



EURODEFENSE SPAIN

October, 2.010

SOME CONSIDERATIONS ON FUTURES AND CAPABILITIES EWG-14

This document could be considered an “eye opener” to the important fact that we do not have much time ahead to acquire the necessary capacities to face an uncertain future as announced in NATO’s study on 2030 “Multiple Futures” and in the document “Strategic Trends 2007-2036” produced by UK’s Ministry of Defence. This fact becomes particularly worrisome if we consider how long it takes developing those capacities and if we take into account the following circumstances:

- The deep financial and economic crisis that we are suffering and that will probably leave a persistent trace.
- The tendency to go back to national approaches when we face common problems.
- The actual lack of thrust and enthusiasm on paying attention to defence matters.
- Our definition of the role of the European Union which calls for multilateral action in a global world but without defining idea how to implement that role.

Furthermore, to the above mentioned circumstances we have to add a key problem: there is no guarantee that, in the multipolar world we are bound to go, the principles and values that so far have been considered as the main foundation for peace will still remain valid.

Another key question is the confusion and even perplexity caused by the abrupt change from a situation where the horizon was a hopeful tranquillity that included the cashing of peace dividends (post-cold war euphoria) to a quite different scenario. That change provoked a logical concern in account of the multiple horizons described by the two mentioned studies.

The above considerations call for:

1. A clear definition of the role of the European Union (EU) in the world. That is: deciding if it must be that of a unique and complementary power defined by a policy prioritizing “soft power” or if a new a more proactive role should be taken. In other words definition of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP).
2. A clear definition of the EU Security and Defence: That is: defining the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and the role of Permanent Structured Cooperation in the development of the CSDP.
3. A clear and matured definition of the EU-NATO relationship, promoting a better understanding and a better coordination with the Atlantic Alliance and as a consequence with the allies in North America mainly with the United States.
4. Reassuring the validity of the fundamental values and principles of our civilization: Liberty, Democracy, Rule of Law, Separation of Powers and Social Justice.
5. Restoring the “entente” among democratic countries of the “West” and extending that entente to all EU and NATO members. Advancing as fast as possible in the consolidation of a Security and Defence Industrial Base.

Once we have been able to lay sound foundations for our future we could approach the complex process of acquisition of capabilities for the future. Some of the following ideas could help in that process:

- Approach acquisition with ingenuity and new ideas meanwhile the economic crisis is overcome.
- Once the crisis is finished, promote a stable way (for example, multiannual budgeting) of providing necessary funds for defence to adapt for future scenarios; taking into account that those scenarios are very demanding as far as the importance and diversity of risks and threats.
- The need to make sure that our society and our politicians assume the fact that we are no longer in the same situation that we were in the nineties, that the present outlook indicates a possible comeback of more symmetric

conflicts and even the risk of going nuclear and that we cannot lose much time as we approach the 2030 horizon.

- Our societies have also to assume the need of making the necessary investments to acquire the capacities to confront new threats, yet maintaining the high degree of self-protection that we now prioritize.
 - The sequels of the crisis should not induce our politicians to see security and defence as an easy source of funds for economic and financial recovery.
 - The importance of considering that the present need for civilian resources is here to stay, and that this is an additional demand to be taken into account as we build up our security and defence budgets.
 - The consolidation of a Security and Defence Industrial base should be done in such a way that avoids damaging national industries in smaller countries. The European Defence Agency could play a significant role in that process.
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