

Policy Takeaways and Recommendations from dinner:

“All onboard to face Russia’s Western Flank – Finland’s natural leadership role in NATO”

(7 February, 19:00-21:30)

1. Finland’s Strategic Clarity and Leadership:

- ▶ Finland exhibits a clear determination to confront Russia, emphasizing the singular goal of defeating potential aggression.
- ▶ We need to continue supporting Finland’s proactive stance and leveraging its leadership role within NATO for collective security efforts.
- ▶ Finland’s conscription: enhances military preparedness by optimizing defense spending, fostering national unity, promoting strategic flexibility, safeguarding critical infrastructure, contributing to alliances, and investing in future defense capabilities.

2. Unified NATO Strategy:

- ▶ The consensus underscores the necessity of a unified strategy within NATO, particularly concerning deterrence strategies against Russia.
- ▶ This includes enhancing coordination among member states, aligning deterrence strategies, and fostering a shared understanding of the threat landscape.

3. Military Readiness and Industrial Mobilization:

- ▶ Urgent actions are needed to ramp up ammunition production, mobilize industrial complexes, and enhance military readiness to confront potential threats from Russia.
- ▶ Recommendations include investing in long-term contracts and orders to bolster capabilities and streamline production.
- ▶ Industry collaboration, long-term contracts, and risk-taking are essential for meeting defense procurement needs.
- ▶ The only way to truly help Ukraine is to first help ourselves.

4. NATO Expansion and Inclusion:

- ▶ Finland’s recent accession to NATO signals a shift in regional dynamics, emphasizing the need for inclusivity within the alliance.
- ▶ Recommendations include advocating for the inclusion of Ukraine in NATO to strengthen deterrence measures and ensure collective security.

5. European Defense Integration:

- ▶ Greater European defense integration and self-reliance are imperative, considering concerns about NATO’s preparedness and limitations of individual member states.
- ▶ There’s a need to address challenges such as EU regulations, funding, and defense industry capabilities.

6. Strategic Education and Training:

- ▶ There's a consensus on the importance of strategic education and training to enhance capabilities, particularly at higher levels of warfare.
- ▶ Recommendations include developing a deeper understanding of transatlantic ties and enhancing European defense capabilities for self-reliance.

7. Comprehensive Approach to Security:

- ▶ A comprehensive approach encompassing military, economic, and diplomatic dimensions is necessary to address emerging threats effectively.

8. China's Role and Secondary Sanctions:

- ▶ Discussions highlight China's evolving role and the need for NATO to consider its impact, particularly concerning secondary sanctions and strategic alliances in the region.

9. Preparedness and Forward Planning:

- ▶ Preparedness, forward planning, and investing in future capabilities are paramount to ensure peace and stability in the region.
- ▶ It's necessary to recognize the costs of inaction and act decisively in the face of evolving threats for NATO's collective security.
- ▶ In certain western capitals there's a noted discrepancy between discussions about security threats and preparedness to address them. Addressing this perception gap is crucial for aligning defense policies with actual security needs.