

PRESS RELEASE

NATO – Republic of Korea Relations: Towards Practical Cooperation

The **Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy (CSDS)** and **The Asan Institute for Policy Studies** hosted the public forum “NATO-ROK Relations: Towards Practical Cooperation”. The event took place in Seoul on 17 October 2024 and forms part of “**Bridging Allies**”. This is a track 1.5 platform, CSDS initiative, that seeks to generate ideas to strengthen practical cooperation between the key alliances that underpin security in the Euro-Atlantic and the Indo-Pacific regions.

Speaking at the forum, Carmen Romero, Director of Security Policy at the Political Affairs and Security Division, NATO, stated: **“I welcome the opportunity to participate in this “Bridging Allies” event, to give NATO’s perspective and insights into how we are taking forward relations between the Alliance and the Republic of Korea, following our successful Summit in Washington and in light of the deepening connections between the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions from a security perspective.”**

Maria Castillo-Fernandez, Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to the Republic of Korea, explained: **“The EU and the RoK are united in strong support for multilateralism, as well as our shared values in freedom, the rule of law, open societies, democracy, human rights and good governance. This is the foundation of our strong strategic partnership that we are in the process of complementing with a security partnership to enhance our cooperation on global peace and security.”**

CSDS Director and Bridging Allies lead, Luis Simón, who moderated the event, indicated: **“As the geopolitical interlinkages between the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions become clearer, Bridging Allies seeks to strengthen practical cooperation between alliances and partners.”**

Ramon Pacheco Pardo, CSDS Korea Chair and point person for the implementation of Bridging Allies in South Korea, stated: **“The relationship between NATO and South Korea is poised to continue to strengthen for years to come. In this respect, Bridging Allies is becoming a crucial platform for the two sides to discuss common challenges and seek solutions.”**

Based on the event, CSDS plans to publish three policy briefs focusing on the implementation of the Individually Tailored Partnership Programme agreement between NATO and South Korea; lessons for South Korea from NATO’s nuclear security umbrella; and NATO-South Korea defence industry cooperation.

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