

MILITARY CAPABILITY COMMITMENT CONFERENCE

Brussels, 22 November 2004

DECLARATION ON EUROPEAN MILITARY CAPABILITIES

1. The European Union has entered a new stage in the process of strengthening military capabilities for crisis management, launching initiatives such as on the Headline Goal 2010, the EU Battlegroups, the civil-military cell and establishing the European Defence Agency (EDA). These initiatives contribute to the implementation of the European Security Strategy, enabling the European Union to deal better with threats and global challenges and realising the opportunities facing us. A more capable Europe will provide a significant contribution to the building of a more effective Common Foreign and Security Policy.
2. Ministers of Defence, playing a leading role in developing European military capabilities, are committed to contributing to the implementation of the European Security Strategy. At the Military Capability Commitment Conference on 22 November 2004 they reaffirmed their commitment to develop the necessary military capabilities.
3. Member States are determined to implement the objectives of the Headline Goal 2010, including the creation of EU Battlegroups (as part of Rapid Response elements), providing the European Union with the Initial Operational Capability in 2005 and with commitments on the Full Operational Capability from 2007 onwards. The Member States are determined to develop further criteria and standards, building on the overarching standards and criteria for Battlegroups. The Ministers of Defence also agreed on the Global Approach on Deployability. This initiative will aim at more effective use of available assets, mechanisms and initiatives for strategic transport, a key enabler for Rapid Response.

4. The Member States welcomed the evaluation of the European Capability Action Plan (ECAP), providing the way ahead for its continuation and further improvement, taking into account the establishment of the EDA. Military co-operation will be taken forward as a significant contribution to the effectiveness and the efficiency of the European Union's efforts in the field of security and defence.
5. Ministers also welcomed the initiative by France, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain to establish a European Gendarmerie Force (EGF) and the contribution the EGF can make to the ESDP. These 5 Countries have made this capacity with a military status available for the more demanding scenarios and for rapid deployment in order to guarantee public security and public order. Ministers also welcomed that this force will be first and foremost at the disposal of the EU and stressed the need to explore further the possibilities of close affiliation of EU Member States not participating in the EGF.

IMPLEMENTING THE HEADLINE GOAL 2010

6. Member States have committed themselves to be able by 2010 to respond with rapid and decisive action applying a fully coherent approach to the whole spectrum of crisis management operations as defined in the Headline Goal 2010 document. Interoperability, deployability and sustainability will be at the core of Member States efforts to improve military capabilities. The Union will thus need forces, which are more flexible, mobile and interoperable, making better use of available resources by pooling and sharing assets, where appropriate, and increasing the responsiveness of multinational forces.

7. Under guidance of the PSC work continues on the necessary scenario's preliminary to the definition of the military requirements necessary to fulfil the 2010 horizon, taking into account the terrorist threat as asked for by the EU Plan of Action to Combat Terrorism welcomed by the European Council in June 2004. Further elaboration of the strategic planning assumptions and the illustrative scenarios will take place during the following steps of the capability development process. This process will lead to the finalisation of the Requirements Catalogue 2005 in the spring of next year. This will be followed by a bidding round in view of the production of the Force Catalogue and the subsequent production of the Progress Catalogue. These steps will take into account the relevant action points of the Conceptual Framework on the ESDP dimension of the fight against terrorism.
8. To evaluate progress on capability improvement with a view to the Headline Goal 2010 work on the definition of benchmarks and criteria has started, notably within the framework of the EU Battlegroups concept. The relevant bodies of the Council and the EDA will take this work forward. Within its competencies, laid down in the Joint Action, the EDA will work on scrutinising, assessing and evaluating against criteria to be agreed by the Member States the capability commitments given by the Member States through the ECAP process, and utilising the CDM.

