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NATO After the 2025 Summit: Strength, Doubt, and the Burden of Leadership

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Brussels, 28 August 2025 - In a new [Policy Brief](#), Tengiz Pkhaladze says the NATO Hague Summit is a turning point for the Alliance, with member states pledging record defence spending and a broader approach to resilience - extending beyond military force to include cyber, infrastructure, and societal domains.

However, the author warns that while the commitments are welcome, they are not enough. In fact, more spending is only one part of what the Alliance needs to do to improve credibility and develop a strategy for modern warfare. ***"NATO's ability to respond to modern threats - including cyberattacks, economic coercion, and disinformation - remains uneven. The real challenge lies in fractured political cohesion and absence of strategic clarity in key aspects of conflict,"*** says Tengiz Pkhaladze.

He argues that adversaries are exploiting divisions and acting faster than NATO's current decision-making processes allow. Despite strong operational structures, NATO lacks a unifying strategy and bold leadership ready to take long-term decisions.

The Policy Brief concludes that increased budgets must be paired with sharper strategy. NATO must develop doctrines for 21st-century warfare, invest in strategic foresight, and ensure leaders are ready to act with conviction. The Hague Summit may have set the direction - but it is credible follow-through actions that will determine whether NATO can effectively deter not just war, but instability in all its modern forms.

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