

The Parliamentary Dimension of Defence Cooperation

Netherlands EU Presidency Seminar

Marine Establishment Amsterdam, 14-15 March 2016

Introduction

During its EU Presidency (first semester 2016) the Netherlands has scheduled several defence-related activities, including an informal meeting of Defence Ministers, a Defence Policy Directors' meeting and three seminars to stimulate policy discussion and generate proposals for strengthening the Common Security and Defence Policy. All these activities will be aligned with and in support of the agenda of High Representative Federica Mogherini. The seminars should contribute to launching concrete ideas and proposals on how to strengthen the CSDP in the context of the changing security environment.

The seminars will be organised by the Dutch Ministry of Defence in cooperation with the Netherlands Institute of International Relations 'Clingendael'. The venue for the seminars is the Marine Establishment Amsterdam (MEA), which is the location for most events of the Netherlands EU Presidency.

The second seminar, entitled "The Parliamentary Dimension of Defence Cooperation", will take place on Monday-Tuesday 14-15 March 2016. The seminar precedes the Interparliamentary Conference (IPC) on CFSP/CSDP of 6-8 April 2016 in The Hague. The seminar's contents will be coordinated with the parliamentary preparatory working group of the IPC.

Aim and objectives

National parliaments are vital in European defence cooperation, particularly in a number of specific issues. Parliaments ensure commitment to defence cooperation with partner countries and at the EU-level; they contribute to mustering political will to deploy CSDP missions, have a role in rapid decision making on rapid response mechanisms and they contribute to providing European defence cooperation and CSDP with legitimacy and broad support among EU citizens.

The second Netherlands Presidency seminar will focus on the involvement of national parliaments and the European Parliament in the EU's security and defence policies. This seminar will build upon the first seminar "A Stronger CSDP: Deepening Defence Cooperation", which was held on 20-21 January 2016 in Amsterdam. The January-seminar focused on strengthening CSDP through, among others, less voluntarism in capability development, peer pressure, financial incentives and other mechanisms. One of the aims for the second seminar is to identify how parliaments across Europe can further these tools and mechanisms.

In addition to parliaments' role in strengthening CSDP, the seminar will be addressing parliamentary decision-making on deployment of rapid reaction forces, but also discuss broader political-strategic parliamentary commitment in relation to the Global Strategy process.

The objectives are: (i) To obtain a better understanding of how the involvement of parliaments in strengthening defence cooperation and CSDP can be enhanced, (ii) to clarify to what extent parliamentary decision making across the EU is in line with the speed of rapid response mechanisms, (iii) to obtain a better understanding of the mutual dependencies involved in deeper defence cooperation with partner countries and at the EU level, and (iv) to formulate concrete recommendations and ideas on how to move forward on parliamentary involvement, also for the benefit of the IPC in April.

A food-for-thought paper on the parliamentary dimension of defence cooperation will be issued ahead of the seminar as an input to stimulate debate.

Topics for discussion

The following (non-exhaustive) list of topics will be discussed at the second seminar:

- How are parliaments involved in the Global Strategy process?
- What is the role of parliaments in the strengthening of CSDP and which tools and mechanisms are available?
- How can interparliamentary cooperation be improved, both on the EU level as on the level of partners in defence cooperation?
- Should we improve European and national decision-making on defence by institutionalising a biennial debate on defence of the European Council; establishing a dedicated Council of Defence Ministers and upgrading the Subcommittee on Security and Defence of the EP to a full-fledged committee?
- How to align parliamentary decision-making processes and procedures for approving defence plans or acquisition programmes synchronised between Ministries of Defence of two or more countries (mirroring ‘coordinated defence planning’ by ‘coordinated parliamentary approval’)?
- What can we learn from the method of multi-annual ‘defence agreements’ and how could this method contribute to European defence cooperation and enhancing parliamentarians’ involvement in defence policies?
- To facilitate swift decision-making, to what extent is it feasible to pre-delegate parliamentary consent for deployment of troops taking part in rapid reaction mechanisms and/or in the case of the use of multinational troop formations?
- What would making use of Art. 44 mean for parliamentary involvement in CSDP-missions?
- To what extent is it useful to including parliamentarians in a political preparatory phase to rapid reaction mechanisms?

