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## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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**Maria Atanassova** is a NATO Desk Officer at the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She holds a BA and a MA degree in War Studies (King's College London). In January - February 2002 Ms. Atanassova worked as an intern in the Bulgarian Mission to NATO in Brussels.

**Emi Barouh** is a journalist, translator and columnist. She is author of documentary films and actively participated in the establishment of the first independent print media in Bulgaria after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Emi Barouh was a press-secretary and cultural attache in the Bulgarian embassy in Brussels. She has also been working with the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights and other NGOs. She is currently chairing the National Committee on "Europalia-Bulgaria 2002".

She is author of the books *On and Off the Record – 10 Interviews 10 years after the Fall of the Berlin Wall* (Deutsche Welle, 2000); *Beyond the Utopias – Bulgaria, the Balkans and Europe – Visions for the Future* (Ed. Deutsche Welle, 2001; Translated in German - 2002 ); *Bulgarian Jews – Family Memory and Historical Fate* (IMIR, 2001, Translated in English - 2001).

**Dr. Zdravko Batzarov** holds an MA and Ph.D. in Political Science from Sofia University. He is an author of various analytical articles on foreign relations and specific studies - *The positions of Bulgaria in the World (economics and politics)*, - *Bulgaria in the system of the transport network between Europe and Asia (Outline of the infrastructure of the new world order)*. Dr. Batzarov's most prominent publication is the book *Geopolitical systems* (1999).

**Dr. Plamen Bonchev** is a career diplomat working at the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1983. His area of expertise includes NATO, WEU, European and international institutions. He holds a Master's Degree in International Relations and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the Moscow Institute of International Relations. He has completed a post-graduate course in European Affairs at the Clingendael Institute of International Relations in The Hague, the Netherlands. Dr. Bonchev has been NATO Democratic Institutions Fellow working on a research project on civil-military relations in the process of security and defense policy formulation. Since October 1998 Plamen Bonchev has been Counselor and Deputy Head of the Bulgarian Mission to NATO at Brussels, Belgium.

**Dr. Evgenii Dainov** is Associated Professor in Political Science and Head of Department at New Bulgarian University, Sofia. He is Chairman of the Center for Social Practices – Sofia, a civil society-building NGO. He holds Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and has been a Visiting Fellow at St. Antony's College, Oxford. Dr. Dainov is author and participant in more than 35 books and collections, including: *Transformations of Post-Communist States*. Ed. By W. Kosteci (Macmillan Press, 2000); *The Amusements of the Other Half: rock and roll and the current cultural situation*. (Sofia University Press, 1992). *The Government and the People: conflicts in Bulgarian society*. (Sofia 1998); *The Transition 1989 / 1999: a history*. (Planeta 3, Sofia 1999); *Political Debate and the Transition in Bulgaria*. (Bulgarian Science and Culture, Sofia 2000); *Conservatism*. (GAL-IKO, Sofia 2001); *Village Matters: stories about all sorts of things*. (Bulgarian Science and Culture, Sofia 2001). He is a columnist and regular contributor to Bulgarian and European media.

**Amb. Lubomir Ivanov** heads the NATO and International Security Directorate of the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He holds a MSc in International Relations from the Moscow State University for International Relations. A career diplomat, Amb. Ivanov has been posted to Beijing (1986-1990) and Brussels (1995-1998). In Brussels he served as Deputy to the Bulgarian Ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg and Deputy Head of the Bulgarian Mission to NATO and the WEU.

**Vladimir Kissiov** is a former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (1999 – 2001) and Chief Negotiator with the European Union (2000 – 2001). He was Deputy Minister of Industry in the government of Ivan Kostov (1997 – 1998). Mr. Kissiov worked as a head of International Integration and Coordination Directorate in the Ministry of Industry (1993 – 1997). Vladimir Kissiov was appointed as a Director of the European Institute in August 2001.

**Ivan Kolev** has been working in the Bulgarian military – industrial complex for more than thirty years. He served as an expert in the Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Industry, as well as in the main institutions in charge of the management of the major Bulgarian companies. His key qualifications are defense industry and machinery construction. Contact information, e-mail: sales@onek-bg.com

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**Dr. Ognyan Minchev** is Director of the Institute for Regional and International Studies, Sofia, Bulgaria. He is also Professor in International Relations and Chairman of the Political Science Department at Sofia University. He directs IRIS policy projects focused on regional security and reconstruction of the Balkans. His publications include *The Extension of NATO, Russia and the Balkans* (in BJA, 1998); *Is it Possible for the Eastern European Peoples to Solve their Problems on Their Own?* (in: *The Carnegie Report and the Balkans Today*, Sofia 1996); and *Liberal Democracy and Minority Rights: The Challenge of Changing South Eastern Europe* (in: *Comparative Balkan Parliamentarism*, Sofia 1995). He is a regular contributor to Bulgarian and international newspapers, TV stations and journals. He is a guest speaker at a number of American and European Universities and policy institutes. From 1998 on, he has taken active part in establishing regional networks of policy and research institutions in the Balkans, and facilitating contacts with counterpart organizations from Europe and the United States.

**Valeri Ratchev** is Colonel Bulgarian AF. He is “G. S. Rakovski” Defense and Staff College Deputy Commandant and Dean of *National Security and Defense* Faculty. In this position he is responsible for senior military officers’ education and civil-military training on security and defense policy management. He also has experience in conceptualization and documentation on national security, crisis management, defense doctrine and force reorganization. Colonel Ratchev has researches and publications in Bulgaria, Europe and the United States on international security issues, defense reforms and civil-military relations.

**Dr. Velizar Shalamanov** is advisor to the President of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences on national security and defense issues and Chairman of “George C. Marshall Association” – Bulgaria. Based on his experience as former Deputy Minister of Defense (defense policy and planning, November 1998 - July 2001) he serves as an advisor to the Parliamentarian Committee on Foreign Policy, Defense and Security. Dr. Shalamanov holds the title of Associate Professor on automated information processing systems and has more than 150 publications in areas of CIS architecture and development, information warfare, decision making support, national and regional security policy, military art, defense reengineering and planning. Dr. Shalamanov is member and co-founder of the AFCEA Chapter Sofia Chapter and Business Executives for National Security - Bulgaria. He serves on the International Advisory Board of the Geneva Center for Democratic Control of Armed Forces. Contact information, e-mail: [Shalamanov@GCMarshall.bg](mailto:Shalamanov@GCMarshall.bg)

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## ABOUT IRIS

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The Institute for Regional and International Studies (IRIS) based in Sofia, Bulgaria, is an independent, non-partisan and non-profit think tank. The Institute seeks to promote the values of democracy, civil society, freedom and respect of law, assist the process of Bulgarian integration in NATO and the EU and provide public policy analyses on current domestic and international issues. IRIS is dedicated to developing regional strategies for democratic policy making in Southeast Europe and increasing international understanding of emerging Balkan issues. IRIS represents a strategic combination of advocacy-oriented and education-oriented think tank.

The mission of the Institute is to establish a link between academia and policy making and to stimulate democratic development by generating policy analyses and recommendations for regional cooperation, security, interethnic relations, conflict management and resolution, economics and foreign policy. IRIS has established successful partnerships with policy institutes throughout the region. Some of the key activities undertaken by the IRIS are focused on fostering dialogue and cooperation by conducting international conferences and roundtables. IRIS International Program develops strategic analyses and public policy recommendations in international relations, Bulgarian foreign policy, regional development, security and cooperation in Southeastern Europe. The International Program also actively contributes to the “two-track diplomacy” initiatives regarding international non-governmental collaboration

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