RAPID RESPONSE - EU BATTLEGROUPS

9. The ability for the EU to deploy force packages at high readiness as a response to a crisis is a key element of the 2010 Headline Goal. The Battlegroup is a specific form of rapid response. It is the minimum military effective, credible, rapidly deployable, coherent force package capable of stand-alone operations, or for the initial phase of larger operations. The Battlegroup is based on a combined arms, battalion sized force and reinforced with Combat Support and Combat Service Support elements. A Battlegroup could be formed by a Framework Nation or by a multinational coalition of Member States. In all cases, interoperability and military effectiveness will be key criteria. A Battlegroup must be associated with a Force Headquarters and pre-identified operational and strategic enablers, such as strategic lift and logistics.

10. Member States can also contribute niche capabilities, providing specific elements with added value to the Battlegroups. These capabilities could be included in a database, under the responsibility of the EUMC, in support of the Battlegroups and for integration, as appropriate, into coherent, predetermined Battlegroup packages through the regular Battlegroup generation conferences.
11. On decision making, the ambition of the EU is to be able to take the decision to launch an operation within 5 days of the approval of the Crisis Management Concept by the Council. On the deployment of forces, the ambition is that the forces start implementing their mission on the ground, no later than 10 days after the EU decision to launch the operation. This requires that Battlegroups will be built on assets and capabilities held at a readiness of 5-10 days. This readiness criterion applies as a benchmark to Member States as a whole. Battlegroups will be employable across the full range of tasks listed in the TEU Art.17.2 and those identified in the European Security Strategy, in particular in tasks of combat forces in crisis management, bearing in mind their size. Battlegroups need to be sustainable until mission termination or until relief by other forces. They should be sustainable for 30 days initial operations, extendable to 120 days, if re-supplied appropriately.
12. To qualify as an EU Battlegroup force packages will meet commonly defined and agreed, detailed military capability standards. These overarching standards and criteria concern: availability, employability and deployability, readiness, flexibility, connectivity, sustainability, survivability, medical force protection and interoperability. Standards and criteria, set by Member States, form the basis for further development of criteria for evaluation/certification and detailed capability/interoperability standards, taking into account the role of the EDA as described in paragraph 8.
13. In May 2004 the GAERC concluded that commitments would be sought from Member States in order to achieve an initial Battlegroup capability in early 2005 and complete development in 2007. With a view to these commitments a definition and characteristics of the Initial Operational Capability (IOC) have been worked out. For the period 2005-2007 the EU will be able to undertake at least one Battlegroup-sized rapid response operation.

14. Full Operational Capability (FOC) will be reached in 2007. The Union should have the capacity to undertake two concurrent single Battlegroup-size rapid response operations, including the ability to launch both such operations nearly simultaneously.
15. Annex A to Annex II contains an overview of Member States initial commitments for EU Battlegroups.
16. The EU Battlegroups concept is complementary and mutually reinforcing with the NATO Response Force (NRF) documents while taking into account the characteristics of both organisations. Standards, practical methods and procedures will be compatible to those defined within NATO (NRF), wherever possible and applicable. The EU-NATO Capability Group, notably through ongoing exchange of information for addressing overall coherence and complementarity between EU Battlegroups and the NRF, will ensure coherent, transparent and mutually reinforcing development of the capability requirements common to both organisations.
17. In line with the Nice European Council Conclusions Member States are welcome to include the non-EU European NATO countries and other countries which are candidates for accession to the EU in their Battlegroups. In such cases this will be done without prejudice to the rights of any Member State. Member States are also welcome to consider including other potential partners in their Battlegroups.

ECAP EVALUATION

18. The European Capability Action Plan, launched in 2001, has been evaluated in the light of the elaboration of the Headline Goal 2010 and taking into account the role of the EDA as set out in the Joint Action establishing it and in line with the Capability Development Mechanism (CDM). The first aim of the ECAP evaluation is to take stock of the progress that has been made in remedying shortfalls and to define the remaining military shortfalls, thereby creating a "baseline" for the Headline Goal 2010 process. The second aim is to evaluate ECAP as an instrument of the Member States to improve European military capabilities, drawing lessons from the ECAP experience so far, including its guiding principles, and taking into account the

role of the EDA to co-ordinate the implementation of ECAP. Starting in 2005 EDA's role in relation to the ECAP process should be evaluated in the regular information submitted to the Council on the EDA's activities.

