

**The Swedish Presidency and the ESDP:
Speech by State Secretary Håkan Jevrell at the 57th Plenary
Session of the European Security and Defence Assembly
on 1 December 2009**

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to stand before such a distinguished audience and I regret that the Minister for Defence, Mr. Sten Tolgfors, is unable to attend this meeting today.

After an intense period with plenty of hard work, the Swedish Presidency is coming to an end. I would therefore like to take the opportunity to inform you of the work that has been conducted since we assumed the Presidency in July.

This year marks the 10-year anniversary of the European Security and Defence Policy.¹ During the last ten years, the EU has carried out 22 missions and operations with some 70.000 personnel on four continents. Our military capacity has proven reliable on the ground in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tchad, Bosnia-Herzegovina and most recently outside the coast of Somalia. Our civilian capabilities have contributed to stability and transformation in the Balkans, Caucasus, Middle East, Asia and in Africa. We have improved our resources and created new capabilities. The EU is now a real force for peace and security throughout the world.

The entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty will entail a new chapter in the history of the EU's common foreign, security and defence policy by further strengthening the Union's institutional framework. The establishment of the European External Action Service will enhance the efficiency of the structures for planning and conduct of crisis management missions and operations. I will come back to this later in my speech.

We *have* come a long way but challenges still remain. Our support is needed in an increasing number of places around the globe. There are also growing expectations within the international community of the EU's ability to deal with global crises. In order to live up to these expectations and contribute to security in an ever-changing world, we must make the EU an even more effective actor on the global arena.

To make the EU a more effective global actor has been the overall aim of the Swedish Presidency in the field of the ESDP. We have strived to identify ways to increase usability and interoperability of existing resources and capabilities.

In the area of defence, we have chosen to give priority to the following issues:

1. To enhance the flexibility and usability of the **EU Battlegroups**.

¹ 10 years since the EU Summit in Cologne, 1999.

2. To increase cooperation and coordination between different actors in the field of **maritime surveillance**.
3. To increase **transparency and harmonisation** on the European defence industrial market, in order to create a **level playing-field** that enables the EU's defence industries to compete on the world market.
4. To promote closer cooperation in **civil-military capability development**.

With regard to the civilian side of the ESDP, we have put focus on moving forward on key operational issues:

1. To enhance Member States' **ability to deploy civilian personnel**.
2. To strengthen our ability to **respond rapidly**.
3. To raise the **gender perspective**.

In addition to these focus areas, we have dealt with ongoing EU operations and missions. We have also worked to enhance cooperation with strategic partners.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start with our defence related priorities.

1. EU Battlegroups

The EU Battlegroups provide the EU with a robust ability to rapidly respond to crises globally. The ability to perform rapid response operations makes the Union a more credible global actor.

The EU Battlegroups also serve as tools for transformation of Member States' national defence. This is not least true for Sweden. Our new Defence Bill builds to a large extent on experiences from setting up the Nordic Battle Group in 2008.

Member States have invested time, money and resources to make the concept of the Battlegroup a reality. While the military concept is adequate and gives the Union an ability to deploy within ten days, we do not think there has been corresponding *political will* to take such a decision within the same timeframe. And so far, no Battlegroup has ever been deployed, even though there might have been situations where it was called for.

If resources are committed, but never used, the European tax-payers will start to raise questions. As a consequence, the future willingness of Member States to commit resources might decrease, in particular when the EU struggles to generate sufficient capabilities to ESDP missions.

The Swedish Presidency therefore initiated a political discussion, not to change the Battlegroup concept, but to increase the flexibility and usability of the Battlegroups. We also sought to increase the cooperation between the different Battlegroups at the disposal of the

EU. This could include the sharing of planning and lessons learned. Such synergies would also increase the usability of the Battlegroups.

I am satisfied that the political discussions during our Presidency have been constructive. In addition to the value of having a discussion on the Ministerial level as such, the Council have also agreed guidelines for a more flexible use of the EU Battlegroups. The guidelines allow for elements of a Battlegroup to be used, under exceptional circumstances, in situations other than strict rapid response. The guidelines also encourage Member States to cooperate closer when setting up Battlegroups.

2. Maritime surveillance

Many areas are increasingly dependent on reliable maritime surveillance. Still, maritime surveillance systems and procedures remain fragmented and not always compatible across agencies, sectors or states. The Swedish Presidency has therefore continued the process initiated by the French Presidency in order to develop a solid foundation for more efficient maritime surveillance, both within the EU and in ESDP operations.

