

**Intervention
of
General Gustav Hägglund
Chairman European Union Military Committee
at the Seminar on
Crisis Management and Information Technology
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*"EU's challenge to guarantee civil-military co-ordination in its future
field operations "*

At the European Council meeting in Helsinki in 1999, it was agreed that the EU would acquire the capacity to take independent decisions in the field of crisis management. Where NATO as a whole is not engaged, the EU will be able to launch and lead military crisis management operations. The permanent political and military bodies for crisis management have been established in record time following this agreement.

The Political and Security Committee (PSC) operates in tandem with the High Representative, Dr. Javier Solana. Political control and strategic direction of EU crisis management operations will normally be delegated to the PSC.

The European Union Military Committee (EUMC), which is the Union's highest military body, provides the Political and Security Committee with advice on military matters. It also exercises military direction of all military activities within the EU framework.

The European Union Military Staff (EUMS) functions under the military direction of the EUMC and is currently working on further development of the EU's readiness in military crisis management by drawing up military concepts to facilitate the build up and conduct of EU led military operations.

On the civilian side, the Feira European Council defined four priority areas for civilian crisis management including the police, the rule of law, civilian administration and civil protection. Today these priority areas include concrete targets for rapid deployment of civilian instruments in a way comparable to military force goals. An example of this is a police force of 5000 officers.

The Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CIVCOM) provides information, formulates recommendations and gives advice to the PSC and other Council bodies. The CIVCOM is supported by a Co-ordinating Mechanism which, inter alia, runs a database on those civilian crisis management assets potentially available from Member States.

The European Commission is naturally a major player in EU crisis management notably in the field of humanitarian and development assistance, rehabilitation and reconstruction. Its Rapid Reaction and Civil Protection Mechanisms allow for rapid intervention and its existing programmes around the world could have an important role as platforms for future emergency interventions. The Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) provides emergency assistance by, in fact, subcontracting on-site partners such as non-governmental organisations and different UN agencies.

Two separate civilian crisis management actors within the EU also emphasise the need for co-ordination between the EU pillars. It is, perhaps, controversial that the Council is heavily dependent on Commission funding in the execution of its crisis management activities.

Looking at the developing and emerging crises and conflicts facing the international community right now, there is no doubt that they are becoming increasingly complex in nature. Whenever military forces are tasked to take part in the resolution of a specific crisis, their involvement will extend in most cases beyond the traditional separation of warring parties, for which they are trained for.

Indeed, the military operation has become more and more multi-functional and is carried out alongside a wide range of civilian actions. The execution of civil related tasks by the military force, like for instance the direct delivery of humanitarian aid, reconstruction projects, etc, may be seen as a last resort. If included in the military mission and next to the support of civil organisations the main task should remain: the creation of a secure environment, allowing the civilian efforts and programmes to be executed safely. Long-term dependence on military resources by the civil organisations must be avoided as much as possible.

The increasing presence of diverse, mainly humanitarian focussed civil organisations, both non-governmental and international, further complicates the military operational environment during the planning and execution of a military operation. In addition, military commanders are more than ever required to consider social, political, cultural, economic and humanitarian factors in their respective area of operations. Military activities conducted in isolation are often not longer appropriate.

All this has highlighted the need for a systematic approach for the co-operation and co-ordination between the military and civilian actors involved in the resolution of a specific emergency situation and the EU's first crisis management exercise, conducted in May this year, has underlined the need to take the issue forward as a matter of urgency.

In NATO, the co-operation in theatre between the military force and its civil counterparts is organised through the respective CIMIC staffs throughout the military command structure. This is different in the EU due to its nature as a political and economic union and not a military alliance. Indeed, the EU CIMIC will function under the umbrella of the overall EU civil - military co-ordination effort.

The EU civil - military co-ordination must ensure an effective response to a crisis by employing all necessary instruments from the full range of civilian and military instruments that are available within the EU in a comprehensive, coherent and co-ordinated manner. This includes the co-ordination with civil and military actors external to the EU. EU Civil - military co-ordination will therefore encompass the co-ordination between all actors, both civil and military, at all levels, both in Brussels and in the field, and this at all phases of the management of the crisis, from the routine phase to the post-crisis phase.

Defining a system is one thing, but putting it into practice is another. What is it that needs to be co-ordinated in practice? The list would include at least joint planning, doctrine and training, joint early warning, situation assessment and fact-finding, co-ordinated command and control arrangements, sharing of information and the wide spectrum of co-ordinated arrangements in the field. In the face of these challenges it is encouraging to note that the EU has many factors inherent in its structures that facilitate co-ordination within the Union. Joint planning is made easier by the co-location of ESDP planners in the Kortenbergh building, a joint Situation Centre already exists producing joint reports and assessments, the Commission is permanently represented in the Political and Security Committee and the High Representative has full visibility of all aspects of EU crisis management, like a Commander-in-Chief.

But a lot of work remains to be done within the Union. Next to the already existing routine contacts, the work will be done as a joint operation with all EU actors, civil and military, who might be involved in a crisis situation.

Information Technology - also a topic of this seminar - is one of those areas that need further analysis and discussion, before we can really speak of effective co-ordination of civil and military activities within the EU. It can be used as an example to illustrate the need for close co-ordination.

The EU's consultation and decision-making processes and the provision of political control and strategic direction need to be supported by reliable and interoperable Communications and Information Systems. For obvious political reasons there is a requirement to strongly protect the consultation, planning and decision-making process, as well as the information flow during an operation, against unauthorised disclosure, unauthorised modification or deletion and unauthorised access between all concerned participants.

Therefore the European Union is committed to develop, establish and maintain highly capable and interoperable Communications and Information Systems between all civil and military participants down to potential Operation Headquarters (provided by either NATO or Member States) and to the forces in the field. This is a prerequisite in order to improve the Union's ability to undertake the full range of conflict prevention and crisis management tasks, making use of military and civilian means.

Time is of essence. A natural target date for reaching better internal understanding of the issue inside the EU is of course the year 2003. It is the deadline for the accomplishment of the so-called Helsinki Headline Goal in the military field as well as for the capabilities targets we have set ourselves in the civilian field.

There is a saying "Everybody wants co-ordination, but nobody wants to be co-ordinated". Slowly but firmly the EU is moving away from this idea. The Union will be capable both of maintaining peace and restoring law and order, policing, monitoring elections and rebuilding the material infrastructure and of providing humanitarian assistance. With these capabilities complementary to each other, the EU has all the qualifications for being a powerful and effective player in world affairs.