

BERN, 12 MAY 2009. PIR PRESS - "Europe needs a new security design. This new design should adequately take into account the interests of those states, which are not included into any regional military and political structures. It also should equally consider the widest range and challenges of the regional security: from missile and nuclear proliferation to the uncontrolled migration flows and control of the cyberspace and telecommunication systems. None of the European states, even those that are very disposed to an independent foreign and defence policies can be up to such a large number of challenges and threats. On the contrary, one will pay the heavy price for the isolationism," said Dr. Vladimir Orlov, President of the PIR Center.



Dr. Vladimir **Orlov**, President of the PIR Center, head of the Geneva Centre russe d'études politiques, editor-in-chief of the *Security Index* journal made a speech at the Federal Parliament in Bern, Switzerland during the hearings devoted to the threats to the global and regional security. The hearings are aimed to prepare the new Swiss government report on the security policy addressed to the Swiss Parliament.

Swiss government places high hopes on these hearings, believing that they will allow renewing the conceptual approaches to the State policy in the security field with the account of the changes which took place during the last 10 years in the domestic and international arenas. Such a discussion should have the maximum of transparency, conciliating views on the ways of forming the national security policy in the next years.

Among the participants of the hearings were the Swiss minister of defence, Head of the Planning Staff of the Swiss Armed Forces, Heads of corresponding departments in MFA and Ministry of defence, Director of the Swiss Federal Office of Police, Secretary-General of the Conference of the Cantonal Directors of Justice and Police. Even if the majority of experts invited to deliver speech at the hearings were from Swiss military, expert and academic communities, some leading international experts in the field of security were as well present.

Dr. Vladimir Orlov made an extended report on the issue of the challenges and threats to the global and European security.

Talking about the European security he emphasized the following: "Europe needs a new security design. This new design should adequately take into account the interests of those states, which are not included into any regional military and political structures. It also should equally consider the widest range and challenges of the regional security: from missile and nuclear proliferation to the uncontrolled migration flows and control of the cyberspace and telecommunication systems. None of the European states, even those which are very disposed to an independent foreign and defence policies can be up to such a large number of challenges and threats. On the contrary, one will pay the heavy price for the isolationism."

Most of the global threats are also relevant on the regional level. Without Schengen or within Schengen, on the plains or high in the Alps, they will equally knock doors of all Europeans. There is no way to hide from them. There is only one way to meet them: not be scared but rather be prepared.

"Certain preparations and home work can and should be done by Switzerland itself, without waiting for others and reliance on others and others' good intentions. But both realistic approach and cost-efficient approach suggest that European cooperative security mechanisms should not be ignored. Instead, they should be redesigned, to meet both these new combinations of regional threats and interests of those who are not in the alliances."

"How this new security architecture will look like? What should be done to provide cooperative security; to respect each others' identity; and to work collectively on reducing threats, globally and regionally, and at the same time work collectively on reducing, together, global – and Europe's own – military expenditure? Such a new European security mechanism should be equally sensitive to threats related, for example, to migration; missile proliferation; and control over cyberspace and telecommunications.

In order to achieve that new security design of European architecture, each European nation should have the vision – and pro-active, and creative, foreign and security policy. Being "independent" in decisions does not mean be "isolationist". Isolationists in Europe will lose: they will pay more and get less", said Vladimir Orlov.

Dr. Orlov answered the questions of participants of the hearings, concerning Russian foreign and defence policies; Iranian nuclear and missile programs; WMD terrorism; possible role of Switzerland in the elaboration of a new design of the European security etc.

During the hearings, the importance of the role played by Geneva Centre russe études politique, with Dr. Vladimir Orlov as its head, in the Russia-Switzerland and Russia-Europe dialogue was stressed.

The full record of the hearings is planned to be published on the Swiss government internet-sites as well as eventually to include it as an annex to the new document of the concept of Swiss security policy 2009.