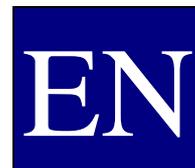




COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION



Council conclusions on military capabilities

(Extract from Council conclusions on ESDP)
2974th EXTERNAL RELATIONS Council meeting
Brussels, 17 November 2009

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"[...] **Headline Goal 2010**

The Council welcomed the work carried out in the development of Member States' military capabilities and noted the Single Progress Report.

The Council was pleased to note that thanks to updated contributions to the Force Catalogue made by nine Member States, two military capability shortfalls were solved and twelve other capability shortfalls were partially remedied. It noted that the conclusions of the Progress Catalogue 2007 remain unchanged and called for increased efforts by Member States efforts in improving their military capabilities in particular in the areas of survivability, deployability and information superiority. The Council welcomed the progress made towards a common understanding regarding Member States' contributions to the Force Catalogue and the purpose of the Force Catalogue as well as the exploitation of agreed tools and procedures to collect and scrutinise Member States contributions. The Council called for Member States to implement the recommendations agreed by the EUMC in this domain.

The Council welcomed the work done in accordance with the Capability Development Mechanism and the Methodology for Measuring Progress and Reviewing Priorities

The Council looked forward to the results of the cooperative work of the EU Military Committee (EUMC) and the European Defence Agency (EDA) in order to review and update the Capability Development Plan (CDP) and highlighted the importance to continue work on the twelve CDP priority actions. The Council welcomed their cooperation on lessons learned from operations related to capability trends including on EUFOR Tchad/RCA, EU NAVFOR ATALANTA and Afghanistan.

P R E S S

The Council welcomed progress made in military concepts including the EU Conceptual Framework for Military HUMINT in EU-led Military Operations and the Computer Network Concept agreed by the EUMC. It looked forward to the finalisation of ongoing conceptual work undertaken by the EUMC and the EDA in close cooperation and to the finalisation of the EUMC Interoperability Study by the end of 2009.

The Council emphasised the importance of reaching the EU Operations Wide Area Network (EU OPS WAN) full operational capability as early as possible.

The Council looked forward to further reflections on ways to foster the delivery of European capabilities beyond the 2010 horizon. This should include considerations on the need to increase synergy between the civilian and military EU capability development processes.

Financing

Without prejudice to other actual discussions in the relevant fora, the Council invited the CGS to elaborate ideas on financing of military operations for discussion at high level in 2010.

Rapid Response

The Council welcomed the initiated follow-on work related to the Air Rapid Response Concept, in particular regarding the EUFOR Deployable Operating Base implementing concept.

The Council welcomed the outcomes of the six-monthly Battlegroup Coordination Conference held on 15 October, where Member States commitments, with the related pre-identified Operation Headquarters, were confirmed until the end of 2011. It encouraged Member States to make new offers for Battlegroups from 2012 onwards and to fill in particular the vacant slot in first Semester of 2012 which is perceived as a growing concern.

The Council welcomed the agreed guidelines on increasing the flexibility and usability of the EU Battlegroups. The Council underlined the necessity to pursue in due course the related follow-up work.

The Council emphasized that the use of EU Battlegroups in a more flexible manner must follow a voluntary approach and be applied on a case by case basis, when the Battlegroups are unanimously considered the best instrument for the given situation. The Council underlined that the EU Battlegroups must not become the default gap filler during force generation. The Council stressed that cooperation between Battlegroups, and between Battlegroups and the Council General Secretariat (CGS) during the preparation phase, as well as during and after the stand-by period of Battlegroups will bring significant benefit and encouraged Member States and CGS to deepen this cooperation. The Council recalled the importance to maintain the EU level of ambition concerning the EU Battlegroups as described in the related concept.

The Council welcomed the results of the Air and Maritime Rapid Response conferences held in October.

