

The European Security and Defence Union



The Summit has brought home to nations the need to improve the EU's defence capabilities



More coherence, more transparency

Lt General Wolfgang Wosolsobe, Director General EU Military Staff, Brussels



A roadmap to increase ambitious solidarity

General Patrick de Rousiers, Chairman EU Military Committee, Brussels

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1914-2014: 100th anniversary of World War I

Europe is in dire straits: its power of attraction is waning. The financial crisis has brought home, yet again, that although the Member States are capable of pulling together, national interests continue to prevail.

More than anything Europeans are reproached for their lack of a common historical consciousness that could offset such nationalist tendencies. The claim is that what we lack first and foremost is a common understanding of our past, because what went before defines who we are now.

Does Europe need a common culture of remembrance?

There is no denying that Europe is (still) a divided continent, starting with the approaches to its history. It is true that there is no common culture of remembrance; if, indeed, such a thing were desirable, then it could only be developed at the expense of a huge effort, and with no guarantee of success. Some individuals, to their credit, nonetheless seek a common historical consciousness that could generate fresh political impetus for Europe's future.

August will mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War, which each country commemorates in its own fashion. The remembrance cultures of France and Belgium, on the one hand, and of Germany and Poland, on the other, have little in common, except their expression of mourning. Belgium and France have faithfully commemorated this event for the past 100 years, while for Poland and Germany grief about the genocide during World War II remains the driving emotion, in comparison to which the human suffering endured during World War I pales in significance. If we compare the way in which two other protagonists, Russia and the United Kingdom, commemorate the war, we find no common ground.

The political and historical analysis of everything that was done wrong before, during and after the Great War, with catastrophic consequences for Europe, has long been incorporated into Europe's political thinking. But what we have not completely succeeded in doing is to convince all those in power that military force cannot be used as a means to political ends and that the principle of other countries' territorial integrity remains sacrosanct.

I think we should allow nations to keep their particular culture of remembrance and their traditions, but let us at the same time develop a new, forward-looking political culture in this Europe of ours that will contribute to preventing wars and hence human suffering in our neighbourhood.

A start has been made with the EU's efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in Ukraine. The result does not lie in the EU's hands and remains uncertain; but if actions like this – and the one in Kosovo in 2013 – could give rise to the development of a specifically European tradition of conflict prevention as an essential objective of the EU, then the quest for a common culture of remembrance would become secondary to the task of preventing bloodshed now and in the future. All European nations can agree on such an objective; herein lies the opportunity for developing a shared culture with its focus firmly on Europe's future.



Hartmut Bühl

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Views on the outcome of the EU Summit vary, but there is one point on which the entire security and defence community agrees: the Summit has brought home to the national governments the need to improve the EU's defence capabilities and launched a process that will lead to more cooperation among the Member States and hence to the improvement of capabilities. Ministers from the EU Member States give their country's perspective on various aspects of the Summit.



Austria



Hungary

3 Editorial

- 7 *Jean-Dominique Giuliani, Paris*
Russian lessons for the European Union
The Ukrainian crisis – a crisis for Russia

- 8 **The European Council on Defence**
Final document (excerpt)

Policies

- 10 *Edgars Rinkēvičs, Riga*
Harmonising the security and defence interests of the EU and NATO
The EU's global relevance: projecting its values
- 12 *Elmar Brok MEP, Brussels/Strasbourg*
Towards creating a new spirit for the CSDP
Standing up for democracy and the rule of law
- 14 *General Patrick de Rousiers, Brussels*
A clear roadmap to strengthen our solidarity
The December 2013 EU Summit gives guidance
- 16 *Prof Ioan Mircea Paşcu MEP, Brussels/Strasbourg*
The real symbolism of the occupation of Crimea
The West needs solid relations with a responsible Russia
- 17 *Graham Watson MEP, Brussels/Strasbourg*
The EP's influence is limited in defence, but decisive in other important areas of the CSDP
The EP holds the purse strings for CSDP
- 19 *Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, The Hague*
Commitment and unity
Closer cooperation is no longer a "nice to have"
- 20 *Miroslav Lajčák, Bratislava*
NATO and the EU: what you get for paying two membership fees
There is much room for improving cooperation

- 21 *Geoffrey Van Orden MEP, Brussels/Strasbourg*
Putting the brakes on the EU's misplaced military ambitions
Europe's strategic priority is the Atlantic Alliance

EU "Grand Strategy"

- 22 *Linus Antanas Linkevičius, Vilnius*
The Eastern Partnership: common challenges, a common response
Still a long way to go
- 24 *Bernard Lugan, Paris*
Africa in crisis
The Sahelian front-line
- 26 *Prof. Hüseyin Bağcı and Dr. Çağlar Kurç, Ankara*
Turkey's role in Mediterranean security
An important partner for maritime cooperation
- 28 *Jacques Favin-Lévêque, Paris*
The EU and Russia – an impossible dialogue?
A "common" political framework for the Ukraine
- 30 *Gerald Klug, Vienna*
The Summit and the role of smaller countries in defence
The transition of traditional national defence policy
- 32 *Dr George W. Vella, Valetta*
The EU's Mediterranean Policy as reflected in the December 2013 Council Conclusions
The EU's Mediterranean Policy has taken shape

Capabilities

- 34 *Wolfgang Wosolsobe, Brussels*
The consequences of the Summit decisions for the implementation of capabilities
Reconciling challenges with shrinking defence budgets
- 35 *Dr Csaba Hende, Budapest*
Making better use of existing capabilities
The Summit was a realistic step in the right direction



Latvia



Lithuania



Malta



The Netherlands



Slovakia

- 36** *Michael Gahler MEP, Brussels/Strasbourg*
The EU's contribution to better and more tangible capabilities for EU missions
Plea for a European Capabilities and Armament Policy

Industries

- 38** *Dr Uwe Nerlich, Munich*
An EU global strategy and requirements for European defence and industry
New cooperative defence programmes are decisive
- 40** *Thomas Homberg, Schrobenhausen*
Europe needs a strong defence technology base
Time is running out
- 42** **Nuclear Security Summit declaration**
Final document (excerpt)

Security Solutions

- 44** *Johan Hesse, Hamburg*
New crypto client approaches for future mission networks
From "Need to know" to "Need to share"
- 47** *Joseph Souren, London*
Why Layered Security is the best approach to preventing insider threats
The Snowden effect

Protection

- 48** *Nannette Cazaubon, Paris*
Plug-and-Play solutions for standard and smart energy supply
Energy is the backbone of defence and security
- 50** *Graham Willmott, Brussels*
Countering the CBRN-E threat
Benefits of integration and information sharing

- 52** **Security-relevant FP7 Projects**
SNIFFER and SCINTILLA

- 53** *Interview with Oliver Dörre, Langen*
Latest proven National Air Policing Centre Solution
Breaking new ground

- 55** *Hartmut Bühl*
What Europe's Air & Missile Defence capabilities are all about
Germany's vote on MEADS will be crucial

- 57** *Andy Francis Stirnal, Berlin*
The reorganisation of the European Defence Agency (EDA)
Streamlined form follows function

Directory

- 59** *Alexa Keinert, Berlin*
Authors and their contributions 2013

Conference Reports

- 58** **EDA Yearly Conference 2014**
- 61** **AFCEA Technet 2014, Bucharest**

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The Ukrainian crisis has become the Russian crisis

Russian lessons for Europe

by Jean-Dominique Giuliani, President Robert Schuman Foundation, Paris

One permanent European member of the UN Security Council has repeatedly breached the UN Charter, likewise all of the regional treaties to which it is a party (CFCE-OSCE, Council of Europe, CIS), as well as the promise made to Ukraine when it signed the Budapest Memorandum in 1994 (denuclearisation of Ukraine in exchange for the guarantee of its borders) and the Friendship Treaty (1997). This changes matters a great deal. Rather than focusing on the causes of the Ukrainian crisis, which has now become the Russian crisis, we should look at the effects that it will have on Europe.

Russia – an unpredictable neighbour

The European Union now has an unpredictable neighbour, not all of whose borders are recognised. Russia has used military force and threatens to do so again: a threat that it will almost certainly not hesitate to carry out.

The European Union had hoped to establish stable, long-term cooperation with Russia in the obvious interest of both parties, but is now faced with a player whose aim is again to become the major power it once was, a position it achieved through terrible oppression of its people and a communist dictatorship. This in spite of Russia's shrinking demography and a political and social structure that forces its citizens, capital and wealth to flee the country. In addition to this, it has deployed its military force twice in the space of six years. The generosity that the Union has extended to neighbouring peoples attracted by its freedom and living standards must be replaced by a proper foreign policy that privileges alliances. Europe, which symbolises the rule of law, the peaceful settlement of differences, multilateralism and dialogue, did not use to have enemies. Now it has one: not the Russian people, but a regime terrified by the idea of granting freedom and which pulls on the old strings of nationalism.

Europe must learn from experience

From an internal point of view 2014 just about marks the end of the financial crisis. The Member States who were in difficulty are all back on the road to growth; real progress has been made on a common economic governance, as illustrated by the establishment and approval of a banking union. This year might herald the European Union's return to strength, as it

Membership of the NATO Alliance, which is the only guarantee of our security, should not deter the EU Member States from seeking autonomy of thought and policy.

Jean-Dominique Giuliani

elects afresh all of its institutions and with a consensus gradually forming on the reform of their functioning and the revision of certain EU policies. Our challenges now come from outside. The European states have cashed in – more than amply – on the “dividends of peace”, to the point of weakening their

foreign policy. Because there has been no progress towards a common defence policy and the emphasis has always been on external intervention we now need to focus on protecting our borders and those of our European allies. Membership of the NATO Alliance, which is the only guarantee of our security, should not deter the EU Member States from seeking autonomy of thought and policy. They must now focus all of their strength on drafting a genuine foreign policy, notably with regard to the areas on the EU's borders.

Determination and steadfastness

Their initial response shows renewed determination. Their steadfastness in the face of any further provocation will be decisive for a peaceful future for our continent. They should now, together, decide to put an end to the constant reduction of their defence spending and to toughen up their common diplomacy.

Europe, as the world's leading economic and trading power, has global interests. It must understand that in order to guarantee peace it cannot respond to the use of brute force with dialogue alone; it must comprehend that diplomacy is only credible when backed up by resolute determination, which in turn is lent credibility by a strong military machine.



Photo: private

Professor Jean-Dominique Giuliani

has been Chairman of the Robert Schuman Foundation, Paris, of which he was one of the founders, since 2000. He was born in 1956. J-P. Giuliani has a degree in law from the Institute of Political Studies. From 1992 to 1998 he was Director of the Office of the President of the Senate, René Monory. He then became the Director for the General Management of TNS

Sofres, Paris. In 2002 he founded JD-G.Com International Consultants and has been Special Adviser to the European Commission since 2006.

The European Council on Defence

(ed/nc) On 19–20 December 2013, for the first time since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the European Council held a thematic debate on defence. The Heads of State and Government called on the Member States to deepen defence cooperation by improving the capacity to conduct missions and operations and by making full use of synergies in order to improve the development and availability of the required civilian and military capabilities, supported by a more integrated, sustainable, innovative and competitive European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB).

European Council Conclusions (excerpt)

(...) Today, the European Council is making a strong commitment to the further development of a credible and effective CSDP, in accordance with the Lisbon Treaty and the opportunities it offers.

Increasing the effectiveness, visibility and impact of CSDP

(...) Through CSDP, the Union today deploys more than 7000 staff in 12 civilian missions and four military operations. The European Union and its Member States can bring to the international stage the unique ability to combine, in a consistent manner, policies and tools ranging from diplomacy, security and defence to finance, trade, development and justice. Further improving the efficiency and effectiveness of this EU Comprehensive Approach, including as it applies to EU crisis management, is a priority.

(...) The EU and its Member States need to be able to plan and deploy the right civilian and military assets rapidly and effectively. The European Council emphasises the need to improve the EU rapid response capabilities, including through more flexible and deployable EU Battle groups as Member States so decide. The financial aspects of EU missions and operations should be rapidly examined, including in the context of the Athena mechanism review, with a view to improving the system of their financing, based on a report from the High Representative.

(...) New security challenges continue to emerge. Europe's internal and external security dimensions are increasingly interlinked. To enable the EU and its Member States to respond, in coherence with NATO efforts, the European Council calls for:

- an EU Cyber Defence Policy Framework in 2014, on the basis of a proposal by the High Representative, in cooperation with the Commission and the European Defence Agency;
- an EU Maritime Security Strategy by June 2014, on the basis of a joint Communication from the Commission and the High Representative, taking into account the opinions of the Member States, and the subsequent elaboration of action plans to respond to maritime challenges;
- increased synergies between CSDP and Freedom/Security/Justice actors to tackle horizontal issues such as illegal migration, organised crime and terrorism;
- progress in developing CSDP support for third states and regions, in order to help them to improve border management;

- further strengthening cooperation to tackle energy security challenges.

Enhancing the development of capabilities

(...) The European Council remains committed to delivering key capabilities and addressing critical shortfalls through concrete projects by Member States, supported by the European Defence Agency. Bearing in mind that the capabilities are owned and operated by the Member States, it welcomes :

- the development of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) in the 2020–2025 timeframe: preparations for a programme of a next-generation European Medium Altitude Long Endurance RPAS; the establishment of an RPAS user community among the participating Member States owning and operating these RPAS; close synergies with the European Commission on regulation (for an initial RPAS integration into the European Aviation System by 2016); appropriate funding from 2014 for R&D activities;
- the development of Air-to-Air refuelling capacity: progress towards increasing overall capacity and reducing fragmentation, especially as regards the establishment of a Multi-Role Tanker Transport capacity, with synergies in the field of certification, qualification, in-service support and training;
- Satellite Communication: preparations for the next generation of Governmental Satellite Communication through close cooperation between the Member States, the Commission and the European Space Agency; a users' group should be set up in 2014;
- Cyber: developing a roadmap and concrete projects focused on training and exercises, improving civil/military cooperation on the basis of the EU Cybersecurity Strategy as well as the protection of assets in EU missions and operations.

Strengthening Europe's defence industry

(...) A well-functioning defence market based on openness, equal treatment and opportunities, and transparency for all European suppliers is crucial. The European Council welcomes the Commission communication "Towards a more competitive and efficient defence and security sector". It notes the intention of the Commission to develop, in close cooperation with the High Representative and the European Defence Agency, a roadmap for implementation. It stresses the importance of ensuring the full and correct implementation and application of

the two defence Directives of 2009, inter alia with a view to opening up the market for subcontractors from all over Europe, ensuring economies of scale and allowing a better circulation of defence products.

Research – dual-use

To ensure the long-term competitiveness of the European defence industry and secure the modern capabilities needed, it is essential to retain defence Research & Technology (R&T) expertise, especially in critical defence technologies. The European Council invites the Member States to increase investment in cooperative research programmes, in particular collaborative investments, and to maximise synergies between national and EU research. (...) The European Council therefore welcomes the Commission's intention to evaluate how the results under Horizon 2020 could also benefit defence and security industrial capabilities. (...)

Certification and standardisation

Developing standards and certification procedures for defence equipment reduces costs, harmonises demand and enhances interoperability. The European Defence Agency and the Commission will prepare a roadmap for the development of defence industrial standards by mid-2014, without duplicating existing standards, in particular NATO standards. Together with the Commission and Member States, the European Defence Agency will also develop options for lowering the costs of military certification, including by increasing mutual recognition between EU Member States. It should report to the Council on both issues by mid 2014.(...)

SMEs

SMEs are an important element in the defence supply chain, a source of innovation and key enablers for competitiveness. The European Council underlines the importance of crossborder market access for SMEs and stresses that full use should be made of the possibilities that EU law offers on subcontracting and general licensing of transfers and invites the Commission to investigate the possibilities for additional measures to open up supply chains to SME's from all Member States. Supporting regional networks of SMEs and strategic clusters is also critically important.

Security of Supply

The European Council welcomes the recent adoption within the European Defence Agency of an enhanced Framework Arrangement on Security of Supply and calls on the Commission to develop with Member States and in cooperation with the High Representative and the European Defence Agency a roadmap for a comprehensive EU-wide Security of Supply regime, which takes account of the globalised nature of critical supply chains.

→ European Council Conclusions: <http://tinyurl.com/oqkdbhs>

Documentation

Address to the European Council by the President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz, 19 December 2013



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(excerpt):

“The European Parliament welcomes the fact that you have devoted this summit to the Common Security and Defence Policy. In a rapidly changing world, in which new power centres and new types of risk are emerging, the European Union must shoulder greater responsibility for protecting people in Europe. (...)

The tasks are increasing, yet expenditure on security and defence is falling. Since the end of the Cold War, the defence budgets of the EU Member States have been subject to constant cuts. In 2001, the EU Member States were still spending €251 billion on defence, whereas in 2012 the corresponding figure was €190 bn. That is still a lot of money. But despite these impressive investments, the results are not commensurate with them. We are still militarily dependent on the USA.

In order to tackle the new types of challenge, it is necessary to strengthen the preventive arm of our security and defence policy in particular. Violent conflicts do not break out overnight: mostly, they are preceded by a gradual deterioration of the situation. As a ‘soft power’, the EU is in a good position to adopt a comprehensive approach to crisis prevention, rapid reaction to crises and support for stabilisation and democratisation, especially in our wider neighbourhood, combining diplomatic, economic and military instruments. But again and again we see Europe failing to achieve as much as it could. The number of CSDP missions and operations, their timeliness and the development of civil and military resources are simply inadequate in an increasingly insecure neighbourhood.

If we wish to change this, if we wish to defend our interests and values, if we wish to maintain the security of our citizens, then a majority of Members of the European Parliament consider that we need a headquarters for civil and military missions in Brussels and deployable troops. (...)

Source: European Parliament

→ Full speech: <http://tinyurl.com/ksgqbzt>

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Policies

The EU's aim to become a global player in security and defence and transfer democratic and humanitarian values to countries that so desire can only be achieved if all EU Member States assume greater responsibilities in response to future challenges. For the EU to cooperate with key partners like the UN and NATO it must have the necessary means and continuously invest. Only better cooperation within the Union, making full use of the possibilities offered by the Lisbon Treaty, will enable the EU to exert influence over global affairs.

How to maintain Europe's global relevance and its ability to project its values and interests abroad

Harmonising the security and defence interests of the EU and NATO

by Edgars Rinkēvičs, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, Riga

The EU and NATO were both created to prevent new conflicts from emerging and to create a security environment conducive to social and economic development in the Euro-Atlantic area.

Europe has to become more self-reliant and to take more responsibility for defence and security in its neighbourhood. Today 22 countries belong to both organisations, and we cannot afford to duplicate our investments in both the EU and NATO. This can only be avoided by achieving closer EU-NATO relations, a task best implementable in both organisations in a synchronised manner. The main challenge is to maintain Europe's global relevance and its ability to successfully project its values and interests abroad. Adequate defence

spending is as important as a common apprehension of shared interests and long-term goals. Shared interests create shared capabilities, and vice versa – participation in multinational projects develops multinational thinking and a common strategic culture. In other words, no country in Europe can alone and by itself afford to maintain the full spectrum of capabilities or to bet all its money on a single solution.

Regional cooperation – a way ahead

Latvia has learned that regional cooperation provides a basis for creating momentum. Regional trilateral projects between Latvia and the two other Baltic States, ranging from the Baltic Defence College (BALTDEFCOL) to the Baltic Battalion (BALT-BAT), the Baltic Air Surveillance Network (BALNET) and the Baltic Squadron (BALTRON), have provided valuable experience in overcoming tensions related to national sovereignty for the greater good of shared security interests. They have resulted in joint trilateral contributions and the countries working side by side in international crisis-management efforts. We have engaged in joint procurement and conducted regular joint military exercises. And we have served together in EU Battlegroups and the NATO Response Force. The similar examples of Weimar Plus, Benelux, NORDEFCO and V4 confirm the importance of regional cooperation. We should strive to apply the same principles of cooperation between the EU and NATO.

Secondly, harmonising interests between the EU and NATO means making better use of the natural advantages of each. While NATO is unmatched in the area of hard security, the EU



Photo: private

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has been Minister of Foreign Affairs since December 2011. Born in 1973, he studied History and Philosophy as well as Political Science and International Relations in Latvia and the Netherlands. In 2000, Mr Rinkēvičs obtained a Master's Degree in National Resource Strategy at the United States' National Defense University. He started his political career in 1996 as Senior

Desk Officer at the Ministry of Defence of Latvia, where he went on to hold several positions. From 1997 to 2008 he was Secretary of State. He was also Deputy Head of the Latvian Delegation during the accession negotiations with NATO in 2002–2003. From 2008 until his appointment as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Rinkēvičs was Head of the Chancery of the President of Latvia.

has its wider diplomatic, security and development aid toolbox. The European Union has expanded since its first mission in 2003, when it had a staff of over 400 persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Today the EU has increased its scope to include 7000 people deployed on 12 civilian missions and 4 military operations worldwide, while providing more than half of the world's official development aid and maintaining an omnipresent diplomatic service of over 3800 staff and 139 Delegations and offices abroad. However, as the Final Report by the High Representative on the CSDP recognises, "there is no agreed long-term vision on the future of CSDP". The answer to this is to introduce more regular CSDP debate at the ministerial and European Council levels and to assess the EU's level of ambition in solving international crises.

The CSDP needs a long-term vision

Since the High Representative, in cooperation with the European Commission, is tasked "to assess the impact of changes in the global environment" and "to report to the Council in the course of 2015 on the challenges and opportunities arising for the Union", there is a chance that the true potential of the EU's Comprehensive Approach could be unleashed in due time.

Thirdly, while practical cooperation on the ground (be it in Afghanistan or Kosovo) is working successfully and contributes directly to the achievement of operational goals, hurdles to cooperation between the two organisations continue to weaken their effectiveness. Similarly, every euro-cent wasted when there is duplication of efforts makes it harder to ask our taxpayers for more money for defence. Obviously, less cooperation is more expensive.

NATO and the EU together as a valuable option

Both the European Security Strategy (2003) and NATO's Strategic Concept (2010) prove that the EU and NATO have common values, interests and a similar threat assessment. Mutual complementarity is encoded in their DNA. However, both players are undergoing a recalibration of their forces in order to tackle more effectively the wide range of 21st century challenges. There is no other option except to work shoulder to shoulder. With the 900 million voters of the Euro-Atlantic area heading to the polls in 2014, there is every chance of transforming "business as usual" in such a way that security becomes our usual business. What we need is a joint political will and strong determination.

