



HUNGARIAN ATLANTIC COUNCIL (HAC)

Address and/or contacts

1016 Budapest, Bérc u. 13-15., Hungary

President's name Dr. E. Sylvester Vizi

Secretary General or Executive Director's name

Date of establishment 1992

Ms. Anna Felkai

Introduction:

It was 20 years ago, on the initiative of Dr József Antall, that the **Hungarian Atlantic Council (HAC, Magyar Atlanti Tanács, MAT)** was founded in 1992 as a not-for-profit NGO (the founding members of the HAC were Iván Bába, Ákos Péter Bod, György Csóti, Csaba Ferencz, Tamás Katona, Tibor Kiss, Gyula Kodolányi, Ferenc Mádl, György Osváth, Gábor Perjés, Ágnes Szent-Iványi, Csaba Varga, and Márta Varga). The original mission of the HAC was to promote Hungary's NATO accession and to promote the most broad-based acceptance possible of Euro-Atlantic principles and values in Hungarian society.

NATO invited three Central European Countries, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Poland, on July 8, 1997 to join the Organisation. The Parliament announced a referendum for the decision on the issue that was to be held on November 16, 1997.

Yes: 85.33%

This was the highest percentage of votes in favour that has ever been achieved in a referendum in Europe.

Goals, values and principles which are specific to your chapter, as a national representative to the broader ATA goals of transatlantic democracy and security.

Material and human (intellectual) capital is highly appreciated in the world. However, **social capital until now** has received relatively little attention. Social capital includes **confidence** accumulated in human communities, the willingness to cooperate, and social cohesion.

Social capital determines how the citizen relates to his/her government, the actions his government takes with respect to other governments, or, to cite a concrete example, how a Hungarian citizen relates to the involvement of the United States, NATO, and Hungary in Afghanistan (The well-being of nations: the role of human and social capital, OECD).

Overview of main activities and topics your Chapter has concentrated on.

The challenges of the XXIst century are different from the ones we experienced during the years of the Cold War.

There are new threats:

Intercontinental ballistic missile attacks; cyber attacks; terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their carriers; energy security; threats to the infrastructure of the energy industry. The current threats include ethnic and religious opposition, competition for natural resources, massive migration and organised crime.

Our co-operation activities

Conference organised by the Hungarian Atlantic Council and the Hungarian Institute of Foreign Affairs, "On the Role of the Atlantic Councils" was held in April.

National Activities:

17 May 2012

“2012 National Security Strategy” Conference with invited speakers and guests.

29 May, 2012

General Assembly of Hungarian Atlantic Council

5 October 2012:

Memorial Meeting held on the occasion of the foundation anniversary of the Hungarian Atlantic Council
President of the Hungarian Atlantic Council (E. Sylvester Vizi) including Dr. Karl Lamers and Her Excellency Ambassador Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis (USA) addressed the Meeting. Dr. Vizi reviewed the 2012 activity of Hungarian Atlantic Council We were very lucky to have with us so many distinguished guests, 27 ambassadors of NATO members accredited in Budapest, friends of the Hungarian Atlantic Council, and friends of America. Defence Minister Csaba Hende and Foreign Minister János Martonyi have also participated and addressed the Meeting. Dr. K. Lamers (President of ATA) has also participated and addressed the Meeting. The Meeting has received a good covered in press.

Programme:

17.10-17.20 OPENING REMARKS by Academician Prof. Dr. Szilveszter E. Vizi
17.20-17.30 KEYNOTE SPEECH by Dr. János Martonyi, Minister of Foreign Affairs
17.30-17.40 KEYNOTE SPEECH by Dr. Csaba Hende, Minister of Defence
17.40-17.50 REMARKS by Dr. Karl Lamers MP, President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and the ATA
17.50-18.00 REMARKS by Her Excellency Ambassador Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis
18.00-18.10 REMARKS by Dr. Gergely Gulyás, Member of Parliament
18.10-18.30 FOUNDERS' TRIBUTE by Dr. Gyula Koldolányi, Dr. Péter Ákos Bod, and Ms. Ágnes Szent-Iványi
18.30-19.30 RECEPTION hosted by the Presidency of the Hungarian Atlantic Council

Commemoration chaired by Mr. György Csóti, vice-president, Hungarian Atlantic Council

21 November 2012:

Dinner and discussion with Deputy Secretary of NATO about Future of NATO in Hungary and Europe.

