

CSDP BETWEEN INTERNAL CONSTRAINTS AND EXTERNAL CHALLENGES: THE ROAD AHEAD

Conference organised jointly by King's College London
and the EU Institute for Security Studies, Paris
hosted by KCL in London, 19-20 September 2013

CONCEPT NOTE

At its meeting in December 2012, the European Council invited:

the High Representative, notably through the European External Action Service and the European Defence Agency, as well as the Commission...to develop further proposals and actions to strengthen CSDP and improve the availability of the required civilian and military capabilities, and to report on such initiatives, at the latest by September 2013, with a view to the December 2013 European Council.

The aim of the conference is to develop a series of practical proposals aimed at enhancing the CSDP that can be fed into debates leading up to the December 2013 meeting. To this end, participants will undertake a series of reflections within four working groups created to address different aspects of CSDP. These will report to the conference, at which broad proposals for the enhancement of CSDP will be refined.

The Working Groups

Rather than meeting beforehand to produce a food for thought paper, working groups (WGs) will meet at the conference itself in breakout sessions. Participants, having signed up to individual WGs in advance, will be sent by a Convener an outline of the key questions to be discussed during the session.

Each Convener will act also as a Rapporteur for each working group and present the findings of the WGs in the plenary session devoted to reporting on and discussing their findings. S/he will also write up a short summary (max 1500 words) of the discussion that will be considered for publication in a EUISS Report to be released in late October.

To keep these sessions (and the presentation of their results) manageable, there will be four working groups:

- (1) **Defence industry and public expenditure.** How do European governments foresee their investments, but also their savings, in the defense sector in times of austerity? Should consolidation go hand in hand with liberalization and, if so, to what extent and how? How can the expected savings lead to new investments? What role could EU institutions play?
- (2) **Military capabilities and interoperability.** What kind of capabilities are member states keen on preserving and/or developing? How can current and predictable shortfalls be addressed? What is the most appropriate approach to cross-national defence cooperation? How can EU institutions facilitate that?
- (3) **Missions.** What are the external challenges Europeans are likely to face in the foreseeable future, and what threats and challenges will future missions respond to? Where might they take place, in what strategic context, and with what participants? Can past lessons inform the design and conduct of future missions?
- (4) **Institutions.** Is the current EU institutional set-up an enabling or rather a constraining factor for CSDP and the implementation of a comprehensive approach? Are there in-built rigidities and, if so, how can they be loosened up? Is treaty change a realistic and/or desirable prospect?