

# United States of America



The cornerstone of your defense policy in Europe is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, of which the United States is a member. The US is capable of acting independently and decisively, and often will be expected to do so. However, the United States is not a member of the European Union, which lessens its influence. It is in Washington's interest to be seen to work through NATO or as a minimum in concert with the alliance.

It is also in Washington's interest to encourage greater self-reliance in energy and transparency throughout Europe. The US is committed to preserving the territorial integrity of NATO and EU member states and the solidarity of the alliance and union. Washington supports the tougher stance taken by NATO at its most recent summit in Warsaw, 8-9 July 2016. You have reluctantly come to see Russia as more of a threat than a partner. Still, the presence of some 10,000 US forces in Afghanistan precludes you from burning bridges with Moscow and the Russian firms that are supplying the Western soldiers and administration in Afghanistan.

Be sure not to neglect the balancing act you are pursuing with Turkey. Ankara has close and varied ties with Moscow and resents at times what it perceives as a lack of respect from Europe. Turkey plays a critical role in regulating the passage of refugees from war-torn Syria and Iraq as well as in staging U.S. and NATO aviation operations in the fight against ISIS and other regional efforts. There is a growing policy debate within your government as to whether you truly need Incirlik Air Base and if it is wise to allow the increasingly authoritarian Erdogan government to use it as leverage in its interactions with the United States; however, it is likely that reducing U.S. reliance on Incirlik would drive Ankara into closer cooperation with Moscow and possibly also to generally stop cooperating with EU desires for refugee handling.

## **USA:**

- Maintain the territorial integrity of NATO and the solidarity of the alliance members
- Prevent the exposure of fissures in NATO and the coherence of explicit regional factions
- Stand by Turkey as a bulwark against Russia and influx of refugees
- Reduce European dependence on Russian oil and gas imports
- Retain Russian assistance in supplying forces in Afghanistan (Resolute Support) until alternate lines of supply can be created. Avoid a 'Hostage Crisis' in Afghanistan
- Persuade Sweden to join NATO
- Reject Russia's claim to special prerogatives in its 'Near Abroad' and its use of the phrase to delegitimize sovereign states that used to be part of the Soviet Union