The overarching principle for the ongoing work is to strive towards connecting already existing systems and to improve formal coordination between ongoing and future projects. The approach should be to work across sectors, pillars and borders.

In November the Council adopted conclusions, which stipulate that work should be taken forward towards an Integrated Maritime Surveillance.

In the conclusions, the Council urges closer cooperation and coordination between all relevant actors and sectors to ensure interoperability, cost-effectiveness and efficiency. The conclusions also calls upon the Commission, in close cooperation with the Member States and relevant EU bodies, to produce a roadmap for the establishment and implementation of an integrated maritime surveillance, before the end of 2010.

3. European Defence Industry

A strong European defence industrial base and a well functioning defence equipment market are crucial components in the development of European military capabilities. An open and transparent European defence market is necessary to increase the EU's competitiveness for the benefit of both customers and industry. However, the European defence industry remains fragmented, and faces serious challenges on the global market.

Europe needs to improve efficiency and effectiveness in its research and procurement activities, and ensure that Member States do not compete with each other in terms of subsidies and protectionism. The EU also has to improve market efficiency and effectiveness and work towards achieving transparency and harmonization. Sweden's vision has been to create an open European defence equipment market, based on fair competition and on a level playing field, that enables the EU's defence industries to compete on the world market.

The Presidency's initiative has been warmly welcomed. Consequently, in November, Defence Ministers were able to adopt a political declaration to work towards an open and transparent European Defence Equipment Market. The Ministers also tasked the European Defence Agency to prepare a road-map for the work ahead. Thus, there is a strong political mandate to continue work on this issue.

4. Civil-Military Capability Development

The EU has the ambition to take on the full spectrum of crisis management tasks. These demanding and complex tasks require a broad range of both civilian and military capabilities. These capabilities have to be used in a coordinated manner.

The Presidency therefore saw a need to further improve coherence in civilian and military capability development. Civilian and military resources must increasingly be coordinated in order to achieve synergies in the planning, conduct and development of capabilities in support of the ESDP. Enhanced coordination and cooperation is extremely important in order to achieve a more efficient use of our resources.

During our Presidency, Member States have agreed to deepen the on-going efforts to find common solutions within civil-military capability development. A work plan will be developed in the first semester of 2010. A number of concrete areas have been identified as particularly suitable for the immediate work ahead. These include capabilities within transportation, logistics, communications, medical support as well as security and protection.

Moving on now to the **civilian side of the ESDP**. The EU has recognized the growing need to ensure that civilian ESDP missions are able to be deployed rapidly, alongside other instruments in support of the EU's strategic aims and objectives. In this context we have sought to move forward on a number of operational issues in order to strengthen our abilities in practice:

Firstly, Member States' ability to deploy civilian personnel

Civilian ESDP missions depend on Member States' willingness to provide qualified and able personnel – currently there is a seriously high vacancy rate of 28 percent, most notably in EUPOL Afghanistan and in EULEX Kosovo. Unless we address this shortfall the Union's credibility will be at stake. With this in mind, the European Council, underlined the need for all Member States to strengthen their ability to provide personnel.

A process of sharing experiences and best practices has been initiated. Considerable progress has been made by Member States in enacting and implementing national measures facilitating the deployment of civilian personnel. It can be noted that several Member States are in the process of adopting such national measures/strategies and establishing more appropriate structures.

In this context, a discussion on strengthening cooperation with the Justice and Home Affairs sector has been initiated. The Swedish Presidency strongly believes that it is key to engage the Justice and Home Affairs sector in order to strengthen the provision of Rule-of-Law personnel.

Secondly, strengthening rapid response

The need to strengthen our ability to respond rapidly has been recognized by the Union, not least in light of events in Georgia last year. During the Swedish Presidency several decisions have been taken which together will amount to an improved ability to act swiftly:

The Civilian Response Teams (CRT) will be enhanced and improved. The CRT pool shall be doubled with a target up to 200 experts with additional fields of expertise. More efficient procedures for decision and deployment have been adopted. The Council expects that the revised concept will lead to a higher degree of flexibility and availability of the CRTs.

A decision in principle has been taken to establish a permanent capacity to store new and existing strategic material to ensure rapid deployment of equipment to new and existing missions. On a temporary basis a warehouse will be established within EUPM Bosnia and Herzegovina by January 2010 in view of the ongoing exploratory work on the establishment of a permanent warehousing solution.

Thirdly, the gender perspective

A mere 11 percent of international staff in civilian ESDP missions are women, and more can be done to consider gender aspects when implementing a mission's mandate. This was the background for a thorough discussion which led to agreement to strengthen training on gender issues with a view to raising overall operational effectiveness of missions.

