



*Ministero degli Affari Esteri*



*Distinguished Guests and Dear Colleagues,*

*please find herewith attached the Chair's Summary of the Rome Seminar on "More Europe on Defence".*

*We thank you very much for your constructive participation and look forward to continuing together the preparation of the December 2013 European Council.*

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## *Chair's Summary*

### *Main Messages of the Conference*

We are deeply engaged in tabling coherent and effective proposals for the preparation of the December 2013 European Council devoted to the European Defence. As national public spending in the defence sector is shrinking, a stronger and more integrated EU Defence represents a common challenge in order to optimise the scarce resources available.

Moreover, a European Common Defence will prove to be key in balancing the burden-sharing with our Allies, in particular with the US, reiterating the need for a EU integration complementary with NATO commitments. This win-win solution will result from a rediscovery of the common roots between the European integration process and the Euro-Atlantic Community.

We bear in mind that this is a long and delicate process, but we are aware that in the meanwhile the EU has to cope with the challenges of a quick changing world, so that we should already start looking beyond December 2013 towards a concrete implementation of our ambitions.

### **SESSION I**

#### ***“THE EUROPEAN GEO-POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR COMMON SECURITY DEFENCE POLICY (CSDP) MISSIONS AND OPERATIONS”***

It was acknowledged that, while Europe has no fixed borders, the European Union has developed around the idea of “*multiple and concentric circles*” based on the fulfilment of objective standards and not related to identity issues. In parallel, as far as its external projection is concerned, the EU should identify its regional priorities, that could be represented by two “*rims of interest*”. The first one stretches from Morocco through Egypt and Lebanon going up to Ukraine, while the second “*rim*” ranges from the Sahel region, the Horn of Africa to Central Asia and Afghanistan. Consequently, the CSDP should focus on preventing crises and helping the democratic transition within the first one, while stimulating a “*democratic spill-over*” in the second arch.

It was recognized that, thanks to the adoption of a comprehensive approach, the EU has enhanced its level of coordination in terms of resources allocated to crisis management and crisis response. Nevertheless, the EU should translate this comprehensive approach into a comprehensive action, through an effective reform of time-consuming crisis management procedures, which could take into account the need for flexibility and pragmatism while dealing with different scenarios. To this aim an early circulation of the HR report on the first basket was warmly recommended.

### **SESSION II**

#### ***“CIVILIAN-MILITARY INTEGRATION WITHIN THE PLANNING AND CONDUCT CAPABILITY TO ENHANCE CSDP EFFECTIVENESS”***

Taking stock of the lessons learned in ten years of CSDP and from the 27 CSDP missions launched, there is a broad consensus about the importance of a better integration of military and civil aspects and components. To this aim, a proposal has been presented to overcome the current shortfalls. On the one hand, it foresees the creation in Brussels of two new connected directorates, drawn by the existing structures for the planning and conduct of CSDP's missions and operations at the strategic level. On the other hand, it envisages the possibility to conduct integrated missions (where the civil,

military and police components coexist in the same Theatre of Operation), under the direction of a Head of Mission, acting also as the EU Special Representative.

The contents of the proposal obtained some positive comments and a general appreciation for the initiative was expressed by most of participants. From the Italian side it was underlined that the proposal is not the “solution” but it represents a possible solution that can be progressively implemented (partially or entirely) in order to enhance the CSDP planning and conduct capacity and, above all, it has to be considered as a proactive contribution for the ongoing debate that will lead to future decisions.

In order to avoid duplications, a better use of the existing structures and capabilities has been recommended. In this perspective, it was proposed that the EU Battlegroups might perform also less combat-intensive missions, encompassing the employment of specialists and niches capabilities as discrete units and including civilian components.

### **SESSION III**

#### ***“AN INTEGRATED EUROPEAN EDUCATION AND TRAINING APPROACH - CHALLENGES AND POSSIBLE WAY AHEAD”***

Common training and education are paramount to pave the way to an integrated European Defence. A new education system should be based on cooperation and dialogue. In this sense, the CSDP adopted the correct approach by deciding to connect different institutions around Europe and to create a network of colleges: the European Security and Defence College. This institution has facilitated the exchange of best practices, has performed as a multiplier of knowledge and has succeeded in developing a common vision of the EU Defence. But, some challenges still exist. In particular, difficulties persist in training civilian experts coming from different sectors of specialisation.

It was underlined that Disarmament and non-Proliferations should become a mandatory teaching subject for military and diplomatic academies in Europe.

### **SESSION IV**

#### ***“SHAPING AND FINANCING AN INTEGRATED CYCLE OF EUROPEAN DEFENCE CAPABILITIES. THE NEED FOR INNOVATIVE OPTIONS”***

Currently, the EU’s main challenge is to improve its defence capabilities by fully exploiting the wide variety of existing national and common resources, maximising synergies and strengthening cooperation, going even beyond the pooling & sharing approach. The European Union is a global leader in Key Enabling Technologies. It has all the necessary strength to remain in this position. The major weakness lies in translating its knowledge base into goods and services. In the short term, opportunities for growth and job creation will be missed; in the long term, there may also be a loss of knowledge generation, because R&D and manufacturing are intrinsically linked, mutually reinforcing and, thus, often take place in close proximity to each other. In this context, playing together is essential. Playing together means involving ministries, industries, SMEs, research centres and universities into a wide and unique exercise aimed at acquiring new technologies with less resources. To this aim, a proposal was tabled to provide possible answers and concrete solutions in the field of research and innovation. It consists of a matrix which merges the European demand for enabling technologies, the technology offered by European/international partners and any correlated information (costs, time frames, partners etc). This option would represent an effective tool to easily share technologies in the continent. Moreover, a stronger European industrial base in the defence sector could prove to be pivotal to the re-launch of our economies. It was

underlined that the proposal is worth to be deepened at working level with a workshop to be hold within the EDA.

Horizon 2020 priorities can only be matched through the promotion of an integrated cycle of European defence capabilities. A possible way to this goal is to map existing technologies and develop partnership on projects which can prove to be suitable for military application.

Finally, it was reiterated the importance of EDA as a catalyst of Member States efforts and capabilities in the light of a ever deeper integration. In this framework, it has been suggested to consider an innovative system of financing, also through venture capital. The issuance of European Defence Project Bonds by the European Investment Bank – after appropriate certification by EDA - could in fact represent an option worth to be explored.