The first step in this direction was the December 2013 European Council which, after a five-year pause, proved that the EU is willing and able to address security, while reaffirming that "CSDP will continue to develop in full complementarity with NATO".

Now it is time for actions throughout 2014-2015 based on the Council's mandate. With the next European Council on defence and security taking place during the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the EU, I look forward to contributing to taking the Euro-Atlantic security dialogue to a new level.



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Defending values and standing up for democracy and the rule of law in the face of aggressors

Towards creating a new spirit for the CSDP

by Elmar Brok, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, European Parliament, Brussels/Strasbourg

The European heritage and experiences have shaped the European Union's existence and our identity as a political actor. In the EU, we share common values and if we want to contribute to global peace, security and prosperity, it is in our interest to promote these values externally. As Europeans, we do not need to look far to understand that we are living in a time of geopolitical upheaval and change at our borders. We share common anxieties about the way the world is changing and the challenges that this poses to our freedoms and to our future. There are many security challenges that are cross-cutting and touch our citizens directly, almost every day, including the spill-over from regional conflicts, cyber threats, energy security and organised crime.

Policy priorities and strengthening defence

The serious situation in Ukraine is the most visible and worrying flashpoint at the moment. The ongoing tragic civil war in Syria is destabilising the region and having an impact on neighbouring countries. We also see the spill-over in some of our countries, with a rising number of refugees seeking safety in Europe. It is clear that Member States cannot address these challenges individually but only together and through strong EU security and defence policies. Shaping the international order in a way that promotes our values and defends our interests requires collective responsibility on the part of the Member States acting in close cooperation through the Union's institutions. The December Council provided a crucial opportunity to take stock of this approach: it was the first time in six years that the Heads of Government had dedicated their European Council mainly to European security and defence, recent developments having shown the urgency of reflecting upon a new approach in this policy area. We know that since the

beginning of the euro crisis defence policy has not been given a high priority and that the already existing decline in defence budgets has been accelerated with more budget cuts. The combination of further budget cuts and low political priority has meant that we have not coordinated at the national level in order to reduce the impact on key defence capabilities. In addition, the absence of such coordination means that we are losing capabilities and are not taking advantage of possible economies of scale, as shown in a study by the European Parliament, whereby the Member States could save € 130 billion per year through more cohesion in defence policy.

The Summit: reversing negative trends

At the European Council meeting in December the heads of government made a commitment to start reversing these negative trends by issuing a clear political signal to strengthen the CFSP through priority actions on three fronts: a) increasing the effectiveness, visibility and impact of CSDP; b) enhancing the development of capabilities; and c) strengthening Europe's defence industry. The Member States undertook to improve coordination by using existing CSDP instruments in a more effective way and by providing guidance for maximising synergies in European security and defence. One example includes a commitment to revising the concept of EU Battlegroups, which have existed since 2008, but never been used. The Member States also made a clear commitment to tackling the prevailing 'CSDP fatigue' and to deepening military cooperation and integration. As the world continues to evolve and new powers emerge, restoring our economic and political confidence will depend in large part upon our success internationally. That is why it is important for the EU to gain greater credibility in the eyes of our key partners by speaking with one voice.

Defence industry – backbone of the EU economy

Behind the drive for a more coordinated approach, there is a second impetus that received considerable attention at the December Summit, namely the reform and strengthening of the European defence technological and industrial base. With the pan-EU defence sector now worth € 96 billion and providing approximately 1.5 million jobs, the industry represents an important sector of the European economy. Investment in the defence industry might also provide enough of a financial boost to help address ongoing unemployment and tepid economic growth in certain regions. It is also the most cost-effective way of showing our citizens that we can live up to our security responsibilities and that we can do so without wasting taxpayers' money. Of course, turning around the defence



Photo: Dombrowsky

Elmar Brok MEP

has been Chairman of the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee since 2011. He is also a member of the Conference of Committee Chairs and of the Delegation for Relations with the People's Republic of China. He was born in 1946, studied law and politics in Germany and then worked as a radio journalist and newspaper correspondent. He was elected Member of the European Parliament in 1980. He was the Parliament representative at the Intergovernmental Conferences on the Amsterdam Treaty (1996/1997), Nice Treaty (2000), Lisbon Treaty (2007) and EU Constitution (2003/2004), as well as in the Council's Reflection Group for Maastricht II (1994/1995).

industry or reforming European defence will take time, and the Member States at the December Council also made a concrete commitment to a timeline for the achievement of a number of goals within the next 18 months in order to effectively address the future evolution of European defence. In addition to the ongoing work under the European Defence Agency and within the European Commission, these also include the development of an appropriate policy framework for long-term cooperation in defence planning, the establishment of an EU Maritime Security Strategy and the development of an EU Cyber Defence Policy Framework.

Standing shoulder to shoulder to defend values

The optimistic message is that the instruments we need in order to improve defence cooperation in the Union and to achieve these goals already exist. In fact, the Lisbon Treaty has provided us with the legal and policy framework as well as the tools that, if fully implemented, can help us to address both the security and economic challenges that stand before us. I am concerned, however, that we are already seeing that the economic and debt crisis has had an impact on the EU Member States' ability to contribute to CSDP missions and operations, particularly those with military and defence implications. Austerity should be an opportunity to work better and more

effectively together, not an excuse to compromise our fundamental priorities. We have been far too divided in the past in our approach to Russia and this is partly the reason why we are in such a difficult situation in Ukraine. This must be a lesson for the future: if we are to defend our values and stand up for democracy and the rule of law in the face of aggressors like Russia, we must be united and we must combine Union and national resources.

News: G7 sanctions to Russia

"We, the leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission met in The Hague to reaffirm our support for Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence. (...) In response to Russia's violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to demonstrate our determination to respond to these illegal actions, individually and collectively we have imposed a variety of sanctions against Russia and those individuals and entities responsible. We remain ready to intensify actions including coordinated sectoral sanctions that will have an increasingly significant impact on the Russian economy, if Russia continues to escalate this situation (...)."

The Hague, 24 March

Source: European Commission

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Documentation

Paradigm shift in Germany's security and defence policy

Speech by the German Federal Minister of Defence, Dr. Ursula von der Leyen, on the occasion of the 50th Munich Security Conference Munich, 31 January 2014 (excerpt)

"(...) If we Europeans want to remain a credible actor in security policy, we must plan and act together. (...) In the meantime, the world will not wait for the implementation of initiatives, however successful they might prove in the future. (...)



Photo: BMVg, Bundesregierung, Chaperon

Therefore, to sit and wait is not an option. If we have means, if we have capabilities – we have the obligation and we have the responsibility to engage. To avoid any misunderstanding: This does not mean that we should be inclined to make use of the whole spectrum of our military inventory – not under any circumstances. And it does not mean that we will find satisfactory outcomes within a short time frame. But it does mean that we have the obligation and the responsibility to contribute to at least modest progress towards a possible solution of the current crises and conflicts. Indifference never is an option – neither from a security perspective nor from a humanitarian perspective. (...)

Indifference is not an option for Germany. As a major economy and a country of significant size we have a strong interest in international peace and stability. Given these facts the Federal Government is prepared to enhance our international responsibility. Therefore, we are willing to support the destruction of the residual quantities of chemical warfare agents from Syria. Therefore, we are willing to reinforce our contribution to the efforts in Mali. Therefore we are willing to support the upcoming mission of the European Union in the Central African Republic, if indicated and needed. Nevertheless, long-term stability will only be achieved by rebuilding functioning government structures. The most successful strategy is capacity and institution building. Neither NATO nor the EU – let alone individual nations – can sustainably solve crises such as those in Africa. It is therefore crucial to enable reliable partners on the ground – be it regional organizations or states – to provide for their own security. This must be done in a comprehensive way through training, advice, assistance and if necessary also equipment aid. To this noble end, the European nations need to learn to speak with one voice. I will take a stand for further improving the cooperation between EU and NATO. (...)"

Source: www.bmvg.de

The December 2013 European Council has provided guidance

A clear roadmap to strengthen

General Patrick de Rousiers, Chairman of the EU Military Committee

In the space of the 15 years since the Common Security and Defence Policy was put in place, the European Union has acquired practical experience in handling and resolving international crises in some of the world's most disadvantaged regions.

A significant operational commitment

Over the last eleven years the European Union has launched nine military missions or operations. Four are still ongoing, mobilising nearly 3 000 soldiers under the EU flag.

In the Balkans, the EU military presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina has given leverage to political progress in the country. Operation EUFOR Althea is still helping to boost stability and peace in the region.

Visible results are also being produced in the Horn of Africa.

The EUNAVFOR Atalanta maritime operation has significantly contributed to reducing piracy in this region. One of the reasons for this success is that the EU has worked with states in the Horn of Africa region in order not only to prevent pirates from hijacking merchant vessels, but also to ensure that arrested pirates are brought to trial and, if convicted, sent to jail.

The European Union not only deploys its military assets for crisis management but also endeavours to address the fundamental question of how to tackle the root causes. Which is why, in addition to operation EUNAVFOR Atalanta, the EU launched in February 2010 the EUTM Somalia training mission, which was recently transferred from Uganda to Mogadishu. 3 600 EU-trained Somali soldiers have proven their capabilities in combat and are now successfully supporting the Somali Government in establishing security in Mogadishu and throughout the country.

In the Sahel region, the EU launched the EUTM Mali military training mission in February 2013, at the request of the Malian authorities. The mission provides expertise and advice to the Malian Armed Forces and trains its combat units. Four battalions have already been trained. This represents approximately 3 000 soldiers who are now partially engaged in the northern part of Mali in combat and stabilisation missions.

On 10 February the EU also started the planning process for another military operation in the Central African Republic, operation EUFOR RCA, in order to contribute to restoring a safe and secure environment in the Bangui area. The intention is to hand over to African partners after a period of six months.

Greece provides the Operational Headquarters in Larissa.

In just a few years, the European Union has shown that it can conduct military missions and operations that make a differ-

ence for establishing a follow-up process

then our solidarity

e, Brussels

ence. This is a tangible expression of its commitment to international peace and security. But today our world is changing and new security challenges require responses that are beyond the means of individual states: we need to be more ambitious, to enhance cooperation with partners and to focus on priorities.

A roadmap to increase ambitious solidarity

In December 2013, the Heads of State and Government discussed defence and security as the main theme of their summit, which hadn't occurred for five years. Intense preparatory work was conducted for almost one year and many proposals were discussed. The Heads of State and Government have identified a number of priority actions and will assess concrete progress on all issues in June 2015. Some of these priority actions can be highlighted.

First of all, we need to increase transparency and information sharing in order to facilitate capability convergence among EU Member States.

We must also intensify the consolidation of demand. In many areas, defence capabilities are built on a huge variety of



Operation EUTM Somalia

Photo: EUTM Somalia



Photo: CEUMC

General Patrick de Rousiers

has been Chairman of the EU Military Committee since 2012.

Born in 1955 in Dijon, he joined the French Air Force Academy in 1975. After deployments to Chad, Saudia Arabia and Turkey, he attended the National War College in Paris (1993–1994) before joining the Air Force Staff in Paris.

Promoted Brigadier General in 2002, he headed the MOD's General Military Strategy Office in Paris. 2004–2006: Head of the Euro-Atlantic Division, MOD Paris. 2006–2008: Commander-in-Chief Air Defence and Air Operations in Taverny and Lyons, France.

In 2008 he became the French Military Representative to the EU Military Committee and in 2009, in parallel, to the NATO Military Committee, in Brussels. Before taking up his current post, Patrick de Rousiers was Inspector General of the French Armed Forces; he was promoted to the rank of General in 2010.

models and versions of equipment. Therefore we need to harmonise requirements covering the whole life cycle.

Member States have also committed to establishing an EU Maritime Security Strategy, which involves many stakeholders on the civilian side, but also military responsibilities. We have to discuss and define concrete initiatives such as shared awareness in EU waters, maritime command and how to operate with coastguards.

We also need to go further ahead and to develop solutions in order to deploy military assets rapidly and effectively. In particular, there is a need to improve the EU rapid response capabilities, including through more flexible and deployable EU Battlegroups.

Continued dialogue with partners, in particular NATO, the UN and the African Union, is also essential in order to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication, especially on capability development. The next NATO Summit in September will help us to work on this issue.

Last, but not least, in terms of capabilities, the December European Council has also highlighted the need for Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), which is a crucial capability requirement for the future. The aim is to prepare a programme of the next generation of RPAS and also to establish a user community among participating Member States.

The European Union is often accused of being slow to act or to reach consensus. But I would say that this depends on the political will of its Member States. Today, the time has come to work together more efficiently: we need flexibility and we need to compromise.

The December 2013 European Council has provided guidance for establishing a follow-up process in order to ensure and monitor progress: pragmatic solidarity will continue!

The West should develop a solid relationship with a responsible Russia

The real symbolism of the occupation of Crimea

by Professor Ioan Mircea Paşcu MEP, Brussels/Strasbourg

Through military occupation, the Crimea has become one of Russia's most important strategic "assets", allowing for both regional control and power (naval) projection towards the Eastern Mediterranean, the Middle East and the Gulf, which are the "tables" where the high stakes "game" of international politics is being played.

A challenge to the post-cold war security system

Russia's military occupation of Crimea, in direct violation of international law and standards of behaviour, calls into question the validity of the European post-cold war security system. That system is based on the 1975 Helsinki Act prohibiting the modification of European borders through force and on the 1990 Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe, in which Russia suspended its participation in 2007 (roughly one year before the war with Georgia).

That European post-cold war security system is underwritten by NATO, which, although remaining an alliance for the collective defence of its members, has – through crisis management – acquired since the 1990s a new mission, namely that of monitoring all threats to continental security.

A well prepared step-by-step "reconquista"

In retrospect it seems that Russia under President Putin carefully prepared its move on Crimea as, potentially, the beginning of its territorial "reconquista". Clearly dissatisfied with the breakup of the former Soviet Union (considered the "most important geo-strategic catastrophe of the 20th century" by President Putin) Russia lived all these years with the thought of recuperating the "losses" incurred through the treaties signed in the 1990s and taking revenge for the "humil-

iation" thus suffered. The war against Georgia in August 2008 permitted Russia both to attain important territorial objectives and to test the effectiveness of its strategy of "muting" the Western response. Most important, Russia blocked Georgia's NATO membership for many years to come.

I do not know how much the "Georgian test" counted in Russia's recent decision to militarily occupy Crimea. Probably it counted a lot. However, if Russia expected the West to respond the same way, permitting it to "get away" with it once again, it was wrong.

Transforming Russia

First, because Crimea, more than Georgia, reveals the true aim of President Putin: to transform Russia into the former Soviet Union. Given the experience of the cold war, this can hardly be tolerated by the West. Second, because, apart from the sudden "security deficit" on NATO's and EU's eastern border, Crimea indicates a need to entirely revisit European defence and security. The alternative is to negotiate a new continental security system, this time with a much more aggressive Russia.

So, between "punishing" President Putin's Russia and re-evaluating the West's relationship with Russia, the latter – which does not exclude the former – is the more recommendable.

The European response

Militarily, one could think of increased monitoring and surveillance, a multiplication of military exercises, reinforcing air and naval defences, upgrading military planning and – possibly – replacing the current "visit" system in the Black Sea with a standing air and naval presence. Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia should be effectively supported and their progress on the European path expedited. Poland, Romania and Turkey should be given political prominence and their bilateral and trilateral cooperation strengthened. The EU should further reduce its energy dependence on Russia, strengthen its cooperation in military matters with NATO and expedite the conclusion of the TTIP with the US. In turn, the US themselves should perhaps think twice their plans of reducing the military potential in general and its deployment in Europe. Last but not least, the West should attempt to develop a solid relationship with a responsible Russia, permitting this crucial actor to use its full potential in support of the European and international systems, not against them.



Professor Ioan Mircea Paşcu

was born 1949 in Satu Mare, Romania. 1980 Ph.D in Political Science; 1989–1992 Member of Provisional Council for National Unity and Presidential Counsellor as Head of the Foreign Policy Directorate; 1993 State Secretary MOD Bucharest; 1996 MP and Chairman of the Defence and Home Affairs Committee; 2000

Photo: private

Minister of Defence; 2005 Observer to the EP; 2007 Vice-President of the Foreign Affairs Committee and Member of the Strategic Advisory Board of the US Atlantic Committee.

December 2013 European Council debate and conclusions on the CFSP and CSDP

The EP's influence is still limited in defence, but decisive in other important areas of the CSDP

by Sir Graham Watson MEP, Brussels/Strasbourg

Last year's December European Council (EC) summit on the future of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy didn't quite live up to the huge build-up in expectations. There was much talk in the months and weeks that preceded it of a 'European army' and a 'permanent military headquarters'. Neither transpired. Ultimately the success of the EU's CSDP is less about the bricks and mortar of a permanent, physical military headquarters and more about the building blocks and cement of a shared purpose.

Thinking more European

We will have real shared purpose only when our representatives on the relevant committees in the Council start thinking more European. When they recognise the extra weight the EU has when it speaks with one voice. We are stronger and more powerful when acting together. And yet, last year's EC's conclusions were peppered with get-out clauses for the Member States.

What our Heads of State and Government did agree on, however, was to work together on counter terrorism, cyber defence, maritime security, illegal migration, organised crime, energy security, satellite communication, air-to-air refuelling and drones. The European Defence Agency (EDA) is now beginning work in all of these areas.

I believe the dash for drones is a mistake. I am not convinced that they provide a net gain in the security of the USA, and therefore see no argument for their use by the EU.

I welcome the fact that energy policy was not relegated to the status of a mere footnote. The switch from fossil fuels to clean energy is essential for security against the impact of climate change and for independence from Russia.

The fixation on a Military HQ is premature

The fixation with the idea of a permanent military headquarters was premature. I am not convinced that we are yet at the stage where such a building or institution will solve our problems – although I do not exclude the possibility that this may be useful at some point in the future. The Council's Political and Security Committee already works well, if a little slowly.

As the Heads of State and Government said, the European defence market is "fragmented" and that could "jeopardise the sustainability and competitiveness of Europe's defence and security industry". A long-handed way of saying let's



Photo: private

Sir Graham Watson MEP

is President of the Europe-wide Liberal Democrat Party, the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe. He is also the Chairman of a global network, the Climate Parliament.

Graham was born in 1956. Educated at The City of Bath Boys' School and at Heriot-Watt University he holds a BA honours degree in Modern Languages and is a qualified interpreter and translator.

In his parliamentary career (1994) he has chaired the EP's Committee on Justice and Home Affairs, Citizens' Rights and Freedoms (1999–2001) and has led the EP's Liberal Democrat Group (2002–2009).

work together. Doing away with offset arrangements in defence procurement would be a good start.

You can imagine a future where Estonia might lead on cyber security, Finland and Poland on armoured vehicles and Belgium in aeronautics. It makes sense for each country to specialise in building what it does best, and could save a lot of money. The EDA will come out with a report this autumn on the EU's capability in defence matters, to identify the gaps. One of them, which may need a common procurement policy, is heavy lift capacity.

The EP holds the purse strings for CSDP

As regards the European Parliament's influence on the Common Foreign and Security Policy, one must remember that like all other parliaments, the European Parliament is an equal co-legislator on the EU budget. It holds the purse strings for CFSP, and uses it to wield significant influence over its shape. Military CSDP missions, however, are still financed using the ATHENA mechanism, which remains entirely under national government control. MEPs have also been influential in showing particular support – and therefore adding democratic legitimacy and credibility to – individual CSDP missions. Overcoming war is what brought the EU into being, and the EU can be an immense force for peace at home, in its own neighbourhood and beyond. The EU can think, plan, speak and act with a more unified voice on these issues. There is money to be saved, and increased power, effectiveness and influence to be had. Let us return to the EU's first principles and use our common strength for our common goal: a safer Europe and a safer world.

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Closer cooperation in security and defence is no longer a “nice-to-have”

Commitment and unity

by Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, Minister of Defence, The Hague

Closer European cooperation in the field of security and defence is no longer a choice or a “nice-to-have”. It is a necessity. And I will repeat this message as often as necessary to overcome the practical and political obstacles. We need leadership, long-term commitment and political courage.

The West has to reinvent its strength

If democracies won't provide these, alternatives will. In my view, this obviously means that the West has no time to lose when it comes to reinventing its strength in order to meet current and emerging threats in a rapidly changing world; now and in the future; in our immediate region and beyond. Within this context, I consider it of crucial importance to keep NATO fit, sharp and flexible. But whereas fires are burning around the world, NATO's continued success is not self-evident. Europe has a key role to play here! As said by others, NATO – 65 years old – cannot retire. In fact, NATO cannot even slow down.

*“Europe must enhance its ability to act.
Europe must boost its military effectiveness”.*

J. Hennis-Plasschaert, The Hague

It is time for the EU Member States to exercise greater responsibilities. European countries will have to carry their share of the burden, including the risks. Military shortfalls or overreliance on the US can only be fixed if Europe develops joint approaches. Europe must enhance its ability to act. Europe must boost its military effectiveness.

The EU has to take more responsibility and risk

True, December's European Council meeting was an important step in the right direction. And true, there is an interesting list of European cooperation initiatives for delivering key capabilities. And also true, we have several good examples of pooling and sharing resources. The European Air Transport Command is such an example. But patience seems to be a virtue in Europe. Decision-making is still too cumbersome and takes too long.

It is furthermore vital to understand that closer cooperation can only be effective if partner nations are trustworthy and predictable in their responses. Saying “yes” to military cooperation means saying “yes” to military participation. Reliable partners do not pull back their shared capabilities at the last minute. It would create political havoc and could threaten military partnerships. This understanding, however, has yet to



Photo: MOD The Netherlands

Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert

has been the Dutch Minister of Defence since November 2012. She was born in 1973 and studied at the European Secretarial Academy in Utrecht, following which she worked at the European Commission (DG for Enlargement). In 2000, she started working as a consultant for KPMG in Amstelveen, Netherlands, before becoming a political assistant to the Municipal Executive of Amsterdam. From 2004 to 2010 Ms Hennis was a Member of the European Parliament (VVD, People's Party for Freedom and Democracy), where she sat among other things on the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs. In June 2010 Ms Hennis became a Member of the Dutch House of Representatives for the VVD, focusing on security, police, equal treatment and disaster and crisis response.

be generally accepted. Closer military cooperation is, still too often, perceived as a constraint on sovereignty and national control.

