

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**“EUROPEAN DEFENSE –
ONE GOAL, MANY CHALLENGES”**



NOVEMBER 7, 2019, SOFIA, BULGARIA

PROGRAM

Working languages:

Bulgarian and English /simultaneous translation/

09:00–09:30 Registration and coffee

09:30–10:00 Opening

Thorsten Geissler, Director, Sofia Office, Konrad Adenauer Foundation
Dr. Niklas Nováky, Research Officer, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

Yordan Bozhilov, President, Sofia Security Forum

Key-note speech:

General (Ret.) Constantin Popov, Chairman of the Defense Committee, Bulgarian Parliament

10:00–11:00 PANEL 1.

Challenges for European security and defense

In this panel, the participants will discuss the main challenges for European security and defense and how they might affect the European idea. The discussion will also focus on risk assessment and the main factors behind the decisions on the future European defense.

Moderator: Dr. Monika Panayotova, Sofia Security Forum

Speakers:

- H.E. Radmila Shekerinska, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, Republic of North Macedonia
- Mrs. Marieke Monroy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
- Ambassador Hannu Kyröläinen, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland
- Dr. Elena Lazarou, European Parliamentary Research Service

11:00–11:30 Coffee break

11:30–13:00 PANEL 2.

Building a new European Defense Identity

In this panel, the participants will evaluate the role and importance of the different factors in the construction of European defense, both at European and broader international level. Among the issues for discussion will be the different concepts for the development of the European defense, the role of NATO, the impact of Brexit, the US approach to security and European defense, etc.

Moderator: Vessela Cherneva, ECFR, Sofia Office

Speakers:

- Dr. Matthew Rhodes, Professor of National Security Studies, George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, USA
- Dr. Niklas Nováky, Research Officer, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies
- Lyubomir Kyuchukov, Director, Economics and International relations Institute
- Ms. Monika Hanley, NATO StratCom COE, Riga, Latvia

13:00–14:00 LUNCH

14:00–15:30 PANEL 3. The road to creating a more resilient and secure Europe

This panel will attempt to assess what working solutions for an effective EU security and defense system are; what policies countries are willing to implement; what common structures, powers and resources are needed to enhance European defense and resilience. Participants will also discuss the developments of PESCO and other initiatives in the sphere of defense, EDA, EDIDP, EU Defense fund, creation of a common European defense market, etc.

Moderator: Col. Dimitar Dimitrov, NATO Crises response COE, Sofia, Bulgaria

Speakers:

- Vice Admiral Emil Eftimov, Deputy CHOD, Bulgarian Army
- Brig. Gen. Georgios Bikakis, Director, Concepts and Capability, EUMS
- Dr. Gergely Varga, leader of European Defense project, Hungarian Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Melchior Szczepanik, PISM, Poland

15:30–16:00 Coffee break

**16:00–17:30 PANEL 4. Looking into the future.
How to prepare the Union to face future security challenges.**

In this panel participants will discuss risks related to the hybrid threats, risks in the cyber domain, weaponization of the space, issues related to the artificial intelligence, etc. and will try to answer the question what is needed to be better prepared to face the new challenges. Participants will also discuss how Union can cope with the risks related to the uncontrolled migration and other.

Moderator: Brig. Gen. (ret.) Plamen Bogdanov, PhD

Speakers:

- Dr. Mariana Todorova, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
- Prof. Todor Tagarev, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, former minister of Defense
- Prof. Panayotis Tsakonas, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, ELIAMEP - Senior Advisor in Security and Foreign Policy Issues
- Prof. Dr. Marjan Gjurovski, Faculty of Security-Skopje

Closing the conference

SPEAKERS

GENERAL (RET.) CONSTANTIN POPOV

Chairman of the Defense Committee and member of the Committee on Internal Security and Public Order of the 44th National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria.

General Constantin Popov was born in 1961 in Sofia. During his military career he has gone from junior pilot in a fighter squadron, Commander of a fighter air base, through Commander of the Air Force and Deputy Chief of Defense to Chief of Defense of the Republic of Bulgaria.

He has over 1200 flight hours on L-29, MiG-15, MiG-17, MiG-21, MiG-29.

