



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: NATO Emerging Leaders Working Group on the Trans-Atlantic Bond

Heads of state and government from all 28 NATO nations will convene at the 2014 NATO Summit in Wales this September to reaffirm the importance of the Trans-Atlantic bond and build a strong foundation for its future. To help Alliance leaders accomplish this task, NATO has commissioned a working group of emerging leaders from member countries to provide concrete ideas and proposals that support a renewed Trans-Atlantic bond and has asked the Atlantic Council to facilitate this process. The Council will select a representative group of fifteen exceptional emerging leaders to participate in the working group. The group will convene in late April in Washington, DC to begin drafting a report with concrete proposals and present these recommendations in Brussels in early June. Members are also tentatively scheduled to attend the 2014 Young Atlanticist Summit on the sidelines of the official NATO Summit in Wales in early September to represent the next generation of Alliance leaders, pending confirmation of the event.

The Atlantic Council is seeking exceptional emerging leaders (ages 25-35) from NATO member countries to participate in this unique international, nonpartisan initiative. Members will have an opportunity to shape the discussions at and in the run-up to the 2014 NATO Summit and build a lasting community of peers committed to supporting a strong Trans-Atlantic bond for the twenty-first century. Applicants may include elected officials, business leaders, journalists, legislative staff, military personnel and veterans, community leaders, policy experts, government officials, and other professionals working in a field of relevance to the Trans-Atlantic bond whose leadership experience, professional expertise, and direct role in influencing policy and public opinion position them to contribute substantively to the working group and provide innovative recommendations.

NATO Emerging Leaders Working Group

The working group is tasked with producing a report that provides NATO and member country leaders concrete and actionable proposals for strengthening the Trans-Atlantic bond and engaging their peers across the Alliance in this critical conversation. Emerging leaders who participate in the working group will:

- Seek input from youth in their home country and peers in their professional community on why the Trans-Atlantic bond is important and how to strengthen it;
- Convene in person at the Atlantic Council's ***Toward a Europe Whole and Free* conference in Washington, DC on April 29-May 1, 2014** to begin drafting the report and meet with international leaders and policy experts;
- Collaborate to draft a three-to-four page report with concrete recommendations and **present the report in Brussels in early June 2014**;
- Represent the next generation of Alliance leaders at the tentatively scheduled **2014 Young Atlanticist UK Summit** to be held on the sidelines of the official NATO Summit (September 4-5) in Wales, pending confirmation of the event; and
- Join an elite network of rising security leaders and help foster an ongoing dialogue on the future of the Trans-Atlantic bond throughout 2014 and beyond.



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Please note: Potential candidates should only apply if they will be able to travel to and participate fully in the events mentioned above in 2014 (the April 29-May 1 conference in DC, early June conference in Brussels, and tentatively planned Young Atlanticist Summit which is scheduled for the week of September 5 in Wales).

The Trans-Atlantic Bond Report: The group will collaboratively draft a report that outlines the working group's proposals for strengthening the Trans-Atlantic bond. Members will seek input from youth in their home country and peers in their professional community to inform the report and foster a renewed focus on strengthening the Trans-Atlantic bond in the run-up to the 2014 NATO Summit in Wales. The group will submit the report to Secretary General Rasmussen, NATO leadership and staff, and member and partner country delegations. In addition, the report may be published on NATO's website.

Working group members will play a significant role in determining the scope and format of the report, which should be brief (preferably 3-4 pages long) and focused on proposing concrete, actionable recommendations. The report is due June 2, 2014 and it will complement the work of two separate and parallel working groups that seek input on the Trans-Atlantic bond from senior international policy experts and from the NATO Parliamentary Assembly delegations. In addition, NATO's Public Diplomacy Division will initiate a public discussion online and working group members may be asked to help build and spark this discussion by contributing their expert analysis.

The working group will consider issues including:

- What has the Trans-Atlantic relationship meant for our countries? How does it need to evolve in the 21st century?
- What are the key challenges that the Trans-Atlantic community now faces, and are we equipped to deal with them?
- What are the expectations and demands in North America and Europe, and how can we address them to ensure the Trans-Atlantic bond is strengthened?
- How can the Trans-Atlantic community engage a rising generation in the task of securing the Trans-Atlantic bond for the future?

Immediately after working group selections are announced, members will begin their internal discussion online using a private, off-record Facebook group and sign a nondisclosure agreement to ensure that discussions are frank and open. The final report will note that its recommendations represent the consensus of working group members' personal views, not necessarily the full view of each individual member or the views of members' employers.

