



The Twentieth International Symposium

20 Years
G.A.A.E.C

1991- 2011

Education, Dialogue, Advocacy

“Transatlantic Security and Financial Crisis”

2st – 3rd of December, 2011

Venue: Amphitheatre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece, Academias 1

Special Session-20 Years of G.A.A.E.C., Role of Atlantic Associations (summary)

The session was dedicated to the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of G.A.A.E.C. Mr. Georgiou reflected on the history of GAAEC during the last 20 years and in order to make an impact of the Transatlantic Community he invited **Mr. François Moreau De Balasy, Founding Member of the Atlantic Treaty Association in France** who made a historical review of the origins, the basis and the fundamental role of Atlantic Associations throughout the past years. Mr. Balasy made clear that the role of the Atlantic Treaty Association has changed considerably during years because of the continuously change of the global political and historical circumstances. At the end of his speech he mentioned that the Atlantic Alliance consists of a very important and vital defensive system in modern history, naturally promoting new initiatives in Central and Eastern Europe and focusing eastward.

Mr. Nano Ruzin, Founder of the Atlantic Council, Former Ambassador to NATO of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia referred to the 20th Anniversary of G.A.A.E.C. by pointing out that the main characteristic since G.A.A.E.C.'s foundation was cooperation on interactive level with the initiatives from both sides. Mr. Ruzin mentioned that despite the diplomatic difficulties between his country and Greece, he managed to have with the founders of the Greek Association, relations based on understanding and respect. Concluding, he underlined that it is crucial for each nation to have a critical thought on the framework of democracy and liberty, detached from political notions, so as to have the most objective point of view and the opportunity to cooperate correctly.

Mr. Antonio Borges de Carvalho, Founding Member of Atlantic Committee in Portugal congratulated President Georgiou with the 20th Anniversary, emphasizing that the Greek Association is one of the most important organization that plays a role in forming public opinion not only in Greece, but in the Mediterranean region and Southeastern Europe.