

The need for a comprehensive Trans-Atlantic Security Strategy

*Notes from Rasmus Rasmusson, member of the Swedish Atlantic Council
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The meeting on June 2 was certainly a highlight for The Swedish Atlantic Council, with such prominent presence of the US Atlantic Council etc.

Here are a few somewhat random remembrances.

Claire Craanen of NATO HQ pointed out that security is our own business, for each nation now what force is directed at us. We are loosing a military technology edge with less than 2 per cent of GDP for the military sector. Russia and China are surging ahead...

Hybrid threats make intelligence sharing imperative. We need to shape up on anticipation, what after Crimea? NATO needs to improve its cooperation with other parties, e g EU.

Mr Nordenman of the US Atlantic Council praised the Baltic and Nordic countries on good performance. That region could be looked upon like a "Berlin of the Cold War". Maybe US presence in the Baltic countries may become permanent. But US deployment will depend on European defence spending ability....

Katarina Tracz from Free World Forum noted that conflicts due to airplane transponders being shut off has increased by 660 per cent and that Russian nuclear threat was a new phenomenon. Is Finnish-Swedish cooperation a way of avoiding a NATO discussion? The Baltic countries and Poland perceive Swedish defence weakness.

There was quite a profound discussion on TTIP, Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership. 9 rounds between the EU and the US so far, can it be ready by 2016? 60 per cent of the trade is from SMEs. Non-tariff barriers, NTBs, are the worst hindrance to trade. The stagnant EU could get a good boost from US growth, and the US would benefit greatly as well.