Enhanced military effectiveness is indispensable

However, and I feel the need to state it clearly, closer European cooperation is indispensable. Only then we will benefit from economies of scale and enhanced military effectiveness. As a consequence we should not be afraid to critically address our national decision-making procedures. All of us in Europe should feel ownership, including our national parliaments. If not, Europe will continue to undermine its ability to act. The many real threats might help us to focus our minds. Clearly, Europe must stand ready in order to serve and to protect. Let us therefore not hesitate but lead. The West needs a new burst of commitment and unity.



J. Hennis-Plasschaert visiting NL-Forces

Photo: MOD The Netherlands

There is much room for improving cooperation

NATO and the EU: what you get for paying two membership fees

by Miroslav Lajčák, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bratislava

Following the December 2013 European Council focusing on defence, the EU's and NATO's responsibilities overlap more closely than ever before. Both strive to encourage member states to cooperate on the development of new capabilities. Both seek to mitigate the impact of low budgets on military strength and on the defence industry. They run operations in the same places. And they have greatly overlapping memberships. Is it not, one might ask, an unnecessary luxury in these times of austerity to bear the costs of the two memberships? The answer is no, but a fresh effort is needed to limit unnecessary duplication and to use pooled resources more efficiently.

NATO and the EU are complementary...

While similar in some aspects, NATO and the EU are distinct. The European Union is far more than a military actor: it also brings a combination of development expertise, trade ties and legislative power to conflict resolution. Its defence responsibilities are growing: at the December Summit, the member states tasked the EU with finding ways to strengthen the defence industry and improve collaboration in national defence planning. NATO, for its part, has unrivalled military power and the extra diplomatic muscle of the United States. Hence, the Euro-Atlantic community has the flexibility to act through one or the other institution, depending on the type of challenge. The EU and NATO complement each other, but that is not to say that they co-exist happily side-by-side. The cooperation between the two leaves much to be desired. Our taxpayers rightly demand that we eliminate friction and duplication where possible.

...but interaction is hampered on both sides

Some forms of interaction between the EU and NATO, while desirable, have proved impossible – the two institutions have similar but different memberships, and therefore somewhat diverging views on the terms on which they should cooperate. Both also decide matters (in the defence area) on the basis of consensus. So some changes will need to wait until the views in the key capitals involved converge.

There is, however, considerable room for improvement in other areas. The EU-NATO Capability Group, for example, must become much more effective. It should produce ideas on how to streamline the defence planning processes; it should also be a forum where the EU and NATO can swap ideas on how to nudge the member states towards closer defence cooperation.



Photo: private

Miroslav Lajčák

has been the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic since April 2012. Born in 1963, he studied International Relations and Security Issues in Moscow, Bratislava and Germany. In 1988, Miroslav Lajčák started his career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, of which he became Director of the Minister's Office in 1993. He was

Ambassador to Japan, Yugoslavia, Albania and Macedonia (FYROM). In 2007, he became the High Representative/EU Special Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, before being appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic in 2009. Prior to his current position, Mr Lajčák served as the EU Chief Negotiator for the Association Agreements with Ukraine and Moldova.

“The EU and NATO complement each other, but that is not to say that they co-exist happily side-by-side.”

Miroslav Lajčák

Similarly, the “transatlantic dinners” at which ministers or ambassadors of the NATO and EU countries meet from time to time should become proper working sessions. They need a clear agenda, even if there is no ambition to make binding decisions.

We need higher ambitions

Still, we must have higher ambitions. In principle all member states concerned agree on the need to eliminate unnecessary duplication. So could the EU and NATO adopt a unified defence planning system? Similarly, there is a clear need for only one set of military standards for both institutions. Duplication would be costly and go against the logic of standards in the first place: they are meant to improve interoperability and cut costs, but if the EU and NATO have different ones, their benefits are by definition limited. An improved EU-NATO relationship is not merely something that is “nice to have”: our citizens, who ultimately fund the two institutions, want to know that their taxes are being spent wisely. And the governments owe them a convincing answer. After the 2013 European Council, the NATO summit in Wales will represent another opportunity to make a step in the right direction. Let us not miss it!

Europe's strategic priority is to contribute more effectively to the Alliance

Putting the brakes on the EU's misplaced military ambitions

by Geoffrey Van Orden MBE MEP, Brussels/Strasbourg

There are two very different views on the future of the EU. One, which I would describe as the EU orthodoxy, is committed to the idea of “ever closer union” across all policy areas with a view to the creation of a state-like entity. In the foreign policy field, since 1986 there has been commitment to “development of a European identity in external policy matters”, for Europe to be an actor in its own right on the world stage. This was eventually given substance with the creation of the External Action Service and the development of a Common Security & Defence Policy (CSDP).

The EU project has gone too far

The alternative view, to which I subscribe, is essentially inter-governmental. It sees merit in close cooperation between European countries. While a small bureaucracy is necessary to manage some of these economic aspects there is no requirement for the vast quasi-ministerial apparatus that has now been established. There is recognition that the EU project has gone too far, that it is disliked by a majority of people throughout the European countries (the exception is Germany), and needs to be drawn back.

It is in this context that we should view the EU's military ambitions. While some may seek to justify EU involvement in defence on some practical grounds, for the Eurocrats military effectiveness was always secondary. The current High Representative, Baroness Ashton, made this very clear when she stated that the “first (priority for CSDP) is political, and it concerns fulfilling Europe's ambitions on the world stage The EU needs to remain a credible security and defence player on the world stage.” More attention is paid to EU military “visibility” than its relevance. There is no more potent symbol of statehood than military power.

There is no need for CSDP

The fact is, there is no need for CSDP. It provides no added value. While contributing little of practical benefit, the EU has placed its institutional footprint on an increasing range of defence-related activities, wastefully duplicating staff and structures already very well established at NATO. For the power-point presentations, there is also an impressive narrative of activity, including some 30 operational “CSDP missions”. However, most are self-generated. Few stand up to scrutiny. And, as it happens, most are mainly civilian. Those that aren't are essentially French military operations with some EU window dressing.

The EU has no military requirements different to those of NATO. It may make sense for less capable countries to get together to improve capabilities, provided they have the will to use them, but there is absolutely no need for the EU to be involved in any of this. Nor does the EU need to be involved in multi-national defence industrial projects - they work perfectly well without it. And it is nonsense to conclude from the US ‘pivot’ to Asia that it is no longer interested in Europe. Certainly there is an expectation that European Allies should shoulder more of the defence burden, but this has been a persistent theme over the past 50 years and the EU offers no remedy.

The EU has been adept at seeking justifications for its ambitions to make them more acceptable to key powers such as the UK. The latest is the ‘comprehensive approach’ which enables it to claim some ‘unique’ amalgam of civil and military capabilities. But the EU is incapable of getting both parts of the civil-military equation right. Many of those that inhabit the EU civil sphere, including NGOs, have little understanding of, or taste for, the military, and the EU even has difficulty coordinating its own activities. In any case, what is now called the ‘comprehensive approach’ has long antecedents, including NATO's own ISAF and in particular its Provincial Reconstruction Teams.

Lisbon is not a mutual defence treaty

While the EU has tried to press on regardless with defence, we can now see that the high point of EU military ambition was reached with the 2009 Lisbon Treaty. This established a ‘High Representative’ as the putative EU Foreign and Defence Minister, gave formal blessing to a European Defence Agency, and enshrined a dangerous “mutual defence” clause, which



Photo: private

Geoffrey Van Orden MBE MEP

is the Conservative Defence & Security Spokesman in the European Parliament. He has been Conservative MEP for the East of England since 1999. Geoffrey is a member of the EP Delegations to India, Turkey and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. He is President of the think-tank “New Direction-The Foundation for European Reform”.

the EU has no capacity to fulfill and which was just a pale imitation of NATO's Article 5.

Among the major players there is no appetite for an ambitious EU military policy. This became clear at the December 2013 European Council. The emphasis has turned to civil activities in terms of crisis prevention, humanitarian assistance, and post-conflict reconstruction. Many of us have long campaigned for just such a shift so that the EU might actually do something useful in terms of complementing, rather than trying to imitate, NATO's military muscle. It's been a long haul to get to this position.

EU should focus all efforts on NATO

It can now be seen that nations cannot, in one breath, seek to distance themselves from 'ever closer union' and call for repatriation of powers from Brussels, and in another acquiesce in a flagship EU policy designed to deepen political integration and extend EU competence.

Europe's strategic priority is to ensure that the US remains fully engaged in NATO, and, elusively, to get European Allies to develop their military capability in a way that will contribute more effectively to the Alliance. Creating wasteful, duplicative EU structures has never been the solution to this. Those that reject the idea of a state called Europe should have no part in the construction of its military arm. Those that are really concerned with the security of the democracies should focus all their efforts on revitalising NATO and avoid the distractions of EU military ambition.

Documentation

Cameron's idea of European Defence

"(...) Protecting our national security is a first priority for all of us as national leaders, and for the UK (let me be clear) NATO has been and will remain the bedrock of our national defence. Of course it is right for European nation states to cooperate on defence issues and, let us also be clear, the UK is always in the vanguard when European allies ask for our practical help. (...) But there is an important principle here. Defence issues, ultimately about war and peace and a nation's armed forces, must be driven by nations themselves on a voluntary basis, according to their own priorities and needs, not by some Brussels diktat about grand Union ambitions. The European Union's principal focus should be on boosting economic growth and creating jobs, not fantasising about getting its own army or defence equipment".

Press statement by UK Prime Minister David Cameron at the European Council, 20 December 2013

Source: gov.uk



Nations need the EU's help to achieve compliance with the

The Eastern Partnership: c

by Linas Antanas Linkevičius, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vilnius

Three months ago Lithuania hosted the 3rd Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius. This was the highlight of the Lithuanian EU Presidency, but also of our country's ongoing commitment to support the European integration efforts of our eastern partners.

The Eastern Partnership aims at political and economic integration between the six eastern European states (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) and the EU. These partner states have rather different ambitions and visions of their relations with the EU and each of them is free to choose how far and how fast it wishes to go in that relationship. Lithuania has always supported the European aspirations of the most ambitious partners, including possible membership of the EU.

Still a long way to go

A long path lies ahead. Closer ties and membership prospects depend on compliance with the Copenhagen criteria (democratic institutions, a functioning market economy, the ability to assume membership obligations) and the implementation of political, economic and social reforms. The Association Agreements now being offered to the Eastern Partners provide the main tool for this.

The ongoing events in Ukraine bring home the need for a united stance and prompt action on the part of the EU. We have the tools in our hands to make a difference, but we also need to mobilise the necessary political will.

How to proceed

The Vilnius Summit and Maidan have, fortunately, taken us beyond the stage of doubt as regards the importance of the Eastern Partnership. What can we do now?



Photo: sklm79, CC BY-SA 4.0, flickr.com

EU “Grand Strategy”

Europe’s future role in a complex world will depend on its strategic framework. The hesitant discussion about Europe’s role in the world must take into account all components of the EU’s global profile. This is why an integrated approach – renouncing the artificial distinction between internal and external security – has also to be a comprehensive one. “Only a long-term strategy will prepare the European Union for the global century”. Carl Bildt

the Copenhagen criteria

Common challenges, a common response

Firstly, we should join forces to ensure the signing of the first ever Association Agreements with Ukraine, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova. Once signed and provisionally applied, these Agreements will unlock the enormous transformative power inherent in the Eastern Partnership.

Secondly, we need to support – both politically and financially – the implementation of these Agreements. Of course, the main obligations lie with the governments of the partner states – it is their peoples who need the reforms. However, as these Agreements foresee the adoption by our partners of nearly 80% of the EU acquis, we must also step up our own engagement. Clear acknowledgement of EU membership prospects for the partner states would be the best political incentive for the implementation of painful reforms – we speak from experience. Targeted financial support from us would be an investment in ensuring greater sustainability of difficult reforms.

Thirdly, we need to accelerate the visa liberalisation processes with the Eastern Partnership countries. The EU has a strong power of attraction, which now is locked under visa requirements. The Erasmus+ programme is a significant enabler for young people that brings to life the principle of ‘Europe whole and free’.

Fourthly, we need to further deepen our sectorial and multilateral cooperation. Action across the entire range of areas - from agriculture to migration, from culture to security – brings the idea of Europe closer to the everyday lives of ordinary people.

Fifthly, we need to continue our dialogue with Russia. I am confident that Russia will one day see the Eastern Partnership as an opportunity, and not a threat, including for its businesses and wider society. Russia cannot claim the right to veto closer ties between the EU and its eastern partners. Their



Photo: private

Linas Antanas Linkevičius,

born in 1961 in Vilnius, has been Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania since December 2012. He graduated from the Kaunas Polytechnic Institute in 1983 and began his political career in 1992 as a Member of Parliament, where he was Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Foreign Affairs. In 1993 and again in 2000, he was appointed Minister of National Defence. From 2005 to 2011 he was the Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the North Atlantic Council, following which he became Ambassador-at-Large in the Transatlantic Cooperation and Security Policy Department of the MFA. Prior to his current position, he was Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Lithuania to the Republic of Belarus.

choices must be respected. But, most importantly, their closer cooperation and integration with the EU is taking place not at the expense of, but in addition to maintaining their traditional ties with Russia. It is a win-win situation.

Armed interventions are absolutely unacceptable

Along with our partners in the EU and NATO we condemn Russia’s military invasion of Ukraine’s Crimea as a breach of the fundamental principles of international law. Armed intervention in Ukraine is totally unacceptable and discredits Russia’s political leadership not only internationally, but also vis-à-vis its own population.

European integration has brought peace and prosperity to a Europe previously plagued by war and conflict. Embracing new nations in this integration process – if they so choose – expands the area of stability and prosperity.

A Sahelian front-line running from Mali to the region of Chad-Nigeria

Africa in crisis

by Bernard Lugan, Professor, Ecole de Guerre, Paris

Almost all the current conflicts in Africa are concentrated in the region north of the equator¹, and more particularly in the immense Sahara-Sahel region that stretches from the Atlantic to the Red Sea across more than ten countries.

This corridor linking the two oceans is the area between the Mediterranean and Black Africa where north meets south, but above all it marks a real racial divide, with grazing lands to the north and farming areas to the south. The Sahel crosses ten states in which a “white” north is artificially brought together with a black south.

Formerly the point of arrival and departure for trans-Saharan trade, and these days for all kinds of trafficking, the Sahel, from the Atlantic to the Red Sea, is ablaze with long-standing and resurgent conflicts.

The two major causes of this region’s conflicts are:

1. Artificial borders forcing the peoples of the north and south, between whom there are major disputes, to live together;
2. Universal suffrage based on the principle of “one man one vote”, the ethno-mathematical result of which is to automatically give the power to the numerically strongest group, in this instance the southerners.

These crisis-generating factors are present in the entire Sahel

Central African Republic (CAR) – risk of genocide

(ed/AK) In 2013 the latent crisis in the Central African Republic again erupted into violence between Muslim Seleka rebels and the Christian population.

In August 2013, with the country’s government powerless to keep law and order, especially in the capital, Bangui, France urged the United Nations (UN) and African Union (AU) to step up their efforts to put a stop to the ongoing human rights violations. But with the AU peacekeeping mission unable to restore security, French President François Hollande decided to change his position of disengagement and to strengthen the French troop presence in CAR: he increased it by almost 1000 soldiers upon receiving the UN Security Council’s authorisation on 5 December 2013. French soldiers immediately began to patrol in Bangui and were able to prevent a slaughter. In February 2014 the EU Council decided to send its own crisis-management forces to the CAR (see also p. 51). Since then Europe has been struggling to bridge the troop and equipment gap in order to put together a sufficient force to fulfil its promise of a military operation to restore security in the country.

region, from Mali to Niger and from Chad to Nigeria. In Mali recently, Islamist fundamentalism has opportunistically latched on to northern political aspirations. The north-south conflict is therefore indeed the key to an understanding of the region’s problems.

The areas of the Sahel that are currently the most under threat are the Mali-Niger region, Nigeria and Chad, but we must also take a short look at the current burning conflict in Central Africa and consider its relationship with the other zones.

Mali

Operation Serval, whose main result has been to permit southern Mali to recommence colonising the north, has done nothing to eradicate any of the root causes of the recent conflict. The non-settlement of the Tuareg question only puts off the problem whilst aggravating it. Indeed, nothing has been decided about the necessary administrative reorganisation of Mali, now that the French army has retaken the towns of the north.

The problem is as follows: Bamako wishes to re-assert its authority over the north, but cannot do so without the French army, and the Tuareg who started the war are demanding extensive autonomy and are refusing the deployment of the southern army in the region of Kidal.

As long as the Tuareg issue remains unresolved one major pitfall must be avoided. Those who a matter of weeks ago denied the Tuareg problem are now according disproportionate importance to it in territorial terms. Indeed, the Tuareg do not occupy the whole of the Malian Sahara, but only a part of it, the west of Azawad being an Arab or Arabised zone. Azawad has three main population groups within each of which there are numerous sub-divisions:

- the Tuareg who are Berbers occupy the north-eastern part of the region;
- the Moors – Arabised Berbers or descendants of the Arab Hilalian tribes (Beni Hilal) – live in the western part, forming an ethnic and political continuum with the tribes of Mauritania;
- the Songhai, Peul and some Tuareg live in the Niger River region.

The question of Nigeria

The vast region covered by Nigeria-Niger-Cameroon has become a veritable Sahelistan spilling over from Nigeria into Niger, Cameroon and a small part of Chad, via the Hasa/Fulani/Kanuri-populated areas. These over-populated regions provide a breeding-ground for all kinds of negative forces: to the north, Libya is unable to control its south, to the east is

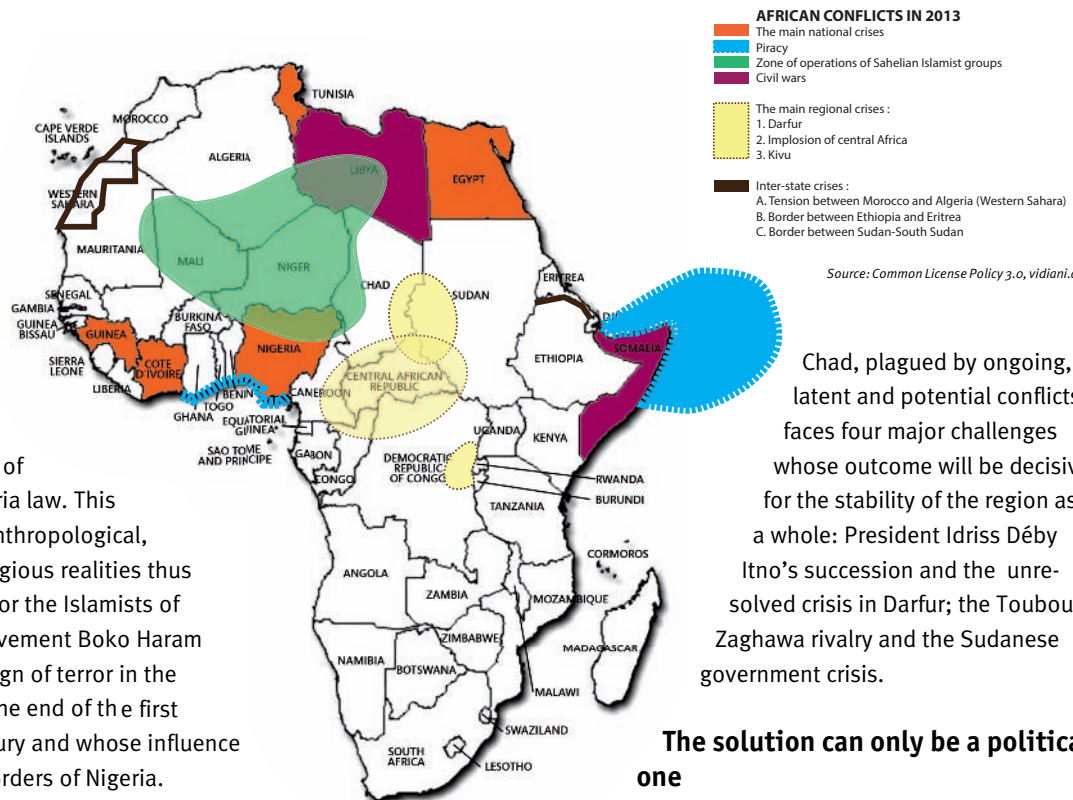
the ongoing hotspot of Darfur and to the south, Nigeria is engaged in an ethnic-religious civil war. The whole of the north of Nigeria is ruled by Sharia law. This region’s geographic, anthropological, ethnic, historic and religious realities thus make it fertile ground for the Islamists of the fundamentalist movement Boko Haram that has exercised a reign of terror in the north of Nigeria since the end of the first decade of the 21st century and whose influence extends beyond the borders of Nigeria.

The Nigerian authorities, which for a while seemed at a loss in the face of the Jihadists, are now waging a real war that is perceived by the north as an attack by the Christian south. Thus three Nigerian States (Borno, Yoba and Adamawa) sharing borders with Niger, Chad and Cameroon are at war. They have declared a state of emergency and imposed a curfew from dusk to dawn. Since 16 May 2013, the Federal Army has been engaged in an offensive against the Boko Haram combatants who have whole areas under their control. The Federal Army has been unable to regain control of them. Boko Haram broadly exploits the political frustration of the northern élites, who do not want to see the country run by a Christian from the south in the person of President Goodluck Jonathan: a reversal these past few years of the balance of power between the north and south.

Previously the northerners controlled the administration and army, which meant that they held the power and could use the country’s oil revenues to their own advantage. Today, with southerners at the head of the country, the northerners have been politically sidelined: they have even lost control of the army. The Muslim fundamentalists who control the north of Nigeria are trying to exacerbate the rift between the north and south in order to impose independence for the north, which would then become a theocratic state in the tradition of the 19th century emirates, with all the geopolitical consequences that this would entail for the region.

Can the Chadian bastion resist?

In Chad we find the same regional ethnic-geographic divisions, with the Islamised desert region of the north pitted against a Christian or animist agricultural south. On top of that there is a simmering conflict within the north.