General Popov is one of the first senior Bulgarian officers who worked in a NATO HQ. He was Chief of Staff, NATO Joint Force Training Centre in Bydgoszcz, Poland in the period 2005 – 2006. From 2006 to 2008 he was assigned Deputy Chief of Staff of the Allied Air Component Command Headquarters, Izmir, Turkey.

General Popov was elected to the Bulgarian Parliament in April 2017 upon his retirement of active service.

General Popov holds a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies from Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, USA and a Ph.D. in Organization and Management of the Armed Forces from "G.S. Rakovski" National Defense College, Sofia. He is also a Member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria.

His national decorations include, inter alia, the order "Stara Planina" – first grade, with swords, the Medal of Honor "St. George the Victor" – first grade, the "Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service under the Colors", the "Commendation Medal for Contribution to the Ministry of Defense", awarded to him for his distinguished service and professional achievements.

In recognition of his work in Bydgoszcz he was awarded the "Golden medal of the Polish Armed Forces".

General Popov is married to Liliya and they have three grown-up children – a daughter and twin boys. He enjoys reading history books.

COLONEL DIMITAR DIMITROV

Chief of Education and Training Branch in the NATO Crisis Management and Disaster Response Centre of Excellence since 2018. His primary responsibilities are planning, organizing, coordinating and controlling the E&T activities in accordance with the System Approach to Training (SAT) model adopted by NATO within the Global Programming framework.

Colonel Dimitrov holds Master degree – National Defence College “G.S.Rakovski”- Management of the Armed forces – 2002, and Master degree – National Military Academy for Artillery “Georgi Dimitrov” – Computer Systems and Technologies – 1988. He has number of years of experience in operational and strategic level headquarters, and NATO missions in Afghanistan and Bosnia and Hercegovina as well.

He is a Member of European Security and Defence College Executive Academic Board. Author of articles related to the Resilience in deterrence context, as well as Climate Change implications on the Security.

DR. ELENA LAZAROU

A Policy Analyst in the External Policies Unit of the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), where her research focuses on security and defence, global governance, transatlantic relations and EU foreign policy. Prior to joining EPRS, she headed the Center for International Relations of the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV), Brazil (2012-2014) and the Euro-Mediterranean Observatory of the Hellenic Center for European Studies (2009-2010).

She received a Ph.D. in International Relations from the University of Cambridge in 2008. She has held research positions at the University of Cambridge, the University of Sheffield and the London School of Economics (LSE), as well as various visiting positions in think tanks and universities in Europe and the US. She has published edited volumes, articles and policy briefs in English, Portuguese and Greek.

VICE ADMIRAL EMIL EFTIMOV,

Deputy Chief of Defense, Bulgaria

Vice Admiral Emil Eftimov was born in Varna, August 16th 1961. He studied in “Nikola Vaptsarov” Naval Academy from 1979 to 1984. As a Lieutenant Commander VADM Eftimov graduated from “N.G.Kuznetsov” Naval Academy, Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation (1992-1994) and in 2004-2005 he completed leadership training in U.S. Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island.

During his career VADM Eftimov has gone through different operational and staff duty tours, starting as a Navigation Officer, Frigate, Anti-submarine Officer, Frigate, Executive Officer and becoming Frigate Commanding Officer (1991-1992). Following VADM Eftimov’s assignment as primary advisor to the Chief of Naval Operations (Navy HQ) on regional military cooperation (2005-2006) he assumed the duties of Chief of Staff, Varna Naval Base (2006-2009) and Commander of Varna Naval Base (2009-2011). Before being promoted Vice Admiral (in May 2016) and becoming Deputy Chief of Defence (in July 2016) VADM Eftimov added more NATO leadership experience to his professional background as Assistant Director, Cooperation and Regional Security Division, International Military Staff, NATO HQ, Brussels, Belgium (2011-2013) and then as Director of the same IMS division (2013-2016).

Vice Admiral Eftimov has been awarded with various national awards and decorations among which the Ministry of Defence Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service under the Colours and “St. George the Victor” Medal of Honour in recognition of his distinguished service and professional achievements.

BRIGADIER GENERAL GEORGIOS BIKAKIS

He was born in February 1965 in Greece. He was admitted to the Hellenic Military College in 1982 and graduated in 1986 with the rank of second lieutenant.

