

The hoped-for undivided “Europe whole and free” of twenty years ago has today become a region in danger of seeing new lines divide the continent with the prospect of heightened tension for all. The responsibility for this situation belongs to all parties, just as it will require adjustments and new thinking from all to recapture the promise of an undivided, secure, and prosperous region.

The **EURO-ATLANTIC SECURITY INITIATIVE** (EASI) is a new, high-level international commission whose unique goal is to lay the intellectual foundation for an inclusive Euro-Atlantic security system for the twenty-first century.

- Led by three co-chairs: former German deputy foreign minister and ambassador to the United States, **WOLFGANG ISCHINGER**, former Russian foreign minister **IGOR IVANOV**, and former United States senator and chair of the Armed Services Committee, **SAM NUNN**; the Commission will seek to devise an institutional design and a means of approach for fitting the United States, Europe, Russia, and the neighboring states of Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Moldova, and Belarus into a common security framework and for creating an effective common economic space.
- The security challenges facing our countries are many, diverse, and difficult, and our differences in defining and addressing them are considerable. The accumulation of past disappointments, enduring suspicions, and damaging misperceptions weighs heavily. Yet we will not be well-served to think small. Hence, without losing sight of Europe’s realities as they are, we intend to approach the task by conceiving of security broadly: a domain encompassing not only the traditional threats to national peace of mind, but new sources of unease, including energy and environmental insecurity. Determining how these new and old threats relate to one another, and then how best to integrate the response to them stands as a key challenge for the Commission.
- Our starting point, we well understand, is the hard unanswered questions of the moment: what is the path to greater security for those countries standing outside the continent’s security institutions? How can tension-filled relationships, such as that between Russia and Georgia, be eased and set on a more constructive course? What strategic concept and vocation should guide institutions like NATO and the OSCE? And how can Europe’s existing institutional framework be enhanced to deal more effectively with the immediate threats of nuclear proliferation, terrorism, the conflict over resources, the flow of narcotics, dueling pipeline projects, and the tattered state of conventional arms control?
- The Commission will operate independently under the leadership of its co-chairs. Outside experts from across the entire Euro-Atlantic area will be extensively engaged as the Commission chooses. Throughout the process, commissioners, experts, and staff will consult closely with diverse “customers”: the relevant foreign and defense ministries, their multinational equivalents, parliamentary committees, business and civil society associations, academics, public opinion leaders, and, of course, the media.

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- **IGOR IVANOV (Russia)**. Professor at the Moscow State Institute for International Relations. Former minister of foreign affairs.
- **SAM NUNN (United States)**. Co-chairman and CEO of the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), distinguished professor at the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at Georgia Tech. U.S. senator from Georgia for 24 years including chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

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