

*ARF Security Policy Conference
Karambunai, Sabah, Malaysia 18 May 2006
Background paper submitted by the EU delegation*

The European Union perspective on peace-keeping

N.B.: The following presentation refers to the perspective and activities of the European Union in peace-keeping, comprising civilian and military crises management activities of the EU. It does not include the contributions to peace-keeping activities made by the EU Member States in their national capacity.

The European Union commitment to Peacekeeping began when the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) was first established by the Maastricht Treaty signed by the Member States in 1992. The provisions of the CFSP were revised by the Amsterdam Treaty of 1997 which created the position of an EU High Representative for CFSP and also introduced the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). Articles 11 to 28 of the Treaty on European Union are now devoted specifically to the CFSP.

The five objective of European Foreign Policy are (see Article 11 TEU):

- To safeguard the common values, fundamental interests, independence and integrity of the Union in conformity with the principles of the United Nations Charter,
- To strengthen the security of the Union in all ways,
- To preserve peace and strengthen international security, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter, as well as the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and the objective of the Paris Charter, including those on external borders,
- To promote international cooperation,
- To develop and consolidate democracy and the rule of law, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms".

The ESDP, which shall support those objectives, is defined in TEU Article 17: "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 EU has also inherited the so-called "Petersberg tasks":

- Humanitarian and rescue tasks;
- Peacekeeping tasks;
- Tasks of combat forces in crisis management, including peacemaking.

ESDP has provided the EU with efficient operational Peacekeeping instruments to address the spectrum of tasks such conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict situations.

Another important benchmark in the development of ESDP was the approval by the European Council in Brussels on 12 December 2003 of the European Security Strategy (ESS) "A Secure Europe in a better World".

The ESS identifies as global challenges and key threats, inter alia:

- terrorism,
- proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction,
- regional conflicts,
- state failures,
- and organized crime.

It defines also the EU strategic objectives addressing the threats: building security in the European Union's neighbourhood, and promoting an international order based on effective multilateralism.

In pursuing EU strategic objectives and in tackling threats, the document analyses possible EU policies and instruments.

The policy implications were that the EU needed and still continues to make efforts:

- to be more active in pursuing its strategic objectives.
- to be more capable in adapting and employing the said instruments.
- to be more coherent.

This applies to the full spectrum of instruments for crisis management and conflict prevention, which include political, diplomatic, military and civilian, trade and development activities.

And, furthermore, the EU recognized the need of working with partners. Since the threats are common with the closest partners, international cooperation is a necessity. Hence, the EU needs to pursue its objectives both through multilateral cooperation in international organizations and through partnership with key actors.

Taking the above into account, a detailed vision of necessary capabilities to match the political ambition as defined above (the so-called "Headline Goal 2010") was approved by EU Foreign Ministers at their May 2004 Council and endorsed by the European Council (the meeting of EU heads of State and Government, the EU's highest decision making body) in June 2004. It includes the following military tasks as indicated by the European Security Strategy:

- joint disarmament operations,
- the support to third countries in combating terrorism,
- and security sector reform.

The tasks involve expanding the scope of CFSP/ESDP towards conflict prevention as well as post-conflict rehabilitation.

Inspired by the development of military capabilities and in recognition of the need of civilian crisis management, the EU has also developed civilian capabilities in the fields of policing, security sector reform, rule of law and other, sometimes multi-faceted monitoring operations as set out below. As a matter of fact, the EU is at present conducting more civilian crisis management operations than military ones.

In this regard, following an official invitation of the government of Indonesia, the EU together with five ASEAN contributing countries (Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) deployed a civilian monitoring mission in Aceh (Indonesia) in September 2005.

Below the EU's operations worldwide, which employ an unique combination of tools that include political, diplomatic, military and civilian, trade and development activities, are listed:

1. Western Balkans

- EU Military Operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina - EUFOR Althea
- EU Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina - EUPM

- EU Police Advisory Team in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) - EUPAT
 - EU Military Operation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) - EUFOR Concordia (concluded)
 - EU Police Mission in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) - EUPOL PROXIMA (concluded)
- 2. South Caucasus**
- EU Rule of Law Mission in Georgia - EUJUST THEMIS (completed)
 - EU Border Assistance Mission to Georgia
- 3. Eastern Europe**
- EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine.
- 4. Middle East**
- EU Police Mission in the Palestinian Territories - EUPOL COPPS
 - EU Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing Point - EU BAM Rafah
 - EU Integrated Rule of Law Mission for Iraq - EUJUST LEX
- 5. Africa**
- EU Police Mission in Kinshasa (DRC) - EUPOL Kinshasa
 - EU Security Sector Reform Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo - EUSEC DR Congo
 - EU Support to Amis II (Darfur)
 - EU Military Operation in Democratic Republic of Congo (Artemis)(completed)
 - EU Military Operation in Support of the MONUC during the election process in DR Congo - EUFOR RD Congo
- 6. South-East Asia**
- EU Monitoring Mission in Aceh (Indonesia) - AMM

For more information on CFSP, ESDP and the operations please consult the EU Council
Website: www.europa.eu