

The European Security and Defence Union

Europe 2015



MAIN TOPIC

Disaster management, humanitarian aid and refugee policy



Migration: drawing up robust solutions

Jean Asselborn,
Foreign Minister, Luxembourg,
Presidency of the European Union



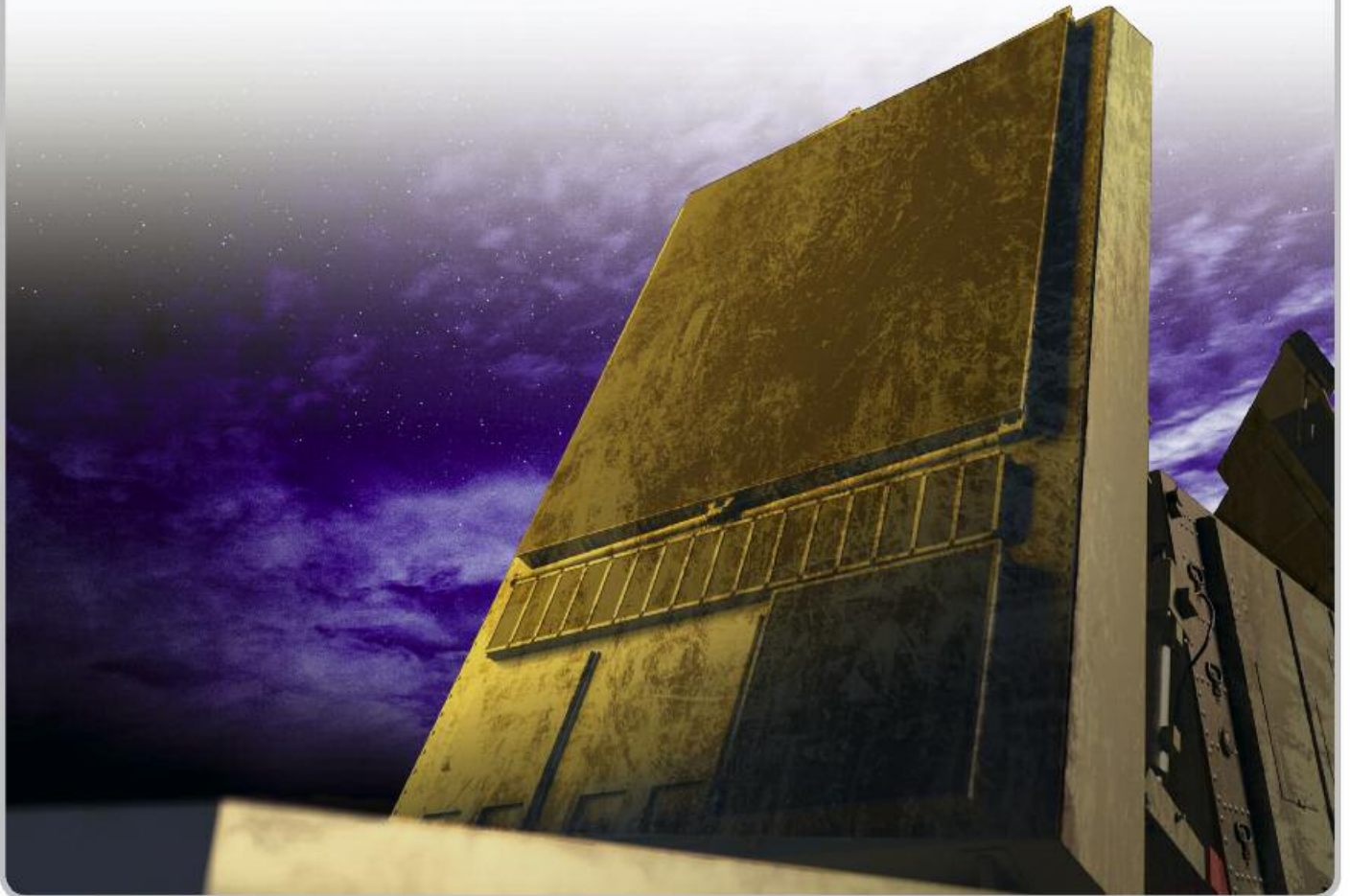
A sea of despair: where is the EU ?

Ana Gomes MEP,
European Parliament,
Brussels/Strasbourg

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Iran is not likely to test the limits of the nuclear agreement

The nuclear agreement with Iran will change the Middle East, but whether it will lead to greater stability in this region seems highly unlikely, at least in the short term. However, already it is helping Iran to project a more positive image on the international stage and will lead to new alliances as well as rivalries in this explosive region.

The hand extended by Iran's Shiite President Rouhani before the end of negotiations was turned down by King Salman, the Sunni Muslim leader of Saudi Arabia, Iran's political and religious rival in the region. Israel, vehemently opposed to the agreement, is feeling increasingly isolated and insecure. There have been positive reactions in the West to Iran's offer to join forces against "Islamic State" (IS). Yet in the near future, there is no real hope of political change within Iran, nor is it about to abandon the anti-Americanism that is a cornerstone of Iranian policy.

The nuclear agreement with Iran is a compromise that does not fulfil the objectives that the P5+1* hoped to achieve. It is welcomed in Iran because it means an end to sanctions and might allow the country to have its own nuclear weapons at some point in the future. US critics of the deal claim that the control regime comprises too many loopholes.

But Iran is not going to violate the agreement for the time being. Indeed, whatever its shortcomings, the deal was preferable to the alternatives, such as a military solution or acquiescence.

With the control regime that was negotiated as part of the deal there is a chance of Iran abiding by it, since the merest suspicion of non-compliance would lead to sanctions.

There is a possibility that, with time, Iran could evolve into a reliable partner in the fight against IS. This together with economic and industrial cooperation could plant the seeds for the growth of mutual trust.

However, the equation is not complete without Saudi Arabia and the struggle for political and strategic hegemony in the region, not to mention the religious conflict between the Sunni and Shia branches of Islam. Moreover, the risk of a new arms race is real. A new harmonised Middle East Policy among the permanent members of the UN Security Council is not only desirable, but also necessary.

*5 permanent members of the UN Security Council + Germany



Photo: © Hofmann, Adelsheim

Hartmut Bühl

Hartmut Bühl, Editor-in-Chief

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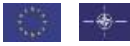
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Photo: Benjamin Gaul, Winterbach

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EU PRESIDENCY

The Luxembourg Presidency's priorities



Inaugural meeting of the new EU Presidency with the European Commission, 3 July 2015, Luxembourg

photo: © European Union 2015 - EC Audiovisual Service, Photo: Golinvaux Mathieu/AFP-Services

In the second semester of 2015 Luxembourg is holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the 12th time. The priorities of the Luxembourg Presidency are based on seven pillars:

- Stimulating investment to boost growth and employment
- Deepening the European Union's social dimension
- Managing migration, combining freedom, justice and security
- Revitalising the single market by focusing on its digital dimension
- Placing European competitiveness in a global and transparent framework
- Promoting sustainable development
- Strengthening the European Union's presence on the global stage

→ Please see also on page 9 the article by Luxembourg's Foreign Minister, Jean Asselborn

Web: <http://www.eu2015lu.eu>

SMART ENERGY

NATO goes green

During the NATO Capable Logistician (CL15) logistics exercise last June in Hungary, in which for the first time ever private companies – mainly from the electrical energy and shelter construction (containers, tents) sectors – were able to successfully deploy their products in operational conditions, a groundbreaking contract was signed between the NATO Energy Security Centre of Excellence (ENSEC COE) based in Vilnius and the firm PFISTERER Holding based in Winterbach (GER). This contract is in line with NATO's efforts to reduce forces' consumption of fossil fuels. Electrical energy specialist PFISTERER won the NATO tender with its CrossPower (CRP) mobile und scalable energy management system for civil and military camps, against tough international competition. During the CL15 exercise PFISTERER successfully demonstrated the performance of its system, which was responsible for supplying energy to one of the three camps.



Left to right: Martin Schuster, Samuel Ansorge (both Pfisterer), Nicolas Henry and Otar Mosiashvili (both ENSEC COE) at the signing of the NATO contract during CL15

photo: © Pfisterer/Benjamin Gaul

→ Read more information on smart energy and CL15 on pages 45–56

Web: ENSEC COE: <http://enseccoe.org>

CSDP

A European global strategy on CSDP?

Regarding the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), the European Council in its Conclusions of 26 June 2015 announced that the High Representative will continue the process of strategic reflection with a view to preparing an EU global strategy on foreign and security policy in close cooperation with member states, to be submitted to the European Council in June 2016.

→ See also MEP Michael Gahler's keynote commentary on the CSDP on page 8

CRISIS IN THE AEGEAN

ESI policy proposal

In September 2015, the European Stability Initiative (ESI), Europe's think tank for southeastern Europe and enlargement, presented a policy paper entitled "Why people don't need to drown in the Aegean". The paper outlines why neither German Chancellor Angela Merkel's generosity towards refugees nor Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's hostility towards taking them in offer a solution to this crisis. Instead, ESI



is proposing an agreement between the EU and Turkey based on two essential measures. The main idea is that rather than waiting for 500,000 people to make their way to Germany, Berlin should, as an exceptional measure, commit to taking 500,000 Syrian refugees directly from Turkey in the coming twelve months – before they risk their lives on the Aegean. In return Turkey would agree to take back all the refugees that reach Greece illegally, from the moment the deal is signed. The paper explains: "If Syrian refugees have a safe and realistic option for claiming asylum in the EU in Turkey, and if they face certain return back to Turkey if they cross illegally, the incentive to risk their lives on the Aegean will disappear."

Web: The paper is available on the ESI website www.esiweb.org

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE CRISIS

Mediterranean Sea – deadliest route for refugees

Despite the efforts of the joint European search and rescue operation Triton under FRONTEX, which has saved tens of thousands of lives this year, the Mediterranean Sea continues to be one of the deadliest routes for refugees and migrants. According to the UN Refugee Agency UNHCR, in mid September 2015, the number of refugees and migrants crossing the Mediterranean that year had exceeded 440,000, including more than 300,000 people landing in Greece and 120,000 in Italy. This represents a large increase from last year, when around 219,000 people crossed the Mediterranean during the whole of 2014. By mid September 2015 at least 2,900 refugees and migrants are estimated to have died or gone missing trying to reach Europe.



Search and Rescue (SAR) mission by Belgian vessel Godetia, Operation Triton, 23 June 2015

photo: © Frontex press/Francesco Malavolta, source: EP Audiovisual Service (reference: ep-024821a)

→ You will find articles and interviews on the migration and refugee crisis in our main topic starting on page 24. Please see also the article by EU Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos on page 10

Member States criticised by MEPs

On 17 September 2015, the European Parliament backed the European Commission's new emergency proposal of 9 September to relocate 120,000 asylum seekers from Greece, Italy and Hungary to other EU member states. In a plenary debate prior to the vote, the failure so far of EU Home Affairs Ministers to agree on the Commission proposal, despite having adopted a first set of decisions on 14 September, was criticised by a large majority of MEPs.

→ You will find the commentary by Editor-in-Chief Hartmut Bühl on page 41

UNHCR Regional Refugee Coordinator for Europe

On 1 September 2015 UNHCR designated Vincent Cochetel, Director of the Regional Bureau for Europe, as the Regional Refugee Coordinator for the refugee crisis in Europe. In addition to his continued functions as Bureau Director, Mr Cochetel will lead UNHCR's response to this emergency, ensuring a comprehensive approach that covers all affected countries and is closely coordinated with the European Union response. UNHCR is severely critical of the continuing absence of a coherent and united response to Europe's refugee situation leading recently to chaos on the Serbian border with Croatia and dramatic scenes on the Hungarian border.

→ Mr Cochetel's statement of 8 September 2015 on the situation in Hungary can be found on page 31

Web: www.unhcr.org

HUMANITARIAN AID

Working at high risk

According to the 2015 Aid Worker Security Report, 329 aid workers were victims of violent attacks in 2014, more than one third of whom were killed. Compared to 2013, attacks in 2014 declined; however, numbers of attacks remained higher than in previous years. The 2013 peak in casualties was mainly due to escalating conflicts in South Sudan and Syria, as well as ongoing violence in Afghanistan. Attacks in 2014 declined not because the world became a safer place, but due to reduced or reconfigured operational presence in these countries, with fewer aid workers deployed to field locations deemed insecure.

→ Till Wahnbaeck, Secretary General and CEO of Welthungerhilfe is reporting on this subject, see page 34

Web: Aid Worker Security Report 2015
<http://tinyurl.com/q8fq5o9>

EU OPERATIONS

EUNAVFOR MED – Phase 2



On 16 September 2015, with the participation of EUNAVFOR MED Commander Rear Admiral Enrico Credendino,

the Force Generation Conference was held with a view to defining EU member states' contributions to the second phase of the Operation. The Conference followed the Council's positive assessment of 14 September of the conditions for moving to the first step of phase two of EUNAVFOR MED on the high seas. The military operation, launched on 22 June 2015, aims to contribute to disrupting the business model of human smuggling and trafficking networks in the Mediterranean and to prevent the further loss of life at sea.

