

21 September 2005
Blackpool Winter Gardens
Fringe meetings



Chair Qassim Afzal & Michael Moore MP the Liberal Democrat

that have been worked on.

Christopher Bennett commented on the slow consensual way that NATO makes its decisions and on how that brings into question the idea of a rapid response force. The change in the role of NATO since the collapse of the Soviet Union was covered by various comments including the consequences of the new East European countries becoming part of NATO.

Debates that have taken place and continue to take place about what NATO is there for were described. The relationship between the EU and NATO was briefly explored and a number of questions were taken from the audience.

Lord Tim Garden described among other things his role as a NATO advisor and how the connections between NATO and senior academic advisors function. The role of NATO in Afghanistan and the Balkans was noted as part of the new functions of NATO post cold war.



Lord Tim Garden KCB, Christopher Bennett the Editor of NATO Review



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During the last evening of the Liberal Democrats conference in 2005 Chair Qassim Afzal, and Jock Gallagher both members of the Liberal Democrats Federal Executive, with the expert contribution of Dr John Ryan delivering a successful fringe meeting with a special speaker officially support by NATO.

The first of fringes was a panel discussion on the future of NATO and Weapons of Mass Destruction. The members of the panel were Christopher Bennett the Editor of NATO Review, Michael Moore MP the Liberal Democrat Shadow Defense Secretary and Air Marshall, Lord Tim Garden KCB. The speeches focused on the way in which NATO makes decisions and the new capabilities for fast response

The audience was made up of a number of MPs; members of the lords, delegates from cross the country and party members. Lord Tim Garden KCB, Chair Qassim Afzal, Christopher Bennett the Editor of NATO Review

The meeting was supported by the Liberal Democrats Parliamentary Candidates Association. It was notable that a number of important questions were responded to by the panel, which were limited due to time shortage.