[Operations and Missions]

Like all previous Presidencies we have also managed ongoing EU military and civilian operations and missions.

Regarding military operations we have worked with **Operation Althea** in Bosnia Herzegovina and **Operation Atalanta** outside the coast of Somalia.

Regarding **Operation ALTHEA**, discussions have been ongoing concerning the possible transformation of the operation to a non-executive mission. The political situation in Bosnia Herzegovina and uncertainty concerning the timetable for the transition of the OHR into a broader EU presence, is creating an insecurity as to when the EU can decide on a transition of the military presence. It is imperative that a decision regarding the transition of Operation ALTHEA is consistent with the political developments and the security situation in the country. The EU needs to be pragmatic and flexible in order to find a coherent way forward on the issue of a continued military presence in the context of the EU's broader engagement.

Concerning **Operation ATALANTA**, discussions have been ongoing regarding the continuation of the operation in 2010 as well as the progress of the anti-piracy efforts and cooperation with partners in the theater of operation. In addition, further EU support to the Somali security sector has been discussed within a comprehensive EU approach to the situation in Somalia. This possible support will be part of a larger and coherent framework involving close EU cooperation with the AU, the UN and other relevant partners, in particular the US. In regard to the AU, the role of AMISOM is especially important. Of fundamental importance is also the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) ownership and a clear TFG commitment to build a viable and sustainable security sector.

At the General Affairs and External Relations Council meeting last month, the Council approved a Crisis Management Concept on a possible ESDP mission to contribute to the

training of TFG Security Forces and requested further planning work, without prejudging subsequent decisions on a possible ESDP action.

2009 was the year that the **civilian ESDP missions** came of age, with roughly 2.600 international personnel deployed. EULEX Kosovo – the largest mission and the only mission with an executive mandate – reached full operational capability and assumed its responsibilities in Kosovo. In other regions, EU missions provided much sought after stability, in particular as observers in Georgia. Our missions in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Palestinian Territories, Iraq, DR Congo and Guinea Bissau provide advice to local authorities on reforms in police, Rule-of-Law and the wider Security Sector.

[Cooperation with partners]

An important task for any Presidency is to maintain close **cooperation with key partners**. During the Swedish Presidency we have pursued work to further strengthen cooperation with the UN, NATO and the African Union.

For instance, both the UN (UN Special Representative Kay Eide) and NATO (assistant Secretary General Jiri Sedivy) were invited to the Informal Meeting of EU Defence Ministers in Göteborg in September, in order to allow for a comprehensive discussion on Afghanistan. NATO's Secretary General, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, also participated in a joint session for Foreign and Defence Ministers at the General Affairs and External Relations Council in November, to discuss cooperation between the EU and NATO in crisis management. Once more, Afghanistan was the focus of the deliberations.

[Lisbon Treaty]

Finally, let me say a few words about the Lisbon Treaty, which enters into force today. As I mentioned earlier, the Treaty will strengthen the EU's common institutional framework. The new post of a High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, assisted by the European External Action Service (EEAS), will increase effectiveness in the EU's external actions.

At the European Council meeting on 29 - 30 October, the Heads of States and Governments endorsed a report on the set-up of the EEAS. They also invited the future High Representative to present a proposal for the organisation and functioning of the EEAS as soon as possible after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. The aim is to have a Council decision by the end of April 2010, at the latest.

As you are well aware, the Treaty has several defence related implications. The EU Defence Ministers had a first informal discussion regarding these issues at the Council meeting in November. The discussion focused primarily on the Permanent Structured Cooperation and article 42.7. on mutual aid in case of an armed aggression. Ministers also discussed how to strengthen the role of Defence Ministers in the Common Security and Defence Policy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion I can say that I am pleased with what has been achieved. We have taken important steps forward in making the EU's capabilities more usable and effective. This work is of importance in making the EU a more effective global actor.

We have taken important steps, but work needs to continue. That is why Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Defence recently adopted a Declaration on the future development of the ESDP, in light of ten years of experiences and in light of the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. This declaration forms a good basis for future work.

It is important that the work carried out by the EU has broad support among the EU's citizens. Parliamentary Assemblies play a key role in securing public support for the EU's work. I would therefore like to conclude by saying how much my Minister and I, value your work. As this assembly brings together representatives from all 27 member states of the EU, as well as the five non EU European NATO members who contribute a great deal to the ESDP, you have a special role. We value your commitment to European Security and Defence issues.

Thank you for your attention. I will be happy to answer any questions you might have.