19. The Single Progress Report summarises and assesses the progress made with capability development, including through ECAP. The Capability Improvement Chart provides an overview of the progress that has been made towards remedying all shortfalls, identified in the Helsinki Progress Catalogue 2003. Further progress will be required on the remaining recognised shortfalls and deficits from the 2003 Headline Goal, taking into account the focus on qualitative aspects of capability development in the Headline Goal 2010. Hence, there is a continued need for ECAP, be it that existing ECAP Project Groups will have to be reviewed in the light of the Headline Goal 2010 and the establishment of EDA, assessing and identifying the possibilities for new priorities or re-directions. This review is to take place in conjunction with the elaboration of the new Requirements Catalogue, which will be ready in the first semester of 2005.

20. The bottom-up approach remains fundamental to ECAP. However, a significant number of ECAP Project Groups has indicated that additional guidance would be beneficial. The EDA, reinvigorating the ECAP process, will allow Defence Ministers to provide such additional guidance. Based on the guidelines from the Council, EDA will make suggestions and recommendations to the Council, thereby providing a more systematic and analytical approach to the co-ordination and the implementation of ECAP. This could include specific courses of action for individual ECAP Project Groups, which would be assisted by the EDA in such cases. The involvement of the EDA in ECAP would also allow it to give substance to the evaluation process agreed upon in the Headline Goal 2010. In line with the provisions of the Capability Development Mechanism NATO will be informed on this ECAP evaluation and on the subsequent review of the ECAP Project Groups.

21. A more detailed description of the ECAP evaluation, including recommendations for enhanced ECAP, is at Annex B to Annex II.

GLOBAL APPROACH ON DEPLOYABILITY

22. In May 2004, with a view to the EU's ambitions on rapid response, the Council recognised in particular the need to achieve further progress in improving capabilities for strategic mobility. Strategic transport is one of the key enablers for the EU Battlegroups. In this context the Headline Goal 2010 mentions the following milestone: "the implementation by 2005 of EU Strategic joint lift coordination, with a view to achieving by 2010 necessary capacity and full efficiency in strategic lift (air, land and sea) in support of anticipated operations".
23. The Global Approach on Deployability (GAD) aims at improving strategic transport by primarily focussing on more effective use of all available means for transport co-ordination. It envisages the co-ordination of all strategic lift assets, mechanisms and initiatives in support of EU-led operations, in particular for the EU Battlegroups.
24. In order to realise the aim and objectives of the GAD a step-by-step way ahead process is envisaged to meet the demands for EU Battlegroups Full Operational Capability and the other milestones identified in the Headline Goal 2010, aimed at developing effective links between the Co-ordination Cells/Centres.
25. Further details are outlined in Annex C to Annex II.

INTENSIFYING CO-OPERATION

26. The Ministers of Defence welcome the conference on International Military Co-operation, organised by the Presidency on 11-12 October 2004 in Wassenaar. It provided an excellent opportunity to discuss the possibilities to take forward military co-operation, which has become an integral part of the efforts to improve European military capabilities. Using ECAP, in the framework of the CDM, the Member States and groups of Member States have stepped up military co-operation through Project Groups.

27. The achievement of the Headline Goal 2010, including the formation of multinational Battlegroups, provides additional opportunities to increase the effectiveness and the efficiency of the European defence efforts through military co-operation. The establishment of the EDA can stimulate military co-operation by promoting and co-ordinating the harmonisation of military requirements and proposing multinational solutions to remedy identified shortfalls.
28. Ministers of Defence emphasise their commitment to intensify military co-operation, using ECAP, EDA and EU Battlegroups, and building on existing multinational frameworks for co-operation to improve European military capabilities.