Multinational forces

The Council welcomed the achievements related to the identification of Multinational Forces and Headquarters potentially available for EU-led military operations. It noted that this work is

conducted without prejudice to national and multinational decisions to be made by those Member States and Third States concerned, nor to the established decision-making procedures with regard to the participation of Third States in EU military operations. The Council looked forward to the conclusions of this work in early 2010.

European Defence Agency

The Council noted the report by the Head of the European Defence Agency, welcoming the Agency's work on defence capabilities in support of ESDP.

The Council noted with satisfaction the progress on the 12 selected priority areas defined by the Capability Development Plan. The development of cooperative projects, such as the Helicopter Training Programme, was welcomed as important progress in collaborative capability development. The Council also welcomed the good progress of the Third Party Logistics Support Platform as a means of achieving cost-effective support solutions for ESDP operations.

The signature of the Letter of Intent of the EATF was welcomed by the Council as a concrete step in improving cooperation for European capabilities aimed to increase the European airlift provisions.

The Council welcomed the EDA's continuing efforts on pooling and sharing, aiming at improving cooperation for capabilities, as stated in the Declaration on Strengthening Capabilities (2008).

The Council underlined the importance of continuing efforts to strengthen a capability driven, competent and competitive European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB), and an open and transparent European Defence Equipment Market (EDEM). It welcomed the Political Declaration of Level Playing Field for the European Defence Equipment Market by the EDA Steering Board. The Council also welcomed the entry into force, on 1 July 2009, of the Code of Conduct on Offsets, bringing added transparency to the functioning of the defence market.

The continued work on a Security of Information Agreement between the EU and OCCAR and an Administrative Arrangement between EDA and OCCAR was welcomed by the Council as a major step forward in support of a seamless transfer of capability requirements into cooperative procurement programmes. The Council invited all parties to enhance efforts to conclude the Security of Information Agreement and the Administrative arrangement before the end of 2009.

The Political Declaration by the EDA Steering Board on the Implementation of the European Military Airworthiness Requirements was noted by the Council as an important reinforcement of the need to harmonise military airworthiness requirements and certification processes to achieve cost-savings and to increase the competitiveness of the EDTIB. In this context, the Council encouraged the Agency to take into consideration the ongoing work related to the Single European Sky.

The Council underlined the necessity of finding synergies between defence and civilian security research related activities, situation awareness being considered as one possible candidate, welcoming the European Framework Cooperation for Security and Defence Research to be implemented in close cooperation with the Commission and, as appropriate, with the European Space Agency.

Organisation Development

The Council welcomed the appointment of the Deputy Director General who will head the Crisis Management and Planning Directorate (CMPD). It strongly urged the immediate implementation of the organisational measures to establish the CMPD, with the aim notably to further improve EU civilian and military coordination within the framework of the EEAS.

Security Sector Reform

The Council welcomed the considerable progress made on the implementation of the agreement of November 2008 to enhance the capability of the EU in the area of Security Sector Reform (SSR) by creating a pool of European SSR experts to be used in the context of SSR activities carried out by the EU, within the framework of ESDP or Community external action.

The established modalities for the setting up of the pool, for the deployment of experts and for training and related activities have been completed, enabling the creation of a community of experts familiar with SSR questions as a whole and sharing a common approach to SSR. The revised CRT concept takes into account the establishment of the pool.

1. In this context, the Council noted work on developing a Guiding Framework for EU SSR Assessments aiming at providing a practical tool for the EU Institutions for assessing and planning possible EU SSR actions both within the framework of ESDP and Community external actions, also with a view to strengthening EU's capacity to implement such actions.
2. The Council encouraged the continuation of efforts to strengthen EU's capacity in SSR, including through cooperation with other actors, especially the UN, and underlined the importance that the expert pool becomes operational as soon as possible.

Gender and Human Rights

The Council recalled the importance of a systematic consideration of Human Rights, Gender and Children Affected by Armed Conflict aspects in the planning and conduct of ESDP missions and operations, as well as in the subsequent lessons learned processes. Efforts made to date were commended, but need to be further pursued, including on the protection of civilians, as means to further increase the effectiveness of EU crisis management.

