

Mongolia`s accession to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Mongolia's accession to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which became a fact on November 21, was initiated under the Bulgarian OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office in 2004, Atlantic Club of Bulgaria President Solomon Passy said, interviewed by BTA.

Back then, Bulgaria generated consensus in the organization and Mongolia was invited to become OSCE Asian Partner for Co-operation, said Passy, who was Bulgaria's foreign minister at the time. "The idea sounded quite exotic at first, but we convinced 55 states to stand behind it," he said.

Then, in the spring of 2005, Bulgaria supported Mongolia in its bid to join the NATO Partnership for Peace Initiative. No progress has been made on that front, however, and one of the formal reasons is that Partnership for Peace status is only awarded to OSCE countries. This obstacle has now been removed, Passy noted, expressing his conviction that Mongolia will one day become a NATO member.

According to him, the Bulgarian 2004 initiative about Mongolia influenced the geopolitics between China and Europe. He believes that Europe can play the role of Mongolia's third de facto neighbour besides China and Russia. OSCE-Mongolia relations have a very serious impact on relations between the West (including Europe) and China, he said. With Mongolia's accession to the OSCE, over 12,000 km of the Chinese border, from Afghanistan to the Pacific Ocean, became a border to a European entity – the OSCE, making it the longest geopolitical border on the planet, Passy said.

He expressed the hope that the idea of the Atlantic Club of Bulgaria to have the OSCE develop closeness with China will come true in future. Passy noted that in his talks with Chinese officials they have not ruled out the possibility. This, he said, would be in accordance with the strategy proposed by the Atlantic Club of Bulgaria to set up a NATO-China Council and to create a new type of synergy between the West and China in the UN Security Council.

Within the Security Council, the West sometimes faces opposition from the Russia-China bloc, which vetoes various initiatives. The West, represented by NATO, needs to maintain its own dialogue with China without Russia's mediation and without relying solely on the United States, Passy said.

Russia can be expected in the next decade to become an actual candidate for full NATO membership, he predicted.

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