EU BATTLEGROUP COMMITMENTS

So far, the following Member States have indicated to commit to EU Battlegroups, formed as follows:

- France
- Italy
- Spain
- United Kingdom
- France, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and potentially Spain
- France and Belgium
- Germany, the Netherlands and Finland
- Germany, Austria and Czech Republic
- Italy, Hungary and Slovenia
- Italy, Spain, Greece and Portugal
- Poland, Germany, Slovakia, Latvia and Lithuania
- Sweden, Finland and including Norway as a third State
- United Kingdom and the Netherlands

Niche capabilities

So far, the following Member States have offered niche capabilities in support of the EU Battlegroups:

- Cyprus (medical group)
- Lithuania (a water purification unit)
- Greece (the Athens Sealift Co-ordination Centre)
- France (structure of a multinational and deployable Force Headquarter)

Initial Operational Capability (2005-2006)

At any time during the IOC period the EU should be able to provide at least one coherent Battlegroup package, to undertake one Battlegroup-sized operation. The United Kingdom and France have each committed to providing a Battlegroup during first half of 2005, and Italy will provide a Battlegroup for the second half of 2005. Germany and France will commit joint Battlegroups for the whole of 2006, with alternating leadership, supported by Member States such as Belgium. Also in the first half of 2006, a multinational Battlegroup, based on the framework of the Spanish-Italian amphibious and landing forces (SIAF) with Portuguese and Greek capabilities, will be available.

Full Operational Capability (2007 onwards)

Full Operational Capability (FOC) will be reached in 2007. The Union should have the capacity to undertake two concurrent single Battlegroup-size rapid response operations, including the ability to launch both such operations nearly simultaneously. The EU Battlegroups for FOC will be generated through EU Battlegroup co-ordination conferences, starting in the first half of 2005. From 2007 onwards all EU Battlegroups will become available.

Estonia has decided to participate in the EU Battlegroups and to continue consultations with possible partners on this issue.

Ireland is prepared to enter into consultations with partners with a view to participation in these rapid response elements.

It is further noted that Cyprus will make available infrastructure for Battlegroups.

ECAP EVALUATION

A – THE EVOLUTION OF ECAP 2001-2004

Foundations of ECAP

1. The European Capability Action Plan (ECAP) was launched at the end of 2001 to remedy identified shortcomings in the Helsinki Headline Goal. By rationalising Member States' respective defence efforts and increasing synergy between national and multinational projects, ECAP was intended to enhance European military capability. ECAP was based on four principles:
 - (i) enhanced effectiveness and efficiency of European military capability efforts;
 - (ii) a “bottom-up” approach to European defence co-operation;
 - (iii) co-ordination between EU Member States and co-operation with NATO;
 - (iv) importance of broad public support.

Phase two of ECAP

2. In May 2003, the first phase of ECAP was concluded, with 19 Panels activated covering the vast majority of the most significant shortfalls and all Member States participating. Many Panels had articulated options to acquire additional capability both by procurement and by non-procurement initiatives. Ministers welcomed the results and the established Project Groups focussed on the implementation of concrete projects. On the procurement side, the Project Groups were expected to provide plans and programmes to enable participating Member States to implement new capabilities. Non-procurement initiatives would aim at maximising the effectiveness of current and planned capabilities, for example by improving structures and developing procedures and doctrine.

Development of instruments to guide ECAP

3. In November 2003, the PSC concluded that some adjustment of ECAP would be needed to bridge the gap between the voluntary basis on which ECAP Project Groups (PGs) operate and the interest of the Union as a whole to acquire all military capabilities needed to carry out the full range of missions under the Headline Goal. The Italian Presidency report on ESDP to the European Council of December 2003 subsequently stated that “while the ”bottom-up” approach remains one of the essential principles of the ECAP, need is felt to complement the ECAP with an approach identifying objectives, timelines and reporting procedures to the Council, in close co-ordination of each Project Group.” To this end, an ECAP roadmap was to be developed to monitor progress and allow Member States to redirect work of the PGs if deemed necessary. Also, a Capability Improvement Chart would be presented as an integral part of the Single Progress Report, outlining the state of play within the PGs and a clear overview for public opinion and the media.

