



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



## **Council Conclusions on European Security and Defence Policy**

*2761st EXTERNAL RELATIONS Council meeting  
Brussels, 13 and 14 November 2006*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

### ***"Civilian Capabilities***

1. The demand for civilian ESDP missions continues to grow. The Council therefore attached great importance to the continued efforts under the Civilian Headline Goal 2008 to enhance and update the EU civilian ESDP crisis management capabilities. In this context, the Council noted with satisfaction the Civilian Capabilities Improvement Conference and its Ministerial Declaration and welcomed the Progress Report 2006.

### ***Military Capabilities***

2. The Council noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in the qualitative approach to capability planning called for by the Headline Goal 2010.
3. The Council noted the Force Catalogue 2006 (FC 06), which presents the Member States' contributed forces and capabilities against the required capabilities as defined in the Requirements Catalogue 2005 (RC 05).
4. Acceding States' contributions are presented in a supplement to the FC 06. The Council looked forward to their scrutinised contributions being incorporated as MS contributions in a revised version of the FC 06. It also looked forward to the contributions of non-EU European NATO members, and of other countries which are candidates for accession to the EU. These contributions will be presented in another supplement to the FC 06.

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5. The Council looked forward to the further steps implementing the Scrutinising, Assessing and Evaluating (SAE) methodology, including the Assessment process based on the agreed Assessment Handbook which will examine the totality of MS scrutinised contributions for the year 2010 and identify capability shortfalls in qualitative and quantitative terms. Further steps will also include the Evaluation process, based on an Evaluation Methodology which is being developed.
6. The Council looked forward to the finalisation in 2007 of the Progress Catalogue which will contain a comprehensive assessment of the EU military capabilities and capacity needed to fulfil the requirements set in the Requirement Catalogue 2005.
7. The Council noted the Single Progress Report on military capabilities. Concerning the European Capabilities Action Plan, the Council noted the continued migration of former ECAP Project Groups into a more integrated process associated with the EDA.
8. The Council noted that the EU-NATO Capability Group had continued to address issues of coherent and mutually reinforcing development of military capabilities in the EU and NATO where requirements overlap. All EU Member States were informed of these issues.
9. The Council noted the clarification on the release of NATO Unclassified Information to all EU Member States.

### ***Rapid Response***

10. By January 2007, the EU will have the Full Operational Capability to undertake two battlegroup size operations of rapid response, including the ability to launch two such operations nearly simultaneously. The Council welcomed the Seminar "Approaching EU's Battlegroups Full Operational Capability - State Of Play And Way Ahead" organised by the Presidency on Battlegroups on 19-20 October in Helsinki, and the successful outcome of the Battlegroups Co-ordination Conference on 27 October. The Council noted with satisfaction that Member States have fulfilled the required commitments up to and including 2008 and looks forward to additional offers, in particular to solve the vacant slot in the first half of 2009.
11. The Council welcomed the introductory workshop on the Study for the Rapid Response Air Initiative in ESDP held on 25 and 26 October. This workshop aimed at elaborating the scope of the study and conducting initial discussions on a successful use of air power for Rapid Response within the whole spectrum of EU crisis management tasks.
12. With regard to the Maritime Dimension in ESDP, the Council noted the ongoing work on the contribution of EU maritime forces in ESDP missions/operations and their use in a rapid response capacity. Beyond the framework of Rapid Response, the Council welcomed the ongoing work on the interlinked issues of mission spectrum and future structures and tasks of maritime forces in the context of ESDP missions/operations and looks forward to the conclusions of the Maritime Dimension Study to be issued by the end of the year.

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## *European Defence Agency*

13. The Council noted the report submitted by the Head of the Agency on its activities and welcomed the results achieved.
14. In particular, the Council welcomed the achievements in the areas targeted in the Council guidelines for the EDA 2006 Work Programme, noting:
  - the endorsement of ‘an Initial Long-Term Vision for European Defence Capability and Capacity Needs’ - established with strong contributions from the EUMC and the ISS (extensively discussed with and broadly supported by participating Member States, but without word-for-word agreement) - as a reasonable foundation for the Agency’s medium-to-long term agendas;
  - the inauguration of the voluntary regime on defence procurement and its successful implementation, including the Code of Best Practice in the Supply Chain - notably with the launch of the Electronic Bulletin Board; and the decisions on Security of Supply between subscribing Member States in Circumstances of Operational Urgency, and Security of Information;
  - the agreed description of characteristics of a strong future European Defence Technological and Industrial Base;
  - the adoption of a Defence R&T Joint Investment Programme on Force Protection;
  - the good progress on the Agency’s management of a growing number of collaborative ad hoc projects, including those successfully taken over from the WEAO Research Cell. In particular, the Council welcomed projects in relation to Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and Armoured Fighting Vehicles.
15. The Council also took note of progress in the area of Command and Control, in particular Software-Defined Radio and the project on a Tactical Imagery Exploitation System (TIES) demonstrator for EU Battlegroups. It also noted the positive work on developing a cooperative process designed to encourage possibilities for collaboration in development and procurement of systems and components.
16. The Council noted with satisfaction efforts to ensure good coordination and complementarity between the EDA and the Commission. The Council also noted the importance of achieving coordination with NATO, OCCAR and the LoI Framework, in accordance with the provisions of the Joint Action on the establishment of the European Defence Agency.
17. The Council agreed to postpone by another year the setting of the Agency's three-year financial framework and adopted by unanimity the Agency's budget for 2007.

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### ***Strengthening Civil-Military Co-ordination***

18. The Council welcomed the ongoing work, building on the work carried out under previous Presidencies, on improving effective co-ordination of the civilian and military crisis management instruments the EU has at its disposal. The Council noted recent work on improving situational awareness in theatre, and recalled that the PSC had noted a document on improving information sharing in support of EU crisis management operations. The goal is to achieve a high degree of common situational awareness among EU actors as this constitutes an important element in ensuring that EU crisis management efforts are coherent and effective. The Council underlined the importance of ensuring a comprehensive approach with regard to the work on the Information Exchange Requirements. Taking account of the importance of CMCO to ensuring that the EU achieves maximum impact with the resources at its disposal, the Council underlined the need to continue work on improving civil-military co-ordination. In this regard, effective practical co-operation with other actors, as appropriate, is also important.

### ***Using military assets in support of EU disaster relief: getting assistance quickly where it is needed***

19. The Council welcomed work to improve the EU's ability to respond to disasters, notably on military support to EU disaster response. This work is taking place in the context of the Hampton Court follow-up and the proposals put forward by the SG/HR in March 2006.
20. The Council recalled that helping citizens in an emergency, crisis or disaster, whether natural or man-made, requires rapid and effective delivery of assistance. Military means may be essential to complement civilian capabilities in order to save lives and allow for speed of action.
21. In this framework, the Council noted the document on "Military support to EU disaster relief - Identification and coordination of available assets and capabilities" (doc 9462/3/06 REV 3) as a living document, and agreed on its way ahead. The arrangements set out therein are designed to enhance the rapidity and effectiveness of the EU's response to disasters with military support. They will be subject to review, as necessary, in the light of experience gained."

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