Web: <http://tinyurl.com/nokqouu>

CSDP: keynote commentary

European Defence – what is it all about?

by Michael Gahler MEP, EPP Spokesman on Security and Defence, Brussels/Strasbourg

Critics have voiced doubts in the past about the relevance of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). They often claim that this policy lacks capabilities, coherence or a willingness on the part of the Member States to act together. I am more optimistic about CSDP because of its past successes and recent operations. However, I have to admit that we are still far away from a European defence as foreseen by the Lisbon Treaty.

The CSDP is alive and well – on the ground

The 18 ongoing civilian and/or military missions and 17 completed operations are proof that CSDP is alive and well. The EU launched a civilian advisory mission in Ukraine in 2014 and a military operation in the southern central Mediterranean (EUNAVFOR MED) in 2015. The goal in the Mediterranean is to complement ongoing civilian and humanitarian efforts and to challenge the business model of the human traffickers. To be clear: the initial efforts focusing on surveillance and assessments of trafficking networks won't do the job. To put a stop to this inhumane business the EU needs to destroy vessels and related assets in compliance with international law and full respect of human rights. Action on the ground in Libya, preferably accompanied by a UN mandate, must also be envisaged.

Much work remains to be done at political level

Although the track record of our servicemen and women in CSDP missions is quite impressive, the bulk of the work still remains to be done at political level. Member States and the European Commission need soon to activate the unused instruments of the Lisbon Treaty. These tools describe the way towards a European defence within the EU. Without any change to the current legal basis, Member States can jointly address among other issues the problem of otherwise unilaterally shrinking budgets and uncoordinated reform efforts.

Permanent Structured Cooperation

Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) offers the opportunity to link the existing islands of military cooperation. In addition, with PESCO our servicemen and women could enjoy the benefit of EU budget financing during peacetime cooperation and investments in military infrastructure or capabilities.

Thinking pragmatically beyond the Dublin System

Migration: drawing up roles

by Jean Asselborn, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Immigration

Whether migrating because of fear of persecution, civil war or humanitarian crisis, or lured by the prospects of better economic opportunities, more people than ever before are on the move, many of them desperate to reach the European Union. Managing such unprecedented migration pressure is a challenging task. No solo run can do it justice: common European action is needed.

The Dublin System has reached its limits

The chaotic scenes and at times deadly incidents on EU border crossing points – the Greek islands, the Central Mediterranean, the Western Balkans, Calais, Ceuta and Melilla – underline the urgent need for action. The pressure could be dramatically increased by a deterioration of the situation in Eastern Ukraine, Lebanon or Turkey. Reception capacities in a number of EU Member States are already stretched to the limit. In recent times the term “overwhelmed” has all too often described the situation of Member States under pressure. The EU must and can do better.

The protection of EU borders does not yet automatically go hand in hand with the identification and registration of migrants. The Dublin System has reached its limits. Secondary movements are on the rise. The overall record on enforcing return decisions for 2014 stands at only 39%. Migrant smuggling has become one of the most lucrative transnational criminal activities.

Against the backdrop of these shortcomings, the EU cannot shy away from taking much-needed action. The necessary legislative proposals, e.g. for a common European List of safe third countries, need to be quickly tabled and agreed upon. Policy frameworks already in place must be effectively operationalised and implemented. The EU's workload for the next months will be a heavy one: the pace must be stepped up.

How should the EU respond?

With repercussions of the current migratory crisis being felt in areas such as health care, education, financial affairs and social services, the EU's common response must focus on tightening links between the different policy strands. Artificial barriers have to be removed and new possibilities for cooperation seized. An integrated response is essential.

Working towards such an increased interlinkage of different policy initiatives has become the top priority of the Luxembourgish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The soon-to-be adopted relocation decision underlines this approach: relocation efforts will be accompanied by higher rates of return for those who do not qualify for international protection, and by

Just solutions

Migration and Asylum, Luxembourg, Presidency of the European Union



“Without sustainable conflict resolution, particularly in Syria and Libya, efforts in migration management are only a drop in the ocean.”

photo: European Union, 2015, source: EP/Genevieve Engel

increased investigations into smuggling and trafficking activities. They go hand in hand with operational support to Greece and Italy – the so-called “hotspot approach” – and with the call for Greece and Italy to adopt complementary measures to enhance their asylum systems.

We need sustainable conflict solutions

The last months have also shown how intrinsically intertwined migration and foreign policy really are. Without sustainable conflict resolution, particularly in Syria and Libya, efforts in migration management are only a drop in the ocean. The EU cannot address the root causes of migration on its own. The upcoming Valletta summit and the high-level conference on the Western Balkans route will provide excellent opportunities to agree on further interactions between internal and external policy measures. The EU and its partners must seize these opportunities.

The question of how to structure our response is of course paramount. Here the EU can draw on its longstanding experience. Its multiple presence and combined efforts through its civilian mission in Niger and in the Sahel region, its multipurpose centre for migrants in need and its development cooperation schemes aiming at enhancing political stability, security, governance and migration management offer valuable know-how.

By reinforcing the mandate of its EUCAP SAHEL Niger civilian mission and through the EUNAVFOR Med operation deployed in the Southern Central Mediterranean to disrupt the business

model of human smuggling and trafficking networks, the EU has shown its willingness to use the tools offered by its Common Foreign and Security Policy in order to act decisively in the overall context of the migration crisis.

Solidarity and responsibility are the cornerstones

Solidarity and responsibility must remain the cornerstones of such common European action. Showing solidarity with front-line EU Member States but also with concerned third countries, e.g. through relocation and resettlement schemes, must go hand in hand with efficient migration management by all actors, particularly in regard to the observance of the relevant legal provisions and the operationalisation of readmission agreements.

Jean Asselborn

has been Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Luxembourg Government since 2004. Born in 1949, he joined the municipal administration of the City of Luxembourg in 1968. In 1976 he became the administrator of the Intercommunal Hospital of Steinfort, a post he held until 2004. After obtaining a master's degree in private judicial law from the University of Nancy II in 1981, he became the Mayor of Steinfort and served in that position until 2004. From 2004 to 2013, he was Deputy Prime Minister under Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker. Minister Asselborn is also in charge of European Affairs, Immigration and Asylum.



Photo: © Andrew Kazmierski, ianofla.com

Global Politics

“When we talk about the follow-up to the Iranian deal, or about the Middle East Peace Process, when we talk about the medium and long run – this is not detached from the refugee crisis. The reason why we are facing this major crisis now is exactly because the conflicts around us have multiplied.”

HR/VP Federica Mogherini after the informal meeting of the EU Foreign Ministers on 5 September 2015

All EU member states have to provide the necessary political support and resources

A European response to migratory challenges: time to make a difference

by Dimitris Avramopoulos, Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, European Commission, Brussels

Migration is the primary concern of European citizens. With more than 500 000 migrants reaching our shores since January 2015, and with almost 600 000 asylum applications lodged in the EU in the first half of 2015, we need to determine actions to put into practice the balanced and comprehensive approach put forward by the Commission and address their concerns.

An ambitious agenda on migration

The European Commission has taken an ambitious step by adopting the European Agenda on Migration, which proposes a series of bold and realistic measures. Indeed, the Agenda puts forward actions that offer swift responses to the emergency

situation in the Mediterranean and for other sections of our external borders that are under pressure. It presents structural measures to ensure that the current system delivers all its potential and offers the possibility for further EU-wide integration of migration policies.

More importantly, the Agenda mainstreams migration as a priority in all policy areas in order to make the EU’s migration policy stronger and more effective to better manage the increasing flow of migrants, especially those in need of protection, to secure our borders and save lives and to respond to the economic demands of a Europe in demographic decline.

Significant progress but lagging assets

Since the adoption of the Agenda, we have made significant progress. To allow for more search and rescue operations, we have tripled the 2015 budget for the Triton and Poseidon operations in the Mediterranean. Member States have made significant asset contributions for Triton (boats, helicopters). To uphold our moral duty by offering people fleeing war and poverty an opportunity for a better life, the principles of solidarity and a fair sharing of responsibility have to be translated into effective actions.

We have set up a system where 40 000 refugees can be relocated from Italy and Greece to other EU Member States. In September, we put forward a proposal to relocate an additional 120 000 refugees from Italy, Greece and Hungary, due to the worsening situation of the refugee crisis. At the Council meeting of 14 September, we reached a milestone agreement with the adop-



Photo: Υπουργείο Εξωτερικών, CC BY SA 2.0, flickr.com

Dimitris Avramopoulos

has been European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship since 2014. He was born in 1953 in Athens and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Law and Political Science from the University of Athens. After a diplomatic career (1980-1993) he resigned from the Greek diplomatic service in order to enter parliamentary politics as a member of New Democracy.

He was Mayor of Athens from 1995–2002 and has served in various high-level cabinet posts, including those of Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for National Defence.

tion of the proposal for 40 000. It is time for Europe to get organised in order to address the current refugee crisis. In this system, all Member States are expected to participate.

Relieve the pressure from neighbouring countries

The European Union will also strengthen its partnership with key countries of origin and transit in its neighbourhood and beyond, in order to address the root causes of migration. To relieve the pressure from neighbouring countries such as Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey which are hosting large numbers of refugees, and to avoid migrants engaging in hazardous journeys across the Mediterranean, the Commission will organise the transfer of over 22 000 refugees from these countries and resettle them across the EU, thanks to the generous pledges of Member States.

While we should offer safer options, we also have to crack down on those who take advantage of and abuse vulnerable migrants.

“I am counting on the governments of all Member States and all Parliaments to provide the political support and the necessary resources.”

Dimitris Avramopoulos

The European Agenda on Migration offers a comprehensive action plan on migrant smuggling: to step up the prevention of their criminal activities, to disrupt them, to bring the perpetrators to justice and to seize their assets.

Foreign talent for Europe’s economic development

With an ageing society and a declining active work force, foreign talent that can complement our own European skills will be important to support Europe’s economic development. The Blue Card system, which allows entry and residence in the EU of highly qualified workers from third countries, unfortunately does not work. For example, in 2014 only 16 000 blue cards were issued in the EU. We also need to identify the skills we need and the labour shortages that we will face. That is why the European Commission will set up a business platform with Member States, the private sector and trade unions. With the adoption of the European Agenda on Migration, the Commission is fully mobilised to put into practice the short, medium and long-term actions put forward in the Agenda.

Nevertheless, not everything depends on us. I am counting on the governments of all Member States and all Parliaments to provide the political support and the necessary resources. We must all ensure that the implementation of a coordinated European response really makes a difference.

documentation

Agenda on Migration

(ed/nc, Paris) On 13 May 2015, the European Commission presented a European Agenda on Migration outlining the immediate measures to be taken in response to the crisis situation in the Mediterranean and the steps to be taken in the coming years in order to better manage migration in all its aspects.

Crisis in the Mediterranean – 6 measures:

Relocation: The Commission is triggering the emergency response under Article 78(3) of the EU Treaty, which has never been activated in the past, to assist the most affected member states, in particular Italy and Greece. An emergency relocation scheme will apply to asylum-seekers arriving in these member states after the mechanism is launched. For the moment it applies to Syrian, Iraqi and Eritrean nationals, of whom a total of 160 000 should be relocated to other EU member states over the next 2 years.

Resettlement: The Commission adopted a Recommendation asking member States to resettle 20 000 people from outside the EU, in clear need of international protection as identified by the UNHCR, over 2 years, on the basis of a distribution key. The EU is making €50 million available in 2015-16 for the financial support of member states participating in the scheme.

An EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling: This plan for 2015-2020 sets out concrete actions to prevent and clamp down on migrant smuggling, including: drawing up a list of suspicious vessels, enhancing cooperation and information exchanges with financial institutions and cooperating with internet service providers and the social media to ensure the swift detection and removal of internet content used by smugglers to advertise their activities.

Guidelines on Fingerprinting: The Commission has published guidelines for member states setting out a best practices approach for fingerprinting newly arrived applicants for international protection.

A public consultation on the future of the Blue Card Directive: The Commission launched a public consultation in order to improve the existing EU Blue Card scheme, which aims to make it easier for highly skilled people to come and work in the EU but is currently scarcely used.

A new Operational Plan for Operation Triton: The Commission also takes note of a new Operational Plan for the reinforced Joint Operation Triton, which sets out the new number of assets (10 maritime, 33 land and 8 air assets, and 121 human resources), and also extends the geographical area of Triton southwards to the borders of the Maltese search and rescue zone to cover the area of the former Italian Mare Nostrum operation.

The OSCE has the potential to reverse the escalation of violence

Civilian monitors in a conflict zone: The OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

by Lamberto Zannier, Ambassador, Secretary General, OSCE, Vienna

When the OSCE deployed a Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine in March 2014, the situation in the eastern part of the country was tense: there were protests and demonstrations against the government in Kiev, but no violence. While the SMM was building up its initial strength of 100 monitors, the situation escalated: government buildings were seized by armed groups and violence increased. Around the time the SMM decided in late April 2014 to increase the number of monitors up to its (then) maximum strength of 500, fighting had intensified: tanks, heavy artillery and multiple launch rocket systems replaced Kalashnikovs as the main weapons in use. While the first OSCE monitors who arrived in the East in March 2014 monitored peaceful protests, the 380 monitors deployed today on both sides of the line of contact in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts are tasked with monitoring a fragile ceasefire and the withdrawal of heavy weapons from the zone of conflict.