April 2014 *Toward a Europe Whole and Free* Conference: Members will travel to Washington, DC in late April to attend the Atlantic Council's *Toward a Europe Whole and Free* conference that celebrates the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the fifteenth anniversary of NATO's first post-Cold War enlargement, and the tenth anniversary of the "big bang" enlargements of both the European Union and NATO. The conference will convene leaders from across North America and Europe to advance the legacy of a "Europe Whole and Free" and reanimate the Completing Europe vision, highlighting the pressing challenges that countries on the margins of democratic transformation continue to face, particularly in Europe's Southeast and East.



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During the conference, working group members will meet with international leaders and policy experts, discuss internally their ideas for concrete proposals to strengthen the Trans-Atlantic bond, and begin drafting the report. Travel to the conference from members' city of residence will be covered, along with hotel accommodation in Washington, DC during the event. Please visit www.atlanticcouncil.org/events/upcoming-events/detail/toward-a-europe-whole-and-free for more information on the conference.

June 2014 Brussels Conference and September 2014 Young Atlanticist Summit: Members will present their findings and proposals at a conference that NATO will organize in early June in Brussels, Belgium, along with presentations by the NATO Parliamentary and the international policy experts' working groups. Additional details about the conference will be announced soon and travel/hotel expenses will be covered for members.

In addition, the Atlantic Council is tentatively planning to organize a Young Atlanticist Summit on the sidelines of the official NATO Summit this September in Wales and working group members would join other Young Atlanticist delegates in representing the next generation of Alliance leaders in Wales, pending confirmation of the event. The Atlantic Council has organized Young Atlanticist Summits on the sidelines of the Chicago, Lisbon, Bucharest, Istanbul, and Prague NATO Summits, and past delegates have met with global leaders including US President Barack Obama, Czech President Vaclav Havel, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Afghan President Hamid Karzai, Georgian President Mikhael Saakashvili, UN Secretary-General Ban ki-Moon, and NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, among many others. The Young Atlanticist Summit would also include a mentorship program matching each working group member with a local UK student interested in pursuing careers in a related field. Members would meet with the students in person while in Wales for the summit and speak with them via Skype 2-3 times over the course of the year to provide career guidance and support.

2014 Program Timeline

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| April 3: | Application deadline |
| Week of April 11: | Selection results announced |
| April 11-29: | Members seek input from youth and peers and collaborate online to develop recommendations |
| April 29-May 1: | Members convene in Washington, DC at the <i>Toward a Europe Whole and Free</i> conference |
| June 2: | Working group submits report to NATO |
| Early June: | Members present recommendations in Brussels (exact travel dates TBD) |
| Early September: | Members attend the tentatively scheduled Young Atlanticist Summit in Wales, pending confirmation of the event, on the sidelines of the September 4-5 official NATO Summit (exact travel dates TBD) |



Atlantic Council

YOUNG ATLANTICIST PROGRAM

Application Information

We are currently seeking applications from exceptional young professionals, aged 25-35, and are targeting individuals who have started careers in the fields of international relations, electoral politics, defense/security, journalism, international business, and academia. Successful candidates will possess a strong passion for international engagement and Trans-Atlantic relations and have demonstrated leadership abilities.

Applicant Requirements

- Between 25 and 35 years of age
- NATO country citizenship
- Current or past experience relating to: security or defense policy; democratic transitions; international law; international energy policy; international business; journalism; electoral politics; humanitarian issues; or any other fields of relevance to the Trans-Atlantic partnership.
- Working knowledge of English
- A willingness to engage in regular online activity over an extended period and ability to attend and fully participate in the working group's in-person events
- An interest in long-term engagement with peers on issues pertaining to Trans-Atlantic relations

About the Organizers

NATO has asked the Atlantic Council to facilitate the emerging leaders working group, working in coordination with NATO's Public Diplomacy Division, which is providing support to cover travel and accommodation expenses, on this initiative. The Atlantic Council is a nonpartisan Washington, DC-based organization that promotes constructive US leadership and engagement in international affairs based on the central role of the Atlantic community in meeting global challenges. Founded in 1961, the Council provides an essential forum for navigating the dramatic shifts in economic and political influence that are shaping the twenty-first century by educating and galvanizing its uniquely influential, nonpartisan network of international political, business, and intellectual leaders. The emerging leaders working group will be facilitated by the Council's Young Atlanticist Program, a proven leader in bringing together today's top influencers and tomorrow's leaders, and by the Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security, which pays tribute to General Scowcroft's legacy of public service by developing strategy related to NATO, the Trans-Atlantic partnership, and 'over the horizon' security challenges.