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EU-NATO Relations – harmonization of responsibilities and division of labour for Security and Defence after the Strasbourg Summit

1. NATO's Strasbourg summit established that cooperation between the EU and NATO should be more intensive and more efficiently organised. What kind of concrete steps can be taken to achieve that? How will NATO and EU split the tasks and the risks in the future?

- EU and NATO complement each other in crisis management. There cannot be any definite splitting of tasks. No “catalogue of criteria” delineating responsibilities of either organisation.
- Both organisations have specific strengths and specific members on which they can build. These determine respective roles.
- Coherence and coordination of respective actions is paramount. We cannot afford unnecessary duplication.
- We should urgently avoid “beauty contest”-reflexes, where engagement of one organisation draws the other one into the game (for instance in counter-piracy).
- Have seen numerous proposals and attempts to enhance cooperation and render it more efficient. At staff-to-staff level, contacts exist. But decisions are taken by Allies/Member States. Dialogue at this level has virtually ground to a halt. This has less to do with NATO and EU than with bilateral problems between some Allies/member States.
- For real progress in NATO-EU cooperation, these underlying problems need to be resolved.

1. The partnership between NATO and the EU is described as a strategic one. What are the prospects for this partnership and just how closely can the two partners cooperate – particularly given their different institutional set-ups. How can the full potential of this partnership be tapped? What role will the USA play?

- Basic values and goals of both organisations are very much aligned - this is essential and first precondition for successful cooperation. (Peace and security in Europe/Transatlantic Area, assumption of responsibility for crisis prevention also beyond own boundaries).
- We need to bear in mind that EU as an organisation covers a substantially larger area of issues than NATO. This obviously has implications for decision making procedures internally as well as with regard to involvement of Third Parties.

- The involvement of the US in European security was of paramount importance throughout the 20th century and remains so.
- EU has in recent years begun to develop a distinct identity as an actor in security policy.
- View from the other side of the Atlantic Ocean was perhaps at first sceptical, but increasingly, the EU's potential is being recognized. This depends, however, on EU delivering on its promises/aspirations.
- Notably, US is participating in EU crisis management operation (EULEX Kosovo).

1.Cooperation between the USA and the EU seemed to gain new impetus following November's latest EU-US economic summit in Washington. What are their common interests?

- The EU-US summit last November in Washington covered a wide array of topics from the joint fight against terrorism, climate change (esp. the upcoming Copenhagen Summit) to the common engagement in Afghanistan and the Iranian nuclear programme.
- Further issues on the agenda were the avoidance of protectionism, financial market regulation and generally the enhancement of transatlantic economic integration. Also, an EU-US energy council was installed.
- In all these issues the EU and the US have strong common interests and are the closest and most reliable partners for each other.

1.Will this cooperation have a positive effect on relations between the EU and NATO?

- The EU-US Summit did not deal with specific EU-NATO issues. It is not the forum for such discussions.
- However, the US is very much interested in having a strong Europe as a partner and explicitly repeated this at the EU-US Summit. US therefore welcomed the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty. The US hopes that institutional changes in the EU's governance will also improve the EU's capability to contribute to the solution of international challenges.
- A more capable EU and a strong cooperation between the the EU and the US in general will also improve opportunities for better cooperation between the EU and NATO.

1.NATO military strategy versus EU security strategy: are they equal, complementary, or is one subordinate to the other?

- NATO and the EU are institutions consisting of democratic states in the euro-atlantic area. Goals and instruments might be different. The spirit and the purpose are the same!
- European Security Strategy covers the whole range of crisis management tools from political and diplomatic tools, via economic tools like sanctions up to civilian crisis management tools and hard military tools. This enables the EU to use the right tool at the right moment and to adapt its engagement in a crisis situation in accordance with the internal situation in the crisis area (example: EU engagement in FYROM: military operation using Berlin plus (recourse to NATO assets and capabilities)→ police operation → police advisory mission → Commission project in the area of police)

–In the 1999 strategic concept NATO has adopted a wide notion of security embracing partnership as a critical means to build a secure environment. Times of pure NATO strategy are gone since the end of the cold war. Major difference remains Article 5 of the Washington Treaty.

–Threat analyses of both organisation are largely identical.

–It is not so important to compare the strategies. It is important that both organisations cooperate in threat analysis and in crisis management.

1. What influence will the Lisbon treaty have on relations between the EU and NATO?

–The Lisbon Treaty has a profound effect on EU and CSDP (the policy formerly known as ESDP). A sense of new dynamic can be felt. The institutional setup will be changed, esp. through European External Action Service (EEAS). This is an opportunity to look again at ways to improve implementation of current technical cooperation arrangements. (This, however, will not solve fundamental problems mentioned above; PSC will probably not help, as we are looking for ways to improve EU-NATO-relations, not EU-MS-subgroup-NATO-relations.)

–Permanent Structured Cooperation will be new instrument allowing a group of Member States to progress in the integration in areas of CSDP as well as the mutual assistance clause.

–The role of the EEAS will be different from the current structures of Secretariat and Commission as it will combine both together with representatives from Member States.

–A final word: The Turkey-Cyprus conflict is an important problem. At least as difficult are the questions of Turkish membership in the EU and the possibility of Turkey to take part in decision-making on European security policy. The latter would only be possible if Turkey became a full member of the EU. As long as Turkey knows that security policy in Europe is being decided elsewhere without Turkish influence, the current problems will remain in place.