

# FINLAND'S EU PRESIDENCY

## -MILITARY ASPECTS OF ESDP



# Foreword by the Minister of Defence



## European Security and Defence Policy - the Finnish Focus

Finland has been an active contributor to the development of European Security and Defence Policy since the very beginning. In our view, it is essential to continue developing the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) in order to meet the security needs and requirements of today and tomorrow. It goes without saying that the Union's external activities are also carried out in numerous other areas, such as development policy and trade. The Union has a wide range of instruments available and this makes it a unique player among various international actors. At the same time, coordinating these activities remains one of its biggest challenges.

Finland's previous Council Presidency dates back to the autumn of 1999. Since then many changes have taken place, one of the most visible being the accession of ten new Member States. Additionally, we have at our disposal today the concrete tools that were agreed upon at the Helsinki European Council in 1999. In just a few years and particularly in the field of ESDP, the Union has produced tangible instruments for promoting stability, preventing conflicts and managing crises. A recent example of the qualitative progress of the Union's capacity to respond to crises is the development of the Battlegroups Concept, which demonstrates the European Union's level of ambition today. It is the aim of the Union to be able to carry out autonomous and demanding crisis management operations.

In order to further develop the ESDP, Finland will build on the important achievements of the preceding Presidencies and ensure a seamless transition. We are committed to the Operational Programme of the Council, drawn up in close co-operation with Austria and other partners. As regards the ESDP, our work is also steered by the mandate adopted by the Member States. Pursuant to the policy aims of the European Security Strategy, we will focus on crisis management operations, capabilities development and civil-military coordination. Finland also places great value on good relations and co-operation with third parties, such as the UN, NATO, the African Union (AU) and the OSCE.

In the past few years, the EU has become an increasingly effective and credible global actor. From the Finnish point of view, it is essential to ensure that this development continues, making the Union all the more active, capable and coherent.

Seppo Kääriäinen  
Minister of Defence  
Finland

# ESDP Mandate for the Finnish Presidency

On the basis of the present report and taking into account the European Security Strategy, the incoming Presidency, assisted by the Secretary-General/High Representative and in association with the Commission, is invited to continue work on developing the European Security and Defence Policy, and in particular:

- To prepare and ensure the effective implementation of the decisions related to present and future operations and missions, both civilian and military.
- To continue work on civilian capabilities, in particular to meet the shortfalls identified, and on mission support, with a view to the Capabilities Improvement Conference (Civilian Headline Goal 2008).
- To continue work on military capabilities, in particular the finalisation of the Force Catalogue and the preparation of the Progress Catalogue on the basis of the agreed Roadmap (Headline Goal 2010).
- To continue work on rapid response, in particular the EU Battlegroups initiative with a view to the full operational capability from January 2007, and the Civilian Response Teams (CRTs) to ensure an initial CRT capacity by the end of 2006.
- To support the continued development of the European Defence Agency.
- To take forward work on ESDP -aspects related to reinforcing the EU's emergency and crisis response capacities.
- To take forward work on the improvement of civil-military co-ordination in the planning and conduct of operations, including lessons learned and mission support.
- To take forward work on security sector reform (SSR), including through region/country specific approaches, and to develop an EU approach to contribute to disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR).
- To ensure effective implementation of relevant human rights related undertakings in the context of ESDP crisis management activities, including the UNSCR 1612, as well as the UNSCR 1325.
- To continue the implementation of the European Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts on the basis of the annual presidency report 2006.



- To continue to develop ESDP support to peace and security in Africa, including the elaboration of policy options for the strengthening of EU support to building African capacity for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts.
- To implement the EU exercise programme and the training concept, including further work on training for civilian crisis management taking into account Community instruments.
- To conduct the review of the ATHENA financing mechanism.
- To enhance dialogue and exchange of information with NGOs and civil society.
- To pursue the dialogue and co-operation with the UN and the OSCE, to continue to develop the EU/NATO strategic partnership in crisis management, to develop co-operation with the African Union and African sub-regional organisations, as well as to develop co-operation with partner countries, including the European non-EU NATO members, Canada, Russia, Ukraine and the Mediterranean countries engaged in the Barcelona process.



# Operational Activity

The EU conducted its first military and civilian crisis management operations in 2003. Since then, only a few years ago, the number and spectrum of ESDP operations have expanded.

At the beginning of the Finnish Presidency, the EU is engaged in several different operations on three continents. Two of these are purely military crisis management operations: The largest ongoing operation, Althea, in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the latest operation, EUFOR RD Congo, which supports the UN MONUC operation during the crucial election period in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Nevertheless, both military operations need to be carried out in close coordination with ESDP civilian crisis management activities in the areas – the EU Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EU Police Mission in Kinshasa and the mission EUSEC RD Congo, which provides advice to the Congolese authorities in the field of Security Sector Reform.