Participants

The following participants are envisaged:

- Members of national parliaments and the European Parliament (including staff).
- High-level representatives of the European Commission, EEAS, EDA, NATO, NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the Political and Security Committee and heads of selected multinational cooperation entities (EATC, etc.)
- Representatives of Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs of the Member States.
- High-level representatives from selected think tanks and universities.

Desired output

- A clear understanding of the options, possibilities and obstacles for enhanced involvement of parliaments in defence cooperation and specifically in CSDP.
- A list of recommendations, including concrete proposals, on how to move forward on the role of national parliaments and the European Parliament in defence cooperation, CSDP and CSDP missions.

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Provisional seminar programme (subject to change)

Attendance by invitation only

Monday 14 March

- 14.00 *Registration and coffee*
- 15.00 Opening by the seminar chair, **Angelien Eijssink**, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Netherlands House of Representatives (**confirmed**)
- 15.15 **Session 1: The Global Strategy, CSDP and the Parliamentary Dimension**
- **Alfredo Conte**, Head Strategic Planning Division, EEAS (**confirmed**)
The Global Strategy and a stronger CSDP - the parliamentary dimension
 - **Jaap de Hoop Scheffer**, Professor Leiden University, Chair of the Netherlands Advisory Council on International Affairs (**confirmed**)
Why parliaments should want and need to be more involved in defence
 - **Guy Verhofstadt**, Member of the European Parliament
How to embark on the road to an integrated EU Military?
 - **Jolyon Howorth**, Jean Monnet Professor of European Politics, University of Bath (**confirmed**)
European defence cooperation and the commitment of parliaments
- Interview on the key challenges and potential for parliamentary involvement in the Global Strategy and CSDP, led by **Jacki Davis (confirmed)**
- 16.45 Closure by the Seminar Chair
- 20.00 *Dinner*

Tuesday 15 March

- 09.30 Opening by the Seminar Chair, **Angelien Eijssink**
- 09.35 **Session 2: Deepening Defence Cooperation, Strengthening Parliamentary Involvement?**
- Issues: role of parliaments in defence cooperation; role of parliaments in peer pressure, less voluntarism and other tools; the role of the EP/SEDE and national parliaments; multi-annual defence agreements
- **Jo Coelmont**, Senior Associate Fellow, Egmont Institute (**confirmed**)
Tools for a stronger CSDP – implementing the Global Strategy

- **Arnaud Danjean**, MEP, former Chair of the Subcommittee on Defence **(confirmed)**
The evolving role of the European Parliament in defence cooperation—Instruments for strengthening CSDP
- **Roderich Kiesewetter**, Member of the German Bundestag **(confirmed)**
Parliaments and European Defence Cooperation: Setting the Agenda
- Gen. **Sverker Göranson**, former Supreme Commander Swedish Armed Forces
Building consensus on defence – lessons learned from defence agreements
- **Fred Teeven**, Netherlands House of Representatives **(confirmed)**
Strengthening European Defence Cooperation through multi-annual defence agreements?

Moderator: **Constanze Stelzenmüller**, Robert Bosch Senior Fellow, Brookings Institute **(confirmed)**

11.00 Break

11.30 Session 3 : Parliamentary Decision Making and Rapid Deployment

Issues: increasing awareness; trust-building mechanisms; parliamentary involvement in the political preparatory phase; network of Standing Committees; pre-delegation of consent

- **Walter Kolbow**, Deputy Chair of the German Committee on Deployment of the Bundeswehr **(confirmed)**
Findings Ruhe commission- how to increase awareness among parliaments
- **Ana Gomes**, Member of the Security and Defence Subcommittee, European Parliament
A stronger role of the European Parliament in defence
- **Han ten Broeke**, Chair of the Defence Committee, Dutch House of Representatives
How to facilitate parliamentary decision making and Rapid Response Mechanisms
- **Thierry Tardy**, Senior Research Fellow, European Institute for Security Studies **(confirmed)**
Parliamentary involvement in Article 44 operations
- **Niels Annen**, Member of the German Bundestag
Parliamentary dimension of cluster cooperation: the Dutch-German practice

Moderator: **Constanze Stelzenmüller**

13.00 Wrapping up and closure by seminar chair

13.10 Farewell lunch buffet

14.30 End of seminar