

11. The European Union Military Structures

Building on the guidelines established at the Cologne European Council and on the basis of the Presidency's reports, the European Council in Helsinki set the following targets:

- cooperating voluntarily in EU-led operations, Member States must be able, by 2003, to deploy within 60 days and sustain for at least 1 year military forces of up to 50,000-60,000 persons capable of ensuring humanitarian and rescue tasks, peace keeping tasks and tasks of combat forces in crisis management including peace making (the so called Petersberg tasks), in accordance with article 17 of the treaty on E.U.;
- new political and military bodies and structures will be established within the Council to enable the Union to ensure the necessary political guidance and strategic direction to such operations, while respecting the single institutional framework.

The following new permanent political and military bodies, as approved at the Nice European Council, are being gradually established within the Council:

- a) A standing Political and Security Committee (PSC)
- b) The Military Committee (MC)
- c) The Military Staff (MS)

As an interim measure for the military structures, the following bodies were set up within the Council as of March 2000:

- a) An interim body of military representatives of Member States' Chiefs of Defense was established, as a Council group, to give military advice as required to the interim political and security committee.
- b) The Council Secretariat was strengthened by military experts seconded from Member States, called interim Military Staff, in order to assist in the work on the CESDP and to form the nucleus of the future Military Staff.

The interim Military Staff, initially composed of some 20 military experts and 8 civilian secretaries and is currently growing towards a target figure of about 45.

To develop European capabilities, Member States set themselves the Headline Goal. The work conducted since the Feira European Council has enabled the European Union to define the variety of measures needed successfully to carry out the full range of the tasks defined in art.17 of TEU, including the most demanding among these. It has made it possible to specify the EU's needs in terms of the military capability and forces required to attain the Headline Goal. The needs identified are outlined in a capability catalogue. As foreseen at the Feira European Council, NATO's military expertise has helped in drawing up this catalogue.

On 20 November 2000 in Brussels the Member States took part in a Capabilities Commitment Conference, making it possible to draw together the specific national commitments corresponding to the military capability goals set by the Helsinki European Council. In accordance with the guidelines of the Helsinki and Feira European Councils on collective capability goals, the Member States also committed themselves to medium and long-term efforts in order to improve both their operational and their strategic capabilities still further. The Member States committed themselves, particularly in the framework of the reforms being implemented in their armed forces, to continue taking steps to strengthen their own capabilities and carrying out existing or planned projects implementing multinational solutions, including in the field of pooling resources.

The European Union Military structures will continue to progress the work in all the above areas with a view to achieving fully the Headline Goal by 2003. EU wants to achieve the objective of making itself quickly operational. A decision to that end will be taken by the European Council as soon as possible in 2001 and no later than the European Council in Laeken.

In order to enable the European Union fully to assume its responsibilities for crisis management, the European Council (Nice, December 2000) decided to establish permanent political and military structures.

These structures are:

The Political and Security Committee (PSC) meets at the ambassadorial level as a preparatory body for the Council of the EU. Its main functions are keeping track of the international situation, and helping to define policies within the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) including the ESDP. It prepares a coherent EU response to a crisis and exercises its political control and strategic direction.

The European Union Military Committee (EUMC) is the highest military body set up within the Council. It is composed of the Chiefs of Defence of the Member States, who are regularly represented by their permanent military representatives. The EUMC provides the PSC with advice and recommendations on all military matters within the EU.

In parallel with the EUMC, the PSC is advised by a Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CIVCOM). This committee provides information, drafts recommendations, and gives its opinion to the PSC on civilian aspects of crisis management.

The European Union Military Staff (EUMS)

composed of military and civilian experts seconded to the Council Secretariat by the Member States.

The Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC), which is part of the Council Secretariat, is the permanent structure responsible for an autonomous operational conduct of civilian ESDP operations. Under the political control and strategic direction of the Political and Security Committee and the overall authority of the High Representative, the CPCC ensures the effective planning and conduct of civilian ESDP crisis management operations, as well as the proper implementation of all mission-related tasks.
