



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION
DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION DIVISION

October 2009

Seminar on ESDP

“Southeast Europe in the Evolution of European Security Structure”

After Action Report

for external use

Zagreb, 13th October 2009

The Seminar on “ESDP - Southeast Europe in the Evolution of European Security Structure” was held in RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation during the period of 12th – 13th October 2009.



Family photo

The purpose of the seminar was to enhance understanding of ESDP in the SEE community. It gathered participants with knowledge and experience in the field of ESDP, representing relevant ministries and being actively involved in ESDP issues in their respective positions.

The seminar was conducted in one day and it included two sessions, followed by questions and answers, which

encouraged the participants to exchange views and experience in the field of ESDP and to openly discuss the future perspectives of ESDP in SEE.

The participants and lecturers were representatives of eight countries and seven organizations, namely: Albania (2), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Croatia (5), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹ (3), Moldova (2), Serbia (2), Hungary (1), Romania (1), France (3), NATO HQ in Sarajevo (1), University of Zagreb (5), European Council (1), European Union (2), Geneva Centre for Security Policy (1), Institute for European Studies (1).

Seminar Opening

In his opening speech, Col Željko CEPANEC, Deputy Director of RACVIAC, expressed his warm welcome to all the participants.

Col CEPANEC pointed out that the European Security and Defence Policy

¹ Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name

(ESDP) has become an inherent part of the European integration for SEE



Opening Session

From right to left; Mr. Alessandro PRUNAS, Col. Željko CEPANEĆ, Mr. Hans-Bernhard WEISSERTH

countries and one of the most important issues in international security today.

Plenary Session

The lecturers focused on three issues: Current EU Defence Policy and SEE, the role of ESDP and current achievements and future perspective of ESDP in SEE.

Mr. Hans-Bernhard WEISSERTH from Council of the European Union delivered the keynote speech titled “Current EU Defence Policy and the SEE”.



Keynote speech

Mr. Hans-Bernhard WEISSERTH

He provided an overview of the historical development of the European Security and Defence Policy from its origins in 1948 with the adoption of the Brussels

Treaty and the creation of the Western European Union. He then summarised the areas in which there has been significant progress since ESDP fell under the umbrella of the European Union in 1999. Finally he provided his personal view on two specific aspects of ESDP development - the transatlantic relationship and the development of military capabilities, in which he presented what has been done in the past years, what

***“ESDP is a means,
not an end”***
(SG/HR Solana)

guidelines are given in the European Security Strategy and how things should be further developed by the EU and its 27 Member States, including a particular view to the SEE countries.

In the first session, moderated by *Mr. Hans-Bernhard WEISSERTH*, *Mr. Alessandro PRUNAS* introduced the EU institutional framework and setting, explaining the respective roles of the Council, the Commission and the European Parliament in the field of CFSP/ESDP. He put special focus on the structures established within the Council to allow discussion and debate on sensitive issues related to European security and defence, following the intergovernmental method.

Mr. Gustav LINDSTROM thoroughly elaborated ESDP as a crisis management and conflict prevention instrument. He



Plenary Session

From right to left; Mr. Gustav LINDSTROM, Mr. Alessandro PRUNAS, Col. Željko CEPANEC,, Mr. Hans-Bernhard WEISSERTH, Mr. Johannes VIERECK, Col Ömer Faruk BAŞTÜRK

also provided his personal reflections on the outstanding challenges that include the financing of ESDP, in particular its missions and operations, and the issue of capability development, especially in the military field but also in relation to the development of civilian capabilities. In the end he gave a short outlook of the Lisbon Treaty, which is expected to give further positive input to these processes.

Mr. Johannes VIERECK provided some insight into the achievements of the EU missions in the Western Balkans and the still existing challenges with regard to SEE.

In the second session, moderated by *Mr. Johannes VIERECK*, *Mr. Srdjan GLIGORIJEVIC* presented the relevant CFSP and ESDP issues which will come about if/when the Lisbon Treaty is

ratified by all EU members. The speaker mentioned two measures that the Treaty introduces - the establishment of an External Action Service, which is envisaged to cooperate with the diplomatic services of the EU member states, as well as the appointment of a new High Representative for EU Foreign Policy who will also act as vice-president of the Commission. The latter measure was aimed to achieve synergy between the Council and the Commission. He also expressed hope that the final ratification of Lisbon would also kick-start the enlargement process.



From right to left; Mr. Johannes VIERECK, Col Ömer Faruk BAŞTÜRK

Colonel Frederic PESME of the French MoD informed the participants of the on-going cooperation efforts between EU and NATO in crisis management. He underlined that the two organisations had to view themselves as complementary to each other or otherwise risk being looked upon as irrelevant, in particular by the US. The

speaker gave a number of past examples of mission competitions, but also some examples of missions where both organisations could assist each other. He also described the thinking going on in the US on the use of "smart power" (combining hard and soft power) and hopes that EU could play a bigger role in it.



From right to left; Col. Frederic PESME, Dr. Eva GROSS Mr. Srdjan GLIGORIJEVIC

Dr. Eva Gross gave an overview of the present and future ESDP/CFSP opportunities and benefits in SEE. She reminded the audience that the western Balkans continues to play an

A Secure Europe in a Better World

important part in European security. Dr Gross underlined that the European Security Strategy talks about peace in the neighbourhood and that in that light it specifically mentions the Balkans. She explained that talk of "exit strategies" for ESDP missions in SEE was perhaps a misnomer, since it remains clear that EU's engagement had much wider and

long-term political implications (i.e. the goal is to include the Balkans into EU). Dr Gross finished by expressing the hope that the Lisbon Treaty would enhance ESDP coherence in the implementation of missions as well as getting the enlargement process moving again.



Plenary Session - Participants

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

The seminar provided a successful platform to help in building and developing a common understanding on the implementation of European Security Strategy and its evolving shape under ESDP in SEE Region.

The contribution of members of European Council, EU and expertise from different organizations proved outstanding in creating healthy discussion climate.

The speakers and audience expressed the opinion that the intensification and enhancement of existing regional cooperation should remain among most important foreign policy goals for all

SEE countries.

All panellists assessed the two sessions as very successful and useful. They also recommended co-organizers to continue with similar activities in the future.

*Compiled by: LtC Ioannis Papavasileiou,
Activity Coordinator,
RACVIAC - CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION*



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