

SEMINAR ON ICELANDIC SECURITY POLICY – JANUARY 16TH 2011

VENUE: THE NORDIC HOUSE

In 2011 the Icelandic Parliament, Althingi appointed a committee with representatives from all the political parties to form the first comprehensive security policy for Iceland. Since Iceland gained independence in 1944 security and defense matters have for the most part been outsourced, mainly to the United States of America. After the US closed down its base in Iceland the state has, for the first time, had to take full responsibility for its own security and defense. The writing of Iceland's first security policy is a big milestone on that journey.

By hosting this seminar NEXUS in cooperation with the University of Bifröst, Northern Research Forum, NRF-UArctic Thematic Network on Geopolitics and Security, The Institute of International Affairs, Centre for Small State Studies, and the Nordic House wants to promote discussion on different relevant and important issues of security and security policy in general and particularly Icelandic security policy.

AGENDA

MORNING SESSION - ACADEMICS

The presentations in this section will be in English

9:00-10:45 PANEL 1

What is "security" in the modern world and what is the purpose of a security policy?

Opening speech

Dr. Lassi Heininen, Lector at the University of Lapland and Leader of Thematic Network on Geopolitics and Security

Different interpretations, definitions and actors of 'Security'

Alyson Bailes, Adjunct professor, department of political science at the University of Iceland

The process of forming and pursuing a security strategy

Böðvar Tómasson, Division Manager for Fire & Risk at EFLA Consulting Engineers

Multi-dimensional aspects of security

Open discussion

10:45-11:00 COFFEE BREAK

11:00-12:45 PANEL 2

What issues and options should be included when considering a policy for Iceland?

Auður H Ingólfssdóttir, Assistant Professor at Bifröst University.

Is climate change a security threat in Iceland?

Margrét Cela, PhD candidate, University of Lapland

Iceland, security and the High North

Gustav Pétursson, PhD candidate, University of Lapland

Any Relevance for NATO in Icelandic Security and Defence Policy?

Jakob Þór Kristjánsson, PhD candidate, University of Iceland

Does Iceland need a military strategy?

Jón Kristinn Ragnarsson, IT Specialist Deloitte

Are cyber-threats the greatest threat Iceland faces?

Open discussion



AFTERNOON SESSION – POLITICIANS

The presentations in this section will be in Icelandic

13:45-15:15 PANEL 3

Principles and priorities for a comprehensive Icelandic security policy.

Representatives from the political parties

Helgi Hjörvar, Samfylkingu

Árni Þór Sigurðsson, Vinstri hreyfingunni grænu framboði

Ragnheiður Elín Árnadóttir, Sjálfstæðisflokki

Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson, Framsóknarflokki

Birgitta Jónsdóttir, Hreyfingu

15:15-15:30 COFFEE BREAK

15:30-16:30 SUMMARIES AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

Short summaries by NEXUS members

Final discussion and conclusions

IN COOPERATION WITH:



HÁSKÓLINN Á BIFRÖST
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