

A/UEO[2008]DG 8

2 December 2008

FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION

Milestones along the road to European Defence
(1984-2008)

RESEARCH OFFICE



European Security and Defence Assembly
Assembly of Western European Union

A/UEO[2008]DG 8

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Milestones along the road to European Defence

27 October **1984**: **WEU's Rome Declaration**. First joint meeting of the foreign affairs and defence ministers of the WEU member states.

26-27 October **1987**: **WEU's "Platform on European Security Interests"** adopted in **The Hague** by the WEU Council: "We recall our commitment to build a European union in accordance with the Single European Act, which we all signed as members of the European Community. We are convinced that the construction of an integrated Europe will remain incomplete as long as it does not include security and defence" (paragraph 2).

1987-1988: **WEU demining operation** in the Persian Gulf during the Iran-Iraq war. Operation decided by Ministers at the initiative of the Assembly (Cf. Document 1163; Rapporteur: Mr Van der Sanden; Recommendation 457; 7 June 1988).

13 November **1989**: Decision to create the **WEU Institute for Security Studies (ISS)** following a recommendation from the Assembly (Cf. Recommendation 467, adopted by the Presidential Committee on 16 March 1989).

1990-1991: Coordination by WEU of the embargo-monitoring operation in the Persian Gulf and Red Sea following a recommendation from the Assembly (Cf. Document 1243; Rapporteur: Mr De Hoop Scheffer; Recommendation 488; 20 September 1990).

27 June **1991**: Decision by the WEU Council, meeting in Vianden, to create the **WEU Satellite Centre** in Torrejón following the 1988 recommendations from the Assembly (Cf. Document 1159; Rapporteur: Mr Fourré; Recommendation 465; 8 December 1988 and Document 1160; Rapporteur: Mr Malfatti; Recommendation 466; 8 December 1988).

Treaty on European Union

(signed in Maastricht on 7 February 1992; entered into force on 1 November 1993)

First provisions on a Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)

Article J.4.1. of the Maastricht Treaty on European Union states, "The common foreign and security policy shall include all questions related to the security of the Union, including the eventual framing of a common defence policy, which might in time lead to a common defence".

Article J.4.2. declares **Western European Union (WEU) to be "an integral part of the development of the Union"**. Furthermore, it stipulates that the European Union must call on WEU "to elaborate and implement decisions and actions of the Union which have defence implications".

10 December **1991: Declaration adopted by the WEU member countries at the Maastricht Summit and appended to the Maastricht Treaty** on the role of the WEU and its relations with the European Union and with the Atlantic Alliance.

“States which are members of the European Union are invited to accede to WEU on conditions to be agreed in accordance with Article XI of the modified Brussels Treaty, or to become observers if they so wish. Simultaneously, other European Member States of NATO are invited to become associate members of WEU in a way which will give them the possibility to participate fully in the activities of WEU.” (Cf. II - Declaration)

WEU Council of Ministers (Bonn) – Petersberg Declaration (19 June 1992)

Creation of meetings of the chiefs of defence staffs; creation of the WEU Planning Cell; strengthening WEU’s operational role and definition of “Petersberg tasks”.

Article II, paragraph 4 of the Petersberg Declaration states, “Apart from contributing to the common defence in accordance with Article 5 of the Washington Treaty and Article V of the modified Brussels Treaty respectively, military units of WEU member states, acting under the authority of WEU could be employed for: humanitarian and rescue tasks; peace-keeping tasks; tasks of combat forces in crisis management, including peace-making”.

16 July **1992: Start of the WEU operation Sharp Vigilance in the Adriatic** (Cf. Document 1294; Rapporteur: Mr De Hoop Scheffer; Recommendation 512; 4 December 1991 and Document 1293; Rapporteur: Mr Goerens; Recommendation 511; 4 December 1991).

4 December **1992: Creation by the WEU Council of the Western European Armaments Group (WEAG)**, transfer of the functions of the former Independent European Programme Group (IEPG) (Cf. Document 1289; Rapporteur: Mr Atkinson, Recommendation 530; 3 December 1991).

1993-1996: Organisation by WEU of the embargo-monitoring operation on the Danube (Cf. Document 1337; Rapporteur: Mr Marten; Recommendation 530; 1 December 1992).

1993-1996: Joint WEU-NATO operation Sharp Guard in the Adriatic (Cf. Document 1337; Rapporteur: Mr Marten; Recommendation 530; 1 December 1992).

1994-1996: WEU contribution to the administration of Mostar.

15 May **1995: Decision to create the WEU Situation Centre.**

14 November **1995: Adoption by the WEU Council of a document on a common European security concept** and of a contribution to the 1996 intergovernmental conference (Madrid) (Cf. Document 1439; Rapporteur: Mr Soell.; Recommendation 565; 29 November 1994).

18 December **1995: Creation of the WEU Transatlantic Forum.** (Cf. Document 1457; Rapporteur: Lord Finsberg; Recommendation 579; 21 June 1995).

North Atlantic Council (Berlin, 3 June 1996)

Release of joint NATO assets and capabilities for WEU and EU-led operations.

3 June 1996 (Berlin): The Alliance undertakes to agree arrangements with WEU for implementing the release of NATO assets and capabilities for operations carried out under the political control and strategic direction of WEU (paragraph 7).

[See further on: **“Berlin plus” arrangements (16 December 2002)**]

19 November 1996: Creation of the **Western European Armaments Organisation (WEAO) subsidiary organ of the WEU.**

13 May 1997: WEU decision to set up a **Multinational Police Advisory Element (MAPE) in Albania.**

22 July 1997: **WEU Declaration appended to the Amsterdam Treaty** on the role of WEU and its relations with the EU and the Atlantic Alliance.

Treaty on European Union

(signed in Amsterdam on 2 October 1997; entered into force on 1 May 1999)

Widening the scope of the CFSP; inclusion of “Petersberg tasks” in the Treaty; possible integration of WEU in the Union; creation of function of High Representative for the CFSP; possibility of constructive abstention)

- CFSP to include the progressive framing of a common defence policy (Article 17.1 of the Amsterdam Treaty on European Union) which could lead to a common defence if the Council so decides (Article 17.1 of the Amsterdam Treaty). The Treaty gives WEU additional tasks: WEU to give the EU access to an operational capability and to assist it with the definition of those aspects of the ESDP which have defence implications.
- The European Council to define the principles of and general guidelines for the common foreign and security policy including for matters with defence implications (Article. 13.1). The competence of the European Council to establish guidelines also to obtain in respect of WEU for those matters for which the Union avails itself of the WEU (Article 17.3).
- The Union to foster closer institutional relations with the WEU with a view to the possibility of the integration of WEU into the Union should the European Council so decide (Article 17.1).
- The Petersberg tasks to be included in the Treaty (Article 17.2).
- The Secretary-General of the Council to exercise the function of High Representative for the CFSP (Article 18.3).
- Introduction of the possibility of constructive abstention within the CFSP (Article 23).

18 November 1997: Creation of the WEU Military Committee.

24-25 October **1998**: Informal summit in **Pörtschach**. Change of position by the United Kingdom, which accepts a direct role for the European Union in the CFSP.

1998-2001: WEU demining assistance mission (WEUDAM) in **Croatia**.

Saint-Malo Franco-British Summit (4 December 1998)

Demonstration of political will for the European Union to have “the capacity for autonomous action, backed up by credible military forces in order to respond to international crises” (Franco-British Joint Declaration on European Defence, paragraph 2).

- Europeans will operate within the institutional framework of the European Union.
- In order for the European Union to take decisions and approve military action where the Alliance as a whole is not engaged, the Union must be given appropriate structures and a capacity for analysis of situations, sources of intelligence and a capability for relevant strategic planning, without unnecessary duplication, taking account of the existing assets of the WEU and the evolution of its relations with the EU. In this regard, the European Union will also need to have recourse to suitable military means (European capabilities pre-designated within NATO’s European pillar or national or multinational European means outside the NATO framework).
- Europe needs strengthened armed forces that can react rapidly to the new risks, and which are supported by a strong and competitive European defence industry and technology.

Cologne European Council (3-4 June 1999)

Enhancement of the CFSP by developing a Common European Security and Defence Policy (CESDP); structures required for a CESDP in the EU; inclusion of WEU functions in the field of the Petersberg missions within the EU; appointment of the CFSP High Representative

- Decision to appoint Mr Javier Solana Madariaga to the new post of Secretary-General of the WEU Council and CFSP High Representative.
- In the European Council Declaration on strengthening of the common European policy on security and defence (CESDP) provision was made for “the inclusion of those functions of the WEU which will be necessary for the EU to fulfil its new responsibilities in the area of the Petersberg tasks. In this regard our aim is to take the necessary decisions by the end of the year 2000”.
- The European Council would seek to assure that the European Union had at its disposal the necessary capabilities (including military capabilities) and appropriate structures for effective EU decision-making in crisis management within the scope of the Petersberg tasks. This might require in particular: regular (or *ad hoc*) meetings of the General Affairs Council, as appropriate including Defence Ministers; a permanent Political and Security Committee (PSC); an EU Military Committee making recommendations to the Political and Security Committee; a EU Military Staff including a Situation Centre.