ECAP Progress and the Headline Goal 2010

4. The Single Progress Report of May 2004 noted that marginal progress had been made since the Helsinki Progress Catalogue 2003. It also stated that Member States had to give considerable extra impetus to the development of capabilities in order to realise the ambitions expressed in the ongoing work on the Headline Goal 2010, including the EU Battlegroups Concept. The Headline Goal 2010, adopted in May 2004, recognises that existing shortfalls still need to be addressed. The Headline Goal 2010 focuses on the qualitative aspects of capability development and calls for the development of a longer-term vision. It also provides a framework within which to address further the delivery of capability.

European Defence Agency

5. The newly established European Defence Agency (EDA) will play a crucial role in this improved framework for capability development. Its mission is to assist Member States’ efforts to improve their military capabilities to sustain ESDP as it stands now and develops in the future. Its tasks in the field of capability development include:

- co-ordinating the implementation of ECAP, an enhanced ECAP or any successor plan;
 - scrutinising, assessing and evaluating against criteria to be agreed by the Member States the capability commitments given by the Member States through the ECAP process, and utilising the Capability Development Mechanism (CDM);
 - promoting and co-ordinating harmonisation of military requirements;
 - identifying and proposing collaborative activities in the operational domain;
6. The EDA's main concern is to deliver the military capabilities that ESDP requires. To this end, the EDA will develop, with the European Union Military Committee (EUMC) assisted by the European Union Military Staff (EUMS), a systematic and comprehensive capability development process that looks from today's urgent operational requirements to the longer-term needs. The broad scope of the EDA also ensures the involvement of Armaments, Research and Technology, and Industry and Market in the capability process. This comprehensive process will result in new projects and initiatives to improve military capabilities.

B – AIMS OF THE EVALUATION

7. The Headline Goal 2010 and the establishment of the EDA are important new developments in the field of capability development. ECAP has to be adjusted accordingly. The first aim of the ECAP evaluation is to take stock of the progress that has been made in remedying shortfalls and to define the remaining military shortfalls, thereby creating a "baseline" for the new Headline Goal process. The second aim is to evaluate ECAP as an instrument of the Member States to improve European military capabilities, drawing lessons from the ECAP experience so far, including its guiding principles, and taking into account the role of the EDA to co-ordinate the implementation of ECAP.

C – EVALUATING ECAP

The baseline

8. Despite some good results, not all the military shortfalls identified in the Helsinki Progress Catalogue 2003 have been remedied. The Capabilities Improvement Chart gives an update of the progress that has been made in remedying all shortfalls. The Single Progress Report of November 2004 summarises and assesses the progress of ECAP in this regard. It identifies the work that remains to be done to remedy the remaining military shortfalls under the Helsinki Headline Goal.

9. A lot of ECAP PGs have indicated that they have reached, or are close to reaching, the maximum possible results within the current framework. Quantitative solutions for capability shortfalls will be delivered in some cases, but in the medium to longer term. Many ECAP PGs have focussed their work on important qualitative aspects as doctrine, tactics, procedures, conops, etc. In some areas – such as Headquarters, Strategic Transport, NBC, Medical – notable progress has been achieved with indications of timelines within which the shortfalls will be remedied. In other capability areas that require substantial investment (such as ISTAR and Space assets) more time is needed to remedy existing shortfalls. A few shortfalls have yet to be addressed (e.g. SEAD and PGM).