The challenges the OSCE is facing

It is important to take this look back to understand the political, operational and security-related challenges the OSCE faces in Ukraine. The SMM was designed and initially deployed as a monitoring mission based predominantly on civilian expertise. Today, the SMM is a civilian peace operation with a strong element of military expertise. It operates unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), integrates information from satellite imagery into its operational planning and has acquired armoured ambulances alongside its 180 armoured vehicles. Two of its monitoring patrols were abducted and held for almost 30 days; its ground patrols and UAVs have been shot at; mines and unexploded ordnance are commonplace risks; and monitors continue to face frequent challenges to their freedom of movement in the conflict zone.

In short: the SMM monitors operate in conditions resembling a fully-fledged peacekeeping operation, which requires adequate security arrangements, thorough planning and specific expertise, supported by modern and reliable equipment, to be able to efficiently carry out expected tasks.

The speedy deployment of the SMM in March 2014 and the capacity to rapidly equip and readjust the Mission to changing needs represent a huge achievement for the OSCE. The SMM has become the largest OSCE field operation with more than 800 staff members deployed and an annual budget of



Photo: www.osce.org

Ambassador Lamberto Zannier

has been Secretary General of the OSCE since July 2011. Born in 1954 in Italy, he obtained a law degree from the University of Trieste. Between 1991 and 1997, he served as Head of Disarmament, Arms Control and Cooperative Security at NATO and afterwards chaired the negotiations on the adaptation of the Treaty on

Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. Before joining the OSCE as the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre in 2002, Mr Zannier was the Permanent Representative of Italy to the Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Prior to his current position, he was the UN Special Representative for Kosovo and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo.

€ 88.7 million. In line with the 12 March 2015 decision of the OSCE Permanent Council, the SMM is now authorised to expand to up to 1 000 monitors plus support staff.

A key role in the ceasefire

The SMM has been entrusted with a key role in the implementation of the ceasefire agreements reached in September 2014 and February 2015. Over the past months, OSCE monitors have reported in an impartial manner on ceasefire violations by both sides; monitored the exchange of prisoners; and facilitated localised ceasefires to allow humanitarian access, conduct demining operations, restore critical infrastructure and recover human remains. The SMM has also engaged with both sides on verifying the withdrawal of heavy weapons as required under the Minsk agreements. Still, some of the challenges the SMM and the OSCE as a whole had to face during the initial phase of the mission's deployment, such as the lack of legal personality of the Organisation and the need to operate in a volatile security environment without adequate safety guaranteed by all sides remain, and need to be addressed. At the same time, the potential of the OSCE to further stabilise the situation on the ground has yet to be fully realised. The most important task now is to reverse the escalation of violence witnessed over the past year and establish a durable ceasefire accompanied by a dynamic and sustainable political process.

Policies must now be geared to reality

Europe is being put to the test

by Winfried Kretschmann, Prime Minister of Baden-Württemberg, Stuttgart

60 million people worldwide are on the run. Many of them are fleeing war and persecution and are seeking our protection. Others are leaving their homes to escape poverty and the lack of prospects. For us as Europeans the dramatic rise in the numbers of refugees represents a huge humanitarian challenge and a major responsibility, but also a great opportunity.

Society as a whole must mobilise

The Geneva Refugee Convention and Germany's Basic Law are clear: any person suffering from political persecution has an unrestricted right to asylum. That right is a major achievement of our civilisation and is a core element of any human society. But what is equally clear is that economic want does not constitute grounds for asylum. Many people, mainly from the Balkan states, are currently travelling to our country to claim asylum on economic grounds. But the asylum system is a dead-end for those economic migrants, since an infinitesimal number will be granted the status of asylum-seeker and the rest will therefore have to return home. However, we should offer them legal channels of immigration through training and employment opportunities, not only to avoid an overload of the asylum system, but also because our companies are highly dependent on the immigration of both highly skilled and less qualified workers. We are also seeing increasing numbers of refugees arriving in Baden-Württemberg and we want to accommodate them decently. The local population is admirable in its voluntary commitment, openness and willingness to help. Over the past three years the Land authorities have increased the number of initial reception places more than tenfold, to over 15 000. And we are strongly committed to helping them learn the language and find work quickly.

The right of asylum – a core value

But we are reaching our limits. Initial reception structures are full to overflowing, the administration and the police are working flat out. The current challenges cannot be mastered in normal political mode, we need a major effort on the part of society as a whole. There is a need to create more initial reception places and, above all, to speed up procedures. And we need a huge drive for integration to ensure that all the people who are able to stay with us can learn the language and find work quickly. Germany has been a country of immigration for many years: the time has come for policies to be geared to the realities. The current situation proves that European asylum and refugee policy as it has stood up until now has failed: a new European order is needed here. Currently Germany and Sweden are taking



*Winfried Kretschmann,
Prime Minister of
Baden-
Württemberg*

Photo: Staatsministerium
Baden-Württemberg

in half the number of refugees arriving in the EU. This is not sustainable in the long run. We must have a fair distribution of refugees in Europe.

It is at least as important to vigorously tackle the root causes of the refugee problem. We need a common European effort to stabilise the Balkans and an effective international agreement on climate protection. The current refugee figures are a huge challenge but have not yet overwhelmed us. But if millions of people should flock towards us in the future, driven by the shortage of water and food and by rising sea levels, then this could change. Thus effective climate protection not only makes ecological sense, it is also a practical way of assuming our humanitarian responsibility.

A policy of humanitarian responsibility

Europe is being put to the test. We need a Europe that is able to overcome national self-interest and to find the strength to act, a Europe that controls immigration rather than building barbed wire fences, a Europe that is able to strike a successful balance between order and openness. This is the Europe that we need in order to be able to cope with the growing influx of refugees. If we succeed in doing this, Europe will gain new political influence. To strive for this is the order of the day. Europe must fulfill its humanitarian responsibilities, no member may violate these.

Winfried Kretschmann

has been the Prime Minister of the State of Baden-Württemberg since 2011. Born in 1948, he studied biology and chemistry at the University of Hohenheim prior to taking his grammar school teaching qualification in 1977. He then held teaching posts in several cities. Politically active since his student days, he co-founded the Green Party in Baden-Württemberg in 1979. A year later he became a member of the first Green Party parliamentary group to be elected to the State Parliament of Baden-Württemberg. Mr Kretschmann was elected Chairman of the that group in 2002, a post in which he remained until 2011.

The JCPOA consolidation process must consider Israel's right to exist

The Euro-Atlantic relationship after the Iran Agreement and the implications for Israel

by Dr Rachel Suissa, University of Haifa, Haifa

The nuclear agreement with Iran (JCPOA – Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) poses insightful challenges for the transatlantic vision that affect Israel's traditional system of alliances. In this diplomatic cooperation, the EU and the United States are converging on a key point, with the EU's normative dimension giving way to a radical neoliberal approach while the US is adopting a normative narrative. This development strengthens Israel's objection to the nuclear agreement in a wider strategic context.

The role of the European Union

The agreement shows that the fundamental change is that which concerns the transatlantic alliance rather than the US-Iran relationship. The first involves a stable trend while for the second there are different scenarios. The EU "big three" - Germany, Britain and France – which collectively wield the most influence within the European Union, have "duplicated" the representation of the European Union in the framing of the agreement. Despite the objections raised by France and Britain, coherence was particularly evident among the negotiators, acting as a force multiplier for the EU concept of coherence. If this is added to the fact that the United States is conducting negotiations with Iran for the first time, two conclusions concerning the transatlantic vision are possible. The first concerns EU-US coherence and the second presents the EU as an intermediary between the US and Iran.



High Representative Federica Mogherini and Mohammed Javad Zarif, Iranian Minister for Foreign Affairs during the nuclear negotiations with Iran, Vienna, 5 July 2015

Photo: European Union 2015 – ECAudiovisual Service, Kubani Samuel/AFP-Services



Photo: private

Dr Rachel Suissa

is a teaching professor on the National Security Program at the University of Haifa's School of Political Sciences, and a senior research fellow at the Haifa Center for German and European studies. Her research interests encompass multi-disciplinary security studies including:

Military and Strategic Studies, Cognitive, Psychological and Behavioral Dimensions in Adversarial Zones (Kinetic versus Cyber Environments), Emergency Management, EU Security and Foreign Policy Research Agenda, Technology and Society, Cyber Security Research and the Philosophy of Social Sciences. Dr Suissa has engaged in research activities with different European research consortia. Her current research is focused on Cyber Security and examines the relevance of Kinetic Security Strategy in virtual environments.

Soft power diplomacy versus hard power policy

The hidden aspect of these findings is that the neorealist power – the US – provides the hard power that anchors this agreement, compensating for the EU's apparent weakness, namely, its lack of coercive instruments and consequent

reliance on soft power diplomacy. The fact that the EU played a leading diplomatic role in the negotiation process with Iran will presumably also shape a crucial role for the EU in US-Russia-China relations. However, the "spillover" from the realpolitik-neorealist properties of the EU's profile contributes to its development into a conditional global power. If the agreement signed with Iran is rejected by the US, the haste shown by the EU "big three" in renewing their diplomatic and economic relations with Iran will actually expose the EU's weakness. The same scenario applies even if Congress rejects the agreement but is vetoed by the President. Only an agreement accepted by Congress will validate the EU's status in this agreement.

Nonetheless, this hasty step taken by Germany, Britain and France is a puzzling one. Precisely because the relative power of the EU resides in its constitutional expertise in framing international agreements, it would be desirable to adopt a certain degree of restraint until a consolidation of the agreement has been achieved by all parties, including the US. Thus the strategic advantage of the duplicating effect that these actors had on the EU's coherence is lost and the weaknesses of this agreement – in that it lacks the “seal” provided by the hard power of the United States – is revealed.

A switch of profiles for the EU and the US

In terms of the transatlantic vision, the US and the EU have gone a long way towards each other, coming together on a key point, with the European Union adopting a radical neoliberal economic policy while the United States adopts a normative profile. The EU can no longer be considered as a genuine normative player, given that it ignored the worldwide consensus regarding Iran's deep involvement in terrorism and regional destabilisation, despite the effects of these on the EU itself, for example in the form of massive immigration from failed states. The United States, on the other hand, has fully adopted a normative mindset in which the notion of hard power deterrence becomes blurred. With this switch of roles, both powers lose their natural advantage while still counting on each other's “imagined” specific advantage; thus they share a common denominator that is actually lacking in both soft and hard power.

A scenario that threatens Israel's national security

The agreement with Iran is not a “one-man job”. Barack Obama is a predictive indicator for a shift in the United States' grand strategy, particularly as presented by the Democrat party. The “tradeoff” between the EU and the US in shifting their profiles as international players endangers the validity of the agreement with Iran and exposes its weaknesses. Ambiguous deterrence contributes to a degradation of the agreement's overt and covert clauses. The EU's haste in protecting its superficial economic self-interest exposes its weakness, and although the EU does not play a crucial role in Israel's security doctrine, it is perceived as an element that could be harmful to Israel's security interests.

Since it knows that the EU does not usually speak one voice on security and foreign policy, Israel will direct its efforts at the EU's member states, including Britain, Germany and France, in order to preserve the realpolitik-neorealist core that European national states still possess. Two possible outcomes would benefit Israel's security: the first would be a weakening of the EU's coherence in terms of its foreign policy towards Iran, with implications for the transatlantic vision; the second would be the incorporation of Israel's right to exist into the process of consolidating the agreement with Iran.

documentation

The JCPOA agreement on Iran's nuclear programme

(ed/nc, paris) The agreement on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was reached on 14 July in Vienna between Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America), plus Germany and the European Union (represented by High Representative Federica Mogherini). The agreement was endorsed by the UN Security Council in Resolution 2231 (2015) on 20 July. The 104-page text, including annexes detailing the sanctions-related provisions and listings, requested the International Atomic Energy Agency to undertake verification and monitoring of Iran's compliance. It reaffirmed that Iran should cooperate fully with the Agency to resolve all outstanding issues. Upon receipt of a positive report from the Agency, the UN Security Council would terminate sanctions set out in resolutions adopted between 2006 and 2015.

For the full text of the Resolution: <http://tinyurl.com/ppysq6z>

Council Conclusions on the agreement with Iran

(Excerpt)

“The Council underlines the necessity for all sides to work now towards implementing this JCPOA. The Council requests the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to continue playing a coordinating role during the implementation of the JCPOA. The Council reiterates that EU actions and commitments under the JCPOA related to the lifting of the sanctions will be carried out in accordance with the timeline and modalities specified in the JCPOA; and that the lifting of economic and financial sanctions would come into effect once the International Atomic Energy Agency has verified that Iran has implemented its nuclear-related commitments as stipulated in the JCPOA. The Council notes that the provisions under the Joint Plan of Action agreed in Geneva in 2013 have been extended for a further six months, to cover the period until the IAEA has verified that Iran has taken these actions.” (20 July 2015)

Source: Council of the European Union

“A historic day”

Joint Statement by EU High Representative Federica Mogherini and Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif Vienna, 14 July 2015 (Excerpt)

“Today is an historic day. It is a great honour for us to announce that we have reached an agreement on the Iranian nuclear issue. With courage, political will, mutual respect and leadership, we delivered on what the world was hoping for: a shared commitment to peace and to join hands in order to make our world safer. This is an historic day also because we are creating the conditions for building trust and opening a new chapter in our relationship.”

source: EEAS

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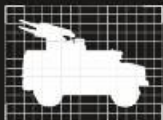
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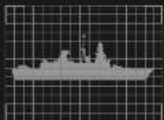
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The proliferation of missiles will continue – missile defences will remain relevant

Missile Defence: a valuable tool to defend against current threats

by Dr Oliver Thränert, Head of the Think Tank at the Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich

On the occasion of its 2010 Lisbon Summit, NATO decided for the first time to establish a missile defence capability to provide full coverage and protection for its entire European population, territory and military forces against the increasing threats posed by the proliferation of ballistic missiles.

