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## INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE: „SECURITY FORUM 2021“

**Dávid Kollár\***

The International Scientific Conference Security Forum – one of the most important projects of the Department of Security Studies of the Faculty of Political Science and International Relations of Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica – took place on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021, despite the unfavourable epidemiological situation. The organizers of the 14<sup>th</sup> annual international conference decided not to postpone the event, and it took place online.

In 2007, the Department of Security Studies initiated regular contacts of researchers - theorists and university teachers, members of non-profit organisations within the so-called Security Forum. Based on the conclusions of the meeting, the need was declared to increase and expand knowledge in the field of security, raising public awareness of security and coordinating the activities of state and non-state organisations and institutions, universities, research institutes, domestic and foreign experts in the field of security issues. In the interest of creating a functional and creative security community which, in addition to the academic discourse on the formation of a scientific department of security, could mediate partnerships for state authorities in the issue of creating strategic materials. Based on this, 13 international scientific conferences called Security Forum have taken place, providing independent and at the same time professional platform for discussion on current issues of security and security policy not only of the Slovak Republic.

In addition to the theoretical aspects of security research, this year focused on regional security in the context of current security challenges, cyberspace and its trends, environmental and energy security, and topics related to transatlantic security and the impact of COVID-19 on international stability.

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The conference was ceremoniously opened by the Dean of the Faculty of Political Science and International Relations of the MBU, assoc. prof. PhDr. **Branislav Kováčik**, PhD., EMBA, and the participants were also addressed by the head of the Department of Security Studies assoc. prof. PhDr. **Rastislav Kazanský**, PhD., MBA.

After the introductory speeches and the ceremonial opening of the conference, the first panel of the conference followed, moderated by assoc. prof. PhDr. **Rastislav Kazanský**, PhD., MBA, and assoc. prof. **Jaroslav Ušiak**, PhD. In the panel discussion, six speakers were given the opportunity to present their topics - Dr. **Antonín Novotný** from the University of Defense in Brno in his presentation focused on the instruments of the European Defense Fund. The second speaker was Dr. **Libor Frank** also from the University of Defense in Brno with the topic of COVID-19 securitization and the impact on public opinion. The third in a row was the presentation by Dr. **Štěpán Strnad** from the Police Academy in Prague. In his presentation, he dealt with the topic of radicalization through the eyes of foreigners and their integration. His speech was followed by assoc. prof. **Štefan Danics** on the topic of Islamic propaganda and radicalization. Fifth in line, Mgr. **Adam Potočňák** from the Center for Security and Military-Strategic Studies in Brno, lectured on the topic of the Nuclear Doctrines of the United States of America and the Russian Federation in a comparative perspective. Implications for the security of the Czech Republic. The last speech in this section was devoted to the topic of the decision-making process in the field of disposal of unexploded ordnance, which was addressed by **Alexander Hugyár** from the Armed Forces Academy gen. M. R. Štefánik in Liptovský Mikuláš.

After the lunch break, moderators prof. Ing. **Pavel Nečas**, PhD. and Dr. **Lucia Husenicová** opened the second panel of the discussion, in English language. Up to seven speakers were given space in this part of the conference. The first speech Heating up the Mekong: current security challenges in Southeast Asia was addressed by Dr. **Richard Grünwald**, who works at Yunnan University in China. The second speaker was assoc. prof. **Łukasz Jureńczyk** from the University of Bydgoszcz with the topic The attitude of the United Kingdom towards Russia's military policy in Ukraine. The third was Mgr. **Klara Žycka**, who in her presentation dealt with the issue of Influence of COVID-19 on the stability of the labour market. The next speaker was Dr. **Margaréta De La Infanta** from Universidad Complutense Madrid with the topic of Formation of Regional Energy Security Community in Central Europe: a constructivist investigation about Nord Stream 2. Fifth in this section spoke assoc. prof. **Zbyšek Korecki** from the

University of Defense in Brno with his contribution on Passenger Profiling as a Means of Increasing the Level of Civil Aviation Security in Europe. As the penultimate in the order had the word assoc. prof. **Oliver Andonov** from the Military Academy "General Mihailo Apostolski" in Skopje with the theoretical topic of National State or an Undefined Formation, and the last one also with the theoretical research Basic concepts of security sciences spoke assoc. prof. **Juliusz Piwowarski** from APEIRON University in Krakow.

The last panel of the conference, moderated by the PhD. **Dagmar Nováková**, PhD., and Mgr. **Dávid Kollár**, PhD. from the Department of Security Studies, was also thematically focused on various topics. Dr. **Dominika Kosárová** from the University of Defense in Brno in her presentation focused on External security environment assessment of the GCC region. Ing. **Ladislav Pásztor** from the National University of Public Administration in Budapest reported on Hungary in the context of Central European regional security - and possible areas of cooperation with the Slovak Republic in order to strengthen regional security. Dr. **Vít Rouč**, from the University of International and Public Relations in Prague, dealt with the "Northern Triangle" as a security problem on the American continent. Subsequently, in this section, Dr. **Pavel Hlaváček** from the Metropolitan University in Prague together with Professor **James Peterson** from Valdosta State University in Georgia, USA talked on The Shadow of the 1938 Munich Pact: Its Echoing Impact on the Political Legacies, Perceptions, and Policies of East Central Europe and America and the last performing Mgr. **Jana Lukáčová** from the Academy of the Armed Forces in Liptovský Mikuláš reported on hybrid threats in the post-Soviet space.

In today's society, security research is evolving in several directions and ways. The phenomenon of security is part of the military sciences, political science, international relations and international law. However, research is moving from partial levels to the level of an independent scientific discipline, although this discipline has many interdisciplinary features. New stimuli for security research are related to the change in the international environment, the end of the Cold War and the advent of the so-called post bipolar period. The military aspects of security, which examined security studies, strategic studies and specific military studies, ceased to be a central topic of analysis. The research is primarily focused on the so-called non-military aspects of security, and thus extremism, radicalism, humanitarian issues, environmental issues, but also terrorism and national conflicts, and the failure of states. As the subject of research is relatively broad, it is not only of opinion, but also of theoretical and

terminological diversity. In this sense, the Department of Security Studies of the Faculty of Political Science and International Relations of the MBU wants to contribute to security research through the exchange of information and knowledge of researchers, practitioners from domestic and foreign universities and state institutions, which also takes place through this international scientific conference and by the publication of a scientific peer-reviewed proceedings of this event in English, which will be submitted for indexing in the Web of Science database.

The Department of Security Studies of the Faculty of Political Science and International Relations of the MBU in Banská Bystrica as usually organized this year's international conference Security Forum 2021 in cooperation with long-term important partners from Slovakia: the Crisis Management Center at Matej Bel University, Armed Forces Academy gen. M. R. Štefánik in Liptovský Mikuláš, and the University of Security Management in Košice; from the Czech Republic: the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, the Police Academy of the Czech Republic in Prague and the Metropolitan University in Prague; Serbia: Institute of National and International Security in Belgrade; and Poland: Apeiron University of Public and Individual Security in Kraków, Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz and the Faculty of National Security of the National Defense Academy in Warsaw.