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## Call for Participants

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The Atlantic Treaty Association is pleased to announce that its annual General Assembly (GA) meeting will take place in Tirana, Albania from the Monday 14<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November.

The 2011 General Assembly meeting “*Tackling New Security Challenges with Partners*” will include a number of expert panels tasked with examining and exploring some of the security challenges that will face the Atlantic Alliance in the near future. The ATA has up to 70 places for attendance and accommodation available to students, young professionals and researchers from National YATA Chapters and beyond.

### Program

Confirmed Panels of experts will discuss:

1. Beyond Afghanistan: the future of the International Coalition

In light of the actions taken by some coalition members and in anticipation of the upcoming Bonn Conference and scheduled NATO Defense Ministerial, this panel seeks to explore the ongoing political dialogue in Kabul and other coalition capitals on the future of the Afghanistan political system, to debate the scheduled withdrawal of coalition forces over the next three years, to assess the future strategy of ISAF forces in the country and to provide insights on the future of the region.

2. NATO and EU strategic dialogue

Given the tremendous strain on national economies, countries are searching for creative methods of sharing military and national security expenditures. As costs rise and threats become more global and complex, a solid cooperation between NATO and EU shall be re-launched, based on a new comprehensive agreement that re-defines each other roles and responsibilities. Top priorities for renewed NATO-EU cooperation range from a shared strategic airlift capability and joint exercises to crisis management and a structured information sharing.

3. The future of Partnerships in the Mediterranean and Middle East

The Mediterranean Region and Middle East are intricately connected into the global system. Recent events have shown that the era of dictatorship and closed societies is coming to an end. The momentum of the Arab Spring cannot be wasted and the domestic situations of these countries must be stabilized so as to maintain the positive results. How the Alliance reacts and assists in these efforts is crucial to the long-term relationship between the countries of the Mediterranean and Middle East and the Alliance. Hence, the main question becomes, “Given its own political and economic situation, what can the Alliance do to ensure long-term success and security in this region?”

These Panels will be available for questions from those attending. Other Panels on future security challenges are also planned but yet to be confirmed. A full program of confirmed events will be published at a future date.

### Requirements

Applications to attend the General Assembly meeting are open to students, young professionals and researchers. Applicants for attendance should provide the following information:

- A copy of a CV (no more than 2 pages).
- One accompanying piece of work (position paper, essay) on how to enhance transatlantic cooperation from a youth perspective.

Information should be submitted electronically to the ATA Secretariat, see below for details.

The deadline for applications is October 03, 2011. Applications must be received by this date.

Applicants will get a response by October 5<sup>th</sup> at the latest.

### Costs and Travel

**The ATA will cover all costs of accommodation, and at least 15% of travel costs.** Further re-imbusement of travel costs, up to 70% will be awarded through an innovative "point's scheme", covered in greater detail below. Confirmed attendees should arrange their own travel to and from the General Assembly, the ATA will then reimburse these costs based on the criteria specified. Those with special or significant travel requirements should direct e-mail enquiries to the ATA Secretariat at the address listed below. The ATA will cover all accommodation costs from Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November to Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011. Youth participants will be requested to pay a registration fee of 30 €.

Visas: Please check your countries Visa requirements for entry to Albania.

### Points System Explained

This year, as part of the re-imbusement scheme, the ATA is running points earning system. This system aims at getting momentum before the General Assembly and at creating opportunities for a debate on the GA topics before the meeting. Attendees will be able to earn these points through the publication of analysis, blogs, articles and opinion through a number of mediums.

Points can be earned through the following activities:

Activity	Points Value
- Member of the Board of a National YATA or of that YATA Board	10 points <sup>1</sup>
- Organization of at least 1 YATA conference in the past 10 months	7 points
- Attendance to YATA Conference	3 points
- Blogs or substantial blog comments	<800 Words >800 Words
	5 points 10 points
- Video Blog	12 points
- Publication Article or Report	<400 Words >400 Words
(Newspapers or Journals, Online/Offline)	6 points 12 points
- Facebook Entry <sup>2</sup>	1 point
- Major National or International Publication	20 points
- Publications on the ATA Website or in Atlantic Voices	15 points

<sup>1</sup> *Subscribe to your local YATA Chapter. More info on YATA chapters is available [here](#).*

<sup>2</sup> *Facebook entries should be spread over a reasonable period of time, and posted to relevant Facebook pages.*

The basic reimbursement point's requirements will work as follows:

<b>Reimbursement Level</b>	<b>Points Cost</b>
15%	Basic level all will receive
30%	50 points
50%	85 points
65%	100 points

Further publication, ideas or strategies will be consider, and points granted by the ATA on their individual merits.

Moreover, participants might get refunds also based on their post-conference activities. The re-imbursement scheme will be active for the next 25 days after the end of the Conference, until Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2011.

The credits must be earned before the conference. The ATA retains the right to make final decisions on the award of "points" in all circumstances. Attendees will be asked to provide proof of their points gathering activities through links, photocopy/scans or other evidence.

#### **Dates**

The General Assembly meeting will run from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November - Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>. It is advised that those attending arrive on Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> November in order to be available to attend the full Monday schedule of events.

All applications for places should also be submitted to the ATA Secretariat at [secretariat@ata-sec.org](mailto:secretariat@ata-sec.org). All applications should include in their subject reference "2011 GA Tirana Application". These must contain in attachments the required information. Applications must be received by the Secretariat by October 03, 2011.

We encourage all questions and enquiries to be addressed to the ATA Secretariat at [secretariat@ata-sec.org](mailto:secretariat@ata-sec.org). All emails should include in their subject reference "2011 GA Tirana Enquiry".

We hope you will apply to join us at the 2011 General Assembly in Tirana, and look forward to hearing your comments and opinions on what looks set to be an exciting and engaging meeting.