Chad, plagued by ongoing, latent and potential conflicts, faces four major challenges whose outcome will be decisive for the stability of the region as a whole: President Idriss Déby Itno’s succession and the unresolved crisis in Darfur; the Toubou-Zaghawa rivalry and the Sudanese government crisis.

The solution can only be a political one

This goes for the whole Sahel region – no military solution is possible unless there is genuine cooperation with the armed forces of the neighbouring countries in which fundamentalists find ethnic continuity and seek refuge when they come under threat. Yet any attempts at coordination in this area run up against political and logistic problems that are well nigh insurmountable under the current circumstances.

The only possible solution is a political one; it presupposes a readiness to recognise ethnic and territorial realities and to abandon the diktat of democracy imposed by the West. Indeed, nowhere in Africa have ethnic divides been bridged by elections, for these in reality are nothing but live-scale ethnic opinion polls that only confirm the ethno-mathematical picture. Nowhere in the region has the north-south problem been resolved; that being so, the root causes of the conflicts in the Sahel are likely to persist for a long time to come.

¹ With the exception of the Kivu region, which straddles the equator.



Photo: private

Bernard Lugan

is an expert at the ICTR (International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda). He teaches at France’s Ecole de Guerre and Ecoles de Saint-Cyr-Coëtquidan. He runs a blog www.bernard-lugan.com and publishes an online monthly review, *Afrique réelle*. He is the author of the recently published *Les guerres d’Afrique des origines à nos jours* (“Africa’s wars from the beginning to the present”), 400 pages, 70 coloured maps and illustrations, published by Le Rocher, 2013.

Turkey was very successful in evacuating its nationals. Consequently, Turkey’s plan for the procurement of a Landing Platform Dock (LDP) with the capacity for eight utility helicopters, three unmanned aerial vehicles and 150 vehicles, should be seen from this perspective. The LDP brings in extra capability at the disposal of European states through their cooperation with Turkey.

Turkey as a soft power

Maritime security problems are symptomatic of deeper problems within the Mediterranean emanating from the poverty, political instability and conflict in the region. Turkey is critically positioned to help states establish stable political systems and promote economic development, especially following the Arab Springs. Turkey has become a source of inspiration for Morocco and Tunisia, despite the fact that they have not entirely emulated the Turkish system. This has created avenues for dialogue and cooperation, while the AKP government had already established ties with certain groups in both Morocco and Tunisia. Furthermore, Turkish businesses have returned to Libya and are playing an important role in supporting the Libyan economy and rebuilding the country after the conflict. Thus Turkey is uniquely positioned to engage with North African states as an inspiring experiment and economic force in the region, with a view to helping them establish the stable political systems and flourishing economies that will create a secure environment for their citizens.

Turkey as a partner

The European Union must address two main security problems. First, the maritime challenges of arms, narcotics and human trafficking via Mediterranean sea routes and second, the root causes of those problems, namely the instability and economic underdevelopment of the coastal states. While the European Union has made significant efforts to address these issues, through the creation of FRONTEX, for example, Turkey could bring more to the table, both in terms of maritime capabilities, and of its engagement with the North African and Middle Eastern states. Although Turkey’s current foreign policy has encountered certain setbacks, this should not overshadow Turkey’s potential for helping to establish a secure environment. In other words, Turkey remains a regional player with the capacity to play the role of security provider that is expected of it.

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News: Task Force Mediterranean

The Task Force Mediterranean (TFM), led by the European Commission and involving Member States, the European External Action Service (EEAS) and a number of EU Agencies, was set up in October 2013 in order to identify those tools at the disposal of the EU that could be used in a more effective way to avoid tragic events like those that occurred off the coast of Lampedusa (Italy). On 4 December 2013, in a Communication on the work of the Task Force, the European Commission identified the following five main areas of action:

Border surveillance

A new concept for stepping up the EU’s border control operations and its capacity to detect boats in the Mediterranean has been presented by Frontex to the Task Force. It aims at strengthening aerial and maritime surveillance and rescue capacity, thereby saving the lives of migrants in distress at sea in the three operations coordinated by Frontex in Greece and Italy. The newly operational European Border Surveillance System EUROSUR is part of these efforts.

Assistance and solidarity

Besides financial support to be made available to Member States dealing with high migratory pressure, new tools have been developed, such as the “supported processing” of asylum application, which involves Member States deploying their officials to frontline countries in order to help with the processing of asylum applications in an efficient and effective manner.

Fight against trafficking, smuggling and organised crime

Practical cooperation and exchanges of information must be reinforced, including with third countries. Europol should be given a stronger role as well as the resources to coordinate other EU agencies involved in the combat against the smuggling of human beings and organised crime.

Regional protection and resettlement

In order to encourage resettlement, EU funding will be made available in the period 2014/2020 in support of additional efforts and commitments in this field. To enhance protection capacities in the regions from which many refugees originate, existing Regional Protection Programmes should be reinforced and expanded.

Actions in cooperation with third countries

Mobility Partnerships make it possible to identify more channels for regular migration and to help those countries engaged in developing their own capacities so as to offer protection within the region and ensure respect for human rights in their territory. Information campaigns could help raise awareness about the risks of irregular migration channels and the threats posed by smugglers and traffickers, while offering information about the available legal migration channels.

The European Council of 19/20 December 2013 welcomed the Commission Communication; the Heads of State and Government called for all efforts to be mobilised to ensure the implementation of the actions proposed in the Communication within a clearly identified timeframe.

→ Commission Communication: <http://tinyurl.com/hsaogh5>

Finding an appropriate framework for Ukraine

The EU and Russia – an impossible dialogue?

by General (ret.) Jacques Favin-Lévêque, Member of the Bureau, EuroDéfense-France, Paris

No-one knows how the crisis in Ukraine will develop: into open conflict with Russia? The Crimea's permanent annexation by Russia? A partitioning of Ukraine? Civil war in Ukraine? Cohabitation within a federation or confederation?

In fact events are unfolding day by day, in reaction to this or that decision by those in power on one side or the other, and it is tempting to see a complete lack of determinism in these developments and in the relationships between them. But can we really deny people's ability to shape the future?

Ukraine and the geopolitical context

In order to understand the Ukrainian question we must refer back to the geopolitical context of the 1990s. Following Germany's reunification, western leaders issued promises about not installing NATO bases on the territory of former Warsaw Pact satellite countries and guarantees concerning the autonomy of the Crimea, an integral part of Ukraine. Notwithstanding those commitments, for the last 20 years the United States has continued to push ahead with the enlargement of NATO up to Russia's doorstep. It took a brutal warning shot from Moscow in 2008 to put a stop to its ideas of integrating Georgia and Ukraine into the Atlantic Alliance.

The European Union blindly followed this policy of expansion although predictably enough it contained the seeds of tension between East and West, or even of a *casus belli* on the continent of Europe. This enlargement of the Atlantic Alliance did not lead to the integration of Ukraine. Indeed, Ukraine has not joined NATO, but this does not make the situation any less dangerous.

The situation of the European Union

Europe has found itself confronted these past few weeks, if not with cold war conditions, at least with the climate that was characteristic of that period. We have lengthy experience of Russia's practice of blowing hot then cold, of taking things to the brink of hot war in order to attain its strategic objective, then finally reverting to a war of intimidation. This is how wars are started, as Europe remembers only too well just a century after being at the heart of the apocalypse of the First World War. This highlights a visceral shortcoming on the part of the European Union: is there really a European policy *vis-à-vis* Russia? Does the EU have a clear and realistic vision of the relations it should be having with this power that it has repeatedly ignored or humiliated these past 20 years? The latest incident – the boycott of the Sochi Olympics by the European heads of state – was not the least in a series of affronts.



Photo: private

Jacques Favin-Lévêque

was born on June 10, 1938. He graduated from France's elite engineering schools, the *École Polytechnique* and the National College of Civil Engineering. He served for the most part with the French Forces in Germany where he rose to command the 13th Engineer Regiment. In 1985 he was assigned to France's Defence Procurement Agency, the DGA, where he was Deputy Director

for International Relations. On leaving the Army in 1993, he was appointed CEO of the French Land Defence Manufacturers Association (GICAT) where he stayed until 2003. Jacques Favin-Lévêque is Vice-President of PanEurope-France and a member of EuroDéfense.

The key to resolving this crisis at the heart of Europe lies in easing tensions and normalising relations between the EU and Russia. In spite of all the media hype, engaging in a romantic exaltation of a people in revolt, fighting for its freedom and independence, is not the answer.

Neither is it to demonise a Putin who, while he may not have the reflexes of a European-style democrat, is not the dictatorial and Machiavellian czar that some would have us believe. Condemning the Russian people or Ukraine's Russian-speaking population because they do not identify with the libertarian development of European societies and aspire to return to their historical roots is not the solution either. Is it so surprising that the Crimea, which was Russian for more than two centuries, wishes to become so again, or at least to remain within the Russian sphere of influence? It is not ethnic realities and nationalist aspirations in themselves that are unacceptable, but rather the way in which the Kremlin has used them to impose change. The European Union cannot allow such upheaval of borders and nationalities to be imposed by force, which is currently the case in the Crimea and risks becoming the case in East Ukraine. This is why it is important to remain firm in the negotiations that must be launched as quickly as possible between the European Union, an economic if not a political power, and the Russian Federation, which, notwithstanding its dependence on gas and oil exports, is still the second power in Europe.

Finding an appropriate framework for Ukraine

However, the European negotiators, far from succumbing to the simplistic and superficial Russophobia that is currently rampant in Europe, must endeavour to work in a climate of



The last EU-Russia summit in 2014: depressing prospects as can be seen from the faces of Manuelo Barroso, Herman van Rompuy and Vladimir Putin (left to right)

Photo: © European Union, 2014

mutual respect and understanding. It is up to the EU's governing bodies to find within its diplomatic services the men or women most able to calm passions. The EU, while giving the Ukrainians guarantees of its support in principle for their democratic aspirations, must make it clear that the country's integration into the Union is not the right solution. It is in the interests of all concerned to define for this country a role as a

bridge or link between Europe's two economic and political powers. Ukraine's choice is not a binary one: it is not, it cannot be, a matter of Russia or Europe. Ukraine needs both to guarantee its prosperity and both are necessary to safeguard peace on the continent of Europe.

Making the CSDP a more tangible reality

The Foreign Affairs Ministers of the Weimar Triangle countries played an undeniable role in calming the crisis on Maidan Square, saving the honour of European diplomacy, at least for a while, even if their success was rapidly overshadowed by the course of events.

Why not capitalise on this first achievement of this trio, a symbol of reconciliation in continental Europe? Is it not to the Weimar Triangle that we owe numerous initiatives since 2010 for giving new impetus to the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), as well as the common resolve of Germany, France and Poland to have the European Union take more responsibility at diplomatic level and play a more visible role in the area of defence? How beneficial it would be for peace on our continent to have a Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) at EU level – which for the moment remains little more than a dream – and to have the structures and capabilities for a CSDP that has lain dormant for several years but that the December Summit has timidly tried to breathe new life into.



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The transition of traditional national defence policy

The Summit and the role of smaller countries in defence

by Gerald Klug, Austrian Minister of Defence and Sports, Vienna

The European Council of December 2013 reaffirmed the political relevance of security and defence for the European Union as a whole and, hence for its member countries as well. These may differ in size and economic power, but the challenges they face in the area of security and defence are quite similar.

Europe's global interests and obligations

It is essential for the European Union as a whole to gain a large enough “political size” in order to meet the requirements imposed upon a global actor, and thereby to represent successfully at the global level the interests and values of Europe's citizens. The representation of European interests and values in other parts of the world implies that Europe must in the future assume greater responsibilities with regard to its own security. Unless Europe pays attention to the numerous crises in its vicinity, these will have an adverse bearing on the Union's security situation, as the examples of Lampedusa,

Syria and Mali go to show. Peace in Europe is best served, today and in the future, if the EU is surrounded by stable and democratically governed nations.

Now, in the aftermath of the European Council, we should not develop expectations as to what we want others – such as the European institutions or the governments of other member countries – to do; rather, each of us, representing member nations, must think about what we can and must do in order to implement the Council's conclusions pertaining to CSDP, which had not been a separate item on a European Council agenda since 2008.

Defence budgets have been shrinking for years, so member countries – big and small alike – will be less and less able on their own to accomplish the full range of defence-related tasks. There are several projects for “enhanced cooperation” among member nations of the EU, such as Permanent Structured Cooperation, the Code of Conduct on Pooling and



Austrian soldiers during the mission EUFOR Chad/CAR

Photo: Simader

Sharing and capability development in the framework of EDA projects such as the four specific cooperative projects (RPAS, AAR, Governmental Satellite Communication and Cyber Defence) recently determined by the European Council. What, however, will be crucially important, will be the type of framework (bilateral or multilateral) and the scale of the cooperation (regional or Europe-wide) to be installed. Furthermore, we must determine how task sharing should be organised among the member nations and which elements can and should be contributed by smaller member countries. We must be aware that defence-related task sharing across Europe implies the departure from traditional concepts of purely national defence.

The end of traditional national concepts of defence

Taking that step may appear easier to smaller countries, such as Austria, since their capabilities have always been limited. Nevertheless all member states as well as the EU institutions will have to decide which capabilities are to remain national and autonomous, which are to be common and collective and which capabilities are a legacy from the past and should be renounced. Furthermore, larger member nations will have to decide whether they are still capable of sustaining the full range of military capabilities, or whether they should rather concentrate on those capabilities that are already serving the accomplishment of their respective core tasks, in order to maximise efficiency. At the same time it must be determined how the smaller member countries can and will in the future concentrate on “niches” and specialised capabilities that correspond to both their strengths and budgetary possibilities. The Austrian Armed Forces, as one example, are developing the Mountain Training Initiative together with Germany and might thus contribute a relevant “niche capability” to the European Union. Other such “niches” might include CBRN, medical support, logistics, education and training as well as the military police (since policing is gaining importance in



Photo: Wilke

Gerald Klug

has been the Austrian Federal Minister of Defence and Sports since March 2013. Born in 1968 in Graz, he graduated with a Magister Juris from Karl Franzens University in Graz. In parallel to occupying the post of Trade Union Secretary he was a Lay Judge at the Court of Appeal in Graz from 2000 onwards and from 2001-2011 also a Member of the Independent Financial Tribunal of the Graz Regional Financial Directorate. Mr Klug held several positions in the Styrian and Federal Chambers of Labour. His political functions include membership of the Federal Party Executive Committee and of the Federal Party Presidium of the Social Democratic Party, and the deputy leadership of the Social Democratic Parliamentary Party in the National and Federal Councils and the European Parliament. Prior to his ministerial appointment Mr Klug was Chief Whip for the Social Democratic Party in the Federal Council.

certain types of operations). This is a great opportunity for smaller member countries to gain importance and raise their profile in the context of CSDP by making specific contributions and thus becoming indispensable specialists.

Austria will continue to be a reliable force provider

Dear readers, allow me summarise. The Austrian Armed Forces are prepared to face the new security challenges by streamlining core capabilities based on mission necessity and likelihood. At the same they will keep an adaptable augmentation capability and promote specialised and niche capabilities. Austria, as a small member nation, will in future carry on with its “active neutrality policy” committed to European and international peace and security by deploying at least 1 100 soldiers (one of the largest troop contributors in the EU) as stated in the new Austrian Security Strategy, thus confirming its status as a reliable international force provider.

Documentation

Austria’s role in shaping CSDP

Austrian Security Strategy (excerpt):

“As a member of the EU, Austria will play an active role in shaping CFSP. It will also continue to participate in the entire spectrum of CSDP activities referred to in the TEU, including the EU Battlegroups, within the scope of its capabilities. Austria will play an active role in planning, crafting and developing CSDP and will take measures to promptly assess and secure opportunities to be instrumental. The same applies to the stipulation contained in the Treaty of Lisbon regarding a common defence policy, which

may potentially lead to a common defence; it also applies to the establishment of permanent structured cooperation, as well as to the country’s involvement in a strengthened European Defence Agency in order to enable it to benefit from synergies in technological developments, procurement and sales. The EU and its Member States are expected to make stronger efforts to organise the use of resources for CSDP in a more economic, target-oriented and efficient manner. This will result in greater cooperation, division of labour and burden sharing,

even beyond the bounds of individual organisations. In addition, it will bring about an increasing level of specialisation. Cooperation between the EU and NATO is expected to be intensified. Austria will make the best possible use of the possibilities offered by the European External Action Service (EEAS). Invitations to suitable third countries to participate in CSDP activities are also supported by Austria.”

Austrian Security Strategy, July 2013:
→ <http://tinyurl.com/ojocdzu>

The EU's Mediterranean policy has taken shape

The EU's Mediterranean Policy as reflected in the December 2013 Council Conclusions

by Dr George W. Vella, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malta, Valetta

If there was ever any doubt as to how central events in the Mediterranean are to stability in the European Union, developments over the past three years came as a resounding alert to European leaders not to lose their focus on the sensitive and at times volatile dynamics of the region.

The key factors for stability

Malta has a very strong track record in ensuring that the Mediterranean, in particular the Southern Neighbourhood, the Western Balkans and Turkey are, for different reasons, kept as a constant feature on the EU's agenda. The December 2013 European Council Conclusions provide an accurate snapshot of present priorities, both in directly addressing specific scenarios such as events in Syria and the progress registered by individual Western Balkan countries and Turkey, as well as by expanding upon horizontal issues such as the Common Security and Defence Policy, growth and job creation, energy and migration, which directly impinge on the EU's Mediterranean policy.

Turkey is a key partner for the EU

The European aspirations of Western Balkan neighbours are a key factor in guaranteeing stability and reconciliation. Likewise, regional cooperation and good neighbourliness are essential elements of the Stabilisation and Association Process, which the European Union is actively engaged in. My own assessment of the Enlargement Strategy is very much in

line with that portrayed in the December European Council Conclusions themselves. I fully agree that Turkey is a key partner for the EU, which in turn should remain the primary point of reference in the reform process under way. For its part, Montenegro's efforts in the implementation of obligations under the EU *acquis* are noteworthy and should motivate the country to ensure further reforms in the political and judicial fields.

Regional Cooperation in the Balkans

The EU has also maintained a focused approach and registered unprecedented progress in the normalisation of relations between Serbia and Kosovo. In welcoming the December Council's adoption of the position on the opening of negotiations with Serbia, I underline the importance for both sides of further building upon their respective European tracks without jeopardising each other's prospects. Progress has also been made by Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). We look forward to a decision to grant candidate status to Albania during the course of this year and continue to hope for a solution under UN auspices to the name issue in relation to FYROM. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, it is to be regretted that political developments risk seriously undermining the integration process with the EU. The implementation of the ECHR Sejdic-Finci judgement remains pivotal for making progress on EU integration.

The driving force behind Malta's unequivocal support for the full integration of the Western Balkan countries into the European Union family is that, once all criteria are met, there should be no further obstacles or delays standing in the way of accession.

Crises around Europe

Over the past months, Syria has rightly been treated as a priority issue on the EU's Mediterranean Affairs agenda. In the aftermath of the Geneva II Conference, prospects of a political breakthrough do not seem anywhere near.

The EU's role in the midst of a deteriorating humanitarian situation and entrenched positions has been most commendable, not least in mobilising over €2 billion in aid since the conflict started. When everything else seems to be failing, the EU maintains its steadfast commitment to reach out to the vulnerable Syrian population.



Photo: private

Dr George W. Vella

was appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malta in 2013. Born in April 1942, he graduated with a degree in medicine from the University of Malta in 1964.

Mr Vella started his parliamentary career with the Labour Party in 1978. He was a Member of Parliament from 1981 to 2013 and also the leader of the Maltese Delegation to the Conference of

Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

In 1987, George Vella was Malta's Permanent Representative at the Council of Europe. He also served as Vice-Chairman of the Malta/EU Joint Parliamentary Committee.

In 1996 Mr Vella was appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Environment for a period of two years.

I was satisfied to note that the issue of migration was also adequately flagged during the December European Council, with the first ever clear-cut commitment that includes concrete objectives and timeframes. Malta particularly looks forward to progress on the thirty-eight operational actions identified in the Commission Communication on the work of the Task Force Mediterranean. The Conclusions also give substance to a much-needed holistic approach to migration ranging from effective return policies, resettlement for those in need of protection and regional protection programmes to border surveillance operations. Reinforced cooperation with partners in North Africa – particularly Libya and the Sahel – as well as countries of origin in East and West Africa should remain at the fore of EU actions in the months ahead. The outcomes of the EU-Africa Summit scheduled for April will be pivotal in this respect. Of fundamental relevance for Malta is the European Council's call for appropriate solidarity to be shown to all Member States under high migration pressure. While the road is still a winding one, these are all steps in the right direction.

The EU's Mediterranean policy has taken shape

The EU's Mediterranean policy has undoubtedly taken better shape over the past few years, as an unavoidable result of the dramatic changes that have taken place in the Southern Neighbourhood as well as a positive reaffirmation of the integration process of Western Balkan countries. While this is no doubt a welcome scenario, we would do well to embark on a forward-looking exercise which envisages pre-emptive policies with respect to salient Mediterranean hotspots like Egypt, Libya and, to a lesser extent, Tunisia, not to mention the longstanding debacle of the Middle East Peace Process.

News: New SecGen NATO

On 28 March 2014 the North Atlantic Council appointed Jens Stoltenberg as Secretary General of NATO and Chairman of the North Atlantic Council, in succession to Anders Fogh Rasmussen. He will assume his functions as Secretary General as from 1 October 2014.



NATO Secretary General designate Jens Stoltenberg

Photo: © NATO

Mr Stoltenberg was born in Oslo on 16 March 1959. He holds a postgraduate degree in Economics from the University of Oslo. Between 2000 and 2013 he was twice Prime Minister of Norway. During his mandates, Norway's defence spending increased steadily, with the result that Norway is today one of the Allies with the highest per capita defence expenditure.

Mr Stoltenberg has also been instrumental in transforming the Norwegian armed forces, through a strong focus on deployable high-end capabilities. Under his leadership the Norwegian Government contributed Norwegian

forces to various NATO operations.

Mr Stoltenberg's international assignments include chairing the UN High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence and the High-level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing. He is currently UN Special Envoy on Climate Change.