Continued need for ECAP

10. Despite some good results, a lot of work remains to be done to solve the existing capability shortfalls. In addition, the ongoing work to define requirements based on the Headline Goal 2010 is expected to generate new challenges. Hence, there is a continued need for ECAP. There should be absolutely no doubt, however, that the successful delivery of capability improvements depends on meaningful political commitments by Member States to invest in the shortfall areas and to look for multinational solutions. The EDA will act as a “conscience” and a “catalyst” in this regard.

“Bottom-up” approach

11. The bottom-up approach remains fundamental to ECAP. It reflects the responsibility of Member States to tackle the military shortfalls in accordance with the voluntary basis of defence co-operation in ESDP. The bottom-up approach also provides the EU with original and valuable ideas. The ECAP roadmap allows the Member States to monitor the progress and to redirect the work if deemed necessary. However, a significant number of ECAP PGs has indicated that additional guidance would be beneficial. The establishment of the EDA offers opportunities to reinvigorate the ECAP process.

D – RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENHANCED ECAP

Improved guidance to ECAP

12. The ‘ownership’ of ECAP continues to rest with the EU Member States; Defence Ministers should remain actively involved. All Member States will be involved in the process.

13. The Council sets the guidelines for capability development in ESDP. Under its authority, and in accordance with the CDM, the PSC is responsible for giving political guidance. The EUMC, as the highest military body within the Council, is responsible for setting the military requirements and for determining the extent of any military shortfalls. In light of these responsibilities, the PSC and the EUMC are also responsible for setting the political and military priorities of the shortfalls, which the EDA will consider in conjunction with other issues such as cost/effectiveness and what Member States and industry are able to offer.

14. In its role as catalyst the EDA, based on the above guidelines, will make suggestions and recommendations to the Council, introducing with the PSC and the EUMC assisted by the EUMS, a more systematic and analytical approach. The EDA could also translate the Council guidelines into specific courses of action for the individual ECAP PGs. In practice, this would mean that experts (for example the Capability Managers) would assist the ECAP PGs from the EDA. Their involvement would ensure coherence within the specific capability areas and would stimulate the work of the ECAP PGs within the guidelines agreed by the Council. Over time, the projects and initiatives coming out of EDA would also feed into the ECAP process.

15. The involvement of EDA in ECAP would also allow it to give substance to the evaluation process agreed upon in the Headline Goal 2010. It is important to note that the EDA is to carry out this task as part of its mission to assist the Member States in the improvement of their military capabilities. It will therefore focus on the general performance of Member States in the field of EU capability improvement, as distinguished from the responsibility of the EUMC to determine to what extent the capability commitments of the Member States meet the military requirements of the EU as a whole. Within its competencies, laid down in the Joint Action, the EDA will work on scrutinising, assessing and evaluating against criteria to be agreed by the Member States the capability commitments given by the Member States through the ECAP process, and utilising the CDM.

Reporting

16. In accordance with the CDM, the EUMC remains responsible for elaborating the Single Progress Report, the Requirements Catalogue, the Force Catalogue and the Progress Catalogue. In this light, the EUMC will continue to assess the progress made by the ECAP PGs, as reported through the HTF. In an iterative process the EUMC, based on HTF reports, and the EDA will give an appreciation of the progress. The role of the HTF should be evaluated, however, as the EDA settles and the ECAP evolves.

Review of the ECAP Project Groups

17. Taking into account the new role of the EDA as described above, four options are available for the PGs, noting these are not exclusive:
- i. start the implementation of project proposals, under the co-ordination of the EDA;
 - ii. renew efforts within a more specific time-schedule, as set in the new ECAP-roadmap, and assisted by experts from the EDA;

- iii. continue work as a group of experts assisting the EUMC. This option applies especially to those PGs that have focused on the development of military concepts, doctrines etc. Their documents are offered to the EUMC. They could continue to act as groups of experts that assist the EUMC on specific matters, thus preserving the valuable network that has been established through the ECAP process.
- iv. cease work on those PGs that have delivered their agreed objectives.

