlin united as one "Land" (state).

The political system of the Federal Republic remained more or less unchanged. Specific provisions for the former GDR territory were enabled via the *unification treaty* between the Federal Republic and the GDR prior to the unification day of 3 October 1990. However, Germany saw in the following two distinct party systems: the Green party and the Liberals remained mostly West German parties, while in the East the former socialist state party, now called PDS, flourished along with the Christian Democrats and Social Democrats.

After 16 years of the Christian–Liberal coalition, led by Helmut Kohl, the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) together with the Greens won the Bundestag elections of 1998. SPD vice chairman Gerhard Schröder positioned himself as a centrist candidate, in contradiction to the leftist SPD chairman Oskar Lafontaine. The Kohl government was hurt at the polls by slower economic growth in the East in the previous two years, and constantly high unemployment. The final margin of victory was sufficiently high to permit a "red-green" coalition of the SPD with Alliance 90–The Greens (*Bündnis '90/Die Grünen*), bringing the Greens into a national government for the first time.

Initial problems of the new government, marked by policy disputes between the moderate and traditional left wings of the SPD, resulted in some voter disaffection. Lafontaine left the government (and later his party) in early 1999. The CDU won in some important state elections but was hit in 2000 by a party donation scandal from the Kohl years. As a result of this Christian Democratic Union (CDU) crisis, Angela Merkel became chair.

The next election for the Bundestag was on 22 September 2002. Gerhard Schröder led the Edmund Stoiber (CSU). Three factors are generally cited that enabled Schröder to win the elections despite poor approval ratings a few months before and a weaker economy: good handling of the 100-year flood, firm opposition to the US 2003 invasion of Iraq, and Stoiber's unpopularity in the east, which cost the CDU crucial seats there.

In the end, a NATO or NATO-led follow-on option gained the most international support. On September 19, 2001, the Macedonian government formally requested that NATO provide a "light presence" to protect international monitors in Macedonia after the completion of Operation Essential Harvest. The North Atlantic Council approved the Operational Plan for the new operation, dubbed "Amber Fox," on September 26. The mandate for "Task Force Fox" is to provide a monitoring presence and security for international civilian personnel overseeing implementation of the peace plan. The NAC issued an Activation Order for Operation Amber Fox on September 27.

Task Force Fox is commanded by German Brig. Gen. Heinz-Georg Keerl and comprises some 700 troops from NATO member nations, together with 300 troops already in country (1,000 total). Of these, about 600 troops come from Germany, with the rest from France, Portugal, Spain, Greece, and Poland. The operation's initial mandate ran for three months and was later extended until the end of March 2002. In February 2002, at the request of the Macedonian government, NATO further extended the mandate for Task Force Fox until June 26, 2002. Some NATO officials have expressed concerns about the prospect of transferring command of the Macedonia operation over to the European Union (see section on the European Union, below), unless NATO and the fledgling EU rapid reaction force first reach agreement on institutional and operational links.

NATO's presence through Operation Amber Fox provides security for the civilian monitoring mission in Macedonia under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). OSCE agreed in September 2001 to increase its longstanding monitoring mission in Macedonia to 210 observers. The OSCE mission in Macedonia comprises confidence-building monitors, police advisors, and police trainers. Its current mandate runs until the end of June 2002.

We as the delegation of Germany, think that this ethnic matter can be solved. With good resolutions we think as a committee we will get past any crisis that is incoming. For minimizing the destructure, we think we can decrease the usage of air and heavy bombardment forces and increase the usage of ground teams more. In this conference, we want to find solutions for the actions of the NLA forces (UÇK) which designated as a terrorist force troubling Macedonia.

Even if it sounds inevitable, we do not want any more lives to waste in these terrorists' hands. We want to finish and solve this matter. So, with Germany's high firepower and technology and with NATO's support this matter is solvable. Germany is highly advanced with construction of firepower, we could sell firepower to Army of Macedonia with NATO's approval and also with reduced prices.

References

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