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Capabilities

“The EU should be capable of taking on a more significant role in security matters both regionally and worldwide. One overarching goal of the Council is to improve coordination and cooperation between the Member States, noting that it remains a Member State’s responsibility to develop the capabilities needed for CSDP operations.”

Wolfgang Wosolsobe

How to reconcile increasing challenges with shrinking defence budgets

The consequences of the Summit decisions for the implementation of capabilities

by Wolfgang Wosolsobe, Lieutenant General, Director General EU Military Staff (DGEUMS), Brussels

The European Council held in December 2013 was the first in five years to deal with security and defence issues and the first since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. The Heads of State and Government emphasised that “Defence matters”. They also agreed that the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) needs further development and impetus, in particular in view of the severe cuts in defence budgets in nearly all the EU Member States (MS).

As Europe is being called upon to assume greater responsibility for its own security and that of its neighbourhood, the EU MS must further adapt their civilian and military capabilities in order to improve the EU’s overall capacity to deal with situations of instability in its immediate and wider neighbourhood. The decisions of the December 2013 European Council to improve the EU’s civilian and military capabilities and the procedures for their use have given fresh momentum to the CSDP. The MS were asked to strengthen defence cooperation and to further collaborate with the EU’s global, transatlantic and regional partners.

This cooperation should be based on both increased transparency and information sharing in defence planning. Work has already started on defining a “policy framework for a more systematic and longer-term approach to defence cooperation”. MS will continue to develop capabilities, be it as individual entities or in groups sharing common interests. More transparency in defence planning among MS, rationalisation and consolidation of demand on the basis of harmonised requirements and common multinational efforts are prerequisites for achieving genuine defence cooperation.

Pursuant to the Lisbon Treaty capabilities need to be prepared in order to cater for the whole spectrum of possible engagements. One of the main issues for the European Council was to be able to plan and deploy the correct civilian and military assets rapidly and effectively. This requires an improvement of

the EU’s Rapid Response Capabilities with the aim of developing a more flexible, multi-service suite of assets and related mechanisms. Work on financial aspects as well as on specific projects such as Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems, Air-to-Air Refuelling, Strategic Transport and Satellite Communications needs to be approached in unison in order to ensure the EU’s ability to act as a credible security provider. In addition to these purely military issues the European Council called for more focus on Maritime Security and Cyber Defence. These areas require a holistic, cross-sectoral and EU values-driven approach; collaboration between all actors and MS, as well as with partners, is therefore essential for success.

The European Council and the November Foreign Affairs Council (Ministers of Defence format) have provided many guiding elements for further work in the EU capability development domain. This very broad range of tasks now needs to be translated into action, not only in order to live up to the expectations of the Council but also to bolster a new spirit of cooperation amongst EU Member States.

CSDP offers a wide range of requirements and the EU Heads of State and Government have taken an important step in order to live up to the challenges of the EU’s security in the future.

Wolfgang Wosolsobe

has been DGEUMS since May 2013. Born in 1955, he started his military career in 1974. 1982–1985: General Staff Officers Course, Vienna. 1987–1988: French École Supérieure de Guerre Interarmées. 1989–1990: Defence Planning MOD Vienna and Chief of Staff of the Territorial Command, Salzburg. 1991–1992, Military Advisor for Disarmament at the UN in Geneva; 1992–1997: Defence Attaché to France; 1997–1998: Commander Austrian Special Forces; 1999–2005: Director for Military Policy, MOD Vienna. 2007–2011: Austrian Military Representative to the EU.

The Summit was a realistic step in the right direction

Making better use of existing capabilities

by Dr Csaba Hende, Minister of Defence, Budapest

When European defence was placed as a discussion item on the agenda of the December 2013 European Council this was the first time since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. CSDP does not usually make it to the agenda of the Heads of State and Government, reflecting both a lack of serious political interest and the intergovernmental nature of defence in the EU. CSDP has visibly stalled over the last few years. This Summit was meant to give fresh impetus to the CSDP, giving top-down direction to a field that has depended on bottom-up initiatives for too long.

No breakthrough but there is a follow-up

The Summit outcome can be described as a realistic step in the right direction. We did succeed in raising the visibility of CSDP. We agreed that defence matters. European institutions were tasked to report on progress in 18 months, and thus we have ensured that this effort will continue. Of the three aspects of CSDP that were discussed (visibility, defence capabilities, the defence industry) I will concentrate on the second – defence capabilities – and outline how in my view this Summit has contributed to a better use of capabilities among the EU Member States (MS).

Both because our own interests must be protected and because the United States has transferred the main thrust of its strategic attention to the Pacific region, Europe needs to be able to take more responsibility for its own security, especially in its own neighbourhood. For that, we need a strong CSDP. I do not see a strong CSDP and a strong NATO as a zero sum game. Most EU MS are also members of NATO, thus it does not matter in what framework we Europeans develop crisis-management capabilities, as long as we do it. A strong CSDP would greatly contribute to strengthening NATO as well.

Cooperation is the remedy

The Summit conclusions highlighted the importance of cooperation for the delivery of key projects, with the aim of reducing critical shortfalls: remotely piloted aircraft systems, air-to-air refuelling, satellite communications and cybersecurity. These projects will hopefully succeed and pave the way for more successful pooling and sharing initiatives. To determine where the critical shortfalls are, especially in the light of defence cuts, we need more transparency and information sharing in our defence planning. The EDA has been tasked with putting forward a European policy framework for this, naturally in coherence with the NATO defence planning process.

There is a regional initiative parallel to the efforts of EDA in which Hungary is an active participant: the Visegrád Group is



Photo: MOD Budapest

Dr Csaba Hende

has been Hungarian Minister of Defence since May 2010. Born in 1960, he graduated in law from the Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest and practised as a lawyer until 1988. In 1991, Dr Hende became Head of the Ministry of Defence's Department of Legal Affairs and later Chief of the Minister's Cabinet. In 2002, after serving as Secretary of State in the Ministry of Justice, he became a Member of Parliament, where he was a member of the Defence Committee. Prior to taking up the post of Defence Minister, he held several positions in Parliament and within his party, FIDESZ.

willing to set an example to show the MS that transparency in the field of defence planning is neither difficult nor expensive to achieve. Last year we attended each other's bilateral consultations with NATO in order to better understand the mind-set and defence plans of our partners. We will create structured defence planning cooperation in order to identify areas where the pooling and sharing of our resources can be most beneficial. With this, the Visegrád Group aims to contribute to European capabilities, valuable for both the EU and NATO.

Pooled procurement

Another initiative adopted at the Summit aims at developing a more effective method for pooled procurement. The long-term aims of the Visegrád Group are fully in line with this. However, we also see the difficulty of procuring equipment together, both from a defence planning and a legal perspective. We are therefore developing a methodology that could enable procurement efforts by smaller regional groupings as well.

The decision to improve the deployability and usability of the Battlegroups was another important outcome of the Summit. The Visegrad Group has decided to contribute a V4 EU Battlegroup, to be on stand-by in 2016. With more than 3000 soldiers it will be an effective tool for the management of crises arising during its stand-by-period. As a believer in the need for complementarity between the EU and NATO, the Visegrád Group has proposed that the validation exercise for the V4 EU Battlegroup be held in conjunction with NATO's large-scale live exercise, Trident Juncture. These are important measures but, without more investment, we cannot strengthen European defence capabilities. Cooperation does not make up for not spending enough on defence. In this spirit, Hungary has already halted the decrease in its defence budget and has committed to increasing it gradually from 2016 onwards.

Plea for a European Capabilities and Armaments Policy (ECAP)

The EU's contribution to better and more tangible capabilities for EU missions

by Michael Gahler, MEP and Spokesman on security and defence for the European People's Party Group, Strasbourg

In preparation for the European Defence Council in December 2013, the European Parliament (EP) had called not only for more and better national capabilities but also substantial EU capabilities. The list of proposals in the Council conclusions included the development of remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS), air-to-air refuelling, satellite communications and cyber capacities. It has unfortunately now become necessary to take the commitment to continuing these projects launched by the European Defence Agency (EDA) some time ago already to the level of the Heads of State and Government. Indeed, only if common European programmes are made a priority at the highest level there is hope of making sure that the national defence bureaucracies do not dismantle them.

The EP is thinking and pushing ahead

However, the EP's ideas go beyond this first set of common European projects. MEPs call for the addition of a permanent military operational headquarters or an EU Space Surveillance and Tracking (SST) capacity to that list. Furthermore, the EP urges the European Council to go even further and has identified ways of improving capability development and procurement processes at European level through recourse to EU means: the harmonisation of requirements and consolidation of demand, a common industrial policy, a common approach to standardisation and certification, and supporting CSDP missions through European research and development. Two initiatives at EU level enabled by the Heads of State and Government and supported by all institutions and member states have the potential to contribute to better and more tangible capabilities for CSDP missions: the development of mandatory civil-military EU-wide standards and the launching of a preparatory action for research aimed at CSDP capabilities.

Standardisation and certification

A Europe-wide approach to standardisation and certification has the biggest potential for actually being implemented. In contrast to NATO's non-binding standardisation process, the Commission's involvement in hybrid standards has the advantage of making it possible, if necessary and within the framework of its legislative power, for member states to be legally obliged to comply with them. In the meantime, the efforts by the EDA and the Commission to achieve cost savings in the certification process as well as improved mutual recognition are very welcome.

In the report on the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base, the EP supported the Commission's idea of launching a preparatory action on CSDP research.

Defence technology and research

The suggested preparatory action would go beyond the existing possibilities for civil-military research, making EU funding available for defence research. On the one hand, it is important to start this action quite soon in order to stop the ongoing loss of European knowledge and know-how in the field of defence research. On the other hand, the EP, the member states, the EDA and the Commission must reach a common understanding on what has to be prepared, i.e. on what is to follow the preparatory action. Indeed, there is genuine hope that this preparatory action will lead to a substantial increase in common European defence research projects. Urgent EU action is necessary because past expressions of interest led to nothing. In this context it is important to recall governments' self-commitment which failed to materialise: "European Ministers of Defence agreed in November 2007 to increase Defence Research & Technology spending to 2% of all defence expenditure and to bring European collaborative Defence Research & Technology spending to a level of 20%."

Knocking down artificial barriers

The key to the success of such supranational initiatives is to knock down the artificial barriers between the member states, the EDA and the European Commission. All players must understand that everyone has the same goal, as outlined in the Lisbon Treaty (Article 42(3) TEU): the development of a European Capabilities and Armaments Policy (ECAP).



Photo: private

Michael Gahler MEP

was born in 1960 in Frankfurt/Main. Since April 1999 he has been a Member of the European Parliament. Currently he is a Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Transport and Tourism Committee, and serves as the EPP Coordinator in the Subcommittee on Security and Defence. He was the Rapporteur of the parliamentary report on the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base which was adopted in November 2013.



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Industries

The conclusions of the December 2013 European Council are a step in the right direction: towards the creation of a European defence industrial base capable of ensuring the security of the European Union as a whole through spending on modern equipment that is developed, produced and maintained in the EU Member States. Fundamental for achieving that objective is the decision to launch new cooperative defence programmes with specific deadlines.

The Ukrainian crisis showed the EU's lack of strategic identity and capabilities

An EU Global Strategy and Requirements for European Defence and Industries

by Dr Uwe Nerlich, Director of Centre for European Security Studies (CESS), Munich

The EU Summit in December 2013 was intended to be the first in ten years to focus on defence – albeit it as part of an agenda loaded with urgent policy choices that concern Europe's welfare and prosperity. President Rompuy had in fact envisaged an intense discussion on challenges to Europe's defence in a long-term perspective – not just on CSDP or updating capabilities.

It came at the end of an era – in the aftermath of Afghanistan and in a sense also of the post-cold war era. Defence in Europe ranks low and meets with political fatigue. Yet over the next 15 to 20 years the key question is what role Europe will play in an evolving and increasingly competitive global environment. Internal financial, economic and social prospects for Europe dominate the political discourse on Europe's future welfare. Yet issues like critical dependencies on external markets, energy, access to resources, implications of future production modes and others are beginning to enter the universe of political discourse.

More than a mere update is needed

However, these are not often seen in relation to the future of Europe's defence. Nor are the increasingly precarious strategic dimensions of globalisation attracting political attention – be it on the part of governments, industry, the media (with some exceptions), let alone the public. But in the longer-run perspective, global strategic interactions - to use President Rompuy's phrase – will be a key factor in shaping Europe's future. This pertains above all to the European core countries that depend largely on exports into the major growth zones which happen to also display the critical strategic dimensions

of globalisation, in particular the Asia-Pacific. Mere updating of Europe's defence thus will mean just less of the same. It tends to run out of options and missions, with consequences for future armed forces in Europe, the European defence industry and – in a broad sense – Europe's security. But a thorough "agonising reappraisal" of Europe's defence will take time and effort, provided Europe's political energy suffices in the first place. And to expect it from one Summit would have been outlandish, the more so as it was a crowded agenda ranging from Lampedusa to Slovenia or the NSA. But failures would have cast a long shadow.

At this stage no clear threat or a distinct choice or a historic opportunity or at least a European "project" was on the table. But at stake was Europe's future in the global environment in the decades to come. And Europe is currently completely unprepared for such circumstances – be it in terms of recognised common vital interests, coordination of policies, resources, strategic outlooks or public discourse, let alone strategic capacities for "independent strategic actions", to echo a famous quote. A change will require, as on all previous occasions, some core countries to join efforts that eventually can get translated into multilateral and institutional policy and in support of "Europe as a whole".

Developing a strategic outlook

What then was within reach for the EU Summit? It could have induced the core countries, in particular the UK, France and Germany, to develop strategic outlooks for Europe in a longer-term perspective and to increasingly achieve more of a common strategic framework that could also serve to carry other

Member States along. But this would have required a discourse between governments, the armed forces, industry and consultant bodies.

A European reappraisal could not simply take off from current positions. It would need to review future strategic orientations and requirements in the light of:

- the changing roles of military power and the conduct of war;
- the potential of disruptive – game-changing – technologies;
- the crisis potential in important economic growth zones; and
- the circumstances that can require an internally pacified

Europe to engage in ways that respond to the future military dimensions of globalisation.

Given the expectations the December Summit fell short. What was presented as a substantial outcome was previous EDA work, even though thinned out as e.g. in case of the UAV.

What maybe was least discouraging was the commitment to resume the discussion during the Summit of summer 2015. But by then a new European Parliament and a new Commission will need to find their approach. And Member States (MS) would need to get prepared for more future-oriented outcomes.

The Ukrainian crisis displayed the EU's weakness

However, while developing national concepts for what the EU would need to undertake in the increasingly competitive global environment in the mid-to-long term, and to do so with a chance for EU-wide consensus, they will need to cope with the fall-out of the Ukraine crisis. The crisis, however much the result of short-sighted Western policies and responses, has already become an unwelcome reminder of the fact that continental security still entails critical unfinished business that both Europe and to an even greater extent the US had displaced in favour of other priorities. Indeed, Europe was coping with its internal deficits and fragmentations, whereas the US sought to reconcile internal consolidation with the dual challenge from the Asia-Pacific: competing in growing markets and competing with increasing Chinese power.

The Ukrainian crisis displayed the whole range of current European and indeed Western weaknesses: they allowed an internal crisis in Kiev to become a tense conflict with Russia, although neither for Europe nor for the US had the future of Ukraine been a high priority. Nor had either Europe or the US shown any consideration for the fact that for Russia Ukraine's future had always been a national priority, even though it had been reluctant to burden itself with what had never been a viable state during the 23 years of its existence.

Neither Europe or the US have been able to control the crisis in the Ukraine, the future of which now tends to depend on Europe's capacity to ensure a degree of economic viability for the Ukraine along with the EU's still somewhat unfinished internal financial business. Moreover, securing the intermediate zone on the continent will require some kind of a common Russian-European framework within which – hopefully with US endorsement – Ukraine can shape its future identity.

Harmful Setbacks for the EU

As for the EU and Europe at large the most harmful setbacks caused by this crisis are threefold:

- The crisis was allowed to get out of control and produce a major confrontational situation,
- There were no responses to cope with the widening crisis except mere symbolism, which typically did not even relate to the crisis or sanctions that would have generated harmful and divisive repercussions within the EU and even between the EU and the US.
- Rather than developing a global strategy for the decades ahead, Europe – under some American pressure – began to reactivate NATO as if a case for collective defence was in the making. This in turn reinforced the impression of an apparent revival of NATO that in reality showed little more than the West's lack of effective responses should things escalate further.
- It left the EU in a position where its lack of strategic identity as well as capabilities became more obvious than ever. It reintroduced the US into continental security without any reconstruction of US capabilities and/or commitments in Europe. And while in the short term a new feeling of commonality of interests may even develop in Europe and the West, the repercussions of the crisis are much more likely to exacerbate internal fault lines and shortcomings within the EU.

The outcome of the crisis may eventually fail to meet any players' vital interests, even those of Russia. For Europe's own viability the major longer-term challenge will remain the need to prepare for a global competition that tends to display increasingly the strategic dimensions of growth and welfare.

The Summit ahead: expectations

The EU Summit in summer 2015 thus will have a vastly complex and challenging agenda. For the EU it will be of paramount importance to again achieve a degree of continental security which is impossible without a new *modus vivendi* with Russia. This would likely help rebuild a degree of strategic consensus within Europe and thus allow a relationship with the US that would show more even-handedness.

Developing a Global Strategy for the EU thus needs to start at home and it will take time and much effort. But in the longer run there is no bright future for the EU unless it acquires staying power in an increasingly competitive global environment with quite discomfiting military dimensions.

Unless a Russian strategic dimension is involved, the EU should prepare to take a leading role in continental security. Moreover, it should assume prime responsibility for ensuring African security, even though this will require tailored investment rather than direct military support. And it can assume a much more directive role in reconstructing Europe's defence and security industries in support of a much wider range of potential engagements – engagements which in the foreseeable future will require the support of and partnership with the United States.

The Summit has created expectations - time is running out

Europe needs a strong defence technology base

by Thomas Homberg, Managing Director MBDA Deutschland, Schrobenhausen

For years now there has been a glaring discrepancy between ideals and reality in the Common Security and Defence Policy. Yet the need to act, to implement an agreed joint defence and armaments policy has seldom been this urgent.

Europe is now in the sixth year of the economic and financial crisis. The financial pressure on defence budgets is continually increasing in most European nations. The consequences are already visible.

A discussion as to whether and to what extent individual EU member states can retain the entire spectrum of military capabilities is consequently being conducted under the heading of “pooling and sharing”.

The EU will have to raise its level of ambition

At the same time, Europe finds itself confronted with security challenges that the EU member states cannot master on their own. Global threats such as terrorism, piracy, failed states and the spread of missile technologies do not stop at national borders. They must be countered wherever they emerge. As a security policy actor, Europe must assume responsibility for its own security: with the geopolitical realignment of US security policy, the need for European “strategic autonomy” has become undeniable.

The Summit of European Heads of State and Government at the end of 2013 on the development of the Common Security and Defence Policy provided vital impetus. The Summit declarations calling for greater cooperation in research and procurement as well as uniform standards for the certification and approval of military equipment, point in the right direction.

Key technologies to provide defence capabilities

Europe can only guarantee its strategic autonomy and capacity for action if it has a strong and capable defence industry that has mastered the necessary key technologies and provides the necessary military capabilities. How to implement these requirements?

1. In order to eliminate redundancies and preserve competitive businesses, integrated European industrial structures (European champions) are essential. Some companies are setting a positive example: MBDA bundles vital German, French, British and Italian competencies in guided missile systems under one roof. With the expertise of 10 000 employees for cooperative projects and national programmes, MBDA has been able to establish itself as a global market leader.
2. Securing the European defence technological and industrial base (EDTIB) is only conceivable with new European cooperative programmes. Cooperative programmes are the only way to share development, procurement and operating costs and to equip European armed forces with the capabilities they need in times of limited budgets.

Common military requirements are inevitable

Cooperative programmes can succeed if they are launched on the basis of joint military requirements rather than ones that vary from nation to nation. The example of the Meteor guided missile system, the main armament of the Eurofighter, Rafale and JAS 39 Gripen combat aircraft, proves this, as does the successful transatlantic MEADS cooperation programme, which will develop forward-looking air defence and anti-missile systems up to the end of 2014 on the basis of identical requirements in Germany, Italy and the US.

Thus, European champions will benefit from cooperative programmes enabling them to form centres of competence, maintain critical mass and establish cooperation partnerships with companies in the US or other international markets on the basis of equality and thus provide sustainable answers to increasingly intense global competition.

National economic ambitions versus CSDP needs

A look at the defence industry in the EU nations and the parameters under which they operate today reveals a sobering picture, characterised by highly fragmented structures and uneconomical small production runs, along with limited defence budgets and significant cuts in the research and development elements of these budgets.

The economic arguments in favour of a joint European defence



Photo: MBDA

Thomas Homberg

has been CEO of MBDA Deutschland GmbH since August 2012. He served as a paratrooper officer in the German Armed Forces and studied business at the Bundeswehr University in Hamburg. In 2002, he graduated from the German General Staff Courses, Hamburg, and the French Collège Interarmées de Défense in Paris. Before joining EADS, Mr Homberg was a

Military Attaché at the German Embassy in Paris where he was responsible for French-German defence cooperation. Before taking up his current post, he was Corporate Vice President and Head of EADS Strategic Coordination (2008–2012). From 2005 to 2008 he was Senior Vice President at the helm of EADS “Corporate Strategy & Planning” department and before that Vice President of “Strategy & Planning” for Strategic Business Development in Defence & Security Systems.

and security policy do not (yet) guide the actions of the national governments. This is the only way to explain why the existing savings potential is not being realised through optimisation of redundant structures in the form of greater cooperation and consolidation, or why the available resources are not being used to actively shape a strong industrial base. For example, studies have estimated the potential savings that can be achieved through European cooperation at between €26 Bn and €130 Bn.

There are solutions for increasing autonomy

Action is needed in four areas to achieve an innovative and competitive defence technology base that contributes to Europe's strategic autonomy:

1. Strengthening of cooperative programmes to cover Europe-wide harmonised needs and capability requirements.
2. Development of European champions that will benefit from cooperative programmes and thus prevail in global competition.
3. Strengthening a European research and technology approach and "Europeanising" the defence market, including a stronger role for the European Defence Agency.
4. Reduction of bureaucratic processes (certification and other approval processes).