Helsinki European Council (11- 12 December 1999)

Definition of the *headline goal* in terms of capabilities with a view to creating a European rapid reaction force; setting up interim CESDP structures

- “To develop European capabilities, Member States have set themselves the headline goal: by the year 2003, cooperating together voluntarily, they will be able to deploy rapidly and then sustain forces capable of the full range of Petersberg tasks as set out in the Amsterdam Treaty, including the most demanding, in operations up to corps level (up to 15 brigades or 50 000-60 000 persons). These forces should be militarily self-sustaining with the necessary command, control and intelligence capabilities, logistics, other combat support services and additionally, as appropriate, air and naval elements. Member States should be able to deploy in full at this level within 60 days (...). They must be able to sustain such a deployment for at least one year. (...) Member States have also decided to develop rapidly collective capability goals in the fields of command and control, intelligence and strategic transport, areas also identified by the WEU audit.” (cf: Presidency Conclusions, Annex IV).
- The creation of new permanent political and military bodies similar to those existing within WEU (PSC, Military Committee, Military Staff) was approved. It was decided to set up these bodies on an interim basis as from 1 March 2000 (cf. Presidency Conclusions, II and Annex IV).

Special Session of the WEU Assembly and the Standing Committee (Lisbon, 21 March 2000)

“European security and defence: the parliamentary dimension”

Recommendation 664 on European security and defence: the parliamentary dimension (Document A/1684, Report submitted by Mr Behrendt, Rapporteur – Text adopted by the Standing Committee on 21 March 2000):

“The Assembly,
(...)

RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL

1. Propose that the European Union endorse the transformation of the WEU Assembly into a **European Security and Defence Assembly** which shall be composed of delegations of the 15 EU member states, delegations of the 13 non-EU European NATO member countries and candidates for accession to the European Union with the following remit:

(...)

3. Support the proposal that appropriate cooperation between the European Security and Defence Assembly and the European Parliament should be established on the basis of the complementary areas of competence of both parliamentary bodies, one of which represents the collective will of nations whereas the other represents Community interests;

(...)

The Santa Maria da Feira European Council (19 - 20 June 2000)

Arrangements for relations with non-EU European countries; working framework for defining future EU/NATO relations; civilian aspects of crisis management (in particular specific goals in relation to policing)

- Principles and modalities for arrangements were identified to allow non-EU European NATO members and other EU accession candidates to contribute to EU military crisis management.
- Principles for consultation with NATO on military issues and modalities for developing EU-NATO relations were also identified in four areas covering security issues, capability goals, the modalities for EU access to NATO assets, and the definition of permanent consultation arrangements.
- The European Council welcomed the setting-up and first meeting of the Committee for civilian aspects of crisis management (Council decision of 22 May 2000) and of specific targets for civilian police capabilities. In this respect member states, cooperating voluntarily, undertook that by 2003 they would be able to provide up to 5 000 police officers for international tasks across the range of conflict-prevention and crisis-management operations. Member states also undertook to be able to identify and deploy up to 1 000 police officers within 30 days. (cf. Presidency Conclusions, Feira, C9 and C11).

13 November 2000: **WEU Council (Marseilles)**: Preparation of the transfer of WEU's functions in the field of the Petersberg missions to the European Union. Suspension of WEU's operational activities. Preparation of the transfer of the Satellite Centre and Institute for Security Studies to the EU. Arrangements for the continuation of MAPE in Albania and of the demining mission in Croatia.

Nice European Council (7-8 December 2000). Treaty of Nice (signed 26 February 2001; entered into force on 1 February 2003)

Transformation of the political headline goal set out in Helsinki into a catalogue of specific forces and capabilities, with a view to creating the European rapid reaction force. Setting up of the permanent CESDP structures. Incorporation of the relevant WEU structures into the EU framework

- The European Council decided to establish the following permanent political and military structures: the EU Political and Security Committee (PSC), Military Committee and Military Staff, with the objective of their being fully operational by summer 2001.
- At the Capabilities Commitment Conference held on 20 and 21 November 2000, individual EU member states (and non-EU European countries) were able to declare officially their level of commitment to achieve the capability targets they set themselves. The catalogue of forces and capabilities was to cover requirements to be met from 2003 and in some cases sooner (2001), as well as those to be met subsequently, which will be the subject of national or European commitments and projects with timetables extending beyond 2003. The commitment document also

includes a review mechanism for measuring progress towards achievement of those targets. It was submitted to the Nice European Council.

- Adoption of the necessary arrangements to allow non-EU European members of NATO and other EU candidate countries to contribute to EU military crisis management.
- Decisions were taken relating to the transfer of WEU functions required by the European Union; in particular it was decided that the WEU Institute for Security Studies and the Satellite Centre would become EU agencies (these agencies were created pursuant to two joint actions of the EU Council on 20 June 2001).
- Proposals were also adopted for firming up the decisions taken in Feira on civilian policing (establishment of a working method to achieve the objective set in Feira).

Treaty of Nice amending the Treaty on European Union, the Treaties establishing the European Communities and certain related acts

Article 17 was replaced by the following text:

“Article 17

1. The common foreign and security policy shall include all questions relating to the security of the Union, including the progressive framing of a common defence policy, which might lead to a common defence, should the European Council so decide. It shall in that case recommend to the Member States the adoption of such a decision in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.

The policy of the Union in accordance with this Article shall not prejudice the specific character of the security and defence policy of certain Member States and shall respect the obligations of certain Member States, which see their common defence realised in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), under the North Atlantic Treaty and be compatible with the common security and defence policy established within that framework.

The progressive framing of a common defence policy will be supported, as Member States consider appropriate, by cooperation between them in the field of armaments.

2. Questions referred to in this Article shall include humanitarian and rescue tasks, peacekeeping tasks and tasks of combat forces in crisis management, including peacemaking.

3. Decisions having defence implications dealt with under this Article shall be taken without prejudice to the policies and obligations referred to in paragraph 1, second subparagraph.

4. The provisions of this Article shall not prevent the development of closer cooperation between two or more Member States on a bilateral level, in the framework of the Western European Union (WEU) and NATO, provided such cooperation does not run counter to or impede that provided for in this Title.

5. With a view to furthering the objectives of this Article, the provisions of this Article will be reviewed in accordance with Article 48.”

Gothenburg European Council (15-16 June 2001)

Approval of a police action plan. Specific new objectives for civilian aspects of crisis management (rule of law, civil administration and protection). EU/UN cooperation in the field of conflict prevention and crisis management. Framing an EU exercise policy

28 June 2001: WEU Council meeting (Brussels). **Definition of the residual functions of WEU.**

20 July 2001: Creation by means of a common action of the Council of the European Union of an **EU Institute for Security Studies and Satellite Centre.**

Laeken European Council (14-15 December 2001)

Decision to convene a Convention on the Future of Europe. Capability Improvement Conference (November 2001). Ministerial Police Capabilities Commitment Conference. Declaration on the Operational Capability of the Common European Security and Defence Policy. European Capability Action Plan (ECAP)

The Presidency Conclusions stated that:

- In order to ensure that preparations for the next Intergovernmental Conference were as broadly-based and transparent as possible, the European Council had decided to convene a Convention under the chairmanship of Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.
- The European Council had adopted a Declaration on the Operational Capability of the Common European Security and Defence Policy. Through the continuing development of the ESDP, the strengthening of its capabilities, both civil and military, and the creation of appropriate structures within it and following the military and police Capability Improvement Conferences held in Brussels on 19 November 2001, the Union was now capable of conducting some crisis-management operations. The Union was determined to finalise swiftly arrangements with NATO. These would enhance the European Union's capabilities to carry out crisis-management operations over the whole range of Petersberg tasks. In the same way, the implementation of the Nice arrangements with the Union's partners would augment its means of conducting crisis management operations. Development of the means and capabilities at its disposal would enable the Union progressively to take on more demanding operations.
- The European Union was determined to bring the accession negotiations with the candidate countries that were ready to a successful conclusion by the end of 2002, so that those countries could take part in the European Parliament elections in 2004 as members. The European Council considered that, if the rate of progress of the negotiations and reforms in the candidate states was maintained, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic and Slovenia could be ready.
- A European Capability Action Plan (ECAP) had been adopted. It would help to achieve the goals set by the European Council in Helsinki. It was based on national

decisions (a “bottom-up” approach). By rationalising member states’ respective defence efforts and increasing the synergy between their national and multinational projects, it should make for an enhanced European military capability. The ECAP was also designed to back up the political plan which gave rise to the headline goal and to create the necessary impetus for achieving the aims which the Union set in Helsinki. The ECAP, which would be implemented in a spirit of transparency, was mainly designed to rectify the remaining deficiencies. Its purpose was to step up military cooperation between member states or groups of states by taking a bottom-up approach to European defence cooperation. Member states’ commitments would be on a voluntary basis, with due regard for national decisions. Some 20 groups of experts are already meeting in the ECAP framework.