The world has changed

Since then, the world has changed. Whereas in 2010 the main concern was the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles, following Russia's annexation of Crimea it was classical Article 5 defence of NATO territory that gained prominence. Besides, as a result of the 14 July 2015 agreement on the Iranian nuclear programme the proliferation threat has diminished. So is missile defence still relevant?

Most would agree that NATO missile defence is of little value with regard to Russia, given that Moscow has a missile and nuclear weapons capability against which defence is hardly possible. However, limited conflicts are conceivable, including Russian hybrid warfare operations on NATO's periphery. In the event of such contingencies Russia could threaten the Alliance with a limited first use of tactical nuclear weapons. NATO missile defences might then play an important role in defending allies and at least achieve damage limitation. In addition, the proliferation of missiles will continue. Not only does the 14 July 2015 agreement fail to prevent Iran from improving its missile force, but also, other countries in the Middle East and elsewhere will continue with their missile programmes. And NATO, despite its focus on Russia, cannot afford to entirely ignore international crisis-management operations.

Missile Defence will remain relevant

Against that backdrop, missile defences will remain relevant. To begin with, missile defences provide damage limitation. But missile defences will never be able to reliably and comprehensively protect territories and populations. Therefore, terms such as "missile defence shield" seem inappropriate.

In addition, missile defence has an important effect on the aggressor's calculations. Uncertainty on the part of the aggressor is likely to increase. At the same time, missile defence is important to help maintain some room for manoeuvre against aggressors equipped with ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction. To be sure, even with missile defences on hand, risk calculation would still be extremely difficult, but they would add an important option.



Photo: © 2015 SWP

Dr Oliver Thränert

is Head of the Think Tank at the Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich, and "Non-Resident Senior Fellow" at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP: Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik). Born in 1959 in Germany, he studied Political Science, Modern History and Sociology and received his Doctorate from the Technical University of Braunschweig, Germany, in 1986.

From 1986 to 2001, Mr Thränert was a political analyst for the Research Institute of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Bonn (until 1999) and Berlin. In 2001 he joined the SWP, where he chaired the Research Group for International Security from 2002 to 2008. In addition, Mr Thränert lectured at the Technical University of Darmstadt (1990 to 1994) and the Free University of Berlin (2002) and was a visiting scholar at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario (1991).

Moreover, missile defence also contributes to crisis stability. If damage limitation through defences becomes achievable, the need to reduce damage by attacking the opponent's offensive capabilities would decrease. Because the opponents would be aware of this, they would not be forced to use their nuclear weapons early in a "use-them-or-lose-them" mode. Hence, the likelihood of escalation would diminish.

Finally, proliferators are motivated to acquire missiles as well as nuclear weapons in the hope that they can use them as instruments of coercion. Missile defences could help to reduce such risks. It is true that given the changing security environment, NATO has to adapt, particularly regarding its conventional capabilities. Against the backdrop of tied budgets in almost all European countries, missile defence may not be the first priority of the Alliance. However, neither should it be entirely neglected.

NEWS

The Iran Agreement

Laurent Fabius, Foreign Minister of France, talking about the possibility of the nuclear deal with Iran being rejected by the US Congress: "President Obama is not wrong when he says that the alternative to the deal would be a military conflict with Iran."

Source: *Le Journal du Dimanche*, 23 August 2015

Summary of an analysis produced by EuroDefense France

An appeal for a European White Paper

by Jean Paul Perruche, General (ret), President EuroDefense, France, Paris

Recent changes in the world security context are having a dangerous effect on European countries' defence arrangements. An increased number of conflicts and threats at Europe's borders at a time when European defence budgets have been dangerously declining for more than 20 years, together with the unavoidable disengagement of the US, are the main reasons for this.

A common analysis

This uncertain situation should incite the nations of the European Union to pool their forces and capabilities, but it is painfully obvious that any political will to do so is sorely lacking at present. As for the possibilities for common action by the EU, these are ridiculously feeble compared with Europe's economic and political potential. Nevertheless European nations must face up to the threats and risks that are mostly common ones, although individual national priorities may differ. This is impossible without a common analysis of joint needs and the possibility of pooling assets, and without a proper appreciation of capabilities and of the capacity for mutual support, in an effort to achieve the necessary "critical mass" – a central criterion for power in today's globalised world.

Overcoming reluctance

A certain number of hurdles must be surmounted before the goal is reached: principally, the absence of a real common foreign policy. This could be alleviated, partly, via more convergence between member states, dossier by dossier, in the context of a new strategic analysis at the European level (as already envisaged by the new High Representative). The next step would be to conquer the reluctance and fears of national representatives with a view to modifying their priorities, so that rather than emphasising their differences they feel bound by positions agreed at the European level. By contrast, the new situation of threats and risks all around the EU, in particular in its near neighbourhood, offers opportunities to be grasped in favour of a more European approach to defence. Taking these risks into account globally in their diversity and as an indication of just how dangerous they may be on a European scale would make it possible to establish priorities and share efforts between the member states, to emphasise complementary capabilities and thus to increase the cost/efficiency ratio of European defence. The current problem of uncontrolled migration in the Mediterranean basin shows that there is a real need to find solutions at the European level.

The content of a European White Paper

Such an approach would favour the definition of a better role-sharing between the European states and the US, not only for the

defence of Europe, but also in order to protect our values and common interests at a global level. It would also make it possible to identify the strategic capabilities – for example in the areas of space, strategic transport, major arms systems – that the European States will not be in a position to acquire individually in the future, but which are indispensable for their independence and freedom of action.

As for its content, a European White Paper should express the political will of the EU States, with the support of their public opinion, to consider and organise their defence at the European level, without necessarily having to develop a totally integrated European defence (e.g. an European army). The White Paper should concentrate on:

- developing the notion of the critical mass needed to give European states power of influence;
- the expression of power and the use of armed force by the EU;
- the expression of solidarity in the domain of security and defence within the EU, with the aim not only of protecting the member states' common interests, but also of organising a common defence of all those interests;
- putting into practice the principle of subsidiarity between the EU and its member states in terms of defence, the aim of a European approach being to produce common solutions where the nations are lacking individual solutions, rather than Europe directing its members;
- the problem of establishing a concerted approach to nuclear deterrence and to ballistic missile defence within the realm of the EU's defence;
- conditions for giving the EU the necessary strategic autonomy and means to achieve its aims.

The EU must prepare for its future

With needs, ambitions and capabilities re-assessed at the European level, the White Paper should show how the EU should prepare to cope with a partial disengagement by the United States and redefine a transatlantic partnership adapted to 21st century realities, as well as establish the necessary coordination with other major organisations, such as the UN, the OSCE, NATO or the African Union. As an element for helping build the EU's global approach to its defence, the White Paper would enable the definition of regional strategies and themes (e.g. maritime security strategy, cyber defence, energy, the link between CSDP and the neighbourhood policy), as well as the organisation, budgets, doctrines and capability developments required in order to safeguard the technological and industrial base and envisage operational engagements. It can also function as a reference work for individual nations' own White Papers.

EU harmonisation initiatives regularly meet resistance rooted in the national interests of nations

Together is better: overcoming resistance to European defence integration

by Markus N. Heinrich, Research Fellow, University of Leicester

As Europe has progressively reduced defence spending, the need to spend better is greater than ever before. Duplication and inefficiency, sins in the best of times, in the current climate combine to hamper the ability to deliver competitive and cutting edge systems to Europe's armed forces. It also means that the European defence sector is more reliant on exports as the domestic market is weak, leading to vested interests and ethical and geopolitical dilemmas.

In addition to the pressures that the actual European defence sector is subject to as a result of European member states cutting their defence spending, its efforts to integrate in order to pool resources and expertise to be able to better resist these pressures is also being hampered by national governments. Although defence industry integration has created highly successful and competitive companies such as MBDA and the Airbus Group, there is resistance in national capitals to defence integration. Nationalism and protectionism is getting in the way of a more streamlined and competitive European defence sector, which in turn would lead to savings for customers, including the very governments which seek to block it.

The failed "BEADS" merger

A classic example of national government resistance to defence integration is the failed 2012 merger between BAE Systems and EADS (now the Airbus group) nicknamed "BEADS". This merger was sought by both companies and would have created the world's largest aerospace and defence company, which, according to the BAE Systems Business Announcement of 10 October 2012, "... would have produced a combined business that would have been a technology leader and a greater force for competition and growth across both the commercial aerospace and defence sectors and which would have delivered tangible benefits to all stakeholders". However political objections defeated sound industrial logic, which ultimately led to a missed opportunity; not just for the companies and countries involved but for all stakeholders in European security.

EU Initiatives

Recognising the disadvantage that faces the European defence industry and, as a consequence, the governments which rely on its products for their security, the European Union has initiated a range of measures to facilitate a more streamlined and efficient European defence equipment market. A noteworthy example is the Defence and Security Procurement Directive



Photo: private

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2009/81/EC. Its goal according to the EU is to move away from European defence markets being fragmented along national lines, which has "... led to a lack of openness and competition, with negative effects on the efficiency of public spending and the competitiveness of European industry" (EU, 2009). Other EU initiatives include the formation of the European Defence Agency (EDA) with the goal of "... a competitive European defence equipment market and strengthening the European defence technological and industrial base" (EDA, 2015). Though based on sound logic, like cross border defence mergers, EU harmonisation initiatives have met resistance rooted in the national interests of EU member states.

Implications for European Security

The EU is arguably facing the greatest challenges since its inception. From the euro crisis, to mass migration to terrorism to a resurgent Russia, the scale and complexity of the security threats of the 21st century are daunting. These challenges come at a time when Europe is unprepared to meet them, as years of defence cuts have eroded the capabilities of European armed forces. This is compounded by resistance to defence integration which is directly hampering Europe's defence industrial base, and as a consequence, weakening its military capability further. It is recognised by all but the most ardent eurosceptics that the challenges that Europe faces can only be effectively managed and overcome by a common approach. As security is arguably the most basic need of all, and a prerequisite for all other activities of development, it is only logical to have a common approach here. Europe needs to overcome petty national political considerations and overcome resistance to defence integration in order to be able to effectively meet the challenges of the 21st century and contribute to global stability and security.

China takes a more active international role in maritime policy

Maritime interdependence: is China a trouble-maker for the EU?

by David Bond and Martin Jung, Strategy and Security Institute, University of Exeter¹

China's economic rise illustrates the shift of global wealth from Western to Eastern hemispheres and presents the EU with considerable opportunity in an era of unprecedented interdependency. There is scepticism in some quarters however, that Chinese intent extends beyond former President Hu Jintao's Confucian maxim of a harmonious society-harmonious world. China's actions under Xi Jinping, realists suggest, are representative of a nation developing the strategic architecture that could be used to challenge the geopolitical status quo. Moreover, China's developing appetite for interventionism should not surprise the EU as Christian Le Miere illustrates that: "great powers that have found themselves with an increased ability and motivation to affect other countries' policies or internal affairs have chosen to do so."²

"The future is not foreseeable."

On balance, it could be argued that China's grand strategy should be measured by assessing its actions. Colin Gray's aphorism is as true here as always: "The future is not foreseeable."³ It is simply not possible to determine Chinese intent with any great certainty. Perhaps their strategy is benign and seeks to reduce extant reliance on Sea Lines of Communication (SLOC) – which would be understandable. For example, China perceives itself as being encircled by potentially hostile nations and its long-term aspiration to be self-sufficient in food production still resonates, but the reality is that it is dependent on supply from overseas.

Current blip aside, China's economic rise has been remarkable, but on current projections it faces significant challenges feeding its people and delivering the energy security required in 2030. Its continued prosperity therefore is critically dependent upon a constant supply of resource. Does this really reflect a shift from its hitherto non-interference policy and if so what does it mean for the EU? Perhaps, as Stephen Walt has speculated: "If Chinese power continues to rise, can one entirely rule out the formation of closer security ties between Beijing and some countries in the (...) Western Hemisphere."⁴

Dependence on external supply

To maintain sufficient growth China is reliant on external supply to fuel its economy and enable larger numbers of the population to participate in the dream of a, as Kissinger states, "xiaokang" (moderately well-off) society.⁵ What is critical to the economy is the supply of oil and gas, mainly delivered via those SLOC. The

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David Bond

is a serving UK military officer and also studied Applied Security Strategy at the University of Exeter. He is employed at the Ministry of Defence and focuses on South Asia.

