



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 21 November 2005  
14713/05 (Presse 306)

**CIVILIAN CAPABILITIES  
IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE**

**MINISTERIAL DECLARATION**

**Brussels, 21 November 2005**

1. The role of civilian crisis-management in the EU's support for international peace and security continues to grow. Considerable progress has been made over the last year in making civilian ESDP more active, with the number and scope of civilian crisis-management operations increasing markedly. The EU has launched new civilian missions to monitor implementation of the peace process in Aceh, support the stabilisation process in the Democratic Republic of Congo, support the Iraqi rule of law sector and the reform of Palestinian civil police. The EU continues to contribute to building police capacity in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and is further developing its regional approach to the fight against organised crime in the Western Balkans. The EU is supporting policing elements of the African Union Mission in Sudan and is also contributing to rule of law reform and border monitoring in Georgia. In addition, other missions are in preparation, including in Moldova/Ukraine and at Rafah.

**P R E S S**

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2. The development and focusing of civilian crisis-management capabilities is key to sustaining this activity and continued growth in the future. Ministers of Foreign Affairs therefore welcomed the opportunity to meet in the context of the Civilian Capabilities Improvement Conference, on 21 November 2005, to review progress on the enhancement of civilian capabilities and to provide direction for the way ahead, notably in the form of elements for an action plan which are set out in the Annex.
3. Ministers reiterated their strong commitment to the further development of civilian crisis-management and noted with satisfaction the work undertaken, since the Civilian Capability Commitment Conference in November 2004, on the Civilian Headline Goal 2008. The civilian capabilities the EU needs to fulfil its ambitions in line with the European Security Strategy have been clearly defined in a detailed capability requirement. Member States have indicated contributions towards the capability requirement, including in new capability areas such as specialists in the field of border policing, organised crime, sexual and violent crime, human trafficking and human rights.
4. As the primary means of making civilian ESDP more capable, in line with the European Security Strategy, Ministers attach great importance to meeting the Civilian Headline Goal 2008. Ministers noted that initial responses from Member States indicate likely shortfalls against the capability requirement in a number of areas. Initial indications are that these will include, for example, forensic specialists, judges and administrative staff with financial expertise.
5. Ministers underlined the priorities for future action. Further steps should be taken to:
  - Improve the ability of civilian ESDP to react more quickly to crises through continuing work on rapidly-deployable capabilities;
  - Explore, with the individual Member States concerned, additional details in order to further improve understanding of the particular abilities of Member States' personnel;
  - Establish a “targeted list” of the highest-priority capability shortfalls and a system to ensure that efforts to address them remain co-ordinated;
  - Consider issues related to ensuring the quality of civilian-crisis management personnel;

- Actively foster the involvement of key national stakeholders in ESDP civilian crisis-management, notably those engaged in the raising of mission personnel in each priority area for ESDP civilian crisis management;
  - Intensify activity to address Mission Support, including the requirement for equipment procurement and disposal, logistics, security, human resources, and financing for civilian operations;
  - Share best practice amongst Member States, other international actors and third states to improve or generate new ways for Member States to recruit civilian personnel to crisis-management missions;
  - Provide adequate resources to meet EU ambitions in the field of Civilian ESDP; and
  - Continue to reinforce, as appropriate, planning and mission support capacity within the Council Secretariat.
6. Ministers welcomed progress on new rapidly-deployable capabilities, notably the agreement of a concept for setting up and deploying Civilian Response Teams (CRTs) and the development of new doctrine for the rapid deployment of police, including Integrated Police Units and Formed Police Units.
7. Ministers underlined the need for the EU to foster a more integrated approach, including with Community activities.
8. Ministers also noted synergies between capability improvement and work on Security Sector Reform, Comprehensive Planning, Civil-Military Co-ordination and the Headline Goal 2010.
9. In addition, Ministers noted that to enhance the effectiveness of EU-led civilian ESDP missions, non-EU states, notably acceding states, candidate countries, non-EU European NATO members as well as other third states which have concluded a framework agreement on the participation in EU crisis-management operations will be invited to make offers of personnel in order to provide supplementary contributions towards the Civilian Headline Goal 2008.

10. Ministers agreed that a plan for 2006 should include the elements set out in the Annex. Ministers further underlined that progress and direction of work on civilian capabilities will continue to require systematic review. A first opportunity for such a review will be at a second Civilian Capabilities Improvement Conference at the end of 2006. Furthermore, in order to ensure that Civilian Headline Goal capability can be met and maintained, a comprehensive vision addressing subsequent years up to 2008 and beyond, will be presented and agreed by the end of 2006.

**ELEMENTS OF A CIVILIAN CAPABILITY  
IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

**1. Action to Address the Capability Requirement**

a. Action at Member States' level:

The Civilian Capability Improvement Plan should channel Member States to:

- Address highest priority shortfalls according to a “targeted list” of priority shortfalls based on a comprehensive views of capability shortfalls;
- Actively foster the involvement of key national stakeholders in ESDP civilian crisis-management, notably amongst those involved in the raising of mission personnel in each priority area for ESDP civilian crisis management; and
- Share best practice of national co-ordinating structures aimed at facilitating the mobilisation of civilian resources for crisis management and the liaison with the EU and international organisations.

b. Action at EU level:

The Civilian Capability Improvement Plan should include steps to:

- Explore, with the individual Member States concerned, additional details concerning the state of readiness of personnel indicated by Member States;

- Establish, in consultation with Member States’ experts, a “targeted list” of the highest-priority capability shortfalls and a system to ensure that Member States’ efforts to address them are co-ordinated;
- Ensure that capability requirements are stated in terms which allow swift matching with Member States’ records;
- Facilitate, in close co-operation with technical experts from the Member States, the examination of mechanisms by which Member States raise personnel for civilian missions, with a view to sharing best practice and further improving the understanding of Member States' capabilities;
- Issue, by April 2006, a Mission Support Concept covering equipment procurement and disposal, logistics and operations support, security, human resources, and finance; to this end the General Secretariat and the Commission should put forward concrete proposals on the issue of procurement and mission support;
- Outline a generic Mission Support Requirement for civilian crisis management operations, including fact-finding missions and issue a Mission Support Requirements Questionnaire to Member States;
- Draw up, in co-operation with the Commission as appropriate, a Training Paper which brings together the training requirement in civilian ESDP;
- Invite non-EU states, notably acceding states, candidate countries, non-EU European NATO members and other third states which have concluded a framework agreement on the participation in EU crisis-management operations to provide separate additional contributions to the Targeted List of Priority Shortfalls; and
- Share best practice and expertise in consultation with other international actors engaged in the field of civilian crisis-management, respecting EU agreed procedures and modalities.

## 2. **Rapidly Deployable Capabilities**

### a. Civilian Response Teams (CRTs)

Work will be taken forward to:

- Establish terms of reference and a pool of experts for CRTs, in consultation with other international actors, notably the UN;
- Establish a concept for, and deliver, CRT induction training;
- Put in place, by the end of 2006, an initial CRT pool of experts of up to 100 experts; and
- To take forward other work outlined in the agreed CRT concept.

### b. Rapidly-Deployable Police Elements

In line with agreed concepts, rapid deployment of police may be required in some EU civilian missions. Proper identification of these police elements and procedures for their rapid deployment should be taken forward.

The Civilian Headline Goal process in 2006 will continue to be co-ordinated with the military Headline Goal 2010. International organisations, in particular the UN and the OSCE, will continue to be consulted.

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