A lightweight MEADS launcher in the German configuration is A400M transportable and can engage and defeat targets attacking from any direction.

Photo: MBDA, Deutschland

Sustainable solutions in these action areas cannot be found solely at the level of EU institutions but require the active support of the national governments. The Summit of the European Heads of State and Government at the end of 2013 has created expectations. Everyone must now strive for the further implementation of the stated objectives, in the hope that these will be more than just theories. Time is running out!

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(excerpt)

“We, the leaders, met in The Hague on 24 and 25 March 2014 to strengthen nuclear security, reduce the continuing threat of nuclear terrorism and assess the progress we have made since the Washington Summit in 2010. In preparing for this Summit we have used the Washington and Seoul Communiqués as the basis for our work and have been guided by the Washington Work Plan.

Therefore, (...)

2. This Summit focuses on strengthening nuclear security and preventing terrorists, criminals and all other unauthorised actors from acquiring nuclear materials that could be used in nuclear weapons, and other radioactive materials that could be used in radiological dispersal devices. Achieving this objective remains one of the most important challenges in the years to come. (...)

Fundamental responsibility of States

4. We reaffirm the fundamental responsibility of States, in accordance with their respective obligations, to maintain at all times effective security of all nuclear and other radioactive materials, including nuclear materials used in nuclear weapons, and nuclear facilities under their control. This responsibility includes taking appropriate measures to prevent non-state actors from obtaining such materials – or related sensitive information or technology – which could be used for malicious purposes, and to prevent acts of terrorism and sabotage. (...)

International cooperation

5. At the same time we emphasise the need to further strengthen and coordinate international cooperation in the field of nuclear security. (...)

6. International cooperation fosters the capacity of States to

build and sustain a strong nuclear security culture and effectively combat nuclear terrorism or other criminal threats. We encourage States, regulatory bodies, research and technical support organisations, the nuclear industry and other relevant stakeholders, within their respective responsibilities, to build such a security culture and share good practices and lessons learned at national, regional and international level. (...)

Strengthened international nuclear security architecture

8. We recognise the need for a strengthened and comprehensive international nuclear security architecture, consisting of legal instruments, international organisations and initiatives, internationally accepted guidance and good practices.

9. We encourage States that have not yet done so to become party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and to ratify its 2005 amendment. (...)

10. We underline the importance of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and stress the need for all contracting Parties to comply fully with all its provisions. We welcome the new ratifications and accessions since the Seoul Summit and encourage all States to become party to this Convention. (...)

Role of the International Atomic Energy Agency

12. We reaffirm the essential responsibility and the central role of the IAEA in the international nuclear security architecture. (...)

16. The role of the IAEA will be crucial in the years ahead. Therefore we encourage greater political, technical and financial support for the IAEA, including through its Nuclear Security Fund, to ensure that it has the resources and expertise needed to carry out its mandated nuclear security activities. (...)

Source: Council of the European Union

→ For the full text: <http://tinyurl.com/p3ygvnp>

News: Maritime Security Strategy

(ed/nc) The EU is currently in the process of developing a Maritime Security Strategy, the aim of which is to provide a common framework in which the relevant authorities can further develop their specific policies at national and European level.

On 6 March 2014, the European Commission and High Representative Catherine Ashton adopted a Joint Communication entitled "For an open and secure global maritime domain: elements for a European Union Maritime Security Strategy" presenting a vision of the Union's maritime security interests and threats, and proposing the areas in which cooperation between the various maritime players can be enhanced.

The Commission Communication points to the multitude of risks and threats that the EU and its citizens may be confronted with, from territorial maritime disputes, maritime piracy, terrorism against ships and ports or other critical infrastructure, organised seaborne crime and trafficking to the potential impacts of natural disasters or extreme events.

According to the Communication, the Strategy should focus on five specific areas in which a coordinated EU approach based on existing tools would provide added value:

- External action;
- Maritime awareness, surveillance and information sharing;
- Capability development and capacity building;
- Risk management, protection of critical maritime infrastructure and crisis response;



Harbour Security is a part of the Maritime Security Strategy

Photo: uranwolle, CC BY 2.0, flickr.com

- Maritime security research and innovation, education and training.

This document will serve as a basis for the work with Member States towards a fully-fledged EU Maritime Security Strategy, awaited for June 2014. The purpose of the new Strategy is to identify the EU's maritime interests, such as conflict prevention, the protection of critical infrastructure, the effective control of external borders, the protection of the global trade support chain

and the prevention of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing. The Maritime Security Strategy will encompass all maritime functions, from coastguards to navies, port authorities and customs duty officers, and will apply to EU waters as well as to all ships sailing under EU Member States' flags, and will have a global reach.

→ Communication:
<http://tinyurl.com/qhadgzo>

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AFCEA 2014, Bonn
7 – 8 May 2014, Stand Z10

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Security Solutions

For decades, reliability and security played no major role in the world of IT systems. But reliable IT Systems have now become essential for our daily lives. There is a high level of awareness and considerable progress has been made. However, progress is far too slow in almost all areas of cyber security and cyber defence varies from nation to nation. The IT Industry has the merit of offering solutions, but it needs to bring its technical experts together with policymakers in order to build a single community.

Photo: Davide Restivo, Flickr.com

The paradigm shift from “Need to Know” to “Need to Share”

New crypto client approaches for future mission networks

by Johan Hesse, Head of International Sales Public Sector – Secunet Security Networks AG, Hamburg

Communication is a crucial factor in current and future NATO operations and missions. The rapid development of new communication technologies and their applications enables multinational implementation of the NATO “Need to Share” doctrine. The integrity and confidentiality of data play a particular role in this, given the different national standards, procedures, legal provisions and technologies. This has particular relevance in the current geopolitical environment and the resulting development for “rapidly deployable forces”.

Multinational network requirements

What are the requirements of the multinational networks that are to link the various independent systems of the participating nations and at the same time meet the requirements in changing fields of application? The NATO partners and organisations are currently working on this type of secure network for future deployments. The NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCI Agency) has taken on the task of

developing the concepts for a shared mission network and the corresponding set of regulations. It is now entrusted with developing a Future Mission Network (FMN – also known as Federated Mission Network) on the basis of various requirements. The minimum requirement consists of supporting the following communication applications: e-mail, text chat, web browsing, Video Teleconferencing (VTC), Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and Global Address List Sharing (GAL) must be supported by the mission network.

Parameters and regulations

This requires a holistic IT concept in which the parameters of IT components must be defined. In addition to this, a set of regulations for the use of the networks must also be established. Multinational use must still take into account the relevant provisions of the participating states. The FMN must guarantee interoperability, allow access to all mission partners, provide a multinational command and control (C2) function and do so at a jointly defined security level. In principle, it is similar to a multinational information exchange in a secure and classified environment. However, this “system high” approach also has limitations in the C4ISR environment due to the closed system approach.

Afghanistan Mission Network experience

The FMN profile is based on the successful use and experiences of the Afghanistan Mission Network (AMN). This AMN is used as the primary coalition Command, Control, Communication, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) network for the ISAF armed forces in Afghanistan. All information from the national networks is



Photo:
Secunet Security Networks AG

Johan Hesse

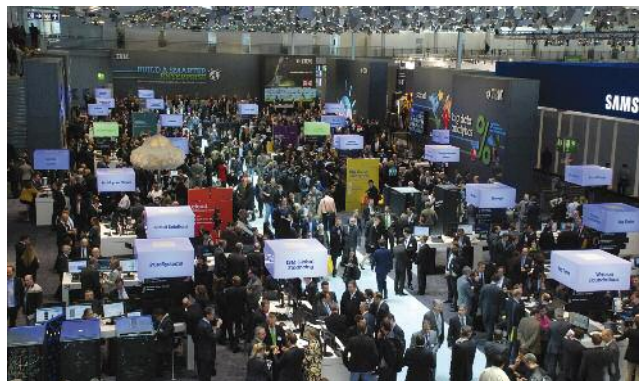
is Head of International Sales, Public Sector, with Secunet Security Networks AG. He graduated in Mathematics from Hamburg University. As Head of Sales for Secunet’s high security solutions and crypto products he has developed and expanded the company’s international business activities into Europe and abroad. One of his major international projects was the implementation of Secunet’s SINA technology in the worldwide German Embassies’ network.

provided during deployment within the AMN and therefore made available to all mission partners.

The major lesson learned from the AMN was the paradigm shift from the “Need to Know” principle (the selective provision of national information) to a “Need to Share” principle (the multinational pooling of all relevant information). The secure connection of the German army DEU-AMN to the AMN domains via the NATO Network Interconnection Point was achieved using the well-established and proven SINA (Secure Inter-Network Architecture) to ensure a fast, comprehensive exchange of information between all forces involved.

Proven SINA Workstation System

The German army used SINA workstation crypto clients to combine national and international connections on a single platform. The System provides virtual sessions; information of various national, NATO and ISAF classifications, as well as open information, is processed in (semi-)parallel, securely and strictly separated in accordance with the approval-specific requirements. To change between sessions and connected domains, the user simply switches the console that is running at a workstation. Thus the use and deployment of the AMN client platform enable the complex IT to be reduced to a single workstation with access to different domains, such as the

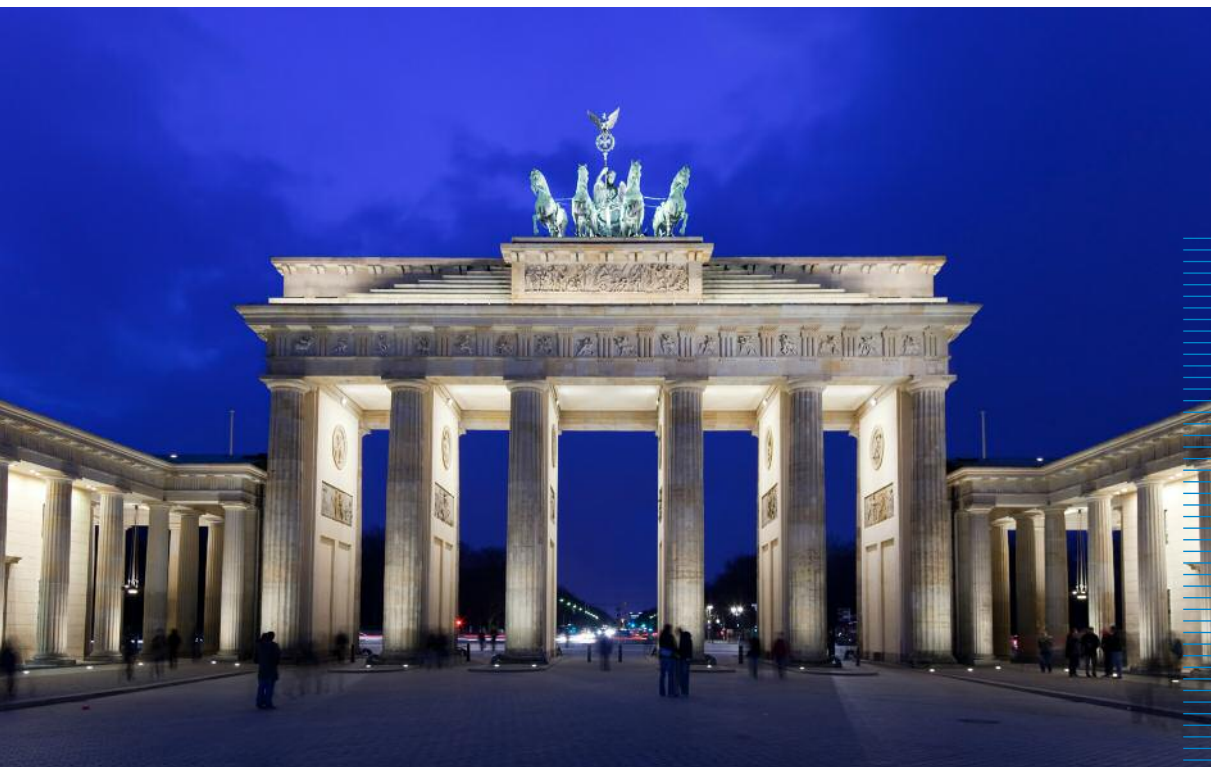


CeBIT 2014: Continuing interests of IT-users.

Photo: Behörden Spiegel-Group

mission domain, mission national extension and national domains. A further advantage is the reduction in the number of end user clients and hence also in spare parts logistics, an ideal solution for the FMN with the declared aim of mission collaboration.

The SINA technology fulfils all the requirements in terms of security, core communication options and multimedia support. The current developments in SINA technology enable flexible application, central administration and cross-mission use and meet the requirements of rapid deployable missions.



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The “Snowden Effect”

Why Layered Security is the best approach to preventing insider threats

by Joseph Souren, Vice President and GM EMEA, Wave Systems Corporation, London

Dubbed the most significant security leak in US history, Edward Snowden’s release of classified material has sparked global debate and raised questions regarding the measures being taken to secure organisations against insider threats. Clearly, the Snowden breach was carried out with malicious intent, but a significant portion of lesser profile data breaches are the result of employee negligence. While there is no “silver bullet” for combating insider threats per se, a combination of techniques and technologies can certainly add more depth to enterprise security.

Adding more depth to enterprise security

While organisations largely focus on external threats from hackers and malware, it’s the insider threats that actually account for more than half of all security incidents - nearly 60 percent of total attacks on UK organisations in 2012, for example, were attributed to the wider insider family, consisting of employees, ex-employees, customers, partners or suppliers.

What really sets the insider threat apart from the external attack is the origin of the threat, regardless of intent. Insider threats come from within the organisation, from those who have direct access to data – employees. Data loss prevention, or DLP, is one of the most important tools for an organisation to have in its arsenal. A good DLP tool will offer customisable, data- and user-aware policies that prevent sensitive information from being shared without halting productivity. Adding encryption is another important layer of security. Encrypting all data on all devices gives organisations control over data wherever the endpoint goes. So, if a disgruntled employee walks off with a laptop that is able to connect to a control server, a crypto-erase can be performed. But if the user does not have authorised access, the data-at-rest protection will serve as a proficient layer of protection.

Another way to minimise the exposure of sensitive data is to not only determine who has authorisation to access sensitive data, but equally important is how that authorisation is enforced through identity and access management.

Renouncing old technologies...

Many organisations use two-factor authentication, which typically combines something one already has with something one knows – for example, a smart card or token in combination with a password. For many organisations, passwords are

still the primary authentication method, which makes them vulnerable to threats coming from inside and outside of the organisation.

It has been proven that passwords as the primary authentication layer makes companies more vulnerable. Multi-factor authentication, however, can be expensive and complex. Aside from the cost of purchasing smart cards, tokens or even fingerprint readers, for example, an organisation has to budget for maintenance, management and additional software to support each employee.

... and using layered security

As a company that embraces layered security, Wave Systems offers capabilities for enabling virtual smart cards, which transforms the device into the token or smart card. Because it takes advantage of a security chip housed on the PC, the Trusted Platform Module (or TPM), no new hardware needs to be purchased. With this layer of security, IT knows who is accessing sensitive resources, with what device, and they can prove it with secure audit logs.

A layered approach to security is critical for averting threats, both inside and outside the organisation. This industry has been given key tools to combat these ever-growing, ever-changing attacks. And industry guidelines, such as trusted computing standards, have set the bar for more secure networks, while added tools, such as DLP, encryption and IAM solutions offer layers of security that should be considered mandatory.

Putting in place comprehensive solutions involving data protection and user and device identity, and advanced threat detection will allow us to once again trust our organisation inside and out.



Photo:

Joseph Souren

is Vice President and General Manager for Wave’s operations in EMEA. He holds a Master’s degree in Business Administration and degrees in Commercial Economics and Marketing Management, which he completed after attending the Royal Military School. Mr Souren has held management positions at high-growth, NASDAQ 100 companies, including SanDisk, McAfee, and CA Technologies. Most recently, he served as VP of CA Technologies’ Internet Security Business Unit.

Protection

For a long time “protection” was understood to mean the active protection of forces (e.g. uniforms, armoured vehicles or CBRN protective measures). Now the term is more broadly defined, as part of a complete system that includes not only reconnaissance and IT security but also logistic measures such as the replenishment of energy supplies with minimum transport, reducing the need to expose personnel to the risks of travel along dangerous routes. The key concept here is “smart energy”.

Energy is the backbone of defence and crisis management

Plug-and-play solutions for standard and smart energy supply*

by Nannette Cazaubon, Journalist, Paris

In January 2014 the European Commission proposed energy and climate objectives for the European Union, to be met by 2030, including a binding EU-wide renewable energy target of at least 27% as well as several measures to increase efficiency at all stages of the energy chain: generation, transformation, distribution and final consumption. Energy efficiency is also high on the agenda of NATO (“Smart Energy”) and the European Defence Agency/EDA (“Military Green”) with the aim of reducing costs and dependencies for the armed forces and military and crisis-management operations.

Minimising fuel consumption: a key objective

According to EDA figures, the daily electricity consumption of the armed forces of a single medium-sized EU Member State is the same as that of a large city, while the energy requirements of the military of all EDA Member States combined are equivalent to those of a small EU country.

Some NATO Member States have already tested new energy efficiency concepts that have proven their success in civil applications; these experiments demonstrate that by using

advanced materials and equipment, a camp of 200 to 500 personnel can reduce its fuel consumption by 30%. Minimising fossil fuel consumption is a key objective, in particular during military and crisis-management operations.

These past few years in Afghanistan, for example, the NATO forces have used more than four million litres of fuel per day, and up to 1000 fuel convoys per year have been sent to the bases there. Each gallon of fuel delivered to Afghanistan uses up to 4 additional gallons for its overland transport through areas at high risk from deadly insurgent attacks, compromising operational effectiveness and putting lives at risk: so it is not just about budgets but also the crucial issue of soldiers’ protection.

Temporary and mobile power supplies

A reliable temporary and mobile energy supply is essential for the functioning of deployed military and civilian camps and headquarters (HQs). It would be greatly to their advantage to be connected quickly and safely to all kinds of local energy sources (e.g. existing overhead lines, photovoltaic panels and power generators) via cables and units capable of transforming high voltage into low voltage energy. Modern connection technologies like those being developed for some time now by the German company Pfisterer and its European subsidiaries have a valuable role to play in this regard.

Successful modern plug-and-play solutions

Their pluggable cable connectors for low voltage (Plug family) and for medium and high voltage (Connex family) are compact “dry type” plug-in systems for connecting plastic cables to electrical equipment such as gas-insulated switchgear (GIS),



Photo: private

Nannette Cazaubon

is Deputy-Editor-in-Chief of the Magazine “The European – Security and Defence Union”. She was born in 1968 in Germany, studied literature at the University of Bonn, and political sciences at the Institut d’Etudes Politiques (IEP) in Paris. She has been living in Paris since 1998 where she is working as independent journalist specialised in European Security and Defence.

transformers and joint boxes. These have been successfully used for years now for permanent power supplies in the civilian sector. The Plug system has produced successful operational results e.g. for installations in European high-speed trains such as the TGV and ICE. The Connex terminations meanwhile are being used for more than 1.5 million applications; nowadays, for example, they are a standard connection technique for offshore converter platforms. But these systems can also offer a solution for temporary and mobile energy networks, enabling their connection to all kinds of energy sources with zero risk and minimised energy losses.

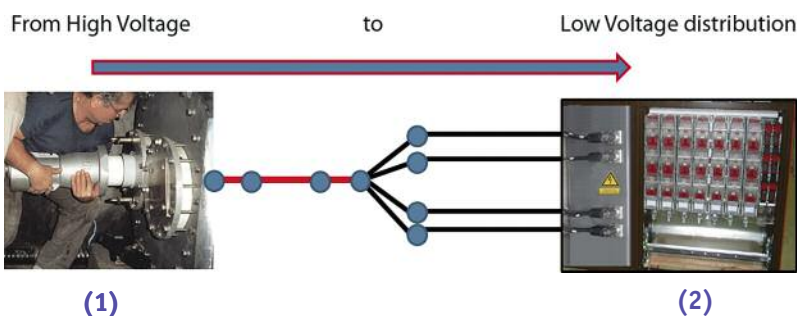
Power supplies for military and civilian forces

These pluggable termination systems could supply temporary installations such as deployed military and civilian camps and headquarters with power through standardised, flexible, prefabricated and pluggable cables linking the energy source to a mobile circuit breaker and protection unit and then to mobile transformers connected to a low voltage distribution panel (see picture 1 and 2). "Dry type" termination systems comprising one component on the cable side and one on the equipment (e.g. transformer) side have several advantages: assembly times are considerably reduced as compared with conventional termination systems; the installation is a simple and safe "plug-in" process, with a sliding contact system that ensures the loss-free transport of electricity from the power source to the temporary installation bus bar. The (metal) housing and insulation safeguard the necessary electrical joint strength whatever operating conditions or disruptions may occur in the network (see picture 1). Available mobile electrical equipment (such as transformers, circuit breakers etc.) with an integrated plug-in socket on one side and, in particular, flexible cables with factory-installed and tested terminations, allows the installation of temporary networks through the assembly of prefabricated elements. This allows these systems to be delivered ready for connection up to voltage levels of 145 kV, avoiding time-consuming and efficiency-reducing steps on site and hence representing a real gain for the deployed personnel and their mission.

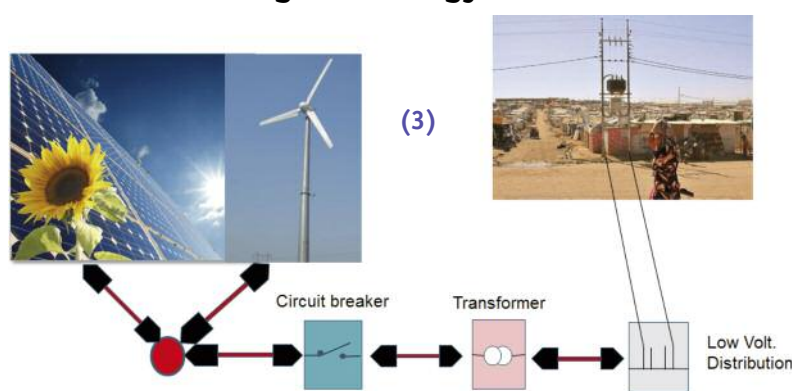
Outlook

Due to rising energy requirements and the growing need to store energy from renewable sources, power grids in Europe are increasingly being loaded to their limit. The same is true of

Temporary electrical networks through pluggable modular components



Energy supply for civil camps through connections to green energy sources



Photos: PFISTERER Kontaktsysteme GmbH

connection devices, which alongside such elements as transformers, switchgears, cables and lines play an important role, since the majority of power disruptions in Europe arise as a result of defective contacts and connections.