It is realistic to expect that the EDA can start exercising its role in relation to ECAP in the course of the first semester of 2005.

18. The existing PGs also have to be reviewed in light of Headline Goal 2010, assessing and identifying the possibilities for new priorities or re-directions. In this context ECAP may also have a role in contributing to the development of the EU Battlegroups. This review is to take place in conjunction with the elaboration of the new Requirements Catalogue, which will be ready in the first semester of 2005.

Way ahead

19. In the first semester of 2005, the EUMC and the EDA in close coordination should review the PGs in line with the process described above and propose the most appropriate option for each PG. This review process also offers the opportunity for possible redirection in light of the new Headline Goal 2010, including the further development of the EU Battlegroups, as well as the establishment – also at the initiative of Member States – of new PGs. The review, to be presented to the May 2005 GAERC, also includes an evaluation of the role of HTF in light of the establishment of the EDA.
20. In view of its responsibilities, the PSC will be informed on a regular basis on the evolution of the EDA's role in relation to ECAP evaluation. This role should be enhanced, according to the Joint Action, once the EDA has reached its operational capability in the course of 2005. In this context the relationship between the EUMC and the EDA should be re-evaluated in due course.

21. In accordance with the coherent, transparent and mutually reinforcing relationship with NATO, and in line with the CDM, NATO will continue to be informed of this ECAP evaluation and the subsequent review of the ECAP PGs. This will be done through the EU/NATO Capability Group. The close practical co-operation that has been established between ECAP PGs and Project Groups of NATO's Prague Capability Commitment (PCC) should be carried forward as appropriate. The provisions of the CDM will continue to be applied. Information on the ECAP evaluation transmitted by the EU side to NATO should be preceded by a discussion among all EU Member States within the competent EU bodies.

GLOBAL APPROACH ON DEPLOYABILITY

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

1. The ability for the EU to deploy force packages at high readiness as a response to a crisis either as a stand-alone force or as part of a larger operation enabling follow-on phases, is a key element of the Headline Goal 2010. With a view to Full Operational Capability for the EU Battlegroups in 2007 improving strategic mobility is crucial. ECAP Project Groups on strategic transport have addressed the recognised shortfalls and are providing solutions, both for Airlift as well as for Sealift. The Global Approach on Deployability (GAD) forms another important contribution to improve strategic transport by primarily focussing on more effective use of all available means for transport co-ordination. GAD envisages the co-ordination of all strategic lift assets, mechanisms and initiatives in support of EU-led operations, in particular for the EU Battlegroups.

BACKGROUND

2. In 2003, the Global Approach on Deployability has been introduced within the European Capability Action Plan (ECAP). The GAD found broad support among Member States. Now the proposal has to be transferred into concrete targets.

3. The indicative list of specific milestones within the 2010 horizon, defined in the Headline Goal 2010 document, contains the following target: “the implementation by 2005 of EU Strategic lift joint coordination, with a view to achieving by 2010 the necessary capacity and full efficiency in strategic lift (air, land and sea) in support of anticipated operations”. The HLG 2010 stresses that deployability should be at the core of Member States efforts to improve military capabilities. Futhermore, it identifies the complete development by 2007 of rapid deployable Battlegroups
4. In more general terms improved co-ordination between existing mobility centres enhances strategic transport options and leads to a better use of existing transport assets. It also supports increasing international military co-operation between Member States.

CO-ORDINATION CELLS/CENTRES

5. In order to enhance co-ordination, as a starting point, an overview is needed of all existing and planned co-ordination cells/centres and possible initiatives, including reference to their responsibilities and tasks. These are both multinational and national organisations:

Multinational

- The European Airlift Centre (EAC) at Air Base Eindhoven has declared its services to the EU. Its primary function is to maximise the utilisation of airlift capability.
- The Sealift Co-ordination Centre, co-located with EAC, has declared its services to the EU. Its primary function is to maximise the utilisation of sealift capability.
- A Strategic Air Lift Co-ordination Cell (SALCC) is planned to operate by mid 2005. It will be co-located and embedded with the EAC. The SALCC will be the tasking authority for the use of the Strategic Airlift Interim Solution (SALIS) contract.