The Council welcomed the document "Implementation of UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1820 in the context of training for the ESDP missions and operations - recommendations on the way forward", which outlines how to strengthen ESDP missions and operations through training on gender by improving the coherence and quality of pre-deployment and training in general for staff deployed in ESDP missions and operations; increasing the availability and access to gender training, inter alia through developing elements for the training curriculum on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 for ESDP missions and operations; strengthening the links between capability-building, training and deployment; and by raising awareness of gender mainstreaming as a security element and as an important element to achieving greater operational effectiveness.

This work was initiated through an expert seminar, and later followed by an ESDP gender perspective symposium under the aegis of the ESDC. A meeting on national action plans on UNSCR 1325 was also initiated. These activities feed into the implementation of the implementation of the "Comprehensive approach to the EU Implementation of the United Nations

Security Council Resolution 1325 and 1820 on women, peace and security”, in particular in the run up to the Ministerial Review Conference.

Conflict prevention, Mediation and Dialogue

The Council endorses the "Concept on Strengthening EU Mediation and Dialogue Capacities", which provides a policy basis for the EU's engagement in mediation and dialogue and allows the EU to develop a more systematic and coordinated approach in this area. The Council notes that the Concept provides a follow-up to the SG/HR's 2008 Report on the Implementation of European Security Strategy, which recommends that the EU expands its dialogue and mediation capacities. The Concept takes into consideration the results of a meeting of EU Special Representatives in July 2009 and a number of expert seminars, involving international partners and civil society representatives. It is also in line with the broader EU engagement in the area of conflict prevention as set out in the Göteborg Programme of 2001.

The Council noted with satisfaction the work that was taken forward during the Swedish Presidency in line with the recommendations of the 2009 Annual Report on the Implementation of the EU Programme on the Prevention of Violent Conflict (Göteborg Programme). Within the framework of the two-year programme "Conflict Prevention in Practice - Creating a Leading Role for the European Union" an outreach workshop and dialogue forum was held in October in cooperation with civil society organisations in order to raise awareness about the tools of dialogue and mediation and to discuss among experts and representatives from relevant organisations how the EU working together with partners, can provide an added value in this field.

The Council welcomed the intention of the upcoming Presidencies to take stock of a decade's progress in the field of conflict prevention, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the EU Programme on the Prevention of Violent Conflicts, and will propose further steps on the basis of this stocktaking exercise

Training and Analysis

European Security and Defence College (ESDC)

The Council noted with satisfaction the courses undertaken under the aegis of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC). This includes courses and pilot courses, covering important topics such as ESDP mission planning, civil-military co-ordination, capability development, peace building, SSR, international humanitarian law and the law of armed conflicts. In addition, considerable progress was made over recent months on training in the domain of gender and security.

The Interactive Distance Learning (IDL) system is providing effective individual preparation phases before most residential courses/modules. Increasing exchanges and cooperation with relevant international training actors may provide further opportunities for enhancing the quality of training.

As regards the future format of the ESDC, work is still ongoing on the elaboration of a new Council Decision evolving the ESDC in line with the ESDC Steering Committee recommendations approved by the Council in December 2008. The Council strongly urges that these recommendations be implemented as soon as possible.

With regard to the implementation of the European initiative on the exchange of young officers during their initial training inspired by Erasmus, the Council noted that the first Common Module

on ESDP has been successfully completed and noted with satisfaction that Member States intend to repeat this module. The Council also noted that further work is under way which in particular focuses on taking stock of current exchange activities and the development, in the framework of this initiative, of a legal framework for the voluntary exchange of officers.

System for pre-deployment training for civilian ESDP

The Council noted with appreciation work on enhancing the system of pre-deployment training for civilian ESDP missions. Given the increased complexity of crisis management missions and the challenging environments in which they operate, the Council stressed the importance of adequate pre-deployment training for the ability to implement mission mandates. In this regard, it is important to build on experiences made within the EC Project on Training for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management. More generally, the Council stressed the need for a strong link between training and deployment and the need for proper coordination of pre-deployment training.

