

### **13. Presidency Report on Strengthening the Common European Security and Defence Policy to the European Council**

**JUNE 2000**  
(...)

**Annex I**  
(...)

#### **Appendix 2**

#### **Principles for consultation with NATO on military issues and recommendations on developing modalities for EU-NATO relations**

##### **Mandate**

The European Council in Helsinki invited the Portuguese Presidency to report to the European Council in Feira on the progress made, including 'proposals on principles for consultation with NATO on military issues and recommendations on developing modalities for EU-NATO relations, to permit cooperation on the appropriate military response to a crisis, as set out in Washington and at Cologne'.

##### **Principles**

1. Development of consultation and cooperation between the EU and NATO must take place in full respect of the autonomy of EU decision-making.
2. The EU and NATO have undertaken further to strengthen and develop their cooperation in military crisis management on the basis of shared values, equality and in a spirit of partnership. The aim is to achieve full and effective consultation, cooperation and transparency in order to identify and take rapid decisions on the most appropriate military response to a crisis and to ensure efficient crisis-management. In this context, EU objectives in the field of military capabilities and those arising, for those countries concerned, from NATO's defence capabilities initiative, will be mutually reinforcing.
3. While being mutually reinforcing in crisis management, the EU and NATO are organisations of a different nature. This will be taken into account in the arrangements concerning their relations and in the assessment to be made by the EU of existing procedures governing WEU-NATO relations with a view to their possible adaptation to an EU-NATO framework.
4. Arrangements and modalities for relations between the EU and NATO will reflect the fact that each organisation will be dealing with the other on an equal footing.
5. In the relations between the EU and NATO as institutions, there will be no discrimination against any of the Member States.

### **Issues and modalities for the interim period**

Contacts with NATO (informal contacts by SGs, briefings by the Portuguese Presidency at the NAC) have taken place in accordance with the Helsinki definition for the initial phase in which the EU interim bodies have concentrated on establishing themselves. There is now a need for a further evolution in EU-NATO relations.

#### **A. Issues**

1. Security: EU efforts towards finalising its own security arrangements (physical and personal security, and work towards an EU security agreement) are an absolute priority. On this basis, the Union will have to establish a dialogue with NATO to define security arrangements between the two organisations. These discussions should lead to an agreement, which will govern inter alia information exchange and access by designated officials from the EU and its Member States to NATO planning structures.

2. Defining capability goals: to ensure that 'these objectives and those arising, for those countries concerned, from NATO's defence capabilities initiative (DCI) will be mutually reinforcing', modalities for consultation on these issues will need to be established. These modalities should permit the EU to draw, as needed, on NATO military expertise, as the EU elaborates its headline goal by drawing on Member State contributions. Having elaborated the headline and capability goals, the EU, as agreed in Helsinki, will develop a method of consultation through which these goals can be met and maintained, and through which national contributions reflecting Member States' political will and commitment towards these goals can be defined by each Member State, with a regular review of progress made. In addition, Member States would use existing defence planning procedures including, as appropriate, those available in NATO and the planning and review process of the Partnership for Peace (PIP).

3. Arrangements giving the EU access to NATO assets and capabilities (Berlin and Washington agreements): Helsinki and Cologne defined two approaches to implementing EU operations: with or without NATO assets. To use NATO assets, it is important to make progress on defining together how this will work in practice in order to draw up an agreement. This agreement should be ready by the time the EU becomes operational. To make this possible, the EU looks forward to substantial progress within NATO.

4. Defining permanent arrangements: Following the Feira European Council, discussion will be needed to determine the nature of the permanent arrangements, which will govern relations between the EU and NATO. These arrangements should be based upon the principles defined above.

The groundwork undertaken on these four issues will pave the way for establishing permanent arrangements between NATO and the EU. Our aim is that these should be ready at the same time as the EU permanent structures are put in place after the Nice European Council.

## **B. Modalities**

1. The Feira European Council should decide to propose to NATO the creation of ‘ad hoc working groups’ between the EU and NATO for each of the issues mentioned above.
  2. The ‘ad hoc working groups’ would have the following tasks:
    - (a) for security issues: preparation of an EU-NATO security agreement;
    - (b) for capability goals: the implementation of information exchange and discussion with NATO on elaborating capability goals. It is understood that DSACEUR could participate, as appropriate;
    - (c) for modalities providing EU access to NATO assets (Berlin and Washington agreements): preparation of an agreement on the modalities for EU access to NATO assets and capabilities as agreed at Washington (draft framework agreement on Berlin plus implementation). It is understood that DSACEUR should participate;
    - (d) for the definition of permanent arrangements: defining the main parameters of an EU-NATO agreement which would formalise structures and procedures for consultation between the two organisations in times of crisis and non-crisis.
  3. If, having regard to the principles set out above, new issues were to arise which were recognised as requiring consultation between the EU and NATO, further ‘ad hoc working groups’ could be considered.
  4. On the EU side, the IPSC will have a coordinating role for the work of the ‘ad hoc working groups’, and will be a focal point for dialogue.
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