During his career, he served in infantry units in all ranks and positions to the battalion commander. In 2009 he served as Logistics Operations Manager for the Greek Kosovo Force and during 2011 - 2014 as Branch Head of Operations Planning Support in the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE). He was promoted to

Brigadier in March 2016.

Following his promotion, he served as the Commander of a Greek Brigade, Commander of the Hellenic Infantry School and as the Deputy Director of the Hellenic General Army Staff (HAGS)/ Infantry Directorate. As of Sep 2019, he has been assigned the duties of the Concepts and Capabilities (COCAP) Directorate within the EUMS.

He speaks English at a professional level. He is married to Mrs Stamatia Pappa and they have three children.

DR. GERGELI VARGA

Currently a senior research fellow of the Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade and leads the euroatlantic research program at the institute.

He holds a law degree from ELTE University Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, a history diploma from ELTE University Faculty of Humanities, and he holds a PhD from the Budapest Corvinus University. Previously he was a research assistant of the Center for Strategic and Defense Studies of the National University of Public Service (Previously Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University), where he is currently a lecturer. He was also a visiting fellow at the Center for Transatlantic Relations of Johns Hopkins University in Washington D.C. His main research areas cover Transatlantic Relations, NATO, and European security and defence.

AMBASSADOR HANNU KYRÖLÄINEN,

Having served 2016-18 as Ambassador of Finland to Austria and Permanent Representative to UN Organizations in Vienna, is Senior Specialist on Security Policy at the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. His previous assignments have focused on security policy, global sustainable development and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. He has also served, inter alia, as Ambassador in Prague, Director-General for Global Affairs and Deputy Political Director.

LYUBOMIR KYUCHUKOV

A carrier diplomat. Doctor in political sciences. He served as Deputy-Minister of foreign affairs of Bulgaria, member of the Council on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration to the President of Bulgaria, Member of the National Security Council, ambassador to the United Kingdom. Currently Mr. Kyuchukov is Director of the Economics and International Relations Institute (EIRI), member of the Board of the Bulgarian Diplomatic Society. He was member of the Boards of Mezhdunarodni Otnosheniya (International Relations) and Novo Vreme (New Time) Magazines.

DR. MATTHEW RHODES

Professor of National Security Studies and Area Studies Chair at the George C. Marshall Center in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. His principle interests include U.S. foreign and security policy, transatlantic relations, and Central and Southeast European security issues. His recent publications include a chapter “U.S. Perspectives on NATO and Transatlantic Futures” in a forthcoming volume on *NATO in the 21st Century* and an article “Germany and the United States: Whither ‘Partners in Leadership’?” in *German Politics and Society*.

DR. MARIANA TODOROVA, PHD

Futurist and researcher at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Recently, her first book: “Future studies and counterfactual analysis. Seeds of the future”, ,written together with the American futurist Theodor Gordon(who has been one of the engineers of Apollo Moon rocket) was published.

Todorova has been a Member of Parliament and Deputy Chair Person of her parliamentary group. She used to be an advisor to the President of the Republic of Bulgaria in the 2008-2012 period.

Todorova has also specialized leadership in the US State Department, Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and Chinese Academy of Governance.

Currently, Todorova is a Head of the Bulgarian Node of Millennium project and is elaborating a Blockchain platform for introducing liquid democracy.

MARIEKE MONROY-WINTER

Head of Division for Security and Defence Policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands since august 2016. Prior to this she held the position of Counsellor/Deputy Head of Mission at the Netherlands Embassy in Lisbon, Portugal. From 2007 to 2011 she served as Deputy Head Political Section at the Netherlands Delegation to NATO. Ms. Monroy-Winter joined the Foreign Service in 1995.

PROF. DR. SC. MARJAN GJUROVSKI,

The Institute of Security, Defense and Peace, Faculty of Philosophy, University "St. Cyril and Methodius" acquires a Ph.D. in social Sciences from the fields of security and defense-Security. By decision of the Academic Council of the Faculty of Security in Skopje, he was elected Associate Professor in the scientific fields Other - Security Sciences and Other - International Security and International Relations. The Vice Rector of the University Sv.Kliment Ohridski is from 2019. He has served as President of the Macedonian Political Science Society since 2019. Otherwise he is the President of the Commission for recognitions and decorations of the President of the Republic of North Macedonia.

