

RECOMMENDATION 764

on ESDP developments and the Headline Goal 2010 – reply to the annual report of the Council

The Assembly,

- (i) Recalling the resolve of the member states expressed at Helsinki “to develop an autonomous capacity to take decisions and, where NATO as a whole is not engaged, to launch and conduct EU-led military operations in response to international crises”;
- (ii) Noting with satisfaction the determination shown by the EU member states in the European Security Strategy together to be capable of dealing with the new threats: terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, failed states and organised crime;
- (iii) Welcoming the EU’s efforts to constantly improve upon its crisis-management procedures and structures (PSC, EUMC, EUMS etc.) and to acquire the capabilities needed for fulfilling its tasks;
- (iv) Noting that the so-called extended Petersberg tasks that the EU set for itself in the Constitutional Treaty cover all aspects of crisis management: conflict prevention, crisis management proper and post-crisis missions;
- (v) Regretting that Article I-41 (7) of the Constitutional Treaty on mutual defence contains no binding commitment for the member states;
- (vi) Welcoming the setting-up, through that treaty, of “permanent structured cooperation” among member states wishing to acquire effective crisis-management capabilities for the EU by improving their autonomy and responsiveness;
- (vii) Noting with satisfaction that the Headline Goal 2010 will give the EU the capability to react very swiftly to an emerging crisis;
- (viii) Recalling, however, that the EU does not have a permanent multinational operational headquarters which would enable it to respond within the timeframe specified by the Headline Goal 2010, namely, a decision within five days and deployment within ten days;
- (ix) Welcoming the development of the Civil-Military Cell within the EU Military Staff which will make it possible to link up the different aspects involved in the management of a crisis and to rapidly set up an operations centre for that type of mission;
- (x) Noting with satisfaction the desire of the large majority of member states to participate in the creation of battlegroups, but aware of the difficulties involved in having well-trained multinational battlegroups available within less than ten days;
- (xi) Noting the dispersal of efforts in the defence equipment sector within the EU and welcoming the creation of the European Defence Agency (EDA);
- (xii) Noting the efforts being made by the member states within the European Capability Action Plan (ECAP) to remedy identified shortfalls in the area of military capabilities with a view to carrying out EU missions, but conscious of the difficulties they are encountering;
- (xiii) Noting the developments in the area of the Global Approach on Deployability;
- (xiv) Regretting the lack of an industrial armaments policy within the EU;
- (xv) Welcoming the EU’s efforts to acquire a civilian crisis-management capability in the different areas of civil intervention and the start of the process for implementing the 2008 civilian Headline Goal;
- (xvi) Welcoming the developments in EU training in the field of the ESDP, which will enhance a European security culture;
- (xvii) Recalling the emphasis that has been placed within the EU on the fight against terrorism and that is reflected in the EU plan of action to combat terrorism and the use of the ESDP to that end;

(xviii) Noting with satisfaction the EU's cooperation during recent crises with NATO (Berlin plus arrangements), the UN (joint declaration) and the African Union,

RECOMMENDS THAT THE COUNCIL INVITE THE WEU MEMBER STATES AS MEMBERS OF THE EU TO:

1. Maintain their mutual defence obligation as it stands within the modified Brussels Treaty for as long as the EU member states have not entered into any commitment of that kind by means of a future amendment to the Constitutional Treaty;
2. Urge the EU Military Committee to draw up a proper military strategic concept with a view to translating into military capabilities the political resolve to manage crises that is expressed in the European Security Strategy and in the Headline Goal 2010;
3. Mobilise their efforts within the EU to introduce a minimum procedure for qualified majority voting in the ESDP decision-making processes in order to avert the danger of decisions being blocked by the unanimity requirement;
4. Encourage the development of the Civil-Military Cell within the EU Military Staff and provide the means to establish a proper operations centre;
5. Concert their efforts with a view to putting in place a genuine permanent multinational operations headquarters to be used in connection with "permanent structured cooperation" within the EU;
6. Incorporate in the ESDP a proper intelligence policy based on European satellite capabilities and the Torrejón Satellite Centre, which will have been made more operational;
7. Take forward the implementation of the EU battlegroups concept in order to achieve full operational capability in 2007 as identified in the Headline Goal 2010, and set up specific battlegroup training and exercises;
8. Take forward the Global Approach on Deployability and the creation of a permanent EU Movement Coordination Cell within the EUMS;
9. Participate actively in the new phase of the ECAP (European Capability Action Plan) and make available the financial resources that are essential for developing the equipment programmes being envisaged to remedy the identified capability shortfalls;
10. Continue work in the area of EU training in the field of the ESDP and especially in relation to the European Security and Defence College;
11. Foster the development of the European Defence Agency by providing it with the necessary personnel and funding as soon as possible and by introducing the possibility of qualified majority voting into the decision-making process.