11 March 2002: Decision by the **European Union** to take over from the UN-led **International Police Task Force** in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Start of work by the Convention on the Future of Europe under the chairmanship of Mr Valéry Giscard d’Estaing (28 February 2002)

Contributions of the Assembly to the Convention and the Intergovernmental Conference

“The role of national parliaments in the European Union and more specifically in the ESDP – a contribution from the Assembly to the Convention.” (Cf. Document 1778; Rapporteur: Mr. Eyskens; Resolution n° 109; 4 June 2002)

“The role of Europe in a new world order for peace and security – a contribution to the Convention.” (Cf. Document 1799; Rapporteur: Mr Eyskens; Resolution n°111; 2 December 2002)

“A European defence policy: a contribution to the Convention.” (Cf. Document 1798; Rapporteur: Mr Schloten; Resolution n°112; 3 December 2002)

“Security policy in an enlarged Europe – a contribution to the Convention.” (Cf. Document 1818; Rapporteur: Mr Nazaré Pereira; Order n° 118; Resolution n° 115 ; 3 June 2003)

“Prospects for the European security and defence policy – contribution to the Intergovernmental Conference.” (Cf. Document 1835; Rapporteur: Mr Gaburro; Resolution n° 117; Decision n° 26; Recommendation n° 732; Order n° 119; 22 October 2003)

Seville European Council (21-22 June 2002)

Implementation of the European Capability Action Plan. Declaration on the capabilities required to fight terrorism. Towards the first EU-led crisis-management operations (in Bosnia and in FYROM). First EU crisis-management exercise. Enlargement: start of final phase of accession negotiations.

The Presidency Conclusions stated that:

- The EU would conduct a police mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1 January 2003 as a follow-on to the UN police operation.
- The EU might take over from NATO in FYROM “on the understanding that the permanent arrangements on EU-NATO cooperation (“Berlin plus”) would be in place by then”.

- The structures and procedures of the ESDP had been successfully tested during the first EU crisis management exercise.
- National declaration by Ireland: its participation in the CFSP did not affect its traditional policy of military neutrality. This declaration would be appended to Ireland’s instrument of ratification in the event of ratification of the Treaty of Nice.
- Declaration on the contribution of CFSP, including ESDP, in the fight against terrorism: strengthening of long-term conflict prevention instruments; political dialogue with and assistance for third countries; anti-terrorist clauses in agreements concluded with third countries; financial measures to fight terrorism; capabilities to protect civilian populations against the effects of attacks.

Copenhagen European Council (12-13 December 2002)

EU enlargement to take in ten new European countries. CFSP/ESDP: EU Police Mission (EUPM) in Bosnia and Herzegovina as from 1 January 2003. work on components of the rapid reaction force in accordance with the headline goal. Comprehensive agreement reached on all permanent arrangements between NATO and the EU

Enlargement: conclusion of EU accession negotiations with Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia. These states become members on 1 May 2004. The date for signature of the Accession Treaty was set for 16 April 2003 in Athens. The EU set itself the objective of welcoming Bulgaria and Romania as members in 2007. If, in December 2004, the European Council decides that Turkey has fulfilled the Copenhagen political criteria, the EU will open accession negotiations with Turkey without delay.

ESDP: a comprehensive agreement was reached between the EU and NATO on all the outstanding permanent arrangements between the two organisations (the “Berlin plus” arrangements). The Council confirmed the EU’s readiness to take over the military operation in FYROM as soon as possible. The EU was also willing to lead a military operation in Bosnia following SFOR.

EU-NATO agreement on EU access to the collective assets and capabilities of the Alliance and on the participation of non-EU European NATO member countries in the ESDP “Berlin Plus” (16 December 2002)

Chronology:

10 and 11 January 1994 (Brussels): North Atlantic Council. The Alliance declares itself willing to make the Alliance’s collective assets available for WEU operations conducted by the European Allies in application of their CFSP (paragraph 6).

3 June 1996 (Berlin): North Atlantic Council. The Alliance undertakes to agree with WEU on the practical arrangements for making NATO assets and capabilities available for operations conducted under WEU’s political control and strategic direction (paragraph 7).

23 and 24 April 1999 (Washington): Alliance Summit. Building on the Berlin decisions, the Alliance declares itself ready “to define and adopt the necessary arrangements for ready access by the European Union to the collective assets and capabilities of the Alliance, for

operations in which the Alliance as a whole is not engaged militarily as an Alliance”. (Washington Summit Communiqué, paragraph 10).

19 and 20 June 2000 (Santa Maria da Feira): European Council. Takes the decision to set up *ad hoc* EU-NATO working groups. One is to deal with the arrangements enabling the EU to have access to NATO assets as agreed in Washington. The objective is to draw up a draft framework agreement on implementation of the “Berlin plus” arrangements.

7 and 8 December 2000 (Nice): European Council. Adopts the necessary arrangements for non-EU European members of NATO and other EU candidate countries to contribute to military crisis management by the EU.

12 and 13 December 2002 (Copenhagen): European Council. A comprehensive agreement is reached between the EU and NATO on all outstanding permanent arrangements between the EU and NATO (“Berlin plus” arrangements).

13 December 2002 (Brussels): NATO agrees to support EU-led operations. EU access to NATO planning capabilities able to contribute to military planning for EU-led operations is assured with immediate effect. The detailed arrangements for implementing each of the elements of Berlin plus are to be in place by 1 March 2003 (Statement by the NATO Secretary-General; press release (2002) 140; www.nato.int).

16 December 2002 (Brussels): North Atlantic Council and EU Political and Security Committee. EU/NATO Declaration on ESDP (press release (2002) 142).

31 March 2003: EU takes over from NATO’s mission in FYROM with Operation *Concordia*.

Analysis

The main feature of the “Berlin plus” arrangements is **the EU’s decision-making autonomy** with, as its logical corollary, “**assured** access to NATO planning capabilities”. After a two-year deadlock the EU and NATO arrived at a comprehensive agreement relating in particular to EU access to NATO assets for EU-led crisis management operations where NATO itself does not wish to become engaged. This important step forward in EU/NATO relations could not be taken until Greece and Turkey had lifted reservations. At the Copenhagen European Council an agreement was reached first between Turkey and the European Council, which adopted arrangements for implementing the Nice Treaty provisions concerning the participation of non-EU members of NATO in EU-led operations using NATO assets. Turkey secured a guarantee from the EU that the European rapid reaction force would not act against its national interests, particularly as regards Cyprus.

Franco-British Summit, Le Touquet (4 February 2003)

Proposals for initiatives to **modernise and develop Europe’s security and defence capability**:

- the first EU military crisis-management operations in the **Balkans**;
- a new approach to **common security interests**;
- ambitious proposals to **develop military capabilities across the EU**; and
- a new era in cooperation between the UK and France on **aircraft carriers**.

France and the UK agree that the European Union should begin peacekeeping first of all in the **Balkans** (Bosnia and FYROM, with operations building on the close relationship that the EU and NATO have developed.) Also want to promote peace and stability in Africa.

Joint Declaration by the Heads of State and Government of Germany, France, Luxembourg and Belgium on European Defence (Brussels, 29 April 2003)

In order to give new impetus to the European Security and Defence Policy, the four countries propose that the Convention on the Future of Europe and the Intergovernmental Conference approve the following principles and integrate them into the Constitutional Treaty:

- the possibility of setting up **enhanced cooperation** in the field of defence;
- a **general clause of solidarity and common security binding all member states of the European Union** and making it possible to face up to all kinds of risks concerning the European Union;
- the possibility for member states that express that wish to accept supplementary obligations, within the framework of an enhanced cooperation project and with no obligations for third parties;
- **reformulating the Petersberg missions** so that the European Union can use civilian and military means in order to prevent conflicts and manage crises, including the most demanding missions;
- the **creation of a European Agency for the development and acquisition of military capabilities**. The goals of the Agency will be to increase European military capabilities and strengthen interoperability as well as cooperation between the armed forces of the member states. The Agency will help to create a favourable environment for a competitive European defence industry;
- The **creation of a European Security and Defence College** in order to favour the development and the dissemination of a European security culture.
- Moreover, they propose that the Convention accept the **concept of a European Security and Defence Union (ESDU)** and believe the vocation of the ESDU should be to bring together those member states ready to go faster and further in strengthening their defence cooperation.

The ESDU would be open to all the current and future member states that are ready to join.

With regard to the **military field**, the four countries decided to implement a number of concrete initiatives designed to bring their national defence instruments closer together.

They include:

- the development of a **European rapid reaction capability**;
- the creation, by June 2004 at the latest, of a **European strategic air transport command**;
- the creation of a **joint European nuclear, biological and chemical protection capability** in charge of the protection of both civilians and troops deployed during European operations;
- the creation of a **European system for emergency humanitarian aid** during disasters (EU-FAST)

- the creation of **European training centres**;
- the creation of a **nucleus collective capability for planning and conducting operations for the European Union**;
- the establishment, not later than 2004, of a **multinational deployable force headquarters for joint operations**, building on existing deployable headquarters.

