

High Level Seminar in Preparation of the December 2013 European Council  
12 July 2013, Paris

## **BOLSTERING THE EUROPEAN UNION AS A FULL-FLEDGED CRISIS MANAGEMENT ACTOR**

### **Follow-up paper**

Building on the open, inclusive and forward looking discussions in the seminar, there are number of issues which deserve further consideration in the run up to the European Council in December. These are:

- Preparing the European Council discussion on the EU's strategic security environment and security interests as well as the EU's role as security provider, including possibly mandating the update of the European Security Strategy in December.
- Further discussing the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty, including the need to build a common understanding of the application of security and defence related provisions.
- Further developing the application of the EU Comprehensive Approach with the aim to include all relevant actors and to integrate various foreign policy instruments into the well-coordinated EU planning process from its outset as well as to optimise the cooperation and coordination within EU bodies.
- Considering how we can strengthen the EU's owned early warning, situational awareness and crisis anticipation capacities, including by enhancing security expertise within the EEAS as well as in the EU delegations, thus enabling proactive and speedy decision making where deployment of civilian and military rapid reaction capabilities would be needed.
- Examining the financial EU crisis management architecture, including the optimal use of different external action funds to provide the CSDP with operational flexibility and effectiveness in order to face more and more complex, hybrid and interconnected crises.
- Considering how to further increase usability, efficiency and visibility of the EU BGs, by recalling the level of ambition for the military dimension of the CSDP and highlighting the added-value of the EU BGs in responding to the whole range of the Petersberg tasks.
- Discussing ways to promote a more reactive and deployable civilian CSDP.
- Further discussing EU response to emerging security challenges, including cyber, maritime and energy aspects, including the goal to develop a comprehensive energy efficiency strategy for armed forces, to provide a way forward for the development of energy security dimension within the CSDP in a way that is consistent and complimentary with the EU energy objectives and on-going discussion on CFSP's role in support of EU energy policy.
- Looking deeper into how we can make the best use of CSDP Partnerships, including the strengthening of partnership instruments, facilitating partners' participation in in the CSDP missions and operation, as well as enabling partners to take more responsibility for their own security and regional stability.
- Further improving the EU cooperation with international organizations, including NATO, aimed at increasing CSDP impact.
- Continuing to think about how CSDP visibility can be increased, including implementing the commitment by the European Council to discuss security and defence issues regularly, as well as to consider once again the idea of setting up a Defence formation of the Council of the EU.

Together with the High Representative's report, this report could form the basis for the Ministers' discussions on the so called "first cluster" issues in early September and later on in working parties in Brussels. This should lead us to a common understanding what is achievable in December.