The preparations for a possible civilian crisis management operation in Kosovo will increase the EU efforts in the Western Balkans and underline the need for a holistic approach to the challenges in the region, taking into account the interrelationship of all actors on the ground. Like in Kosovo, the comprehensive approach and coordination of ESDP activities with other international actors is also extremely important in Sudan where both the EU and NATO continue to support the African Union's AMIS II operation. The leadership of this operation will be transferred to the United Nations.



# Development of Military Capabilities

Building on the Helsinki Headline Goal, drawn up during Finland's previous Presidency in 1999, the Union strives for further improvement of military capabilities and focuses in particular on their qualitative aspects. The implementation of the new Headline Goal 2010 has proceeded to a stage where new force contributions have been listed in order to meet the level of ambition defined in the Requirement Catalogue.

The Finnish Presidency will aim at finalising the Force Catalogue, which will allow capability gaps to be identified. The next step in the Headline Goal 2010 process will be the Progress Catalogue which will present the existing shortfalls.

The Headline Goal 2010 especially focuses on improving the EU's rapid reaction capability. One of the key aspects in this work is the development of the battle groups consisting of approximately 1 500 troops. The objective of the Union is to be able to deploy battle groups within 10 days of the decision to launch an operation. As of January 2007, the EU will have the full operational capability to launch two rapid response operations almost simultaneously, if needed. The German-Dutch-Finnish battle group and the French-Belgian battle group will be on stand-by readiness in the beginning of 2007.

Finland will continue the battle group work towards full operational capability. During the Finnish Presidency initiatives concerning the maritime and air dimensions of the EU rapid response capability will also be taken forward.







## European Defence Agency

The year 2006 will witness the completion of the first full operational calendar year for the newly established European Defence Agency (EDA). In just a few months' time, the EDA has become an important forum for four areas (capability, materiel, research and technology, market) of defence cooperation in Europe. While the Council Presidency does not have a leading role in the daily work of the Agency, the Finnish Presidency can and will work towards strengthening the Agency's role.

Among the main issues concerning the EDA during the Finnish Presidency will be the agreement on the financial framework for the time frame of 2007-09. In addition, an important project looking into the next two decades of the EU will be the completion of the first EU Long Term Vision (LTV) for European Military Capability Needs. This will aim at offering strategic guidance to the Member States on the types of capabilities the Union will require.





## Civil-Military Coordination

The need to improve civil-military coordination (CMCO) in EU crisis management has been visibly brought forward during the past year. Following the three-Presidency initiative of the UK, Austria and Finland, we remain committed to taking this work forward.

Finland strives for a pragmatic approach by aiming to mainstream civil-military coordination on a practical level. It is essential to ensure that civil-military coordination becomes a key part of all relevant planning and preparation of crisis management activities and that it is assessed during review processes. We intend to address these questions in the context of the review and lessons learned processes of the EU's crisis management operations. With the aim of changing the operating culture and improving coordination between actors, the Finnish Presidency will also pay particular attention to Civil-Military Situational Awareness in EU crisis management operations.

The requirement for civil-military coordination is also real in disaster response. The Finnish Presidency will continue to develop the readiness of the Union on the basis of work completed by previous Presidencies. We consider it important to also increase the competence of the Union in Security Sector Reform, where regional or country-specific approaches may be the best way to further implement the EU concept. Furthermore, now is the time to look at the possibilities for strengthening the EU contribution to Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration activities (DDR) and see whether some kind of shared principles or practical guidelines could be generated to that end. All abovementioned fields deal with challenging and multidimensional issues that require coordination and co-operation across political sectors and pillars.



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# Key events

## **17-18 July**

Informal Defence Policy Directors' Meeting, Helsinki

## **2-3 October**

Informal Meeting of Ministers of Defence, Levi  
Steering Board of the European Defence Agency

## **19-20 October**

ESDP Seminar, Helsinki

## **26-27 October**

Informal Defence Policy Directors' Meeting, Brussels

## **6 November**

EU Military Committee Meeting at the level of  
Chiefs of Defence, Brussels

## **13-14 November**

General Affairs and External Relations Council  
(GAERC) with Ministers of Defence

Steering Board of the European Defence Agency

## **14-15 December**

European Council

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Foreword by the Minister of Defence	2
ESDP Mandate for the Finnish Presidency	4
Operational Activity	7
Development of Military Capabilities	8
European Defence Agency	9
Civil-Military Coordination	10
Key events	12
Contact information	13



Ministry of Defence

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