Meeting of EU Defence Ministers (Brussels, 19 March 2003) and of the General Affairs and External Relations Council (Joint Council of Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministers, Brussels, 19 and 20 May 2003)

Adoption of the **Helsinki Forces Catalogue 2003** and the **Helsinki Forces Catalogue 2003 Supplement** (on the capabilities of the candidate countries). The **Declaration on EU military capabilities** states that “the EU now has operational capability across the full range of Petersberg tasks, limited and constrained by recognised shortfalls”. New phase of the European Capability Action Plan (ECAP) with the **launch of the first ten ECAP “Project Groups”** each led by a member state (following on from the work of the 19 panels that had previously been set up to examine capability shortfalls). Some of the areas covered by these project groups are: air-to-air refuelling (Spain), combat search and rescue (Germany), headquarters (United Kingdom), nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) protection (Italy), special operations forces (Portugal), unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) (France), space-based assets (France), evacuation and humanitarian operations (Belgium), strategic air lift (Germany). Finalisation of the **EU Military Rapid Response Concept**. Annex entitled “Orientations by the Presidency on the **reinforcement of cooperation in the field of armaments**”.

Signature of the contract for the order of A400M military transport aircraft (27 May 2003)

Signature of the contract for the order of 180 A400M European military transport aircraft. Contract worth some 20 billion euros signed by OCCAR (Organisation for Joint Armament Cooperation) on behalf of the participant countries (delivery of 60 planes to Germany, 50 to France, 27 to Spain, 25 to the United Kingdom, 10 to Turkey, 7 to Belgium and 1 to Luxembourg) and the *Airbus Military* consortium. The programme suffered a seven-year delay as a result of the withdrawal of Italy and Portugal and the reduction in the number of aircraft ordered by the United Kingdom and Germany. The first planes will not be delivered until 2008.

Operation Artemis

12 June 2003

The first autonomous peacekeeping operation led by the European Union in Africa, codenamed "**Artemis**", was launched on **12 June 2003** in the north-eastern Ituri province of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In accordance with the mandate set out in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1484 of 30 May 2003, an interim emergency multinational force was deployed to the town of Bunia to work in close cooperation with the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC). **Artemis' primary goal was to put a stop to the killing and plundering by armed militia in Bunia, to protect**

the population and the refugees and to secure the city and its airport so as to provide a secure base for MONUC.

At its peak, Operation Artemis involved the deployment of a total of 2060 personnel from 18 countries, 12 of them EU member states. By the end of its mandate, on **1 September 2003**, the operation was hailed a success, having succeeded in restoring security in the region and helping displaced persons return to their homes. Following the operation, the population in Bunia had increased from 40 000 to 100 000 people, markets were reopened and a reinforced MONUC contingent was deployed.

Thessaloniki European Council (19-20 June 2003)

Work on an EU security strategy. Development of EU military capabilities (full range of Petersberg missions and rapid reaction). Fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Creation of an intergovernmental agency in the field of defence capabilities development, research, acquisition and armaments.

18 July 2003: The Chairman of the Convention on the Future of Europe submitted the **draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe** to the European Council, which considered that the text provided the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) with a sound basis. The Conference opened on 4 October 2003. Its work was to lead to approval of the Constitutional Treaty.

The European Council instructed the Secretary-General/High Representative for the CFSP to continue examining the future challenges facing the EU in the field of security and defence, with a view to submitting to the Council an **EU security strategy** to be adopted in December 2004 (this is to be an ongoing document open to public debate and which sums up the interests of the member states).

Work on the implementation of the **EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts** continued with emphasis on the regional approach, by focusing mainly on the Western Balkans. Adoption of the “Thessaloniki Agenda for the Western Balkans: moving towards European integration” (EU-Western Balkans Summit, Thessaloniki, 21 June 2003).

In order to **combat terrorism**, a database of military assets and capabilities relevant to the protection of civilian populations against the effects of terrorist attacks, including CBRN, was established on a voluntary basis (Presidency report to the European Council on EU external action in the fight against terrorism, including CFSP/ESDP).

The European Council also adopted a Declaration on the non-proliferation of **weapons of mass destruction** (implementation of the action plan approved by the General and External Affairs Council, Luxembourg, 16 June 2003).

The European Council tasked the relevant Council bodies with taking the necessary steps for the creation in 2004 of an **intergovernmental agency in the field of defence capabilities development, research, acquisition and armaments**, to be placed under the authority of the Council and open to participation by all member states.

European Council Brussels: 12-13 December 2003

INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE

The European Council noted that it was not possible for the Intergovernmental Conference to reach an overall agreement on a draft constitutional treaty at this stage.

The European Council adopted the **European security strategy (ESS)** and warmly congratulated SG/HR Javier Solana for the work accomplished. The ESS focused upon “A Secure Europe in a Better world” and identifies key security challenges facing Europe in the 21st century - one of the main threats being terrorism.

In this context, the **European Council adopted the EU strategy against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction**, which is a crucial element of the security strategy.

The enhancement of the capacity of the EUMS to conduct early warning, situation assessment and strategic planning through the establishment within the EUMS of a cell with civil/military components is proposed. Furthermore, it is also proposed that a small EU cell should be established at SHAPE.

Proxima Mission

15 December 2003

The European Union Police Mission in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, code-named PROXIMA, was launched on 15 December 2003 (Council Joint Action 2003/681/CFSP) to replace operation Concordia. PROXIMA is an EU-established Police Mission in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) operating in line with the objectives of the Ohrid Framework Agreement of 2001 and in close partnership with the country’s authorities.

The initial period of the mission was one year, however this period was extended for a further year on 22 November 2004.

European Council Brussels: 17 and 18 June 2004

Agreement on the establishment of a civilian/military cell within the EU Military Staff

Europe defence: NATO/EU consultation, planning and operations

“The European Council agreed to take forward work on the establishment of a civilian/military cell within the EU Military Staff, (...) and agreed that the cell should begin its work at the latest by the end of this year. The European Council agreed to take forward work on the establishment of a small EU cell at SHAPE and NATO liaison arrangements with the EUMS, as set out in the abovementioned report, and invited the SG/HR to contact the NATO Secretary-General with the aim of securing early agreement, entering into force by the end of this year.”

The European Council agreed to take forward work on establishing an operations centre. The European Council agreed that the ability rapidly to set up an operations centre should be available by 1 January 2006 at the latest. This centre will not be a standing HQ; the main option for autonomous military operations remains national HQs. Decision to draw on the collective capacity of the EUMS would be taken upon the advice of the Military Committee, in particular where a joint civil/military response is required and where no national HQ is identified. In this context, and thus taking into account the capabilities and other specificities which arise from this not being a standing HQ, the European Council agreed that the

objective should be for an operations centre to be able to plan and conduct operations, within the spectrum of tasks envisaged in the Treaty, on the scale of Operation Artemis.

Council Joint Action on the Establishment of the European Defence Agency (12 July 2004)

The European Defence Agency was established by a Joint Action of the Council of Ministers on 12 July, 2004 "to support the Member States in their effort to improve European defence capabilities in the field of crisis management and to sustain the ESDP as it stands now and develops in the future".

The Agency has four main functions, relating to:

- (a) defence capabilities development;
- (b) armaments co-operation;
- (c) the European defence technological and industrial base and defence equipment market;
- (d) research and technology.

A more systematic and comprehensive approach to identifying ESDP's capability needs will contribute to better-defined future requirements on which collaboration - in armaments or R&T or the operational domain - can be built. More collaboration will in turn provide opportunities for industrial restructuring and progress towards the continental-scale demand and market which industry needs.

The European Gendarmerie Force

On **17 September 2004**, the Dutch, French, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish Defence Ministers signed a declaration of intent to set up a European Gendarmerie Force (EUROGENDFOR). The declaration was signed during an informal meeting of EU Defence Ministers in the Dutch town of Noordwijk¹.

Following a French proposal, the Defence Ministers from five European countries undertook to make at least 800 gendarmes permanently available to the European Union. The countries concerned, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain, are the only ones to have gendarmerie forces. With military status and the tasks of a judicial police force, the European Gendarmerie Force could be involved from the start of a conflict through to the return to normal. The five founding countries all have military status police forces: the French Gendarmerie Nationale, the Italian Carabinieri, the Spanish Guardia Civil, the Portuguese Guarda Nacional Republicana and the Dutch Koninklijke Marechaussée.

EUROGENDFOR will be involved in all types of police missions: crowd control, maintaining public order, conducting intelligence work, criminal investigation, counter-terrorism, the fight against organised crime, etc. It is particularly well suited to intervening during or immediately after military action to maintain public order and security and in situations where local police forces are not available in sufficient numbers. EUROGENDFOR is a rapid intervention force but is also able to carry out any type of police mission.

¹ Informal meeting of the EU Defence Ministers in Noordwijk, 17 November 2005.
<http://europa.eu.int/>

Signature of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe by the Heads of State and Government in Rome (29 October 2004)

EU Rule of Law Mission to Georgia (EUJUST THEMIS)

Started 16 July 2004

Ended 14 July 2005

Following a Council Joint Action (2004/523/CFSP) on 28 June 2004, on 16 July 2004, the European Union began its pioneering 12-month rule of law mission in Georgia, to steer criminal justice reform in that country. This was at the request of the President of Georgia, Mikhaïl Saakashvili, elected in 2004 against a background of democratic reform in Georgia and the country's inclusion in the EU's European Neighbourhood Policy from 14 June 2004.

