

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 21, 2023: 11:30 AM ET
Where: Atlantic Council
FROM: JP Gutierrez
SUBJECT: Securing Ukraine's future in NATO with Anders Fogh Rasmussen and Andriy Yermak

Summary:

Andy Fogh Rasmussen starts the event speaking about how he is personally in favor of extending an invitation to Ukraine to join NATO. He admits it would be the first time in the history of NATO that they would extend an invitation to a country currently going to war. He states that he reached this conclusion due to three reasons. One, it was already decided that Ukraine was going to join NATO in 2008, but there was no clear road map for them to join. Two, it was the failure of not extending safety zones to Ukraine that allowed the opportunity for Putin to invade the country. Three, if you make security guarantees and membership based cessation, then it gives Putin an incentive to continue fighting. By inviting Ukraine to join, we tell Putin that Ukraine will join.

Andriy Yermak, Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, speaks about how it is obvious that Ukraine needs to join NATO, must win the war, and join the Atlantic community. They cannot lose or simply restoring the status quo is not enough. Ukraine people will not give out rights to stay free and if they deny them, we will abandon these people and it would be a defeat to the democratic community. It would instead be a victory for dictatorships and hurt democracy around the world. If Ukraine does not join NATO soon, then Putin will have a giant boost in his next election. It would increase the illusion that Putin was justified in his assault of Ukraine.

They end with the public asking questions to the speakers.

Attachments

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/event/securing-ukraines-future-in-nato-with-anders-fogh-rasmusen-and-andriy-yermak/>