

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1401

January 25, 2012

Ms. Mary Mazanec
Congressional Research Service
Washington, D.C. 20540-7210

Dear Ms. Mazanec:

I am writing to commission a report by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) concerning a series of recent sales of military equipment and technology by our European NATO allies to the Russian Federation. Reports indicate that approved or contemplated sales by our allies include: French *Mistral*-class amphibious assault ships, assault vehicles, and infantry combat systems, German brigade combat trainers, and Italian armored vehicles.

While NATO continues to foster a constructive relationship with the Russian Federation, these sales have raised concern in light of statements by Russian officials that certain equipment could be used for planning against U.S. partners and allies.

In light of this context, I request that the following questions, among others, be examined:

- 1.) What factors are driving NATO allies towards these military deals with Russia? Have such sales achieved any political benefits in the NATO-Russia relationship?
- 2.) To what extent are our European NATO allies viewing the sales as a predicate to initiating similar sales to China?
- 3.) What role do these acquisitions play in Russian doctrine and conventional military transformation, particularly in light of Russia's breach of the CFE Treaty and non-compliance with other bilateral commitments concerning the stationing of its military forces abroad?
- 4.) What effect do these sales have on NATO cohesion? Could any of the equipment provided be used in Russian training exercises that often simulate attacks on NATO territory?
- 5.) What, if any, operational risks are posed to the NATO Alliance as a result of such sales?

- 6.) Should there be a formalized role for the NATO organization in discussing bilateral arms deals between allies and the Russian Federation, potentially under Article Four of the North Atlantic Treaty?
- 7.) How have the United States and other allies responded to these sales and what policy options for the United States exist?

I would request that the report be completed by April 20, 2012. I look forward to reviewing your findings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard G. Lugar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end.

Richard G. Lugar
United States Senator