"Malacca Dilemma", as Jintao acknowledged, described that these SLOC are vulnerable to interruption: currently 80 per cent of all oil imports to China passes through the choke point of the Malacca Strait.

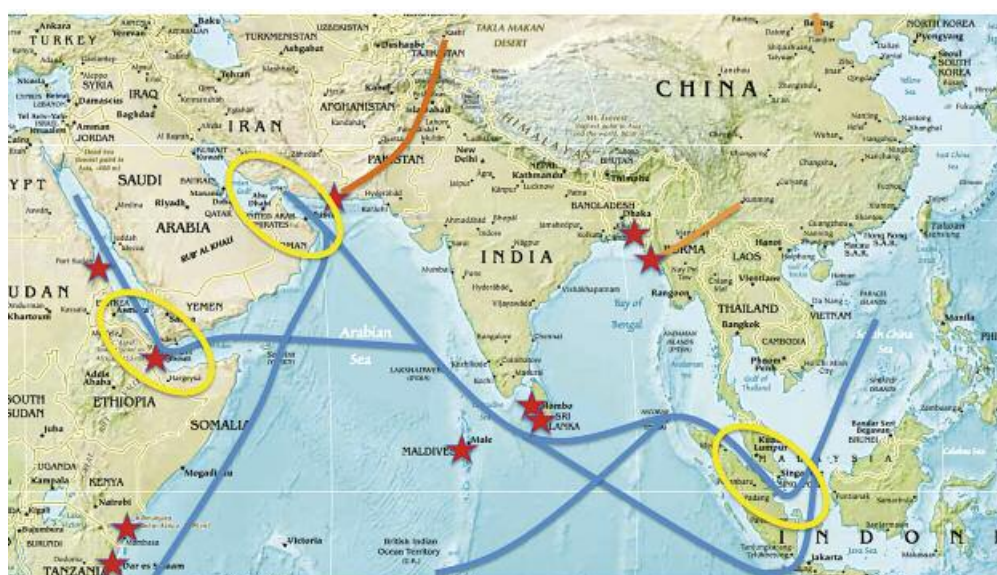
Shift in Foreign Policy

This fragile dependence on external interaction is accompanied by a gradual shift from the non-interference-dictum, initiated by former leader Deng, towards a policy more concerned with and demanding in external affairs; China demands a "new type of great power relationship".⁶ The SCS is a pressing concern at the moment, but other issues are as well prone to diverging interpretations and thereby miscalculation. And significantly, China invests heavily on both its periphery and overseas in large-scale infrastructure projects.

Infrastructure projects

The investments include highly strategic projects designed to diversify and secure China's supply lines and maintain the flow of resources needed, for example the New Silk Road. They also include deep-water ports around the Indian Ocean. Pipelines operational and planned, in Burma, Pakistan, and Russia are further projects intended to reduce Chinese dependence on the Malacca Strait. The Economist asserts, "China's port strategy is mainly motivated by commercial impulses."⁷ This may be correct, but it also acknowledges that there is a balance to

Sea Lines of Communication and strategic investments



Sea Lines of Communication as blue lines; pipelines in orange; ports as red stars and maritime choke points in yellow

Source: Map from the CIA World Factbook with own emphasis

strike: even though the main motivation may be commercial, this is not exclusive and there may be other, potentially military and grand strategic, motivations that concern this morass of investments.

Multi-use investments

These investments are hedges against threats to China's prosperity: they undermine external control. Some are both costly and risky: Gwadar port as the starting point of a planned pipeline is located in the highly volatile region of Balochistan. It doubles as an intelligence-gathering facility, right at the entrance of the Strait of Hormuz that connects the oil-rich Gulf countries with the Indian Ocean and ergo the rest of the world. These "multi-use purposes" are indicators that some of these projects may not be solely commercial in nature. Burma offers China a shortcut to the Indian Ocean. The pipeline, funded by China with 2bn USD, transports oil and gas from the Bay of Bengal to Kunming in China. Burma's young democracy is challenged by several on-going conflicts and this high level of risk reduces the commercial value, but sheds light perhaps, on the question of the threat landscape China perceives it faces.

Deliberate ambiguity?

Due to the chosen geostrategic locations and nature of some infrastructure projects, concerns by third-parties about their intent are an accompanying effect: the deep-water ports, even though often in private hands, some argue, could be militarised. Most are located in weak states and objection to use them would not necessarily be a disqualifying criterion to do so. Thereby power projection overseas to pursue and protect Chinese interests could be enabled. It does not necessarily contradict the interests of EU or NATO when China takes a more active international role. But, it is crucial that this happens within the extant legislative framework and normative behav-

ours inherent in the international system. China claiming "exceptionalism", negating to explain the actions undertaken, increases the broader risk of miscalculation, misperception and even conflict. Even a de facto militarisation of these ports does not per se contradict EU's security interests. Only when this infrastructure is used in a way that collides with EU-interests, will it become a problem. China as another force for good on the Oceans would actually be beneficial to the global commons. In the end, it all boils down to what John Mearsheimer describes as a dilemma of capabilities and intentions: capabilities are easy to measure. However, future intentions are much harder to predict, particularly when crucial Chinese interests overseas are at stake. This ambiguity is fuelled by China's recently published Defence White Paper that explicitly states: it is the task of its Army and Navy to pursue and protect Chinese economic interests overseas.

Stephen Walt may be correct that now may be the time to consider even greater EU cooperation with China in order to facilitate her peaceful rise. Alternatively, if her intent is indeed malign, then such precipitous action could be perceived by partners as hedging.

¹ The opinions offered are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Strategy and Security Institute or the Ministry of Defence.

² Christian Le Miere, "Asian Influence: China's shifting non-interventionist stance." (Janes Intelligence Review, May 2014).

³ Colin Gray, "Coping with Uncertainty: Dilemmas of Defence Planning." (The British Army Review, No 143, 2007).

⁴ Stephen Walt, "What Will 2050 Look Like?" (Foreign Policy, 12 May 2015).

⁵ Henry Kissinger, "On China" (2011), p. 490.

⁶ The Diplomat: Defining a new type of major power relations. 8 Nov 2014.

⁷ The Economist: The new masters and commanders. 8 Jun 2013.

Globalisation means the adaptation, declination and application to new markets

Worldwide secure governmental communications – a step towards global security

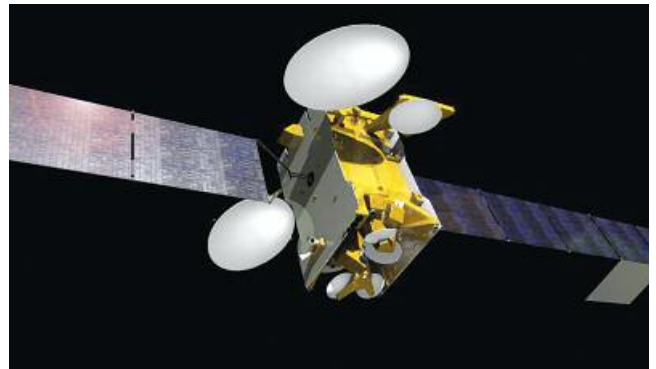
Interview with Karim Michel Sabbagh, President & CEO of SES, Betzdorf

The European: Mr Sabbagh, in April 2014 you were appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of SES, a Luxembourg-based company that has grown over the last 30 years to become the world's leading satellite operator in terms of turnover, covering large swathes of the earth's population with its satellites. Since your arrival in your HQ at Chateau Betzdorf, you have been known as an innovator and team player. What are your objectives for SES over the next two decades?

K.M. Sabbagh: The next two decades may be too long to visualise, nearly an entire generation! But you are right, in fact, to put your question into context and to look at the big picture. We have come very far over the past 30 years of our existence and created one of the largest – if not the largest – digital infrastructure in the world. With our fleet of more than 50 geostationary satellites, we reach more than 300 million households and around 1.1 billion people today. Our satellites are a centre-piece of the digital highway, serving four market verticals: our core video business, fixed and mobile data services as well as government and defence solutions.

The European: What are the next steps?

K.M. Sabbagh: The two main axes of development are the further globalisation of our capabilities and solutions, and the extension and transformation into our priority markets. In this verticalisation satellite will play a key role as an enabler for future connectivity solutions. Our focus covers video, fixed data, mobility and government solutions. The driving forces behind these changes are ground-breaking innovations in the space industry. After decades of a fairly steady development,



3D image of SES-10 satellite in space

Source: SES

our industry is now witnessing a paradigm shift in technology advancements.

The European: Is there a revolution in space under way?

K.M. Sabbagh: Yes indeed, and we will help to drive this, capture the full potential and translate it into new, end-to-end, integrated, scalable and flexible solutions and applications. Satellite will prevail and win not as a stand-alone architecture, but in its role of a catalyst for other mainstream next-generation connectivity networks. This is the generational shift that we are witnessing and also driving today.

The European: Could we discuss your globalisation strategy then your business model?

K.M. Sabbagh: Globalisation means the adaptation, declination and application of our business models to new markets with different economic and social vectors. By way of example, we see an insatiable demand for video, of course, in emerging markets where, for example, pay-TV penetration is still below 10 or 20% and, and in consequence, unmet demand is high. We are seeing also enormous demand in the data sectors, whether fixed or mobile, far beyond video. This covers service-oriented applications such as e-health, e-learning, e-election, plus solutions for enterprises as well as governmental and institutional connectivity and finally machine-to-machine operations.

The European: This looks like a wide area. How do you address this issue?

K.M. Sabbagh: It is widely recognised today that connectivity plays a key role in economic and social development and progress. We can fully leverage this potential thanks to the

Karim Michel Sabbagh

is the President and CEO of SES, Chairman of the Executive Committee and Chairman of SES ASTRA. Born in 1963, he studied at the American University of Beirut, holds a PhD with Honors in strategic management from the American Century University in New Mexico, and a Doctorate in international business management from the International School of Management, Paris. Prior to joining SES, Mr Sabbagh was a Senior Partner and a global practice leader for communications, media & technology at Booz & Company. He served on the Board of Directors of SES from April 2011 until August 2013 and was a member of the Audit and Risk Committee of SES during the same period.

major innovations in the space sector and our highly adaptive business model. We need highly targeted, powerful, scalable and tailor-made connectivity solutions. We work very closely with the space industry globally to revolutionise the scope and possibilities of satellite connectivity. And, we constantly strive to optimise our operations.

The European: *Globalisation is your company's geopolitical objective. Is SES not already a global player?*

K.M. Sabbagh: Yes, we are, and we were at first, when we grew from our European home base into a really global player over the last 10 or 15 years. But globalisation is not only about being present on all continents and having offices in major capitals. The world is changing, new markets are evolving quickly. This is why our second important parameter is verticalisation: the successful translation of our global activities into specific market needs and market verticals, namely video, fixed data, mobile data and government applications. We don't view ourselves as a one-product company. Our globalisation has to be anchored in differentiated capabilities covering the four verticals of our activities and capture potential in a growing number of opportunities across the world.



Karim Michel Sabbagh

Photo: SES

The European: *I would like to know more about the risks you are taking in developing your company's activities in fields in which you face worldwide competition; are you leaving the comfortable life of a highly successful infrastructure company behind you?*

K.M. Sabbagh: The era of an infrastructure pure play with one product and focusing on a single market or region is over. The digital connectivity opportunities compel us to embrace a dynamic and adaptive approach. We are firmly invested in new areas and growth in geographical terms, but also along the technical and service value chains covering the priority market verticals. Our task is to provide highly flexible and powerful connectivity architectures across different sectors and customers segments. Satellites are the heart of our assets and technology. While being infrastructure-centric, our capability system is not just about satellites. We must deliver end-to-end connectivity solutions across our priority markets.

The European: *Part of your turnover comes from video technologies. How many people do you reach and which regions or populations do you intend to penetrate more deeply?*

K.M. Sabbagh: Video still represents above two thirds of our business, especially in the mature markets, in Europe and North America. We reach 312 million television households globally, with half of that in Europe, and we are the largest platform for the distribution of High Definition (HD) TV, transmitting more than 2,000 HD channels worldwide, out of a total of almost 7,000 channels on SES satellites. A main stay of our video business is the Direct-to-Home (DTH) business, where private households pick up their signal directly from our spacecraft with a dish on their roof. But we are developing our penetration also as an enabler, as a complement to other networks, feeding satellite signals into cable or IP networks. The strength of satellite is to be a primary infrastructure, feeding powerful bandwidth into large geographies and networks in highest quality and reliability.

The European: *Digitalisation is progressing in both the private and public sectors. What opportunities do you perceive in these sectors?*

K.M. Sabbagh: Satellite has been and will remain the driving force of digitalisation. No other infrastructure was ready to switch entire ecosystems into digital operation mode so quickly and achieve the analogue switch-off in the politically and technically intended time frames, and with unsurpassed economics. We have solutions in place where the roll-out of terrestrial digital broadcasting can be completed without covering entire countries with expensive antenna systems since, with the help of satellite, even the remotest angle of a country can be reached with powerful television signals. Satellite has thus been the main catalyst for propagating HD television and also launching the next-generation video standard, Ultra HD. Satellite is also key in rolling out the most diverse variety of digital next-generation data services.