During the conflict in 2001 and the grand government coalition he was office spokesman of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Macedonia, from 2004 to 2006 he was an Advisor for Public Affairs of the President of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia. In the period of 2011/2012 he was Advisor of the Minister of Defense and in 2012/2013. Strategic Policy Advisor of the Vice President of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia for European Affairs.

MONIKA HANLEY

An American researcher in the field of political science and linguistics, having earned her Master's in International Relations from Boston University and Bachelor's degrees in Political Science and Linguistics from the University of Washington.

As a journalist for over ten years, Ms. Hanley has focused on the Baltic States, Caucuses, and Balkans in the areas of politics, policy, and current events.

Ms. Hanley is currently a Fulbright researcher at the NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence in Riga, Latvia, researching the linguistic aspects and impact of disinformation.

Dr. MONIKA PANAYOTOVA

She was from 2017-2018 a Deputy Minister at the Ministry for the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU 2018, in charge of the relations with the European parliament.

From 2014-2017 she was General manager of Inno Advisers Ltd., and now she is CEO of this consultancy company, owned by Comac Medical, with main purpose – the development of innovative projects and concepts in the field of education, health and science. In 2016 she defended her PhD dissertation on: EU security and defence after the Lisbon treaty and NATO's new concept.

Previously she was a Member of European Parliament (2012-2014), part of CONT,CULT and SEDE committees. She worked actively on different initiatives related to the opportunities for entrepreneurship, SMEs, access to new technologies, know-how and forms of risk capital, which are crucial for the EU positioning in the global competition.

From 2009-2012 she was a member of the Bulgarian Parliament - Chairwoman of the Committee on European Affairs and Oversight of the European Funds and a member of the Foreign Policy and Defence Committee.

Before her political career Monika worked as a "Projects and Public communications" Director and a research fellow at the Economic Policy Institute(NGO), Sofia. Monika Panayotova is a Vice-President of Sofia Security Forum.

DR. NIKLAS NOVÁKY

Joined the Martens Centre in July 2017. He was born in Espoo, Finland but grew up in Heinola. He holds a PhD in International Relations from the University of Aberdeen, an MSc in Politics and Government in the European Union from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and a BA in Politics and International Relations from the University of Kent.

Nováky specialises in EU security and defence policy and has published multiple articles on the subject in major international academic journals. In addition, he has provided media commentary and briefed the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Security and Defence. He also writes regular opinion editorials to newspapers, and presents papers in international conferences.

At the Martens Centre, Niklas is a Research Officer and the Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the European View, the Centre's biannual policy journal. He speaks fluent Finnish and English; intermediate German, Swedish, and Turkish; and basic French.

DR. PANAYOTIS TSAKONAS

Professor of International Relations and Security Studies at the University of Athens and serves as Senior Advisor on Security and Foreign Policy Issues at the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP). He has held research posts at NATO as well as at Harvard, Yale and Oxford University and he worked as Special Advisor at the Ministries of National Defense and Foreign Affairs. He has also served as a member of the Academic/Scientific boards of various institutions in Greece and abroad (e.g. the European Organization for Security (EOS)-Brussels; the European Security and Defence College/ESDC-Brussels) and as President of the BoD of the Center for Security Studies/KE.ME.A.

Professor Tsakonas has taught at various Universities and institutions in Greece, Turkey, United Kingdom, Germany, the United States and Canada and his monographs, books, journal articles in professional journals and contributions in edited volumes (published in Greek, English, German, French and Italian) regard IR theory, regional security issues, Greek foreign and security policy and Greek-Turkish relations.