The Council also acknowledged the relevance for civilian ESDP missions of the Instrument for Stability project EUPFT 2009, i.e. training of police experts in Vicenza (Italy) in September/November 2009.

European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)

The Council expressed satisfaction with the work of the European Union Institute for Security Studies, in particular the analysis, advice and suggestions it provides to European policy makers, including through its Annual Conference drawing together a number of international actors and enabling an in-depth discussion of CFSP and ESDP issues.

The Council encouraged the Institute to continue enriching Europe's strategic debate, notably through its role as a focal point for academic exchange, networking and studying the European foreign and security agenda.

Lessons Identified

The Council looked forward to the First Annual Report on identifying and implementing lessons and best practices in civilian ESDP missions. It will be based *inter alia* on lessons identified from the planning phases of EUMM Georgia, EU SSR Guinea Bissau and EULEX Kosovo.

The Council emphasised the importance of the lessons identified process as a tool which provides necessary and valuable input to the civilian capability development effort and stressed the importance of the implementation of lessons identified. The Council welcomed the progress made in applying the "Guidelines on identifying and implementing lessons and best practices in civilian ESDP missions". In particular, it underscored the need to take forward the work on implementing lessons agreed to date and new horizontal, thematic reports on lessons identified. It also encouraged the exchange of views on lessons identified with other relevant actors in the field of conflict prevention and crisis management.

Exercises

The Council underlined the important role of exercises. Furthermore, the Council stressed the importance of identifying lessons during exercises and that relevant lessons should be systematically implemented.

MILEX 09

The Council welcomed the successful conduct of the EU Military Exercise MILEX 09, which focused on the interaction between an EU OHQ and an EU FHQ. It involved the successful activation of the EU OHQ at Larissa and the EU FHQ in Naples, and highlighted maritime aspects in particular. Within this context, the EU OHQ at Larissa has reached full operational capability and was offered by Greece for future ESDP operations. Further to the conduct phase from 17 to 26 June, the exercise provided an opportunity to evaluate military aspects of EU crisis management at the military strategic and operational levels.

CME 09

The Council welcomed the conclusion of planning for the EU Crisis Management Exercise CME 09, and welcomed that final preparations are under way for the conduct phase, which will take place from 23 November to 4 December 2009. The exercise foresees practicing EU rapid response to a crisis, in the context of a scenario involving both the EU Operations Centre and the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC).

MILEX 10

Exercise planning has started for the EU military exercise MILEX 10, the conduct of which is foreseen in the first semester of 2010. The exercise will focus on the interaction between an EU OHQ activated in Germany and an EU FHQ activated in France.

CME/CMX 10

The Council recalled the importance it attaches to the planning and conduct of regular crisis management exercises, including together with NATO and with the participation of all EU Member States. Planning has started for the Crisis Management Exercise with NATO (CME/CMX10).

EU Satellite Centre (EUSC)

The Council welcomed the support provided by the EUSC to the EU military operations, in particular its support to operation ATALANTA, as well as its increasing role in support of the EU civilian missions, in particular to the EUMM Georgia.

The Council encouraged the facilitated access of the EUSC to governmental imagery, in particular in areas where access to commercial imagery is limited. In this regard, the Council welcomed the access to Helios II imagery, in particular in the case of EUFOR Tchad/RCA, and looked forward to the use of Cosmo-Skymed and Sar-Lupe imagery in the future.

The Council welcomed the revision of the EUSC Joint Action. This will allow the EUSC to continue to explore cooperative opportunities where benefits for further improvement in EU crisis response capabilities could arise. In this context, the Council noted the progress made so far in cooperation with the US National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) and the SE ESRANGE Space Center.

The Council noted the discussion ongoing on financial aspects of EUSC support to EU operations and missions. [...]"