In the area of power supply the European Union needs both permanent solutions for fixed infrastructure and innovative solutions for temporary and mobile infrastructure, of the kind needed during disaster response and military and crisis-management operations, for example. Key elements here are renewable energy sources, energy/power storage, efficient distribution and conversion, energy management and effective components (see picture 3). It is not always necessary to reinvent the wheel: energy-efficient technologies that have proven their worth for civilian purposes could easily be adapted to security and defence applications.

* NATO and EDA initiatives in the field of energy have already been addressed in previous issues of The European (see editions 2-2012 and 3-2013). From now on there will be regular reports about the products of European companies whose innovative technologies in the civilian energy sector could be usefully applied to the specific area of security and defence.

Benefits of improved integration and information sharing

Countering the CBRN-E threat

by **Graham Willmott**, Head of Unit, DG Enterprise, European Commission, Brussels

In a world facing an increased risk of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and explosive (CBRN-E) incidents or threats caused by man-made or natural hazards, CBRN-E Security has become a high priority in the European Union. The huge explosion at the AZF fertiliser factory in Toulouse in 2001, the deadly E. Coli outbreak which hit Germany in May 2011, and the recent chemical weapons use during the Syrian conflict, are some examples of CBRN-E incidents which have led to a high number of casualties and caused significant socio-economic damage. As a response the European Commission has funded a large range of projects which have culminated in the biggest research effort ever made in Europe in the CBRN-E area, namely through the EDEN (End-User Driven Demo for CBRN-E) Demonstration Project. This project will demonstrate the added value of large-scale integration of CBRN-E counterterrorism and security solutions and will support Member States' preparedness and response organisations in improving integration and information sharing in countering the CBRN-E threat. Along with other projects funded under the 7th EU Framework Programme for Research and Development (FP7), EDEN will enhance and strengthen the CBRN-E community, from the defence and security sectors to the safety sector (food, medical, industrial risks).

Focus on strengthening science-policy-industry links in the CBRN-E sector

Research and demonstration efforts in the CBRN-E area are directly or indirectly supporting the implementation of key EU policies such as the EU Action Plan on Enhancing the Security of Explosives¹ and the CBRN Action Plan², the EU Civil Protec-



Robots are being used more and more

Photo: Fraunhofer FKIE

Graham Willmott

has been Head of Policy and Research in the Security Unit of the European Commission's DG Enterprise since 2013.

He graduated with a degree in physics from Bristol University in 1982, and between 1983 and 1995 he worked for Nuclear Electric/British Energy as an engineer in various UK nuclear power stations.

In 1995 Mr Willmott joined the European Commission's DG Environment, where he was responsible for the development of assistance programmes to nuclear regulatory authorities in Central and Eastern Europe. From 2000 to 2004 he was a member of the team that drafted the REACH White Paper and he subsequently led the team that drafted the Commission proposal. From 2004 to July 2008 he was Deputy Head of the REACH Unit. Between July 2008 and taking up his current position, he was the Head of the REACH Unit.

tion Mechanism³, consumer health protection⁴, guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure and transport network⁵, customs policies⁶, environment policies (e.g. Seveso Directive)⁷, as well as international cooperation (e.g. CBRN-E Centres of Excellence). In addition, close cooperation has been developed with the European Defence Agency (EDA). The implementation of these policies represents a complex and ambitious challenge, as the CBRN-E sector involves a wide variety of players and each Member State follows specific approaches for dealing with CBRN-E crises. The EU framework represents a means to discuss possible ways to improve coordination among the various national approaches and develop a common EU vision in this field. In this respect, the European Commission Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry has brought together key scientific, policy and industry actors, as well as other stakeholders (e.g. first responders) in the CBRN-E sector in a first Science-Policy-Industry (SPI) workshop, to discuss ways to establish a mechanism at EU level which would enable a sharing of information among the different categories of players. The Commission is now developing a communication strategy in this sector based on regular SPI events and yearly publication of key information resulting from FP7 / Horizon2020 projects and policy developments.

Paving the way for Horizon 2020

The above strategy is aimed at paving the way for improving information sharing and transfer outputs of future research projects funded by the EU to relevant end users. It is, therefore, critical that the EU research activities in the CBRN-E field achieve their goals and that the Member States, academia, EU institutions, industry and other stakeholders work together in order to develop and clearly define the needs that research



Dogs are still in service, but SNIFFER-type technologies are on the way

Photo: Dorothee Frank

should meet. Results and achievements of the research activities funded by the European Union should be better taken up, disseminated and, when operationally ready, translated into improved procedures for handling CBRN-E crises, new technologies and other commercial products. The new Multiannual Financial Framework and its research programme, Horizon 2020, meet this objective of responding better to policy needs and also to the needs of the end-users.

In the Security area (including CBRN-E), Horizon 2020 will contribute to the implementation of the policy goals of the Europe 2020 strategy, the Security Industrial Policy⁸, the Internal Security Strategy⁹ and the Cyber Security Strategy¹⁰, as well as supporting the various abovementioned thematic policies. The primary aim of the Work Programme on “Secure societies – Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens” is to enhance the resilience of our society against natural and man-made disasters. CBRN-E related research will be considered under various topics focusing on new crisis-management tools, novel solutions for the protection of critical infrastructure, and new forensic tools for fighting crime and terrorism. The first call for proposals will be opened on 25 March 2014 with a submission deadline set on 28 August 2014.

It is hoped that efforts made to assemble pieces of the “CBRN-E” puzzle through coordinated science-policy-industry interactions will result in an enhanced visibility and usability of research outputs by the relevant key players and end users. This in turn will improve the security of EU citizens.

¹ Doc. 8109/08; ² COM(2009) 273 final; ³ Decision 1313/2013; ⁴ Decision 1082/2013; ⁵ Regulation 347/2013 and Decision 661/2010; ⁶ COM(2012) 793 final; ⁷ Directive 2012/18/EU; ⁸ Directive 2012/18/EU; ⁹ Directive 2012/18/EU; ¹⁰ Directive 2012/18/EU

Documentation

Go-ahead for EUFOR RCA

EU military operation launched in the Central African Republic

On 1 April the Council launched an EU military operation to contribute to a secure environment in the Central African Republic, as authorised by the UN Security Council in resolution 2134 (2014). EUFOR RCA is to provide temporary support in achieving a safe and secure environment in the Bangui area, with a view to handing over to a UN peacekeeping operation or to African partners. The force will thereby contribute both to international efforts to protect the populations most at risk and to the creation of the conditions for providing humanitarian aid. EUFOR RCA will operate in Bangui and in the capital's airport.

The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, Catherine Ashton, said: “The launch of this operation demonstrates the EU's determination to take full part in international efforts to restore stability and security in Bangui and right across the Central African Republic. It forms a key part of our comprehensive approach to solving the huge challenges faced by the Central African Republic. I'd like to thank all the Member States and non-EU countries which are working together to make this operation a success. It is vital that there is a return to public order as soon as possible, so that the political transition process can be put back on track.”

The force will comprise up to 1000 troops, led by Major-General Philippe Pontières (France) as EU Operation Commander. Its Operation Headquarters is located in Larissa, Greece, while the Force Headquarters and the troops will be located in Bangui. The common costs of the operation are estimated at € 25.9 million for the preparatory phase and a mandate of up to six months starting from the point of reaching full operational capability. The EUFOR troops will deploy rapidly so as to have immediate effects in the operation's area of responsibility.

Source: Council of the European Union

News: 4th EU/African Summit

(ed/hb) During the fourth EU/African Summit on 2nd and 3rd April 2014 in Brussels both sides decided to implement a joint strategy which will focus on priority areas for the period 2014–2017.

These areas are peace and security, the promotion of democracy, good governance and human rights, human development, sustainable, inclusive growth, continental integration.



Security-relevant FP7 Projects

(ed/hb) Under its wider R&D budget for 2007 to 2013- known as the Seventh Framework Programme for Research (FP7) – the European Union was investing € 1,4 Bn in security research. Projects cover the entire range of Security including advanced research into the societal dimension of security. Out of a broad range of projects, SNIFFER and SCINTILLA, coming to an end in 2014, may prove their relevance for our day-to-day security.

SNIFFER SECURITY Project #285203

A bio-mimicry enabled artificial sniffer

Dogs have limitations when detecting odours from potential security threats: quickly tired, they can only be trained for a certain set of applications and are not always accepted by the public. Artificial sniffers offer significant potential for border and security applications related to the detection and analysis of a wide range of elements including explosives, illegal substances, and smuggled goods. They can be used in complement to dogs and leverage their capabilities at borders and airports.

SNIFFER is an integrated project co-financed under the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission. The three year € 5M research and development effort started in February 2012 and involves 14 European companies and organisations in a promising multi-disciplinary research and innovation endeavour. SNIFFER mimics nature by applying machine learning techniques to information collected through arrays of biosensors, based on ligand binding proteins fixed on diamond microcantilevers. The biosensors recognise molecules corresponding to the odours of target substances which have previously been extracted from the surrounding air using preconcentration and sampling techniques. This approach enables the development of different devices, which have been previously trained to a range of target compounds.

The use cases developed by SNIFFER include small portable scanners and monitoring portal to scan luggage to be used to detect drugs and explosives. SNIFFER is user driven and brings together users, industry and research institutions to develop effective and practical solutions.

SNIFFER results will be exploited in two directions: SNIFFER solutions for security and promising olfactory applications such as food quality, safety, environment...

The 1st SNIFFER Public Workshop on 7th and 8th April 2014 will gather stakeholders including end-users, research, exploiters as well as representatives of European institutions. Devices and trials will be presented and the future impact and deployment of SNIFFER technologies will be discussed. Other European funded projects in the same call will also participate leading to synergies in between research projects of the sniffing and security domain.

→ Contact via sniffer-po@eurtd.com

Further information at www.sniffer-project.eu

SCINTILLA SECURITY Project #285204

Scintillation detectors and new technologies for nuclear security

The enhanced detection and identification of radioactive sources and shielded nuclear material is a critical component of the combat against illegal trafficking. Past technological solutions to the problem of neutron detection were Helium-3 based; due to the decreasing availability of this gas they have increasingly become inoperative.

SCINTILLA is an integrated project co-financed under the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission addressing this challenge. The three year € 3.8M R&D project started in January 2012. It includes 9 multi-disciplinary European companies and organisations.

As no single technology can meet all detection requirements simultaneously, SCINTILLA develops a toolbox of different technologies which are complementary in terms of scope, wearable to large fixed detector, sensitivity, detection of potential threats, cost and size, and technological readiness. SCINTILLA explores in particular scintillators and CZT-based technologies.

The project develops effective detection solutions which are reliable, portable / mobile and cost-effective. These technologies will be integrated into several devices and adapted to specific Use Cases including relocatable RPMs to demonstrate their capabilities. Applications include the control of containers, vehicles, luggage and people, a portable device for use by police & customs in airports as well as a communicating miniature device to be used by first responders for bomb detection.

To ensure openness, SCINTILLA proposes testbed and benchmark services to evaluate technologies developed by both project partners and third parties. To optimise impact beyond the scope of the consortium and the duration of the project, it aims to create and develop a sustainable SCINTILLA Partnership Network (SPN), which will gather the worldwide community interested in nuclear material detection and identification. The second SCINTILLA Benchmark took place in February 2014 with developmental and prototypic equipment funded within the EU and academic institutions. The 3rd SCINTILLA Benchmark will take place late 2014 and will be open to all.

→ Contact via scintilla-po@eurtd.com

Further information at www.scintilla-project.eu

FREQUENTIS exhibits at the ILA Berlin Air Show

Innovative National Air Policing Centre Solution

Interview with Oliver Dörre, Director Defence, FREQUENTIS Nachrichtentechnik GmbH, Langen

The European: *Frequentis Defence offers individual solutions for network-enabled operations. Who are your target users?*

Oliver Dörre: In general, Frequentis is an international supplier of communication and information systems to two core markets: air traffic management (civil and military applications) and public safety and transport. The Frequentis Defence solutions in particular are aimed at military air traffic management command and control, tactical networks, national and border security surveillance and reconnaissance.

The European: *What are the applications made for?*

Oliver Dörre: The solutions are designed for a wide range of applications of network-enabled capabilities in order to efficiently synchronise the efforts of civilian and military entities in mission-critical operations. This is achieved through edge communication and network services, advanced collaboration services, as well as efficient decision-support services.

The European: *How widespread are your products and solutions?*

Oliver Dörre: Our products and solutions are behind more than 25 000 operator positions deployed in over 115 countries. Using the whole band width of this portfolio, Frequentis is the leading provider of mission-tailored solutions, all providing value for money and making our world a safer place!

The European: *What is your focus at the ILA?*

Oliver Dörre: We will present state-of-the-art technology, demonstrating capabilities to the international defence and security market. Our focus will be individual solutions for control centres in safety-critical environments with emphasis on the latest proven National Air Policing Centre Solution.

The European: *What does this National Air Policing Centre Solution demonstrate?*

Oliver Dörre: Our competence in designing integrated commu-

nication and information systems that support operational procedures for air surveillance and air defence in a process-oriented command and control system.

The European: *Could you give us some background on the history of this project?*

Oliver Dörre: With pleasure. Back in 2009 Frequentis won a public tender published by the German Armed Forces for equipping the National Air Policing Centre – the national facility responsible for preventing plane hijackings, acts of sabotage and other dangers to air traffic – with an integrated communication and information system. The aim was to design a joint system for interagency cooperation between the Ministries of Defence, the Interior and Transport (represented by staff elements of the Air Force, the Federal Police and the German Air Navigation Service Provider (DFS), helping to guarantee safety in the German airspace of tomorrow.

The European: *What was the special something?*

Oliver Dörre: When it started in October 2011 it was clear to all parties involved that this was a ground-breaking development project that would involve tackling ambitious challenges that others had so far failed to overcome.

The European: *How did you approach it?*

Oliver Dörre: Frequentis chose an iterative approach using agile software development methods to ensure that the company would reach the relevant project milestones on time and within budget, in order to achieve our final goal – the highest possible customer satisfaction. Eleven months of a comprehensive system design were followed by implementation and integration of the hardware and software functionality, with particular emphasis on intuitive usability of the command and control system and the corresponding user interface.



Demonstrator Integrated Hybrid Control Centre Solution
Photo: Frequentis

The European: When were you able to see the result?

Oliver Dörre: When the system test for the new, innovative command and control system was passed successfully on 27 June 2013 the German Armed Forces together with Frequentis had passed a specific critical milestone in the development of the National Air Policing Centre.

The European: Could you briefly describe the project?

Oliver Dörre: The project included the development and delivery of a system demonstrator that interactively supports complex operational procedures for air surveillance and air defence in a process-oriented communication and information system. The demonstrator as well as the final system integrates interfaces and data sources from several different agencies. Other core system elements are:

- a Common Operational Picture based on a Geographical Information System (GIS) as well as interfaces with central data sources,
- a Collaboration and Decision Support Service with multiuser support based on a role and rights system,
- an Integrated Voice Communication Service that allows voice calls to be initiated directly from the user interface (including the GIS).

The European: Do you have a proven record of success?

Oliver Dörre: Of course! Testing concluded with a live exercise

in which members of the Air Force and Federal Police, as well as personnel from the German Air Navigation Service Provider, worked together for the first time under realistic conditions. The result exceeded all expectations, passing almost 99% of all technical test cases and impressively demonstrating the operational added value.

The European: When will the system be fielded?

Oliver Dörre: The successful system test is a significant step towards the nationwide roll-out of a fully operational, state-of-the-art National Air Policing Centre facility that will feature extensive new capabilities for protecting Germany's airspace and population. The project is a blueprint for integrated Frequentis control centre solutions of the future and a perfect example of generating added value by integrating multiple off-the-shelf products into one solution. The successful cooperation demonstrates the excellent relationship with the German Air Force, which has been a Frequentis customer for over 25 years in the fields of military air traffic management and command and control. With this system Frequentis has made another significant contribution to the mission execution of the German Armed Forces and the safety of German airspace, again living up to the company's motto: 'For a Safer World'.

The European: Mr. Dörre, thank you for the interview

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Germany's vote on MEADS will be decisive for Europe's future Air and Missile Defence capabilities

What Europe's Air & Missile Defence capabilities are all about

A commentary by Hartmut Bühl, Brussels

On 12 March the European Parliament (EP) adopted an own-initiative resolution on an anti-missile shield for Europe and its political and strategic implications.

Members of the EP noted that the defence against ballistic or other types of missile attacks could constitute a positive development in European security in the context of a rapid international security dynamic, with the development by state and non-state stakeholders of missile technologies and various chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear capabilities making it necessary for Member States to take into account the implications of Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) for their security.

The EP stressed the need to pursue the partnership with NATO, whose aim was to provide full coverage and protection of all NATO Europe, including their populations, territories and forces, by the end of this decade.

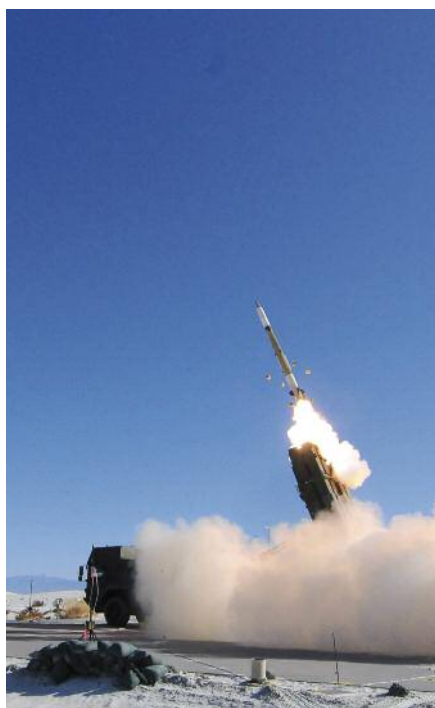
European Parliament call for initiatives

With reference to the December 2013 European Defence Summit conclusions, the EP underlined the importance of initiatives such as Pooling & Sharing for strengthening the

cooperation between Member States in the areas of BMD and in carrying out joint research and development work, which could in the long term lead to the further consolidation of the European defence industry.

Such involvement in Missile Defence as called for by the EP, whatever form it takes, would be a milestone in the European Security Strategy, encouraging the Member States and industry to come together to reflect upon a contribution to an Integrated Air and Missile Defence (IAMD). Of particular relevance would be a baseline contribution to Lower Layer (LL) defence, with the focus on supporting crisis operations and protecting deployed coalition forces. This capability is particularly important for Germany in its future role of framework nation, including in connection with NATO's "Connected Forces Initiative".

This IAMD capability goal is fully in line with the strategy of certain European companies offering future-proof MEADS technologies and command and control structures. The unique feature of MEADS "plug-and-fight" capabilities would allow other air defence systems and elements (such as the MBDA's



MEADS proved its advanced capabilities in an unprecedented dual-intercept in 2013.

Photos: MBDA



ASTER 15 SAAM fired from Italian Aircraft Carrier CAVOUR

Photo: Marine militare italiana

ASTER) to be integrated and to be interoperable with NATO's European air defence network using the same joint and integrated air and missile picture.

European capabilities – the case of MEADS

Various Air Defence technologies are in use in Europe, but none has the operational and hence the political significance of MEADS, considered to be the most advanced ground-based air defence system: at the end of 2013 it proved its ability to successfully detect, track and intercept two targets (Tactical Ballistic Missiles (TBM) and air breathing targets) approaching simultaneously from opposite directions.

This new Air and Missile Defence System, based on US and European (German and Italian) technologies, is highly mobile and easily air-transportable. It uses the hit-to-kill PAC-3 MSE missile to defeat TBMs in addition to all other threats. The system provides full 360-degree engagement-coverage, offering improved range – using a unique open architecture system without blind spots against the evolving threat. MEADS will provide the IAMD performance needed in the 21st century and allow operational mission tailoring.

Poland speeds up efforts to get a new IAMD system

The crisis in Ukraine and the annexation of Crimea by Russia has accelerated the Polish decision-making process by reducing the number of bidders to the most relevant ones. In the running are four bidders:

- MBDA consortium led by Lockheed Martin. After Germany and Italy, Poland has become the third European nation able to take a closer look into MEADS performance and to consider the modernisation of its AMD- capabilities through participation in the MEADS programme, on eye level with other partners, currently MBDA/Italy and MBDA/Germany and Lockheed Martin.
- Thales France in a consortium with MBDA/France together with the Polish State Defence Group offering the French ASTER and a Polish BUMAR Radar
- The Israeli government offering the ITAR free BARAK Air Defence System
- Raytheon USA with its Patriot System

IAMD – Contribution and Cooperation

It would be naïve to argue that NATO can do the job for the EU. Indeed, although NATO at its 2010 Lisbon Summit referred to a Ballistic Missile Defence based on the principle of the “indivisibility” of Allied security-, the EP Resolution of 12 March 2014 shows that Missile Defence can be as strategically relevant for the EU as, for example, Galileo, enabling it to be a fully-fledged partner for NATO and the United States and giving it a say in how European societies should be protected. Indeed, there is a wealth of European industrial capabilities in this area of future major investment.

Without any doubt the US will have the lead in Upper Layer Defence Programmes, and it will also have the budget, whereas European nations can contribute with Lower Layer capabilities and gap filling sensor elements on a voluntary basis. The EU can offer a panoply of European industrial capabilities as proof of its co-operability with the US. But couldn't the EU, through its participation in BMD, also act as a “bridge” between Moscow and Washington? For we must not forget that only by making essential contributions will the EU have any say in NATO decisions. This is a surely a field in which the European Defence Agency (EDA) could play an active role.

Conclusion

The key to the future of MEADS lies in Berlin: the ageing PATRIOT system needs to be replaced performance- and cost-wise. The decision is pending on how to proceed with regard to the development of a modern, hopefully European air defence system on the basis of the MEADS technologies, which could become a cornerstone for Europe's participation in Missile Defence. Germany's decision will be crucial for the further use of the MEADS technologies in Poland, Germany, Italy and further other European nations.