Venue: Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Széchenyi István sq., Budapest)

22 November 2012:

The Hungarian Parliament hosted the conference entitled “NATO After the Chicago Summit” on November 22. Foreign Minister János Martonyi spoke about the relevance of the Atlantic Alliance and about the importance of maintaining NATO’s “Open Doors” policy. Prof. Dr. Vizi (President of HAC) was one of the lecturers. He emphasized NATO has been the most successful political-military alliance in history, based on a strong trans-Atlantic link, and it is our strong intention to maintain it. NATO means security for everybody. But to fulfil the expectations of the public, we must think on both the local and global scales while taking into account our interests, our national interests.

- We went on a road show until the end of the last year, visiting several communities in the country.
- o Youth events can also be mentioned briefly, but will be further addressed in the YATA annual report.
(Eastern Partnership Conference organized by MAT-YATA (Hungarian))

International Activities:

- o **Any International Events that were hosted by your national chapter.**

International seminars/conference participation.

Conference on **Eastern Partnership** and with the participation of the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense, MAT-MIAT** organised an **international conference** with renowned speakers about the presence of the organisation and its future tasks and challenges. At the conference, with Hungary's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. János Martonyi, as Patron General, H. E. **Roman Kowalski, Poland's ambassador extraordinaire and plenipotentiary**, delivered a presentation. After welcoming words from Prof. Dr. **Szilveszter E. Vizi**, the **conference was opened with the keynote address of Péter Sztáray, political director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**. Hungary's Ambassador at Large, Gábor Bródi, coordinator of the

neighbourhood politics of the EU, contributed as the moderator to raise the professional standards of the conference. Experts, instructors, and researchers on the theme made this professional day memorable and successful with their high-level lectures.

Future Projects/Goals for 2013:

The Hungarian Atlantic Council has decided for 2013 the following activities:

To increase society's understanding of the importance of NATO.

1. Most people are not capable of keeping pace with the rapid changes in the security challenges, which means that current models of transfer of knowledge are not working as well as many of us would have hoped. The vast majority of people lack the skills and interest to understand the newest developments in politics. Ten seminars will be organized throughout Hungary (with the help of Hungarian Society of Dissemination of Knowledge).

2. Everybody takes security for granted. This is a psychological problem: a very human situation: I am in safe position, I should not do anything more than to keep preserved this situation.

To promote interest in security and technology among young people.

Twenty-first century security threats, such as the spread of weapons of mass destruction, international terrorism, regional conflict, climate changes, and cyber-attacks, can only be addressed through coordinated action. We must have dialogue with the public. Cyber-attack is war without any tanks or aircraft. It is often difficult to identify who is the enemy. More and more cyber-attacks are happening in the world and they are becoming more and more sophisticated.

- To enhance the dialogue between citizens and NATO officials.
- To disseminate knowledge to the public as far as cyber-attack is concerned.

To keep NATO fit for the future is very important.

I think that we need to think both globally and locally and act trans-Atlantically to establish “one security roof”, a common interest that protects us all.

In the future we need more discussion to exchange opinions to reach conclusions and common agreements, this is what we are going to do in 2013.

We, the members of the Hungarian Atlantic Council, have always communicated from the perspective of the citizen. This means the Council represents the voice of Hungarian people. Since so far, all of the Hungarian governments have been sincere supporters of the Euro-Atlantic ideology in 2013 we like to take into account this philosophy. Accordingly we plan

1. to organize another road show
2. to extend our activity with high school students.

Prof. Dr. E. Sylvester Vizi
President of the Hungarian Atlantic Council