BRIGADIER GENERAL (RET.)
PLAMEN BOGDANOV, PHD

Education:

1980–1985 Air Force Academy, Dolna Mitropoliya
1993–1995 Defense and Staff College, Sofia
2008–2009 National War College, Sofia
2017 PhD, Defense and Staff College, Sofia

Additional Courses and Seminars:

1999 Aviation English Terminology Course, Turkish AF
Language School, Izmir, Turkey
2000 Air Operations Planning Course, CASPOA, Paris,
France
2002–2003 National Security and Defense Strategic Course,
Defense and Staff College, Sofia
2008 Unified Engagement Seminar, organized by USAFE,
Romania
2014 JISR Means Interoperability Initiative Seminar, Madrid,
Spain
2016 Strategic Thinking Workshop, University of North
Carolina, USA

Professional experience:

1985–1990 Assistant Chief of Staff, Fighter Air Regiment
1990–1993 Chief of Staff, Fighter Air Regiment
1995–1996 Senior Assistant, Ops Department, AD Division
1996–1998 Assistant Chief of Department, BGR General Staff
1998–2000 Chief of Staff, Fighter Air Base
2000–2003 Deputy Chief of Office of Air Force Commander
2003–2004 DCOS, Chief of Ops Department, AD Command
2004–2006 Chief of Staff, AD Command
2006–2008 Chief of Ops Division, BGR AF HQ
2009–2010 Chief of Ops Division, BGR AF HQ
2010–2012 Chief of Staff and Deputy Chief of Staff, BGR AF HQ
2012–2015 Commander, AF Command, Control and Surveillance
Base
2010–2015 National Representative in NATO Air and Missile
Defence Committee

2015–2019 Commandant (Rector) of Vassil Levski National Military University, MOD
2019 Lecturer, University of Library Studies and Information Technologies

Awards and decorations: Decoration of merit “Loyal Service with the Colors” III class, Decoration of merit “For Contribution to the Ministry of Defence”, Honorary Senator of Nicolae Balcescu Land Forces Academy, Romania

RADMILA SHEKERINSKA,

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the Republic of North Macedonia.

Radmila Shekerinska is the current Minister of Defence and Deputy Prime Minister. During her mandate, the Republic of North Macedonia received the invitation for NATO membership and the NATO Accession Protocol.

From 2002 to 2006, she was Deputy Prime Minister responsible for European integration and foreign aid coordination. It was during her term that our country was granted the status of a candidate country for accession to the European Union.

Shekerinska represented the citizens in the highest legislative body for four mandates (1998-2002; 2006-2008; 2008-2011 and 2011-2014). She was also the President of the National Council for European Integration, since its establishment. She has been a member of several bodies: the Foreign Affairs Committee, Committee on Labour and Social Policy, European Affairs Committee, Education Committee and the Environment Committee. In addition, Shekerinska was a member of the Parliamentary delegations for cooperation with the European Parliament, the Inter-parliamentary Union delegation and other bilateral delegations.

In 2009 and 2012, Shekerinska was appointed as the Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission for the Presidential and

Parliamentary elections in the Kyrgyz Republic and Armenia.

In May 2018, Shekerinska was decorated with the Order “Commander of the National Order for Merit of France”. She is the first politician from Macedonia to receive a recognition from this rank from the Republic of France. The Order is awarded for outstanding civic merit, and was established in 1963 by General De Gaulle.

In 2005 Shekerinska was awarded with the title – Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum for her achievements and dedication in the field of European integration of the Western Balkans. Radmila Shekerinska is a member of the Munich Young Leaders Group established within the Munich Security Conference. She was a member of the European Strategy Forum, the Advisory Board of the Schengen White List project and the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy.

In 2008 she was elected as one of the Vice-Presidents of the Socialist International and she performed this role by 2011. She is a member of the Presidency of the Party of European Socialists which unites social democratic, socialist and labour parties in Europe.

In 1999 she was elected as the Vice President of the Central Committee of SDUM and international secretary of the party. In the period 1995 – 1999 she was the President of the Social Democratic Youth of Macedonia and in the period 1997 – 1998 she was the spokesperson of the SDUM. Radmila Shekerinska was the President of the Social Democratic Union of Macedonia from 2006 to 2008. She is the only woman to head any of the major political parties in the country.

Shekerinska was born on 10 June, 1972 in Skopje. She completed elementary and high school education in the elementary school “Johan Hajnrih Pestaloci” and the high school “Rade Jovchevski Korchagin”, with awards at city, republic and federal competitions in mathematics.

She graduated from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering in Skopje in 1995.

Shekerinska received her MA in International Relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, USA.

She speaks English and French.

She is married to Bozhidar Jankovski and they have a daughter Ada.