The European: *I'd like to touch upon the crucial problem of secure communications. From the point of view of cyber security, to what extent can the use of satellite communications help?*

K.M. Sabbagh: If your question applies to the video business, satellite platforms using sophisticated encryption technologies have for a long time been amongst the most secured transmission method. The big challenge is in the data area, where the secure and protected transmission of confidential and proprietary data is of the utmost importance. We have invested in order to fully safeguard our fleet and the spectrum operated for these applications. We have a long track record with highly demanding customers like the US Army, Navy, Department of Defense and State Department. And we have launched a new

>> The interview continues on page 62



Photo: © European Union 2015, Ortiz KC

Disaster management, humanitarian aid and refugee policy

The EU has well coordinated instruments for disaster management and humanitarian aid, but still no coherent and efficient refugee policy. The current massive influx of refugees of different origins fleeing war and conflict calls for major efforts by the member states to integrate these people. Europe's response must be humane, open-minded and responsible

The EU's integrated approach makes for a more proactive role in disaster management

Shaping the EU's Coordination and Intervention Capabilities

Interview with Christos Stylianides, Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Management, Brussels

The European: *The 2009 Lisbon Treaty gave the EU an important role in supplementing and coordinating the EU Member States' responsibilities in the area of civil protection. The European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), adopted by the European Parliament and the Council in December 2013, set as a goal an integrated approach to European Disaster Management. Would you say that with the EU's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC), inaugurated and fully operational since 2013, you now have all the political and operational means for successful action, or do you feel that something is still missing?*

Christos Stylianides: Since its inauguration, the ERCC has been "at the service" of Member States and people in Europe and beyond numerous times. In the largest EU response operation to date, during last year's floods in the Western Balkans, the ERCC successfully coordinated teams and equipment provided by 23 Member States. It also played a key role in facilitating the coordination and delivery of Member States' support to Ebola-stricken Western Africa.

The ERCC was established on the basis of over 10 years of experience of coordinating European disaster response. We have successfully made a qualitative shift from information sharing and reacting to emergencies, the "bread and butter" of the previous Monitoring and Information Centre, to a more proactive role of planning, monitoring, preparing, operational coordination and logistical support. The ERCC also ensures

cooperation and coherence of EU action at inter-institutional level and fosters cooperation between civil protection and humanitarian aid operations.

The European: *What is the legal basis for your action?*

Christos Stylianides: The ERCC is the operational hub, but the basis of all work is our ambitious and innovative civil protection legislation. Its main objectives are to improve prevention and preparedness and to increase the efficiency, coherence and visibility of our response.

The European: *The tool you use is the Emergency Response Capacity?*

Christos Stylianides: One major innovation is the so-called European Emergency Response Capacity – a pool of Member States' capacities, ready to be deployed at very short notice. Member States have already committed to registering over 30 response capacities by the year's end. There is still a lot to do in terms of implementing legislation, and it remains one of my top priorities. Once this is done, the EU will be at the forefront of disaster management globally.

The European: *You mentioned that the UCPM offers the additional advantage of giving the EU the possibility to prepare for disaster prevention. Is this the ticket for the EU to take the lead over Member States' actions? Could you elaborate on this issue?*

Christos Stylianides: The legislation for the first time includes provisions on prevention that impose obligations both on the EU and its Member States. Member States will need to share a summary of their national risk assessment and the assessment of their risk management capability. Other activities, such as the possibility to undergo a peer review and the call for an advisory mission to receive expert advice, remain voluntary.

The European: *As I understand it, this is a win-win situation for the EU and the Member States?*

Christos Stylianides: I believe that there is a lot to be gained from these, both at national and EU level. Understanding risks helps us develop contingency plans for a collective response to disasters, which in turn allows us to exchange best practices, learn from each other about addressing risks and identify where additional investment by Member States is needed.

The European: *This means that civil protection cooperation will continue to be based entirely on voluntary contributions, but will be co-planned and better organised; we speak of a common preparedness on the basis of subsidiarity. Is this the weak point?*

Christos Stylianides: I am very optimistic about the future of our cooperation. Historically, we enjoy a high level of support from the Member States and citizens. The latest Eurobarometer results show that nearly nine in ten EU citizens support an EU-wide civil protection policy and that an even higher number would expect help from other EU countries if a disaster was about to happen in their country. As for the Member States, they are routinely using the UCPM to both request assistance and offer it to requesting countries. Only recently, we provided assistance to Greece to fight forest fires and to Nepal in the aftermath of the earthquake. The fact that the EU's role is a "supporting" one actually strengthens the UCPM, as everything we do must demonstrate to Member States the added value of EU cooperation. It ensures we are always evolving.

The European: *Early warning and analysis systems are an essential prerequisite for rapid engagement and for success in saving lives. With whom are you linked, coordinating and cooperating?*

Christos Stylianides: We collaborate closely with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and make use of their platforms for forecasting and monitoring floods, forest fires, natural disasters and tsunamis. The JRC also ensures the technical coordination of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service - Mapping, which provides us with accurate geospatial information. We are also building up the ERCC's own analytical capacity and are starting a new initiative, the knowledge centre, which will bring together those carrying out disaster risk-management

Christos Stylianides

has been Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management since November 2014. Born in 1958 in Nicosia, he trained as a dental surgeon at Aristoteleion University, Thessaloniki, Greece, before going on to study international development at Harvard University's JFK School of Government in the US. He served as Government Spokesperson for the Republic of Cyprus (2013-2014 and 1998-1999) and was a Democratic Rally/DISY member of the Cyprus House of Representatives from 2006 to 2013. He was a member of the European Parliament's EPP Group from May 2014 until October of the same year, when he was appointed as the EU's Ebola Coordinator by the European Council.

research, those managing disaster risks, and policymakers. One of its aims will be to help translate scientific data and analyses into usable information and provide science-based policy advice.

The European: *Last year the European Council appointed you as the EU Ebola Coordinator. What is the main lesson for Europe from the Ebola crisis and what will you do to strengthen our response capacity for similar threats in the future?*

Christos Stylianides: The EU urgently needs a fully functioning response capability for dealing with public health crises and the health and medical consequences of emergencies in general.

To that end I am already working with Member States on developing a reserve pool of medical teams – "European Medical Corps" – that will include all the necessary expertise and logistical support to make it meaningful and ready to respond. This Corps will be part of the European Emergency Response Capacity and available to respond to emergencies both inside and outside the EU. Quality and predictability will be key. We are also making sure we are fully linked up with the work carried out by the World Health Organisation.

The European: *On 6 May 2015 in Brussels you signed a highly political cooperation agreement with the Turkish Interior Minister on cooperation in the field of disaster management. Is this simply the formalisation of decades-long cooperation?*

Christos Stylianides: Disasters do not "respect" national borders so it is in the EU's interest to have a good level of cooperation with our neighbours. I am very proud that we have expanded the UCPM to include the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and soon Turkey. Their entry strengthens the UCPM and reaffirms these countries' roles as key EU partners. I also intend to work more closely with other interested neighbourhood countries.

The European: *Commissioner, thank you for this interview.*

"The basis of all work is our ambitious and innovative civil protection legislation."

Christos Stylianides

European Civil Protection Forum 2015

European civil protection – cooperative and innovative

by Alexa Keinert, Editorial Assistant, “The European – Security and Defence Union“, Berlin



Held under the central theme “Partnership and Innovation”, the European Civil Protection Forum 2015 gathered on the 6th and 7th of May in Brussels close to 900 participants from the civil protection community, international and regional organisations, humanitarian aid partners, research and academia, as well as the private sector. The event organised by the European Commission’s Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection (ECHO) featured a two-day conference with three plenary sessions and nine thematic panels on topics ranging from partnerships with international actors, the private sector and scientific world in disaster management to the role of innovative technologies, citizens and communities in building resilience. The Forum hosted an exhibition on disaster management innovative technology and projects with more than 30 exhibitors. Among the wide range of topics the exhibition showcased examples of the EU response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and demonstration flights of Remotely Piloted Aerial Systems used in disaster management.

Highlights of the Forum

In line with the central theme of Partnership and Innovation, the 2015 Forum was marked by the agreement of Turkey to join the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. The agreement was signed by the President of the Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Authority, Dr. Fuat Oktay and Christos Stylianides, European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Manage-

ment in an official ceremony during the Forum. Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President of the Commission, Christos Stylianides and Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation delivered special addresses during the Forum with powerful reflections on the value of the EU cooperation in the field of crisis management. Prominent speakers from across the globe contributed to the various discussions including executives of civil protection authorities from Europe, USA, Japan, China, ASEAN, the UN, as well as academia and corporate industries involved in disaster management.

Added value of EU cooperation

In his special address, Commissioner Christos Stylianides outlined his key priorities for the coming years focusing on the full implementation of the EU civil protection legislation, an enhanced investment in resilience and disaster prevention and a stronger cooperation with the scientific community and partners of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. He pointed out the unprecedented economic and human impact of disasters in the last decade amounting to 700.000 people killed and close to two billion people affected by disasters. In Europe alone, the average economic cost of disasters is estimated at ten billion Euros per year. In a context of a growing scale and intensity of disasters, the Commission is striving to expand partnerships in disaster management, to strengthen cooperation and coordination across sectors and countries and to enhance prevention, preparedness and response to disasters through technological innovation. Commissioner Stylianides pointed out the Commission’s work on civil protection from the past years as a positive example of an added value of EU cooperation for European citizens. He called upon the international community to continue its cooperation for improving the global response and resilience to disasters.

The European Civil Protection Forum 2015 provided various opportunities for sharing best practices and expertise and for building new partnerships and synergies in disaster management cooperation. The discussions of the Forum highlighted the strong potential of the scientific world and innovative technologies in the field of disaster management and identified new milestones on the civil protection agenda.

Further highlights from the Forum and key messages from the conference discussions are available in the 2015 European Civil Protection Forum Final Report

.....> <http://ec.europa.eu/cpforum2015>



Presentation of RPAS during the conference

Photo: De Ribaucourt Photography <http://klient.deribaucourt.com/2015-05-06-epcf/>

Europe: towards a more risk-based approach to disaster management

EU civil protection legislation – towards the two-year milestone

by Hans Das, Head of the Civil Protection Policy Unit, DG ECHO, European Commission, Brussels

Europe is stepping up its work on disaster management, with Member States cooperating on a wide range of activities in the framework of the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)¹.

A rising trend in disasters, coupled with the desire for a more reliable civil protection system at the EU level, resulted in the adoption of a new legislation on the UCPM at the end of 2013. With the adoption of detailed implementing rules soon after, the EU embarked on an ambitious roadmap towards closer cooperation on prevention, better preparedness and planning, and more coordinated and faster response actions. Nearing the two-year milestone, some first impressions can be shared.

Priority for prevention activities

To ensure better prevention, the participating states are required to assess the risks they face and their capability to manage them. This information is shared with the European Commission and other participating states to foster the development of a common picture of the overall disaster risks for Europe and provide a more thorough starting point for planning. Furthermore, participating states can choose to undergo a peer review and call for an advisory mission. The initial results are encouraging for Member States and the Commission. Many countries have developed a first risk assessment and others are working hard to meet the end-2015 deadline. EU Guidelines on risk management capability assessment have recently been finalised. Six peer reviews will be held by the end of 2016 and two advisory missions to Neighbouring countries have already taken place this year. Prevention activities will clearly remain at the top of the agenda: only by understanding the risks better can we assess how well equipped we are to deal with them and plan for an effective response.

Better predictability and quality of assistance

In the area of preparedness, a landmark change was the launch of the European Emergency Response Capacity – a pool of response capacities which Member States pre-commit on a voluntary basis for joint EU civil protection operations. Reversing the traditional ad hoc approach (“nothing is available unless it is explicitly offered for an EU mission”) to a more pre-planned form of cooperation (“pre-committed assets are considered available unless a Member State opts out of a specific EU mission”), the voluntary pool places greater emphasis on the predictability and quality of assistance, making it possible to plan in advance of



Photo: private

Hans Das

Hans Das has been the Head of the Civil Protection Policy Unit of the European Commission since March 2012. His responsibilities include all policy development and international cooperation in the field of European civil protection. Previously, he was the Head of DG ECHO's Emergency Response Unit. Hans Das joined the European Commission in 2004.

disasters and to use the complementarities between Member States. Despite initial hesitation in certain parts of the EU, the voluntary pool is now picking up rapidly, with eight countries pre-committing over 30 response capacities by the end of 2015. These include a diverse set of capacities, including search and rescue teams, medical units, mobile labs, forest fire-fighting planes, maritime incident response teams and logistical support, three of which have already been deployed to fight forest fires and support the combat against Ebola.

Co-financing of standby arrangements

The legislation also allows the co-financing of standby arrangements to cover temporary shortcomings in major disasters: these EU-co-financed buffer capacities will top up existing response capacities in the Member States, thus allowing for a limited burden-sharing across Member States for niche capacities. For the first time it also includes a common effort aimed at detecting possible gaps in our overall response capacities and addressing them with seed financing. These parts of the legislation still require further work in the coming months. Although implementation of the legislation is ongoing and the various elements are still evolving, initial progress has been encouraging. The key question will be whether the legislation is flexible enough to allow the UCPM to continue to grow and to respond to new and emerging challenges.