The mission, under the leadership of an experienced magistrate, Sylvie Pantz, (France) had a budget of €2 million and a team of 10 international experts seconded by the EU member states and supported by local personnel.

The reform covered for the one part the entire criminal justice system, from the legislation to the prison system and including the prosecution service and the courts, and for the other the fight against corruption and against organised crime. It was also concerned with promoting compliance with international and European standards on human rights.

A mission of this nature had to be such that the options proposed were convincing to the Georgian Government and drew in all those involved in its implementation so that the reforms continued after the mission left on 14 July 2005. To provide continuity in relations between the EU and Georgia, an EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus was appointed in July 2003. The Georgian authorities then had continuously to demonstrate their willingness to democratise and ensure human rights compliance by given solutions to the many difficulties along the way.

Althea Mission

2 December 2004

Operation Althea, the EU's first military mission in the Balkans, began on 2 December 2004 as approximately 7,000 European Union Force Troops (EUFOR) took over from NATO troops in Bosnia. The EUFOR mission was agreed during NATO's June 2004 Istanbul Summit following a decision to complete the SFOR mission which began in 1996 (prior to the SFOR mission the IFOR mission had begun in December 1995).

The EUFOR mission has been given a 12-month mandate after the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1572 in 22 November 2004.

There are 33 nations contributing to EUFOR, including 22 EU countries and 11 non-EU states. An EU Operational Headquarters (OHQ) to oversee Althea has been established at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Mons, Belgium. The EU's Political and Security Council (PSC) provides overall political control and strategic direction of EUFOR.

EUFOR's long-term aim is to help provide the stability which will contribute to a peaceful and multiethnic Bosnia and keep the country on track to sign a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) – the first step towards membership of the EU.

European Council Brussels: 16/18 December 2004

Presidency Conclusions

The European Council welcomed the successful start of the EU military operation Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 2 December, which underlines the Union's pledge to stability and security in this country and is a practical example of the strategic partnership in crisis management with NATO. It requested the incoming Presidency and the SG/HR to take forward, in close cooperation with the UN, the preparations for a police mission and for a possible security sector reform mission, currently being examined, in the Democratic Republic of Congo and for a possible integrated police, rule of law and civilian administration mission for Iraq, which is expected to start after the January 2005 elections.

The European Council also adopted the **2008 Civilian Headline Goal** with a view to developing the civilian dimension of crisis-management missions: the aim is for the EU to be able to conduct monitoring missions and provide support to the EU special representatives. Its activities are extended to include security sector reform and support for disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration activities. Its civilian capabilities must be deployable within 30 days from the launch of an operation.

European Union Police Mission in Kinshasa (DRC) – (EUPOL KINSHASA)

Launched on 30 April 2005

Following a Council Joint Action (2004/847/CFSP) on 9 December 2004, the European Union launched its first CFSP civilian crisis-management operation in Africa on 30 April 2005. A Head of Mission, Achilio Custodio (Portugal) and some 30 or so staff of different nationalities were sent to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) under a 1-year mandate, to supervise, mentor and guide IPU officers under the Congolese chain of command. Its purpose is to guarantee that the IPU complies with the best international practice at all levels of the line of command. It will support the officers and institutions up until the country's general election, due to take place on June 2006. The EU Special Representative of the Great Lakes Region, Aldo Ajello is to provide political guidelines to the Head of Mission and will facilitate coordination with other EU stakeholders on the ground as well as relations with local authorities. The mission is funded by the European Commission from the European Development Fund, and from the CFSP budget and the EU member states.

The operation's mandate was extended, through a Joint Action on 21 November 2005, to December 2006. The mission is to intensify its work and deepen cooperation with national and international players, particularly with the EUSEC R.D. – CONGO mission for security sector reform.

European Union Advisory and Assistance Mission for DRC security reform (EUSEC – RD CONGO)

Launched on 8 June 2005

Following an official request by the DRC government and the Council Joint Action (2005/355/CFSP) of 2 May 2005, the EU decided to establish an advisory and assistance mission (EUSEC – R.D. CONGO) for security sector reform in the Democratic Republic of Congo as a complement to EUPOL Kinshasa. General Pierre Joana (France) and eight experts have been assigned to key posts in the Congolese Administration: the private office of the Minister of Defence; the joint forces HQ, the land army HQ or the National Commission for Disarmament, Demobilisation and Re-assignment. Working in close conjunction with other international community players on the ground, the aim of the mission is to provide support to the relevant authorities in integrating the army and ensuring human rights compliance and the observance of international humanitarian law, democratic standards, good governance and transparency and the rule of law. The first ever mission of its kind, it provides an example of the practical implementation of the European Security Strategy.

In November 2005, the EU decided to set up a new mission in the EUSEC – R.D. CONGO framework. This was the chain of payments project to improve the financial management of the Congolese Defence Ministry, in particular by ensuring that soldiers were paid their due.

European Union Integrated Rule of Law mission for Iraq (EUJUST LEX)

Launched on 1 July 2005

Following a Council Joint Action (2005/190/CFSP) on 7 March 2005, the EU member states took the decision to engage in a civilian operation, the largest ever attempted, to develop Iraq's judicial system. The mission is led by Stephen White (United Kingdom) from Europe or a neighbouring region to Iraq and there is a liaison office in Baghdad.

The mission began on 1 July 2005 for a period of 12 months. The aim is to train 770 senior court, police and penitentiary officers in modern investigative techniques and human rights compatible procedures (powers of arrest, interrogation, collection of evidence). The emphasis is on greater mutual cooperation and understanding between the police and the judiciary, where relationships have been fairly difficult in the past. The mission will complement other action being taken by NATO, the United States and certain EU member states. Mission costs will be around €10 million. Member states will also contribute training courses and trainers. By the end of 2005, 300 investigative and criminal justice personnel had been trained. The mission seems to have got off to a good start and initial reports are encouraging.

EU support to AMIS II in Darfur

In response to the request of the African Union (AU), the European Union established on 18 July 2005 an EU civilian-military supporting action to AMIS II (Council Joint Action 2005/557/CFSP, OJ L188, 20.07.2005)

On 18 July 2005, Mr Pekka Haavisto (Finland) was appointed EU Special Representative in Sudan. His task is to ensure “maximum effectiveness of the Union’s contribution to AMIS” and specific attention to the human rights situation has been included in his mandate.

Alongside this the EU made a further contribution to AMIS II in September 2005 and plays a key role in building AMIS’s civilian policing capacity, through support to the AMIS II chain of command, pre-deployment training and training courses for trainers. The EU has established a police unit within the AU Secretariat in Addis Ababa.

European Union Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM)

15 September 2005

After more than 30 years of conflict the Indonesian Government and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) signed a memorandum of understanding in Helsinki on 15 August 2005. At the request of both parties the EU deployed its first ESDP mission in Asia on 9 September 2005. This is designed to ensure the effective implementation of the MoU outlined in Council Joint Action 2005/643/CFSP. It was also the first time cooperation of this nature had taken place with ASEAN Member States².

The mission consisted first and foremost of enforcing the cease-fire, the withdrawal of paramilitary forces and government militia and human rights compliance and of bringing security, stability, economic development and social justice back to the region. A staff of 227 led by Dutchman Peter Feith worked to a 6-month mandate limited strictly to the implementation of the Agreement. Mission costs are estimated at €15 million, 9 million of which is to be born by the EU.

By 31 December 2005, good progress was being made on the decommissioning and destruction of GAM weapons and the relocation of non-organic Indonesian security force units and close liaison with the parties has been established and maintained through the Committee on Security Arrangements.

European Union Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing Point (EU BAM Rafah)

Launched 26 November 2005

On 15 November 2005, Israel and the Palestinian Authority concluded an "Agreement on Movement and Access", including agreed principles for Rafah crossing (Gaza). On 21 November 2005, the Council of the EU welcomed the Agreement and agreed that the EU should undertake the Third Party role proposed in the Agreement. It therefore decided to launch the EU Border Assistance Mission at Rafah crossing point, code-named EU BAM Rafah, to monitor the operations of this border crossing point.

The mission aim is to provide a third party presence at the Rafah crossing point in order to contribute, in cooperation with the European Community's institution-building efforts, to the

² Participating states: ASEAN (Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand), EU (Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom) along with Norway and Switzerland

opening of the Rafah crossing point and to build confidence between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

Colonel Alain FAUGERAS (France) is the Head of Mission, in charge of some 55 police officers from 15 EU member states. Their number is set to increase with the extension of the opening hours of the crossing point. The estimated budget for 2006 is € 5 903 341. The operational phase of the mission began on 30 November 2005 and following a renewal of its mandate will end on 24 November 2009. Due to the political situation in the Gaza Strip the EUBAM Rafah mission has been suspended since 15 June 2007, but its personnel is on standby for redeployment within 24 hours.

The EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EU BAM Moldova and Ukraine)

Launched 30 November 2005

EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine was established as a reaction to the joint letter of the presidents of Moldova and Ukraine dating from 2 June 2005 calling for additional EU support in overall capacity building for border management, including customs, on the whole Moldova-Ukraine border.

On 7 October 2005, a Memorandum of Understanding on the Border Assistance Mission was signed. The official opening ceremony of the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine took place on 1 December 2005.

This Mission helps to prevent smuggling, trafficking, and customs fraud, by providing advice and training to improve the capacity of the Moldovan and Ukrainian border and customs services.

The Mission works very closely with the team of the EUSR for Moldova Kálmán Mizsei, which is being strengthened with additional advisors in Kiev, Chisinau and Odessa on issues related to borders.

The EU Border Assistance Mission has a two year mandate, which can be extended.

EU Police Mission in the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL-COPPS)

Launched on 1 January 2006

On 14 November 2005, the Council adopted a Joint Action (2005/797/CFSP) launching the first ever police mission in the Palestinian Territories conducted by third parties. The Head of Mission, Colin Smith (Northern Ireland) has been given a 3-year mandate.

Firstly, the mission will assist the Palestinian Civil Police in implementing the Police Development Programme by advising and closely mentoring the Palestinian Civil Police, and specifically senior officials at District, Headquarters and Ministerial level. Secondly, it will coordinate and facilitate EU member state and international assistance to the Palestinian Civil Police. Thirdly, it will advise Palestinian authorities on police-related aspects of the criminal justice system.

Establishment of an EU planning team in Kosovo (EUPK Kosovo)

10 April 2006

The Council adopted a joint action establishing an EU planning team regarding a possible EU crisis management operation in the field of rule of law and possible other areas in Kosovo (EUPT Kosovo) (Joint Action 2006/304/CFSP). The main objective of the EUPT Kosovo is to initiate planning, including necessary procurement processes, to ensure a smooth transition between selected tasks of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and a possible EU crisis management operation in the field of rule of law and other areas that might be identified by the Council in the context of the future status process.

Launch of EUFOR RD Congo

12 June 2006

Following a request from the UN on 27 December 2005 to deploy a military force to the DRC to provide support to MONUC (EUFOR RD Congo) during the electoral process, the Council on 23 March approved an Option Paper (Crisis Management Concept) and decided to answer positively to the UN request. EUFOR RD Congo will be part of the EU's comprehensive approach in the DRC.

The Council started military planning of Operation EUFOR RD Congo and, following the adoption of UNSCR 1671, adopted a Joint Action on 27 April appointing Lieutenant-General Karlheinz Viereck EU Operation Commander and Major General Christian Damay EU Force Commander and identifying the OHQ in Potsdam. The decision to launch the operation was adopted by the Council on 12 June 2006 and preparations are ongoing in order to reach full operational capability by the date of the first round of the election, i.e. 30 July 2006.

End of EUFOR RD Congo Mission

30 November 2006

Following the presidential and parliamentary elections that led to the election of Joseph Kabila to the presidency, the EUFOR RD Congo Mission ended under the congratulations of the international community for a successful mission. Mr. Aldo Ajello, EU representative for the Great Lakes region, declared himself satisfied of the mission's success while still mentioning the few problems EUFOR had to manage in order to maintain stability in the DR Congo.

Joint Parliamentary Meeting on the Future of Europe: from reflection to action

4 and 5 December 2006

On December 4th and 5th, close to 200 MEPs and MPs took part in the second meeting on the Future of Europe between EU national parliaments and the European Parliament, at the European Parliament in Brussels.

A thematic working group debated on the EU's role in conflict prevention. According to the group's rapporteur, Michael ROTH, a member of the German Bundestag (SDP), national and European parliamentarians generally agree that the EU should play a more important role in conflicts. National and European parliamentarians also agreed that CFSP should be subject to

greater parliamentary scrutiny, the revitalisation of the Assembly of the Western European Union being one notable way of achieving the objective. According to Mr ROTH's report, it is necessary to ensure effective and comprehensive parliamentary scrutiny of the European Security and Defence Policy. With a view to bringing such policy more into the community sphere, consideration was given to strengthening the role of the European Parliament. Discussion had also focussed on improving cooperation and coordination between the national parliaments and the European Parliament and about revitalising the WEU Parliamentary Assembly.

Extension of the mandate of EUPOL KINSHASA

8 December 2006

The EU Council has decided to extend the mandate of the EUPOL KINSHASA to 30 June 2007 in order to contribute to the reinforcement of the action of the Congolese police.

End of the EU monitoring mission in Aceh (AMM)

15 December 2006

The mandate of the EU monitoring mission in Aceh (AMM) has ended. The mission's objective was to support the peace process in the Indonesian province. According to Mr. Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the CFSP, the AMM's objectives were met. Mr. Solana thanked Indonesian authorities for their support, and underlined the fact that this mission was the first peacekeeping mission led by the EU on the Asian continent.

Berlin Conference – “European Security and Defence Policy: the way ahead”

6-7 February 2007

To mark the German Presidency of EU/WEU, the Assembly held a conference in Berlin on Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7 February 2007 on the way ahead for the European Security and Defence Policy. The conference took place in the hemicycle of the Reichstag at the invitation of Dr Norbert Lammert, Speaker of the Bundestag. Prominent European figures addressed the conference about political and capability developments in regard to ESDP. In addition it was attended by numerous delegations from national parliaments, as well as by government and industry representatives and security and defence experts.

The purpose of the conference was to put forward practical suggestions on the way forward for European security and defence. At the close of the conference, the President of the Assembly, Senator Jean Pierre Masseret (France, Socialist Group), delivered a political message from the Assembly to Heads of State and Government ahead of the European Council meeting to be held on 25 March to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome. “Europe needs to rediscover the political resolve and shared vision that existed fifty years ago when six European countries signed the Treaty of Rome”, explained President Masseret.

Adoption of a joint action on the EU Police Mission in Afghanistan

30 May 2007

The EU Council adopted a joint action on the EU Police Mission in Afghanistan – EUPOL Afghanistan.

The mission aims at contributing to the establishment of sustainable and effective civilian policing arrangements under Afghan ownership which will ensure appropriate interaction with the wider criminal justice system. It will also support the reform process towards a trusted and efficient police service which works in accordance with international standards.

The EU Political and Security Committee (PSC) will exercise the political control and the strategic direction regarding the mission. The High Representative will give guidance to the Head of Mission through the EU Special Representative for Afghanistan.

The mission is established for a duration of three years. The operational phase began on 15 June 2007.

Approval of the Guidelines for Command and Control Structure for EU Civilian Operations in Crisis Management

18 June 2007

On 18 June 2007, the Council approved the Guidelines for Command and Control Structure for EU Civilian Operations in Crisis Management. It sets out the functions, roles and responsibilities of the Civilian Operation Commander (CivOpCdr). The Civilian Operation Commander, when appointed, will exercise command and control at strategic level for the planning and conduct of all civilian ESDP operations under the political control and strategic direction of the PSC and the overall authority of the SG/HR.

End of EUPOL Kinshasa and launch of EUPOL RD Congo

1 July 2007

The EUPOL Kinshasa mission, whose mandate ended on 30 June 2007, was succeeded by EUPOL RD CONGO, whose aim is to support and assist the Congolese authorities in their security sector reform (SSR) efforts in the field of the police and its interaction with the justice sector. EUPOL RD CONGO, which has its headquarters in Kinshasa, will also provide a permanent presence in the eastern part of the DRC with a view to providing assistance and expert advice for the stabilisation process in that part of the country. The EU's efforts in support of police reform in the DRC are part of a long-term commitment: the mission has been extended until 30 June 2009.

Establishment of the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability

August 2007

The Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) set up in August 2007 is the ESDP structure in charge of the planning, deployment, conduct and evaluation of civilian crisis-management missions. Located in Brussels, it works under the authority of the Council General Secretariat. It is responsible for eight missions in the fields of the police, rule of law and security sector reform: EUPM (Bosnia and Herzegovina); EUPT and EULEX Kosovo (two future missions); EUPOL COPPS and EUBAM Rafah (Palestinian Territories); EUJUST LEX (Iraqi judicial system); EUPOL Afghanistan; EUPOL RD Congo and EU SSR Guinea Bissau. It has been headed since 1 May 2008 by Kees Klompenhouwer (Netherlands). It has a staff in Brussels of about 60 people, of which half are Council officials and the remainder experts seconded by the member states, for the most part high-ranking police officers or experts on the rule of law, procurement, logistics or finance. The protection on the ground of the some 3 000 people who are or will be participating in ESDP civilian missions is also the responsibility of the CPCC.

