



NEWS: NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY SPRING SESSION IN LUXEMBOURG,
17 - 20 MAY 2013

[NATO Must Safeguard Combat Casualty Lessons to Save Soldiers' Lives](#)



Luxembourg 20 May 2013, Care for soldiers wounded in combat is undergoing a revolution, with survivability rates in Afghanistan the highest in history, but as the economic crisis forces defence cuts NATO must maintain these medical skills if it wants to continue to keep as many troops alive, according to a draft report.

[NATO faces long, costly commitment to Afghan military](#)



Luxembourg 19 May 2013, NATO nations should move quickly to define the Alliance's role in Afghanistan after the end of its combat mission next year and legislators should begin to prepare public opinion for a long and costly operation to fund Afghan forces following the transition, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly heard Sunday.

[Economic crisis an opportunity for NATO](#)



Luxembourg 19 May 2013, the economic crisis has shaken trans-Atlantic solidarity and pressured defence budgets but the forced cuts could provide an opportunity to boost cooperation and get greater value for military spending, parliamentarians and experts from NATO nations said on Sunday.

[NATO Urged to Help Mali's Military](#)



Luxembourg 19 May 2013, NATO has a fleeting opportunity to come to the aid of strife-torn Mali, parliamentarians from NATO nations and experts warned Sunday. Possible measures to help stabilize Mali included officer training in the ill-equipped army and providing air transport as the rainy season hampers the deployment of troops to insurgent areas in the north, members of the

NATO Parliamentary Assembly were informed during the Assembly's spring session in Luxembourg.

Georgian Politicians Urged to Enhance Cohabitation



Luxembourg 18 May 2013, Georgia's feuding political parties were urged on Saturday to cool tensions between them as their country seeks to join NATO and the European Union. "Now is the time for a normal democratic process. Bitter rhetoric and mutual accusations must be toned down," Italian Senator Lucio Malan told legislators at the spring session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Luxembourg.

Legislators debate strategic impact of shale revolution



Luxembourg 19 May 2013, The energy revolution that has enabled Canada and the United States to unlock vast reserves of oil and gas could have profound economic and security implications for the NATO Alliance, legislators from allied nations heard Saturday. "This is something that is going to change not only the energy market in the world, but everything else," said Jeppe Kofod, deputy head of the Danish delegation to NATO's Parliamentary Assembly. "It has huge political and geo-strategic implications."

EU Invites NATO to Boost Cyber Co-operation



Luxembourg May 18 2013, The European Union's top justice official invited NATO on Saturday to work more closely with the EU to combat cyber-crime and create a safe Internet environment where citizen's rights and personal data are protected.

NATO urged to build on ties with Asia-Pacific nations



Luxembourg 18 May 2013, NATO should respond to the growing strategic relevance of the Asia-Pacific by developing its own outreach programme for the region in addition to the new US focus there, Alliance lawmakers were told Saturday. "European allies too have a vested interest in the stability and security of the region and it

would be short sighted if they would not step up their engagement," said Ojars Kalnins, head of Latvia's delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

[Parliamentarians from NATO countries debate Syrian conflict](#)



Luxembourg 18 May 2013, Parliamentarians from NATO countries expressed grave concern Saturday (today) at the mounting civilian casualties in the Syrian conflict. However, they acknowledged that the options for international action to end the bloodshed are limited as long as the United Nations Security Council remains divided.

[NATO Allies Urged to Shortlist Key Defence Needs](#)



Luxembourg 17 May 2013, NATO's European Allies must draw up a shortlist of vital military equipment and capabilities they need to ensure their collective defence as the economic downturn cuts deeply into defence budgets, the President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly warned this Friday.

[NATO PA Spring Session and joint meeting with the North Atlantic Council kicks off in Luxembourg](#)



Luxembourg 15 May 2013, Afghanistan's future after the international combat mission wraps up in 2014; security challenges in the Sahel following the Mali crisis; the policies needed to maximize NATO's defense potential at a time of economic crisis; and ongoing developments in North Africa and the Middle East will top the agenda when lawmakers from the 28 NATO nations gather in Luxembourg this week.

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