¹ Created in 2001, the UCPM facilitates co-operation in disaster prevention, preparedness and response among the 33 participating states: 28 Member States plus Norway, Iceland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. They will soon be joined by Turkey.

Nepal earthquake: THW's immediate response to the lack of fresh water

THW's support for disaster management and humanitarian aid

Albrecht Broemme, President of the Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW), Richard van Hazebrouck and Christina Büns, THW Headquarters, Bonn

Drinking water is a precious resource. As Kofi Annan stated already back in 2001, "Fierce competition for fresh water may well become a source of conflict and wars in the future". The safety and accessibility of drinking water is becoming more and more important throughout the world. The consumption of contaminated water is a threat to health. Following disasters like the recent one in Nepal, people do not have access to clean water. Hygienic living conditions become impossible making the outbreak of diseases more likely. This is why it is essential to respond immediately to the population's needs.

Mobile drinking water unit

When disasters impede the drinking water supply, THW is available for international emergency operations 24/7 on the spot in order to help with its water purification units. With its mobile drinking water treatment units THW seeks to support the population in the disaster zone. THW's Rapid Deployment Unit Water and Sanitation Abroad system (SEEWA) is used to purify contaminated water. Such drinking water units were deployed following the devastating earthquake in Haiti in 2010, and more recently in Nepal. With mobile laboratories on site, THW ensures the quality of the purified drinking water in compliance with WHO (World Health Organization) standards.

Successful water purification

As a player in German Humanitarian Aid, THW was active in Nepal on behalf of the German Government. After the devastating earthquakes, THW was the first international organisation able

to ensure the supply of drinking water to parts of Kathmandu in April and May this year. Kathmandu turned out to be the optimal location for the two drinking water purification units: the local water infrastructure had been damaged by the earthquake which had left many people homeless or unable to return to their houses. After only a couple of days, the drinking water purification units were running at their maximum capacity and the water laboratory was ready for operation. With the two units, the volunteers filtered about 10 000 litres of water per hour and could therefore supply up to 30 000 people per day with clean water. This met the requirements of the emergency supply standards of SPHERE (Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response). During the 44 day-operation THW was able to distribute a total of some 1.4 million litres of drinking water, the equivalent of about 10 000 bathtubs of water.

German Humanitarian Aid on the spot

The operations in Nepal show that THW can be deployed away from home together with motivated and well-trained specialists. On behalf of the Federal Government and at the request of the Foreign Office, THW assigned 33 experts to be part of the overall German Humanitarian Assistance operation for Nepal. Besides treating and analysing water, the THW volunteers actively assisted the German Embassy for a variety of tasks, inspected buildings and also supported the UN as well as the EU in the areas of logistics and the coordination of international assistance. The operations in Nepal were financed by the German Foreign Office.



Distribution of fresh drinking water in front of the water utility from which THW's drinking water purification units operated

Photo: THW /Georgia Pfeleiderer

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documentation

UNHCR Initial Response Plan for the Refugee Crisis in Europe

(ed/nc, Paris) The UN Refugee Agency UNHCR is working closely with the European Union and its Member States, as well as with other affected States in Europe, and in North Africa, West Africa, the East and Horn of Africa and the Middle East, as required, to support their efforts to deliver, build on and expand some of the measures being implemented in response to this growing human-Following UNHCR's initial response plan ("Special mediterranean initiative plan for an enhanced operational response, June-December 2015"), an emergency appeal entitled "Initial Response Plan for the Refugee Crisis in Europe (June 2015 – December 2016)" has been prepared for affected countries in the Europe region. It outlines proposed strategies and activities and corresponding financial requirements up to the end of 2016, in order to provide relevant support, operational responses and protection measures in affected countries in Europe, in respect of assessed needs.

A total of USD 30.5 million is requested from June 2015 to December 2016 (USD 14.1 million for June-December 2015 and USD 16.4 million for January-December 2016) for the initial response in the affected countries of Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, France (Calais), Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Serbia,

Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey. A total of USD 2.7 million has so far been received for this emergency appeal from Germany, Portugal and private donors. A revised appeal will be issued in the coming weeks to reflect these additional financial requirements.

The document is available through the UNHCR website: <http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean/regional.html>



*UNHCR Emergency Appeal,
8 September 2015*

Photo: © UNHCR



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documentation

UNHCR offers assistance to Hungary

Statement by Vincent Cochetel, UNHCR Regional Refugee Coordinator for the refugee crisis in Europe during his visit to Budapest, 8 September 2015

“We have met the authorities here in Budapest and have offered UNHCR’s assistance to deal with the increasing number of refugees and migrants arriving in Hungary.

We have repeated our call for simplifying and streamlining registration, reception at the collection points, registration centres and reception centres and care for those who come to seek international protection.

Over 150,000 refugees and migrants have crossed into Hungary from Serbia since January this year.

A majority of those are from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. Some other nationalities include Pakistanis, Bangladeshis and people from Sub-Saharan Africa.

UNHCR expects more people to come during the coming months. The number of arrivals yesterday was over 2,700 people, as the daily average has remained around 2,000 since last month.

We are looking to Hungary to work with UNHCR in partnership to deal with the humanitarian needs of those arriving in the country. Reception standards need to improve for those people who arrive into Hungary every day. There were women and children sleeping in the open last night at Rözske, near the Serbian border.

We call on the Hungarian authorities:

To improve and streamline the registration process and to allow the humanitarian organizations to provide assistance to the people at the collection points near the border and improve reception conditions for asylum-seekers.

To implement the recently passed legislation in accordance with the EU and international law.

To differentiate those in need of international protection from those who are not in need, and therefore which return procedures should be put in place in accordance with human rights standards. UNHCR is mobilizing relief items, including tents, plastic sheets

and thermal blankets, to help those who enter Hungary.

Currently, some 30,000 people in Greece are on the move. Around 3,000 leave Greece for FYR Macedonia, Serbia and Hungary daily.

It is very important that Europe continues to provide access to territory to all those who are seeking protection here.

“We were not heard and as we see today Europe is unprepared for those arriving to seek international protection in Europe.”

Vincent Cochetel

UNHCR expect the trends of arrivals in Greece to continue at least till October, as sailing in the Aegean Sea becomes extremely difficult.

Deteriorating conditions inside Syria and neighbouring

countries are driving thousands of Syrians to risk everything on perilous journeys to Europe. As the crisis digs deeper into its fifth year with no sign of a political solution in sight, despair is on the rise and hope is in short supply. The funding appeal to help Syrian refugees in the neighbouring countries is just 37 per cent funded.

Since last year trends have been very clear, as we were trying to convey to the countries in Europe that more refugees will be on the move in wake of dwindling support for them in Syria’s neighbourhood. We were not heard and as we see today Europe is unprepared for those arriving to seek international protection in Europe.

We are calling on the EU to take a common approach and bold steps in managing the current refugee crisis better. Countries have to show solidarity with the world’s most vulnerable population, who come in search of safety in Europe. No country can be left to deal with the issue single-handedly.

UNHCR would like to thank volunteers, NGOs and police authorities for the efforts made to deal with refugees and migrants with humanity. UNHCR calls on the European states to assist the Hungarian authorities to respond to the emergency situation, and expand the relocation plan for Greece and Italy to Hungary.”

Refugees and migrants crossing the Mediterranean to Europe in 2015

Arrivals as of 18 September 2015:

442,421 arrivals by sea
2,921 dead/missing

Countries of arrival:

Greece: 318,489
Italy: 121,500
Spain: 2338
Malta: 94

Top 10 nationalities of sea arrivals:

Syria	51 %	Iraq	3 %
Afghanistan	14 %	Somalia	3 %
Eritrea	8 %	Sudan	2 %
Nigeria	4 %	Gambia	1 %
Pakistan	3 %	Bangladesh	1 %

For an update of the figures: <http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean/regional.php>
Source: UNHCR

documentation**“Time for Honesty, Unity and Solidarity”**

(ed/nc, Paris) On 9 September 2015, Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission, delivered his first State of the Union address before the European Parliament in Strasbourg. In a frank assessment entitled “Time for Honesty, Unity and Solidarity” he said: “our European Union is not in a good state.” With regard to the refugee problem he stated that was high time for Europe to manage the crisis, for there was no alternative.

President Juncker on the refugee crisis in Europe (excerpts):

“It is time to speak frankly about the big issues facing the European Union. Because our European Union is not in a good state. There is not enough Europe in this Union. And there is not enough Union in this Union. We have to change this. And we have to change this now.

Since the beginning of the year, nearly 500,000 people have made their way to Europe. The vast majority of them are fleeing from war in Syria, the terror of the Islamic State in Libya or dictatorship in Eritrea. The most affected Member States are Greece, with over 213,000 refugees, Hungary, with over 145,000, and Italy, with over 115,000.

The numbers are impressive. For some they are frightening. But now is not the time to take fright. It is time for bold, determined and concerted action by the European Union, by its institutions and by all its Member States.

A matter of humanity

This is first of all a matter of humanity and of human dignity. And for Europe it is also a matter of historical fairness.

We Europeans should remember well that Europe is a continent where nearly everyone has at one time been a refugee. Our common history is marked by millions of Europeans fleeing from religious or political persecution, from war, dictatorship, or oppression.

(...)

It is true that Europe cannot house all the misery of the world. But let us be honest and put things into perspective.

There is certainly an important and unprecedented number of refugees coming to Europe at the moment. However, they still represent just 0.11% of the total EU population. In Lebanon, refugees represent 25% of the population. And this in a country where people have only one fifth of the wealth we enjoy in the European Union.

High time to manage the crisis

Let us also be clear and honest with our often worried citizens: as long as there is war in Syria and terror in Libya, the refugee crisis will not simply go away. (...) So it is high time to act to manage the refugee crisis. There is no alternative to this. (...)



President Juncker addressing the European Parliament, 9 September 2015, Strasbourg

Photo: European Union 2015 –
EC Audiovisual Service/Leguerra Johanna

The Commission tabled a comprehensive European Agenda on Migration in May. And it would be dishonest to say that nothing has happened since then. We tripled our presence at sea. Over 122,000 lives have been saved since then. Every life lost is one too many, but many more have been rescued that would have been lost otherwise – an increase of 250%. 29 Member States and Schengen Associated countries are participating in the joint operations coordinated by Frontex in Italy, Greece and Hungary. 102 guest officers from 20 countries; 31 ships; 3 helicopters; 4 fixed wing aircrafts; 8 patrol cars, 6 thermos-vision vehicles and 4 transport vehicles – that is a first measure of European solidarity in action, even though more will have to be done. We have redoubled our efforts to tackle smugglers and dismantle human trafficker groups. Cheap ships are now harder to come by, leading to less people putting their lives in peril in rickety, unseaworthy boats. As a result, the Central Mediterranean route has stabilised at around 115,000 arriving during the month of August, the same as last

year. We now need to achieve a similar stabilisation of the Balkans route, which has clearly been neglected by all policy-makers.

The European Union is also the number one donor in the global efforts to alleviate the Syrian refugee crisis. Around €4 billion have been mobilised by the European Commission and Member States in humanitarian, development, economic and stabilisation assistance to Syrians in their country and to refugees and their host communities in neighbouring Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt. Indeed just today we launched two new projects to provide schooling and food security to 240,000 Syrian refugees in Turkey.

“Europe is the baker in Kos who gives away his bread to hungry and weary souls. Europe is the students in Munich and in Passau who bring clothes for the new arrivals at the train station. Europe is the policeman in Austria who welcomes exhausted refugees upon crossing the border. This is the Europe I want to live in.”

European solidarity is required

To me, it is clear that the Member States where most refugees first arrive – at the moment, these are Italy, Greece and Hungary – cannot be left alone to cope with this challenge.

This is why the Commission already proposed an emergency mechanism in May, to relocate initially 40,000 people seeking international protection from Italy and Greece.

And this is why today we are proposing a second emergency mechanism to relocate a further 120,000 from Italy, Greece and Hungary. This requires a strong effort in European solidarity. Before

the summer, we did not receive the backing from Member States I had hoped for. But I see that the mood is turning. And I believe it is high time for this. (...)

I also believe that beyond the immediate action needed to address current emergencies, it is time we prepare a more fundamental change in the way we deal with asylum applications – and notably the Dublin system that requires that asylum applications be dealt with by the first country of entry.

We need more Europe in our asylum policy. We need more Union in our refugee

policy. A true European refugee and asylum policy requires solidarity to be permanently anchored in our policy approach and our rules. This is why, today, the Commission is also proposing a permanent relocation mechanism, which will allow us to deal with crisis situations more swiftly in the future.

(...)

I do not want to create any illusions that the refugee crisis will be over any time soon. It will not. But pushing back boats from piers, setting fire to refugee camps, or turning a blind eye to poor and helpless people: that is not Europe.

Mr Juncker’s full speech: <http://tinyurl.com/nrtfqwp>

Step up European resettlement efforts

We have collectively committed to resettling over 22,000 people from outside of Europe over the next year, showing solidarity with our neighbours. Of course, this remains very modest in comparison to the Herculean efforts undertaken by Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon, who are hosting over 4 million Syrian refugees. I am encouraged that some Member States are showing their willingness to significantly step up our European resettlement efforts. This will allow us very soon to come forward with a structured system to pool European resettlement efforts more systematically.