Launch of EUFOR TCHAD/RCA

15 October 2007

On 15 October 2007, the Council adopted a joint action (2007/677/CFSP) launching a bridging military operation in Eastern Chad and North Eastern Central African Republic (EUFOR TCHAD/RCA) in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). In deciding to conduct this operation the EU is stepping up its longstanding action in support of efforts to tackle the crisis in Darfur as part of a regional approach to that crisis. This operation will be conducted with the agreement of the Chadian and Central African governments. In its resolution 1778 (2007) of 25 September 2007, the UN Security Council approved the establishment of a UN Mission in Chad and the Central African Republic (MINURCAT) and authorised the EU to deploy forces in these countries for a period of 12 months from the declaration of Initial Operating Capability. EUFOR TCHAD/RCA will be an interim operation designed to support the multi-dimensional United Nations presence in the East of Chad and in the North-East of the CAR in order to improve security in those regions. More specifically, the objectives of this EU operation will be to:

- contribute to protecting civilians in danger, particularly refugees and displaced persons;
- facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and the free movement of humanitarian personnel by helping to improve security in the area of operations;
- contribute to protecting UN personnel, facilities, installations and equipment and to ensuring the security and freedom of movement of its staff and UN and associated personnel.

Establishment of the European Gendarmerie Force

18 October 2007

The European Gendarmerie Force (EGF) is an initiative of five EU Member States – France, Italy, The Netherlands, Portugal and Spain – aimed at improving crisis management capability in sensitive areas. The EGF responds to the need to rapidly conduct many types of civil security actions, either on its own or in parallel with the military intervention, by providing a multinational and effective tool. Based in Vicenza, the EGF HQ is now developing a comprehensive and coherent operational system, which will permit to be ready in case of prompt deployment to crisis areas. The EGF's goal is to provide the international community with a valid and operational instrument for crisis management, first and foremost at the disposal of the EU, but also of other international organizations, such as NATO, UN and the OSCE.

Adoption of the 2010 Civilian Headline Goal

19 November 2007

The 2010 Civilian Headline Goal was adopted at the Civilian Capabilities Improvement Conference held on 19 November 2007 at ministerial level. Among other things it calls for the “mainstreaming of human rights and gender issues” into the concepts and conduct of civilian operations, and for synergies between the civilian and military aspects of ESDP and European Community action to be fully exploited with a view to “maximising coherence in the field as well as at Brussels level”.

Approval in Lisbon by the Heads of State and of Governments of the EU of the Treaty amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community (the “Lisbon Treaty”)

13 December 2007

The Treaty amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community (the Reform Treaty), was signed by the Heads of State and Government of all 27 Member States of the EU in Lisbon, on 13 December 2007. This treaty replaces the earlier ‘Draft Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe’, which was rejected by referenda in both France and The Netherlands in May 2005. The aim is for the Lisbon Treaty to be ratified by the Member States before the European Parliament elections scheduled for June 2009.

Article 28A of the Lisbon Treaty refers to “**Provisions on the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)**”, formerly the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), and replaces Article 17 of the Treaty of Nice.

ARTICLE 28A³

1. The common security and defence policy shall be an integral part of the common foreign and security policy. It shall provide the Union with an operational capacity drawing on civil and military assets. The Union may use them on missions outside the Union for peace-keeping, conflict prevention and strengthening international security in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter. The performance of these tasks shall be undertaken using capabilities provided by the Member States.

2. The common security and defence policy shall include the progressive framing of a common Union defence policy. This will lead to a common defence, when the European Council, acting unanimously, so decides. It shall in that case recommend to the Member States the adoption of such a decision in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.

The policy of the Union in accordance with this Section shall not prejudice the specific character of the security and defence policy of certain Member States and shall respect the obligations of certain Member States, which see their common defence realised in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), under the North Atlantic Treaty and be compatible with the common security and defence policy established within that framework.

3. Member States shall make civilian and military capabilities available to the Union for the implementation of the common security and defence policy, to contribute to the objectives defined by the Council. Those Member States which together establish multinational forces may also make them available to the common security and defence policy.

Member States shall undertake progressively to improve their military capabilities. The Agency in the field of defence capabilities development, research, acquisition and armaments (European Defence Agency) shall identify operational requirements, shall promote measures to satisfy those requirements, shall contribute to identifying and, where appropriate, implementing any measure needed to strengthen the industrial and technological base of the defence sector, shall participate in defining a European capabilities and armaments policy, and shall assist the Council in evaluating the improvement of military capabilities.

4. Decisions relating to the common security and defence policy, including those initiating a mission as referred to in this Article, shall be adopted by the Council acting unanimously on a proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy or an initiative from a Member State. The High Representative may propose the use of both national resources and Union instruments, together with the Commission where appropriate.

5. The Council may entrust the execution of a task, within the Union framework, to a group of Member States in order to protect the Union's values and serve its interests. The execution of such a task shall be governed by Article 28C.

6. Those Member States whose military capabilities fulfil higher criteria and which have made more binding commitments to one another in this area with a view to the most demanding missions shall establish permanent structured cooperation within the Union

³ On 3 December 2007, the European Union published a table of equivalences between the old and the new numbering of the Treaty on European Union. In this fact sheet the numbering used is that of the Lisbon Treaty signed on 13 December 2007. Articles 28A, 28B, 28C, 28D and 28E will in principle be renumbered Articles 42, 43, 44, 45 and 46 according to the definitive numbering of the consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union.

framework. Such cooperation shall be governed by Article 28E. It shall not affect the provisions of Article 28B.

7. If a Member State is the victim of armed aggression on its territory, the other Member States shall have towards it an obligation of aid and assistance by all the means in their power, in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. This shall not prejudice the specific character of the security and defence policy of certain Member States.

Commitments and cooperation in this area shall be consistent with commitments under the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, which, for those States which are members of it, remains the foundation of their collective defence and the forum for its implementation.

(Cf. UEO[2007]DG 7 rev.; “The Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty Establishing the European Community”. Provisions concerning the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), including the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) arranged by topic – Extracts”; 3 December 2007 and Document 1979; “The Reform Treaty and Europe’s security and defence”; Rapporteur: Mr Masseret; 4 December 2007)

Ireland rejects the Treaty of Lisbon

12 June 2008

Ireland was the only country to hold a referendum on ratification of the Treaty amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community (the Lisbon Treaty). The treaty was rejected by 53.41% votes against. Voter turnout was 53.13%. According to a Eurobarometer survey, 40% of people voted against because they had not understood the treaty. 20% of the “no” votes were due to a desire to preserve the “Irish identity”. Other reasons that were put forward were: mistrust of politicians (17%), the concern to preserve Ireland’s neutrality (10%), loss of the Irish Commissioner (10%) and the refusal to accept tax harmonisation (8%).

Since unanimity is required for the adoption and ratification of the treaty, it could not enter into force on the scheduled date (1 January 2008) and a decision will need to be taken by the member states in the coming months.

Launch of EUMM Georgia

15 September 2008

The EU Council, gravely concerned about the open conflict that broke out in Georgia at the beginning of August 2008, adopted Joint Action 2008/736/CFSP establishing an EU monitoring mission in Georgia. EUMM, an autonomous operation under the ESDP, was deployed just two weeks later on 1 October 2008 with the following main tasks: monitoring, analysing and reporting on the situation pertaining to the normalisation process of civil governance, confidence-building and contributing to informing European policy and to future EU engagement.

Informal meeting of the EU Defence Ministers in Deauville

1 and 2 October 2008

In the context of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, French Defence Minister Hervé Morin invited his 26 EU counterparts, the High Representative for the CFSP, Javier Solana, and the European Commission to a working meeting in Deauville on

1 and 2 October 2008. Numerous issues were discussed and a number of conclusions were drawn with regard to the ESDP and EU operations:

- the EUFOR Tchad/RCA in Chad and the Central African Republic has managed to restore security for refugees, displaced persons and humanitarian organisations.
- the Althea military mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina has fulfilled its tasks, thus “paving the way for a different type of European presence”.
- the planning of an EU military naval operation to fight against piracy off the coast of Somalia will be accelerated.

In addition several specific initiatives were launched:

- “European helicopters will be overhauled and their pilots trained to be deployed to the most demanding theatres of operations (...);
- A multinational air transport fleet will be established, initially revolving around the A400M aircraft, to increase the EU’s air transport resources (...);
- A European air and sea group could be set up, in case of need, for military naval interventions. This would consist of an aircraft carrier and all the escort and support vehicles, which would be interoperable (...);
- New military capacities for spatial observation will complement Europeans’ means of gathering information. Several military satellites will supply images to the European Union Satellite Centre. The new generation of satellites will be developed in European cooperation (...);
- (...) the role of the European Defence Agency will be reinforced, notably with regard to conducting European armaments and research programmes. The defence ministers supported the creation of a real internal market for defence to encourage the consolidation of the European industry (...);
- Existing European forces will be made more reactive. The need to deploy them in operations was emphasised, in particular for the BG 1500 force (...);
- The coordination of operations to evacuate EU nationals will be increased to strengthen the protection of European citizens throughout the world (...);
- Military contributions to maritime surveillance will be consolidated to respond to intensified illicit trafficking and acts of piracy (...);
- Exchanges between young European officers will be developed through an initiative inspired by the ERASMUS programme (...).”

Launch of EU NAVFOR ATALANTA

10 November 2008

The General Affairs and External Relations Council, meeting in Brussels on 10 and 11 November 2008, adopted Joint Action 2008/851/CFSP on a European Union military operation to contribute to the deterrence, prevention and repression of acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast (EU NAVFOR Somalia – Operation Atalanta). Military coordination (EU NAVCO) had already been initiated on 15 September. Atalanta will start on 2 December, when UN Security Council Resolution 1816 is due to expire.

