

A fresh impetus to the Common Security and Defence Policy

Recommendations to the European Union heads of state and government

The upcoming European Council of 19-20 December 2013 will discuss the future of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). During this summit, the effectiveness, visibility and impact of the CSDP will be addressed, as well as the European Union's defence capabilities and Europe's defence industry. European Movement International welcomes and takes note of the proposals put forward by the European Commission, High Representative and European Parliament, and would like to share its own proposals in the hope they will contribute to this important debate.

The upcoming summit takes place in a changing strategic environment that has serious implications for Europe's role in the world. The international system is in flux, and new threats have emerged, such as the developments in North Africa and the Middle East ('Arab spring'), a changing regional balance and reinvigorated conflicts in Europe's neighbourhood. The United States 'pivot' to the Asia-Pacific as well as Asia's economic and political rise forces Europe to take responsibility for its own security. Furthermore, the ongoing financial and economic crisis has resulted in severe cuts on defence budgets in all Member States, which are implemented without European coordination.

With this in mind, European Movement International is convinced that only deeper integration in the field of defence and security policy will allow the European Union to maintain its military capabilities, strengthen its global position and permanently ensure its security.

Lack of implementation should be high on the agenda of the European Council. Important provisions of the Lisbon Treaty, which allow for closer cooperation in the field of security and defence, have not been used yet. The unused potential of the treaties, offers the opportunity to take strong decisions on the future implementation of the CSDP during the December summit.

Therefore, the European Movement International calls upon the European Union heads of state and government to:

- Develop a strategic approach which sets out Europe's common security interests and strategic priorities in a **White Paper on defence**;
- Strengthen the **European defence industry** by a better integrated and more competitive European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB), and European Defence Equipment Market (EDEM), for effectiveness and efficiency benefits;

- Make better use of the **Comprehensive Approach**, which refers to the strategically coherent use of the various EU instruments, by:
 - Achieving a better integration of civilian and military structures;
 - Developing regional strategies for more efficient regional coordination;
 - Ensuring closer coordination between the various European instruments and bodies under the CSDP;
- Commit to the development of **civilian and military capabilities** as to close the gap between the CFSP and CSDP objectives and the available capabilities, by:
 - A better pooling of resources and structured cooperation;
 - Establishing a permanent headquarters that functions as a permanent planning capability instead of ad-hoc planning;
 - Implementing existing projects and developing new major projects;
 - Setting out a military capability target in a new Headline Goal;
 - Increased funding for the European Defence Agency;
 - Agree on common funding for the EU Battlegroups and their deployment as rapid reaction forces;
- Stimulate **civilian and military synergies**, especially in research and technology, for an efficient use of resources;
- Ensure the rights of **military personnel** serving in EU missions and pursue deeper cooperation and harmonization in this field, like joint training and the development of common standards regarding living and working conditions;
- **Identify concrete ways to** increase cooperation with **NATO** for a stronger partnership and to avoid duplication;
- Decide on a **solid follow-up** including regular meetings of a Council of Defence Ministers and a progress monitoring mechanism, like a roadmap.

Only with strong decisions and a clear sense of direction, will the European Union be able to strengthen its global position and ensure security. Clear communication towards European citizens on the direction of the CSDP and why it matters is important. With the European Parliament elections taking place in May 2014 and the mandate of the European institutions coming to an end, a plan has to be drafted that allows for firm action of the next High Representative. The consent of the European citizens, expressed by the new elected European Parliament, would be an enrichment of the legitimacy of the European Union's security and defence policy.