Is Berlin, as an Italian general asked during a conference in Brussels, really willing to renounce a system that gives Europe a clear role in Missile Defence and that defends up to eight times the area covered by other, existing systems while requiring much less personnel and equipment? As the general said, “this has to be decided in Berlin. Europe is waiting”.

Streamlined form follows function

The reorganisation of the European Defence Agency (EDA)

by Andy Francis Stinal, Politologist, Berlin

As the primary role of the EDA is to foster cooperation in defence matters, one can easily analyse to what extent goals and aims are reached or whether – in light of a rapidly evolving security and defence environment and national budget constraints that are already triggering enhanced cooperation and claims for even more cooperation – the EDA is able to cope with the challenges ahead. It's 10th year of existence appears to be the right moment for an interim summary.

A streamlined structure

The EDA is reducing its core units from five to three, whereas the Corporate Services Directorate remains largely untouched. Under the old structure the EDA operated through its Capabilities Directorate, Research & Technology Directorate, Armaments Directorate and the Industry and Market Directorate. As of 1 January the core responsibilities are based around the Co-operation Planning and Support Directorate, the Capability Armament & Technology Directorate and the European Synergies and Innovation Directorate.

Streamlining, as the EDA itself terms the process of reorganisation, can be understood here primarily to mean the merging of the former directorates for Capabilities, Research & Technol-



Photo:

Andy Francis Stinal

studied Political Science and Communication in Strasbourg, Paris and at the Freie Universität in Berlin. After having worked for several communication agencies in Berlin, he became political consultant at the Berlin Business Representation in Brussels. He subsequently became a director at the European Security Round Table (ESRT) a Brussels-based political consultancy, initiating

debates in the field of European foreign and security policy. He is currently working as an independent journalist, conference organiser and EU project manager.

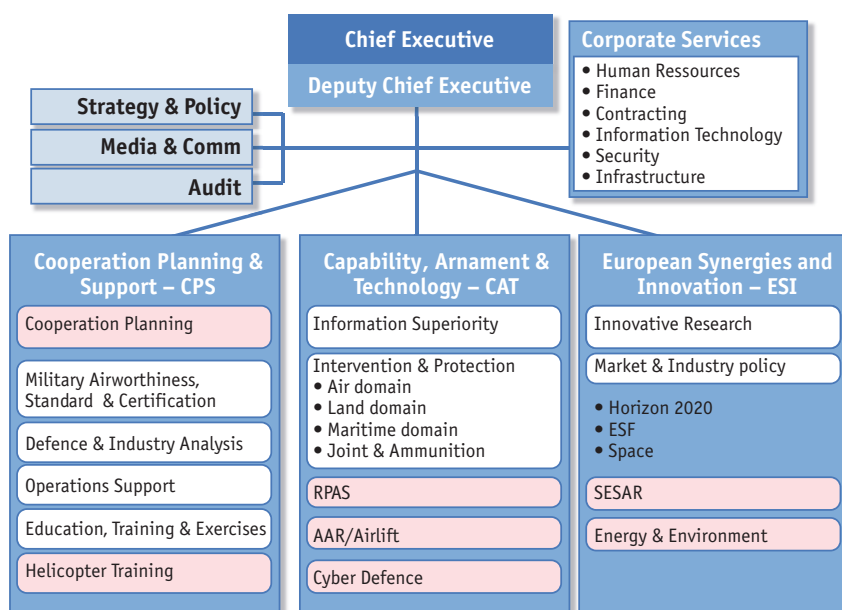
ogy and Armaments, thereby unifying the responsibilities for preparing future programmes and maximising synergies between capabilities, armaments and Research & Technology.

High expectations must be met

Whereas collaboration and harmonisation in the past were organised as a kind of cross-sectoral task among the directorates, they will as of now be handled in the Co-operation

Planning Directorate to the extent that an identification of requirements and capability development are concerned. However, collaboration in terms of better connecting national defence ministries and wider EU policies having implications for defence and security issues are domiciled within the Directorate for European Synergies & Innovation. These wider EU policies are market & industrial policy, including SME issues, market efficiency and global aspects of the defence market. Furthermore, greater complementarity with the European Structural Funds (ESF) and the new Horizon 2020 Programme should be ensured. Under the umbrella of EDA's SME Action Plan, the first of seven dual-use research initiatives to access

The new EDA organisation 01.01.2014



CONFERENCE REPORT

EDA Annual Conference

Report from 27 March 2014, Brussels

(ed/nc) The European Defence Agency's Annual Conference entitled "European Defence Matters" brought together more than 500 high-level participants from European governments, the military and industry. The two main round tables focused, respectively, on defence capabilities and research and innovation. In her welcoming address, EDA Chief Executive **Claude-France Arnould** outlined the importance of implementing the tasks set by the European Council in December 2013. Greek Minister of Defence **Dimitris Avramopoulos**, representing the current EU Presidency, called in his keynote speech for an enhanced role for the EDA in order to put defence more permanently on the European agenda. He said that defence should not be seen as a separate entity but rather as "one of the most critical pillars for European democracy, integration, cohesion and growth."

Pieter de Crem, Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, called for a "reinvigorated and strong European vision" of the EU's future foreign policy role and a commitment to pursuing the military capabilities needed to underpin it.

General Patrick de Rousiers, Chairman of the EU Military Committee, explained that there were a number of drivers behind the process, a primary one being the ability to create collectively that which would not be possible singly.

NATO Deputy Secretary General **Alexander Vershbow** said that Nations still showed a reluctance to lose jobs or to compromise on requirements. But he also saw positive changes, such as the emergence of the framework nation concept, whereby certain nations with full spectrum capabilities team with smaller nations to agree on areas of specialisation in order to cover the full range of capabilities between them.

From an industry point of view, **Bernhard Gerwert**, CEO Airbus Defence & Space, called on European policymakers to decide what their ambitions are. Industry "just needs programmes" he said, adding that research and development was only worthwhile "if we have the ambition to build the next generation of products. If we don't have that ambition then it makes no sense to spend the money."

Michael Gahler, Member of the European Parliament, agreed on the need for a clear idea of what Europe wanted to achieve. He called for a European defence review in order to assess the current situation and to reverse the trend of industry and expertise leaving Europe.

→ *More information and speeches can be found on the EDA website: www.eda.europa.eu*

European Structural Funds started recently, a step in the right direction, since the marketability of technologies and products becomes broader based.

Prospects in a multilayer game

The reorganisation should neither be seen as an anniversary gift to the Agency nor as indicating that the "jubilarian", as it reaches adolescence, is now mature enough to shape its organisation as it pleases. Rather, the intended message is that after a quite impressive track record during the first 10 Years, EDA should be enabled to fulfil its core targets with even more rigour than in the past. Only an enhanced process of cooperation and planning between EDA and the member states as well as, and mainly, among member states, will make it possible to achieve the ambitious level of synergies, standards and released potential in the area of R&D that is indispensable for creating a more integrated, sustainable, innovative and competitive European Defence and Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB). With its new organisation, the EDA seeks to satisfy its self-established claim to be the decisive promoter of cooperation and the intergovernmental pivotal point for European defence. The member states are invited to communicate and shape its vital interests via the cooperative options the EDA has to offer more actively. As a counterbalance to the Commission's ambition to extend its role in defence issues, member states can keep or regain influence over the market and technology dimension of defence, thus facing the Commission on equal terms. The high expectations that the EDA itself has of these organisational changes are, not surprisingly, fully in line with the December 2013 Council decisions. The European Parliament stated through its President, Martin Schulz, that the "everyone-for-himself" attitude is not conducive to achieving more independence in the area of security and defence. The ambition on the part of the major Brussels players seems to be given. The aim of the EDA's reorganisation was to create the institutional readiness. So far, so good. But two significant and interlinked questions remain to be answered in the future: will the European states – when the appropriate occasion arises – move beyond their official statements and promises? And will the new shape of the EDA be conducive to that? We must wait and see.

Facts and figures

Constitutive Document:	Council Joint Action 2004/551/CFSP
Set-up:	12 July 2004 in Brussels
Mission:	Article 45 of the TEU
Employees:	130 persons.
Budget 2014:	€ 30.5 million.
Head of EDA:	High Representative for the CFSP / Vice-President of the European Commission
Steering Board:	Defence Ministers of the EU (except DAN)
CEO:	Ms Claude-France Arnould since 2011

List of authors and articles in 2013

Author/Title	ESDU N°	Page	Author/Title	ESDU N°	Page
Arnould, Claude-France	N°17	24	Edge, James	N°17	38
<i>EU Summit 2013 – Capabilities for today and tomorrow</i>			<i>Alliance Ground Surveillance (AGS) Capability will be ready soon</i>		
Achtleitner, Franz	N°17	53	Ender, Dr Thomas	N°17	19
<i>Innovative vehicles for the protection of crisis-management forces</i>			<i>The future of Europe's defence industry</i>		
Balis, Christina/Berenson, Doug/ Jovovic, Aleksander	N°16	44	Enström, Karin	N°16	28
<i>“Top 5 Trends” in military aviation</i>			<i>The Swedish path towards a modern defence force</i>		
Barnier, Michel/Tajani, Antonio	N°16	8	Friedrich, Dr Hans-Peter	N°15	24
<i>The future of Europe's defence industry</i>			<i>The EU's civil protection policy versus national interests</i>		
de Bavinchove, Olivier	N°16	18	Gahler, Michael		
<i>The Eurocorps, a highly operational multinational headquarters not used by the EU</i>			<i>Potential of EU civil-military and military cooperation</i>	N°15	14
Bellais, Renaud	N°17	32	<i>High voter turnout in defiance of extremist threats</i>	N°16	6
<i>Military spending is not in vogue</i>			Gahler, Michael/Danjean, Arnaud/Lisek, Krzysztof	N°17	23
Berenson, Doug/Balis, Christina/Jovovic, Aleksander	N°16	44	<i>Make the 2013 Defence Summit a success!</i>		
<i>“Top 5 Trends” in military aviation</i>			Gerwert, Bernhard	N°17	42
Bildt, Carl	N°17	10	<i>No information superiority without a network of UAS</i>		
<i>Plea for a European Global Strategy</i>			Gaiimo, Giseppi	N°16	16
Borgo, Pietro	N°15	56	<i>The future of the CSDP is power projection</i>		
<i>Protection for the protectors</i>			Giuliani, Jean Dominique	N°15	11
Bühl, Hartmut			<i>The Franco-German exception</i>		
<i>Mali – how to engage while avoiding a “Sahelistan”</i>	N°15	32	Goffinet, Karl-Erik	N°16	20
<i>The human factor in missions abroad</i>	N°16	39	<i>The CSDP – a new role for Berlin and Paris</i>		
<i>A breakthrough for the NATO European missile</i>			Gomes, Ana	N°16	11
<i>defence initiative</i>	N°17	35	<i>European Maritime Security Strategy</i>		
<i>GO Connected + Go Smart = Zero Distance</i>	N°17	61	Grybauskaitė, Dalia	N°17	7
Bühl, Hartmut/Nerlich, Uwe	N°17	11	<i>Increased stability and prosperity on the entire continent</i>		
<i>Europe's defence does matter</i>			Günther, Claus	N°17	51
van Buiten, Chris	N°17	47	<i>Contribution to maritime security through advanced technologies</i>		
<i>The future of rotary wing flight</i>			Hagen, Per Espen	N°16	62
Calleja Crespo, Daniel	N°15	19	<i>Integration enhances autonomous minehunting</i>		
<i>The EU's “Horizon 2020” Research Programme</i>			Hohlmeier, Monika	N°15	42
Cashman, Maurice A.	N°15	46	<i>The European Cyber Security Environment</i>		
<i>Cyber Security enables resilience</i>			Jovovic, Aleksander /Balis, Christina/Berenson, Doug	N°16	44
Cazaubon, Nannette			<i>“Top 5 Trends” in military aviation</i>		
<i>Modern training for the EU Crisis Mechanism</i>	N°15	35	Kafurke, Markus	N°16	58
<i>The Arms Trade Treaty</i>	N°16	7	<i>How to reconnect nations with their navies</i>		
<i>FP7: CATO Project Conference, Bonn</i>	N°17	56	Kaldrack, Gerd	N°17	30
Chuter, David	N°17	26	<i>The irrelevance of defence in the CSDP</i>		
<i>France, Britain and the Common Security and Defence Policy</i>			Kammel, Dr Arnold	N°16	30
Coldefy, Alain	N°16	23	<i>How Austria is preparing for the future</i>		
<i>Consistency for a Defence White Paper – France's answer</i>			Kennedy, Alex	N°16	13
de Crem, Pieter	N°16	15	<i>A vision of common security with the Maghreb States</i>		
<i>The EU Common Security and Defence Policy: Challenges and Perspectives</i>			Kreienbaum, Bernd	N°16	54
Danjean, Arnaud	N°16	25	<i>The role of Europe in NATO's Ballistic Missile Defence</i>		
<i>The future of the CSDP is in the hands of the Member States</i>			van de Laar, Adriana/Schrier, Elsa	N°17	28
Danjean, Arnaud/Gahler, Michael/Lisek, Krzysztof	N°17	23	<i>The 5th Young Europeans EuroDefense Conference</i>		
<i>Make the 2013 Defence Summit a success!</i>			Lindberg, Helena	N°15	30
de Decker, Armand	N°15	10	<i>Trans-boundary risk management</i>		
<i>Give Europe its army</i>			Lisek, Krzysztof/Danjean, Arnaud/Gahler, Michael	N°17	23
			<i>Make the 2013 Defence Summit a success!</i>		

List of authors and articles in 2013

Author/Title	ESDU N°	Page	Author/Title	ESDU N°	Page
Mager, Dr Olaf	N°15	60	Raab, Christoph	N°15	41
<i>Greener, leaner, cleaner</i>			<i>Does the EU Cyber Strategy really meet up to expectations?</i>		
Markert, Ralph/Reuland, Pierre	N°15	51	Re ding, Viviane	N°15	8
<i>The role of INTERPOL in European Security</i>			<i>Why we now need a United States of Europe</i>		
Martini, Dr Peter	N°15	37	Reuland, Pierre/Markert, Ralph	N°15	51
<i>The Cyber Threat and European Societies</i>			<i>The role of INTERPOL in European Security</i>		
Maurer, Ueli	N°15	16	Schönbohm, Arne	N°15	44
<i>Cooperation at all levels</i>			<i>A plea for an EU Industry Cyber Defence Strategy</i>		
Michaelis, Susanne	N°17	40	Schrier, Elsa/van de Laar, Adriana	N°17	28
<i>Smart Energy – improving the energy efficiency of NATO’s armed forces</i>			<i>The 5th Young Europeans EuroDefense Conference</i>		
Middendorp, Tom	N°16	37	Šedivý, Jiří	N°17	36
<i>Mission sharing – the fruit of trust between allies</i>			<i>Logistic Transformation in the making</i>		
Nerlich, Dr Uwe	N°16	41	Smid, Volker	N°15	48
<i>Trends and strategies in the international armaments sector</i>			<i>Secure information superiority</i>		
Nerlich, Dr Uwe/Bühl, Hartmut	N°17	11	Sørensen, Claus Haugaard	N°15	21
<i>Europe’s defence does matter</i>			<i>The European Union is a global player</i>		
Neudel, Christian	N°17	57	Stančič, Zoran	N°15	38
<i>Assisting crisis-management forces</i>			<i>The EU Cyber Strategy and the way ahead</i>		
Niebel, Dirk	N°17	15	Stehr, Dr Michael	N°15	59
<i>Security and development policy in the EU must go hand in hand</i>			<i>Gamechanger ATALANTA and PCAST</i>		
Nielsen, Jens	N°17	49	Suissa, Rachel	N°15	34
<i>Integrated Security Systems to answer the challenges in a globalised world</i>			<i>CBRN in the cyber era</i>		
Oerting, Troels	N°15	49	Tajani, Antonio/Barnier, Michel	N°16	8
<i>The EUROPEAN CYBERCRIME CENTRE (EC3)</i>			<i>The future of Europe’s defence industry</i>		
Paile, Sylvain	N°15	54	Unger, Christian	N°15	28
<i>Comprehensive approach to basic officer training</i>			<i>How Germany organises crisis prevention</i>		
Paşcu, Ioan Mircea	N°17	54	Ureña Raso, Domingo	N°16	50
<i>The European Parliament view on CBRN Preparedness and Readiness</i>			<i>Europe needs to preserve technologies, capabilities and talent in defence</i>		
Picek, Vlastimil	N°16	35	Wulf, Dr Joachim	N°17	45
<i>Interoperable capabilities: a must for the armed forces of smaller nations</i>			<i>Cutting-edge technologies for geared turbofan engines</i>		
			Xavier, Dr Ana Isabel	N°17	17
			<i>A design for a European Human Security Strategy</i>		



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- NATO-Reform
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Deadline for advertisements: 10th August 2014



CONFERENCE REPORT

From Assets to Services-Capability Delivery in the 21st century

Report on the NATO C4ISR Industry Conference & TechNet International 2014

During the joint opening of the NATO C4ISR Industry Conference & TechNet International 2014 in Bucharest, before 753 participants from all over the world, by co-organisers **Mr Koen Gijsbers**, General Manager of the NATO Communications and Information Agency, and **Major General Klaus-Peter Treche (ret.)**, General Manager, AFCEA Europe, there was no mistaking an expression of pride and satisfaction in their eyes: they had succeeded, together with the Romanian Ministry of Defence, in organising this extremely well attended event with its accompanying industry exhibition on the 10th anniversary of Romania's accession to NATO. In the presence of the President and CEO of AFCEA International **Mr Kent Schneider**, **Mr Gijsbers** underlined the crucial nature of the NATO-industry partnership for innovation and the shaping of the NATO C4ISR. Industry played an essential role in ensuring a proper definition of requirements and he was grateful for that cooperation.

Major General Treche explained that AFCEA with its industry members had set itself the prime objective of recognising the future challenges facing NATO and –



Major General Klaus-Peter Treche (ret.) during his opening remarks

Photo: AFCEA

always one step ahead in the field of industrial innovation – of supporting the Alliance. He thanked the Romanian MoD for the Romanian Government's outstanding cooperation in organising the conference and its contribution to drawing up the programme.

Keynote political speeches

In political terms the conference was taking place under the shadow of the events in Ukraine. It was therefore not surprising to hear concern about the future of NATO-Russia relations and the security of the Black Sea region reflected in the speeches

of the representatives of Ukraine's immediate neighbour, Romania.

Minister of Defence **Mircea Duşa** in his keynote speech underlined NATO's vital role for peace in Europe and said that Romania, with its armed forces and territory of strategic importance for NATO, was ready and willing to play its part. "We need effective and available capabilities to take efficient decisions", he said, noting how invaluable AFCEA's contribution was in this respect. He also called for strengthened cooperation with the European Union, whose role was complementary to that of NATO.

Mr Patrick Auroy, Assistant Secretary General for Defence Investment at NATO Headquarters, painted an unvarnished picture of the situation as regards NATO's investment policy at a time of shrinking budgets. NATO had, however, conducted internal reforms, with the introduction of cooperative measures to enable the Alliance partners to contribute more easily and effectively.

Mr Stejărel Olaru, Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romania, high-

lighted the need for NATO to adopt a broader-based strategic approach with regard precisely to the security of the Black Sea region. There were wide areas of security at stake for both the EU and NATO, ranging from border security, energy and environmental protection to maritime safety.

Mr Mihnea Cosmin Costoiu, Minister Delegate for Higher Education, Scientific Research and Technological Development, Romania, stressed the efforts being made by the Romanian Government to maintain a stable research budget. On the basis of EU Horizon 2020 Romania had defined its own strategy to enable it to be up at the front along with the others. In the period 2007–2013 Romania had devoted a total of € 10.5 billion to R&T.

A particular highlight was the address by **Prof Dr Ioan Mircea Paşcu MEP**, Vice-Chairman of the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs. He warned with regard to the Ukrainian crisis that Russia's political stance called the current post-cold war security system into question, confronting NATO and the EU with a dilemma:

- either to entirely rethink the defence of Europe's eastern borders;
- or to prepare to renegotiate a new European security system with a much more aggressive Russia.

He said that the EU should further reduce its energy dependency on Russia and strengthen its cooperation with NATO, while the US should revise its plan to reduce its military potential. He also called for Poland, Romania and Turkey to play a more prominent role.

The working sessions

The TechNet Conferences traditionally give prominence to high-level presentations and discussions of NATO issues. The highly topical presentations on "NATO Air & Space Power...Quo vadis?" (by **Lieutenant General Joachim Wundrak**, DEU AF, Executive Director Joint Air Power Competence Centre) and "NATO Joint ISR" (by **Major General Ludwig Leinhos**, DEU AF, Director NATO HQ C3 Staff) were of particular interest to the participants. Close attention was also paid to the presentation by **Lieutenant General Ştefan Dănilă** on the efforts needed to make the Romanian armed forces a reliable crisis-prevention and crisis-management tool for both the EU and NATO.

Panel Sessions

The special themes of the Conference were carved out and discussed in six panel sessions that successfully combined the technological/technical and industrial aspects.

SESSION 1: C4ISR Business Opportunities "General Overview and Best Practice in Application and Infrastructure Areas"

Session Chair: Mr. Timothy Harp, Chairman NCI Agency Supervisory Board

SESSION 2: "New Generation C2 Services – from Afghan Mission Network to Federated Mission Network"

Session Chair: Mr. Leendert Van Bochoven, NATO and European Defence Leader, IBM, Public Sector (NLD)

SESSION 3: C4ISR Business Opportunities

The theme was discussed in five breakdown sessions

SESSION 4: "NATO Cloud"

Session Chair: Air Commodore Bruce Wynn OBE FBCS C1TP (RAF Ret.), Freelance Cyber Consultant and member of AFCEA's International Cyber Committee (GBR)

SESSION 5: "Cyber Security"

Session Chair: Mr. Daniel Turner, Vice-President, HP Enterprise Security Services (GBR)

SESSION 6: C4ISR Business Opportunities

The theme was discussed in five breakdown sessions



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Information on sponsorship and exhibition packages (including speaking opportunities) is now available. Contact Mandy Rizzo <mrizzo@afcea.org>, Events Manager for details.

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