Operation Atlanta will provide security in the maritime zone off the coast of Somalia and protect humanitarian convoys heading towards that country.

Calendar of significant events for European Defence

27 October 1984	WEU's Rome Declaration. First joint meeting of foreign and defence ministers of WEU member countries
27 October 1984	WEU's "Platform on European Security Interests" adopted in The Hague by the WEU Council
1987-1989	WEU demining operation in the Persian Gulf.
13 November 1989	Decision to create the WEU Institute for Security Studies (ISS)
1990-1991	Coordination by WEU of the embargo-monitoring operation in the Persian Gulf and Red Sea
27 June 1991	Decision by the WEU Council to create the WEU Satellite Centre
10 December 1991	Declaration by the WEU ministers at the Maastricht Summit
7 February 1992	Signature of Maastricht Treaty (Date of entry into force: 1 November 1993)
19 June 1992	WEU Council of Ministers (Bonn) Petersberg Declaration
16 July 1992	Start of the WEU operation <i>Sharp Vigilance</i> in the Adriatic
4 December 1992	Creation of the Western European Armaments Group (WEAG)
1993-1996	Organisation by WEU of the embargo-monitoring operation on the Danube
1993-1996	Joint WEU-NATO operation <i>Sharp Guard</i> in the Adriatic
1994-1996	WEU contribution to the administration of Mostar
15 May 1995	Decision to create the WEU Situation Centre
14 November 1995	Common European security concept adopted by the WEU Council in Madrid
3 June 1996	North Atlantic Council (Berlin)
19 November 1996	Creation of the Western European Armaments Organisation
22 July 1997	WEU Declaration appended to the Amsterdam Treaty
13 May 1997	WEU decision to set up a Multinational Police Advisory Element (MAPE) in Albania
2 October 1997	Signature of the Amsterdam Treaty (Date of entry into force: 1 May 1999)
18 November 1997	Creation of the WEU Military Committee

1998

24 October	Informal European Summit (Pörschach)
3 and 4 November	Informal meeting of EU Defence Ministers (Vienna)
1 December	Franco-German Summit (Potsdam)
1998-2001	WEU demining assistance mission (WEUDAM) in Croatia
4 December	Franco-British Summit (Saint-Malo)
10-12 December	European Council (Vienna)

1999

13 and 14 March	Informal meeting of the EU Foreign Affairs Ministers (Reinhardtshausen)
23 and 24 April	Washington Summit: 50th anniversary of the Atlantic Alliance (Washington)
1 May	Entry into force of the Amsterdam Treaty
10 and 11 May	WEU Council of Ministers (Bremen)
28 May	Informal meeting of the EU Defence Ministers (Bonn)
28 and 29 May	Franco-German Summit (Toulouse)
3 and 4 June	European Council (Cologne)
18 and 19 October	Special session of the WEU Assembly (Luxembourg): “Security and Defence: The challenge for Europe after Cologne”
15 November	Meeting of the General Affairs Council (Joint Council including Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministers)
22 and 23 November	WEU Council of Ministers (Luxembourg)
25 November	Franco-British Summit (London)
10 and 11 December	European Council (Helsinki)

2000

14 February	Opening of Intergovernmental Conference (on institutional reform)
28 February	Informal meeting of the EU Defence Ministers (Penha Longa, Portugal)
1 March	Setting up of interim Common European Security and Defence Policy (CESDP) structures (interim Political and Security Committee, Military Committee, Military Staff)
20 March	Meeting of the General Affairs Council (Joint Council including Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministers (Brussels)
20 and 21 March	Special session of WEU Assembly (Lisbon) Lisbon Initiative on “European security and defence: the parliamentary dimension” (interim European Security and Defence Assembly)
23 and 24 March	Extraordinary meeting of the European Council (Lisbon)
15 and 16 May	WEU Council of Ministers (Oporto)
19 and 20 June	Santa Maria da Feira European Council
19 September	First official meeting, at ambassador level, between the North Atlantic Council (NAC) and the interim Political and Security Committee (iPSC) (Brussels)
22 September	Informal meeting of EU Defence Ministers (Ecouen, Val d’Oise)
13 November	WEU Council of Ministers (Marseilles)
20 November	Informal meeting of the EU Defence Ministers (Capabilities Commitment Conference), followed by: Meeting of the General Affairs Council including Defence Ministers (Brussels)
21 November	Meeting “at 15+15” between the EU Defence Ministers and their 15 counterparts of non-EU European nations (additional contributions possible) and specific meeting “at 15+6” between EU Defence Ministers and European NATO countries which are not EU members. (Brussels)
7 and 8 December	Nice European Council

2001

26 February	Signature of Nice Treaty
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(Date of entry into force: 1 February 2003)

23 and 24 March	European Council (Stockholm)
14 and 15 May	General Affairs Council/Informal meeting of EU Defence Ministers (Brussels)
15 and 16 June	European Council (Gothenburg)
20 June	EU Council Joint Actions: creation of the EU Institute for Security Studies and the EU Satellite Centre
19 November	Military Capabilities Improvement Conference and Ministerial Police Capabilities Commitment Conference
14 and 15 December 2001	European Council (Laeken)

2002

28 February	Inaugural session of the Convention on the Future of Europe
15 and 16 March	European Council (Barcelona)
13 May	Meeting of General Affairs Council (Joint Council of Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministers)
14 May	Meeting of EU Defence Ministers at 15+15 then 15+6
21 and 22 June	European Council (Seville)
24 and 25 October	Brussels European Council (decisions on enlargement)
12 and 13 December	Copenhagen European Council ("Berlin plus" arrangements)

2003

1 January	EU takes over the United Nations mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina: European Union Police Mission (EUPM)
1 February	Entry into force of Treaty of Nice
4 February	Franco-British Summit (Le Touquet)
31 March	EU takes over the NATO mission in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Operation CONCORDIA
29 April	Joint Declaration by the Heads of State and Government of Germany, France, Luxembourg and Belgium on European defence, Brussels
19 and 20 May	Meeting of EU Defence Ministers (Brussels, 19 May) General Affairs and External Relations Council (Joint Council of Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministers)
27 May	Signature of the contract for the order of A400M military transport aircraft
12 June	EU Council launches Operation ARTEMIS in the Democratic Republic of Congo
20 June	Thessaloniki European Council (end of the work of the Convention on the Future of Europe)
4 October	Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the European Union for the opening of the Intergovernmental Conference
17 November	General Affairs and External Relations Council
12-13 December	Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the European Union on the IGC
15 December	End of <i>Concordia</i> mission and launch of EU Police Mission in the Former Yugoslavia Republic of Macedonia PROXIMA

2004

17/18 June	The European Council agrees to take forward work on the establishment of a
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	civilian/military cell within the EU Military Staff
12 July	Council Joint Action on the Establishment of the European Defence Agency
16 July	Start of EU Rule of Law Mission to Georgia (EUJUST THEMIS)
2 December	EU takes over from NATO SFOR in Bosnia and launches the Althea Mission
<u>2005</u>	
30 April 2005	Start of EU Police Mission in Kinshasa (DRC) – (EUPOL KINSHASA)
8 June	Start of EUSEC RD Congo
1 July 2005	Start of European Union Integrated Rule of Law mission for Iraq (EUJUST LEX)
18 July	Start of the civil-military support mission to AMIS II
15 September 2005	Start of European Union Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM)
26 November 2005	Start of European Union Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing Point (EU BAM Rafah)
30 November 2005	Start of EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EU BAM Moldova and Ukraine)
<u>2006</u>	
1 January 2006	Start of EU Police Mission in the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL-COPPS)
12 June 2006	Start of the EUFOR RD Congo mission
30 November	End of EUFOR RD Congo
4 and 5 December	Joint Parliamentary Meeting on the Future of Europe: from reflection to action
8 December	Extension of the EUPOL Kinshasa mandate
15 December	End of the EU monitoring mission in Aceh
<u>2007</u>	
6 and 7 February	Berlin Conference – “European Security and Defence Policy: the way ahead”
24 May	One year extension of the EU BAM Rafah mission mandate
30 May	Joint action on the EU Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL Afghanistan)
15 June	Suspension of the EUBAM Rafah mission
18 June	Approval of the Guidelines for Command and Control Structure for EU Civilian Operations in Crisis Management
1 July	End of the EUPOL Kinshasa mission and launch of EUPOL RD Congo
15 October	Establishment of the EUFOR TCHAD/RCA mission
18 October	Establishment of the European Gendarmerie Force (EGF)
	Approval by the Heads of State and of governments of the EU of the Treaty amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community (the “Lisbon Treaty”)
13 December	Signature of the “Treaty of Lisbon”
31 December	End of the civil-military support mission to AMIS II
<u>2008</u>	
12 June	Irish rejection of the Lisbon Treaty
15 September	Start of the EUMM Georgia mission
1-2 October	Informal meeting of EU Defence Ministers in Deauville
10 November	Launch of EU NAVFOR ATALANTA