National

- The Greek Sealift Co-ordination Centre in Athens has declared its services and available assets to the EU. Its function is to “co-ordinate, charter and monitor” sealift capability.

It should be noted that all these organisations have also been made available to NATO.

In the field of land transport there are no multinational centres. Further study is needed to assess whether a strategic multinational land transport co-ordination centre is required.

STRATEGIC LEVEL CO-ORDINATION

6. The EU has made provisions for a strategic-level co-ordination cell, based on the EU Strategic Movement and Transportation Concept. The EU Movement Co-ordination Cell (EUMCC) is mentioned as a structure which can be activated in the context of an EU-led crisis management operation. The ECAP Project Group for Strategic Sealift has further developed the EUMCC concept. It should be noted that NATO has an Allied Movement Co-ordination Centre (AMCC), which could be made available to an EU-led operation making use of NATO assets and capabilities.

GLOBAL APPROACH ON DEPLOYABILITY – WAY AHEAD

7. In order to realise the aim and objectives of GAD the following work is necessary to meet the demands for EU Battlegroups Full Operational Capability in 2007 and the other milestones identified in HLG 2010 regarding deployability, in particular with a view to achieving by 2010 the necessary capacity and full efficiency in strategic lift (air, land and sea) in support of anticipated operations:

- The EUMC will be tasked to:
 - a. Develop the roles, responsibilities and structure of the EUMCC, as described in the EU Strategic Movement and Transport Concept, covering all phases of EU crisis management operations, taking into account the respective functions of the EUMCC, the OHQs and the EU operation centers. The ECAP Project Group for Strategic Sealift report on EUMCC will be taken into account. Detailed inputs may be provided by the ECAP Project Group for Headquarters. Work should be completed in the course of the first semester of 2005.
 - b. Analyse the existing co-ordination and deployability arrangements of Member States and identify existing gaps and shortfalls. In order to complete the picture of available strategic lift assets, capabilities that could be provided in the framework of an EU operation with recourse to NATO common assets and capabilities will have to be taken into account as well. Based on this analysis recommendations on the relationship between the EAC, SALCC, SCCs and national transportation and movement centres should be made. This will improve the co-ordination of all strategic lift assets, mechanisms and initiatives e.g. by developing effective links between the Co-ordination Cells/Centres. The study should take into account that the co-ordination during an EU-led crisis management operation will be conducted on the basis of a multinational detailed deployment plan. Work should be completed in the course of the first semester of 2005.
 - c. Analyse the need, including roles, responsibilities and relationships, for a Land Transport Co-ordination function in support of EU-led crisis management operations. Work should be completed by mid-2005.
 - d. Identify the areas for harmonisation of procedures between the EUMCC and the NATO AMCC in order to draw upon each organisation's expertise, respecting the autonomy of decision-making and the terms of reference of both. Work should be completed by mid-2005.

- e. Explore the utility and feasibility of developing effective links between Co-ordination Cells/Centres.

The EUMC shall be tasked to pursue this work, in conjunction with the EDA. The PSC shall be regularly kept informed on progress.

- SCC Eindhoven and SCC Athens are requested to instruct the directors of both organisations to meet and develop a proposal for co-operation and co-ordination, having regard to expertise gained from ECAP Project Groups and real-life experience. This proposal should include the specification of tasks between the co-ordination cells/centres by mid-2005.
 - The appropriate governing bodies of the Co-ordination Cells/Centres will be asked to implement the solutions that will be developed with the support of the EDA in early 2007. This will involve the creation of effective links between the Co-ordination Cells/Centres in support of the Full Operational Capability of the EU Battlegroups in 2007.
-