THORSTEN GEISSLER

Director of Bulgaria office of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

Since 01-04-2016 - Director, Bulgarian Office, Konrad Adenauer Foundation; 2010 - 2016 Director Rule of Law Program South East Europe; s. 01-09-2010 Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation, Employee; 2004 – 2010 Senator for Environment, Security, and Public Order and Second Deputy Mayor of the Hanseatic City of Lübeck; 1987 – 2004 Member of the Schleswig-Holstein State Legislature; since 1992 - Deputy Leader of the CDU Parliamentary Party Spokesman on Legal Affairs; Member of several Standing Committees, temp. Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Federal and European Affairs, member of the Judicial Appointments; Commission, member of several Committees of Inquiry and Study Commissions; 1991 Second State Examination in law, admittance to the bar. 1982 - 1987 City Councillor, Hanseatic City of Lübeck; 1979 - 1984 Student at Christian-Albrechts-University Kiel (Law: First State Examination 1984, Political Sciences) 1978 – 1979 Military Service (Current Rank in German Army Reserve: Colonel). Born on 16-10-1959 in Bad Schwartau, Germany

PROF. TODOR TAGAREV

Head of the Centre for Security and Defence Management, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

He served as Defence Minister in Bulgaria's Caretaker Government, March-May 2013. He has served also as Director of the Bulgarian Defence Institute (2016-2017), first director of the Defence Planning Directorate at the Ministry of Defence of Bulgaria, Director for Armaments Policy and National Armaments Director (1998-2001), advisor to Bulgaria's Minister of Defence on strategic defence management (2009-2010), Head of the Security and Defence Management Department at G.S. Rakovski National Defence Academy in Sofia (2004-2008).

Currently, he is a team leader in the EU research projects "Driving Innovation in Crisis Management for European Resilience" (DRIVER+) and European Network of Cybersecurity Centres and Compe-

tence Hub for Innovation and Operations (ECHO), and Head Chair of the Crisis Management Innovation Network Europe, www.cmine.eu.

VESSELA TCHERNEVA

The deputy director of the European Council on Foreign Relations and head of the Sofia office. Her topics of focus include EU foreign policy and the Western Balkans and Black Sea region. From 2010 to 2013, Tcherneva was the spokesperson for the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a member of the political cabinet of Foreign Minister Nickolay Mladenov.

Previously, she was secretary of the International Commission on the Balkans, chaired by former Italian Prime Minister Giuliano Amato and former German President Richard von Weizsäcker; the supervising editor of the Foreign Policy Bulgaria magazine; and political officer at the Bulgarian Embassy in Washington, DC. Tcherneva holds an MA in Political Science from the Rhienische Friedrich-Wilhelm Universität in Bonn.

YORDAN BOZHILOV

President of Sofia Security Forum. He holds a Master's degrees in Political Science and a Master of Law. In 1992 he began his career in the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Bulgaria. His professional career goes successively through all grades and positions. As an expert and senior expert he worked on the coordination of the Ministry of Defense with the other ministries and the Council of Ministers. He was subsequently appointed Chief of the Chancellery Department. As such, he managed the entire documentary work of the Ministry and was responsible for the development and implementation of a number of information systems. In 2002-2003, he completed a course at the Geneva Center for Security Policy.

On his return he was appointed Chief of International Organizations and Arms Control Department of the Ministry of Defense. As such, he represented the Ministry of Defense in a number of inter-

national organizations. From 2005 to 2008, he was the Director of the International Cooperation Directorate, responsible for the bilateral relations of the Ministry of Defense and the participation of the Ministry in international organizations. He has led the negotiations and the conclusion of bilateral defense agreements. From 2008 until the beginning of 2010, he was the Deputy Director of the Defense Policy Directorate. Between 2005 and 2008 he represented Bulgaria in various NATO working groups. In 2008 he worked as Chairman of the Multinational Advisory Group of RACVIAK – Centre for Security Cooperation, Zagreb.

In the period 2010-2013 he served as Chief of the Cabinet of the Minister of Defense. Between 2013 and 2018 he has been working as an analyst in the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. He is Chairman of the Sofia Security Forum, a non-governmental organization, working in the spheres of security, defense, international relations and the training of young leaders.