Where Europe has clearly under-delivered, is on common solidarity with regard to the refugees who have arrived on our territory.

► COMMISSION STATEMENT:

“More must be done”

Statement by the European Commission following the Justice and Home Affairs Council of 14 September 2015 (excerpts):

“Today we have taken a first step forward as a Union on the refugee crisis. However, this is only the beginning and more must

be done to cope with the enormous challenges Europe and its citizens are facing at the moment. (...) More ambition is needed to respond to the magnitude of the challenge that Europe is facing.

We need to come to a more fundamental

change of the current system to better combine responsibility, solidarity and effective management within a truly European Asylum and Migration Policy.”

Source: European Commission

Security is a fundamental part of the work of international humanitarian aid organisations

NGOs in emergency response mode amid global conflicts

by Dr Till Wahnbaeck, Secretary General and CEO, Welthungerhilfe, Bonn

The work of Welthungerhilfe as one of the largest private aid organisations in Germany has changed dramatically during the last decade. Questions like security, access to conflict areas and military intervention pose new challenges for all humanitarian and development organisations that work worldwide. For an organisation that supports projects in seven countries that are classified as extreme to high threat countries, security is not only a concern but a fundamental part of its work.

Ensure maximum security for our staff

The Aid Worker Security Report counted 264 attacks on NGOs in 2013, which is four times higher than ten years ago. Welthungerhilfe has taken a variety of steps to ensure maximum security for its employees. We have our own safety and security adviser who trains and supports all our staff and offices worldwide. A flexible security network for each office abroad that takes the national situation on the ground into consideration is as important as the knowledge of our local employees. To use a simple example: a white Toyota Land Cruiser with the symbol or flag of the organisation would have been seen and accepted as a clear sign of neutrality in a civil war as in Angola or Mozambique twenty years ago. Today humanitarian aid workers keep a low profile approach in difficult countries like Afghanistan, with rented cars in order to reduce the risk of kidnapping.



Photo: Häberle, Welthungerhilfe

Dr Till Wahnbaeck

has been CEO and Secretary General of Welthungerhilfe since May 2015. He studied modern history, economics and political science at the University of Freiburg, Germany, and has a PhD from Oxford University. He has held a variety of private enterprise management positions and performed management duties at international level. He also founded a non-profit business consultancy for social projects (Community Charity Consulting, CCC), led an educational foundation and assisted AIDS sufferers in Tanzania in a project for establishment of small enterprises. From 2012 to 2014 he was Managing Director of the Gräfe und Unzer publishing house.

More difficult access to those in need

Sometimes even the access to those in need is difficult. Today, famines are the result of complex emergency situations which are intensified by military conflicts or by disasters resulting from climate change. We experience not only national armies and rebel groups but ever more paramilitary groups, a net of criminal gangs, terrorist organisations and international forces. The civilian population is getting more and more entangled in the fights, their livelihood is destroyed and they are forced to flee their homes. As we have witnessed in Jamuk in Syria, food



Torn between all parties. There is no life worth living in Syria any more

photo: © handinhandwithsyria.

aid has been used as a strategic weapon. Under these conditions the access of humanitarian aid organisations to civilians in need becomes highly risky.

A deeply frustrating situation in Syria

Our local staff is a key pillar in these cases. We have learned in Syria again that without their willingness to take a high personal risk, we would not be able to send food or other important items to certain areas. The international personnel can only support them from Turkey. The conflicts in Syria or South Sudan are a painful demonstration that sometimes thousands of people are

“We will leave no-one behind”

Till Wahnbaeck

beyond our reach. Even if we have sufficient trucks, drivers and food we cannot support all the hungry and starving Syrians who are on the run within their own country. Neither the various militia groups or the government are providing the basic security guarantees for a humanitarian intervention. In these situations we are deeply frustrated that we cannot live up to our mandate. At the same time the number of people dependent on humanitarian aid reached a record high last year. Worldwide there are more than 50 million refugees, the highest number since the Second World War. The same applies to those who do

not cross countries when they flee from conflicts, violence or human rights abuses. 33 million people have left their homes, their land and their existence and are counted as internally displaced.

Welthungerhilfe reacts to the new challenges

With the rapid increase of armed conflicts across the globe Welthungerhilfe is becoming a last-minute assistance provider. Increasingly we must engage in countries where politics has failed. In 2014 we started work in the Central African Republic after the peace process collapsed and fighting broke out again. Without a proper political plan our activities can only hold the fragile status quo, but we are far away from a long-term development programme and improvement of the food and nutrition situation. Fragile states pose one of the biggest threats to development and the eradication of poverty and hunger. For humanitarian organisations they are a constant challenge. But they are spreading around the world and humanitarian aid is being used as an excuse for political and diplomatic failure. Welthungerhilfe will focus on these new challenges. We will finance more humanitarian aid projects for people in severe crisis situations. We will invest in the security and training of our employees. We will leave no-one behind.

web: <http://www.welthungerhilfe.de/en/home-en.html>

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The European Asylum System is failing to protect the most vulnerable

Practical experience of the Syrian Refugee Response in southeast Turkey

Interview with Andrea Quaden, Programmes Officer/Operations Unit, Welthungerhilfe, Gaziantep

The European: Ms Quaden, you spent more than seven years working as a volunteer for refugee aid in Germany, and for the past year you have been working with refugees in southeastern Turkey. You started out as a voluntary helper, using crowd funding to finance your travel costs. You worked for the Turkish NGO ASAM before being recruited a year ago as an intern and then staff member by the German INGO Welthungerhilfe (WHH). What were your tasks at ASAM in Gaziantep?

Andrea Quaden: After almost seven years of voluntary work with refugees and asylum-seekers in Germany and with an MA degree in my pocket I decided to go to a region where the biggest humanitarian crisis of our times is taking place. I wanted to support the Syrian refugees – to date more than 1.8 million of them – in Turkey. For me, it is the human responsibility of those who have everything to help those in need. ASAM (Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants) gave me the great opportunity of supporting its team of case and social workers, psychologists, nurses and teachers in its Multi-Service Community Centre for Syrian refugees in Gaziantep, a city which hosts nearly 300 000 refugees.

The European: While doing this voluntary work were you also looking for a more permanent position?

Andrea Quaden: My aim was to find a paid job, which luckily I found with WHH. I started out as an intern and am currently Junior Expert/Programmes Officer in the Operations Unit.



Refugees in Gaziantep, Winter 2014/2015

Photo: © Ralph Dieckerhof

The European: What is WHH's mission in Gaziantep?

Andrea Quaden: WHH's mission in the region is to support Syrian and Iraqi urban refugees in Turkey and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Syria and Northern Iraq by providing humanitarian aid focusing on food, basic items and shelter. For the past year WHH has been slowly engaging in education for Syrian children in southeastern Turkey as well as in community centres, since it does not look likely that the Syrian refugee crisis will be coming to an end any time soon and refugees will need more support in the long term than just basic items. My tasks vary according to the projects we are planning and implementing, hence I am involved in all the important steps in the project-management cycle, from conducting needs assessments, writing proposals, implementation and coordination with other actors to representing WHH in the field.

The European: Is this more than just a job for you?

Andrea Quaden: It is definitely a vocation. I want to commit my professional life, skills and expertise to the fullest degree to providing support for refugees.

The European: The fighting around Kobane, which is only two hours away from here, has ended. How has WHH organised help for refugees outside the camp in order to create at least reasonably humane conditions on the way to the camp?

Andrea Quaden: After the fighting in Kobane last September the numbers of refugees fleeing to Turkey were massive: within just a couple of days between 150 000 and 200 000 people were seeking refuge in the border town of Suruç and the surrounding villages. Immediate aid and support were needed by all actors involved in the Syrian Refugee Response in Turkey. As WHH's expertise lies in Food Security and Nutrition, we were able to help very quickly with hot meals and food kits and we have continued to provide this type of assistance.

The European: These people have experienced unspeakable suffering and have nothing left to call their own. What are their feelings and expectations? Are they overcome by despair, or does the hope of a safe return home prevail?

Andrea Quaden: Most of the refugees I have spoken with are of course traumatised by their experiences. Many have lost family members and witnessed unimaginable horror. They came to Turkey in search of protection and safety. Most of them are desperate to go back home again. Over and over again I am touched by the strength, willpower and optimism of the people I meet, despite everything they have been through. They have earned my deepest respect!

“As a young German and a convinced European, I perceive it as a duty to stand up for the refugees and asylum-seekers whose chartered rights all too often, unfortunately, are being breached”. Andrea Quaden

The European: *What is the situation as regards relations among the refugees themselves? Are there tensions and conflict, and if so what triggers these?*

Andrea Quaden: Working in the field I hear very little about tensions in the refugee community in Turkey. Of course tensions can arise between different ethnicities, denominations, traditions etc. However, I perceive the refugee community as well functioning, with people trying to help and support each other most of the time. This is especially important for the urban refugees, who are not embedded in the camp system and who have to find access to services and support mostly on their own.

The European: *What form does cooperation with the host nation Turkey take?*

Andrea Quaden: The Turks are doing a tremendous job in supporting the refugees in their country, but with the rising numbers, which have long exceeded the capacity of its camps, last year the Turkish Government changed its strategy and called actively on the international community for humanitarian assistance. Thus all humanitarian actors cooperate with the Turkish authorities in order to reach out to the beneficiaries and find ways of offering them the best possible support.

The European: *What is the European Union doing in order to improve the situation for refugees, many of whom doubtless have hopes of finding a future in Europe?*

Andrea Quaden: The EU and especially the European Commission/ECHO are funding various programmes and support international and national organisations in the region. However, money channelled through humanitarian aid is not the sole requirement. Especially nowadays, with 60 million displaced persons worldwide, we can see the limits of the European Asylum System, designed to deal with a different situation. With no end as yet in sight to the violent conflicts in the Middle East and the growing challenges facing European societies as a result, I cannot turn my back – I must engage in humanitarian aid and protection. I wish the EU could be more influential in the efforts to find peace in Syria and in helping those in need.

The European: *I can understand your disappointment that it has not been possible to find peaceful solutions and that the resulting pressures are leading to various challenges in Europe. Nevertheless the EU has set up a whole series of useful aid programmes.*

Andrea Quaden: Yes, it is true that the EU and its member states



Photo: private

Andrea Quaden

has been Programmes Officer (Junior Expert) for Welthungerhilfe (WHH) in Gaziantep, Turkey, since February 2015. She was born in 1985 in Roding, Germany. She has a BA in Politics & Law from the Westphalian Wilhelms University of Münster and an MA in European Studies from the University of Hamburg. Ms

Quaden was a volunteer for refugee aid in Germany for seven years, then worked with Syrian refugees in southeastern Turkey, first as an Intern for the Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (ASAM) in Gaziantep (July to September 2014), then as Senior Operations Officer for the Welthungerhilfe (October 2014 – January 2015), before taking up her current post.

are core funders of various humanitarian programmes in the region. But we have to ask ourselves whether the EU and its member states could do more, especially in light of the fact that with official migration routes now almost non-existent, people are being forced to take the dangerous route across the Mediterranean, and that the number of resettlement places for Syrian refugees is very limited. The member states could agree on a unified approach and strategy and pool their resources in order to amend the EU asylum and migration policies. Based on my experience I would say that the proportion of Syrians who hope or even desire to settle in Europe is relatively small, although there are a number in need of protection or who have family in the EU who do. In my view, the majority of refugees are anxious to return home as soon as possible.

The European: *You are critical of the shortcomings of the European Union’s refugee policy. You give the impression that there are changes that you wish to make.*

Andrea Quaden: My work as a humanitarian aid worker gives me the opportunity to learn from my colleagues and our beneficiaries, so that one day I can go back to Europe and be part of a change in our system based on a humane and dignified approach towards those who seek protection.

The European: *How do you see your immediate future? Do you see yourself continuing to work for refugee organisations; would you describe this as your profession?*

Andrea Quaden: I plan to continue working with refugees in Turkey, although this of course will depend on various factors: funding, contracts, security etc. But as I said, more than just a profession, for me this is a vocation. As a young German and a convinced European, I perceive it as a duty to stand up for the refugees and asylum-seekers whose human rights all too often are being breached. In the long run I would like to focus on refugee protection rather than on emergency humanitarian aid.

The European: *Many thanks for being so frank with us, we wish you all the best! Take care.*

“In our response to this unprecedented crisis lies the future of the Union itself”

A sea of despair: where is the EU?

by Ana Gomes MEP, European Parliament, Brussels/Strasbourg

We are confronted with the worst refugee crisis to have hit the European Union and the world since World War II. The Union has so far been paralysed in disunion.

In the last year, six thousand people have already lost their lives at sea or on land trying to reach what looks more and more like “fortress Europe”. Member States in the frontline of the crisis are acting alone, with little coordination and scarce assistance and solidarity, some – led by Hungary – bluntly defy European values and legal obligations, others simply pretend it is none of their business.

Poor leadership at national and EU level

It is time we faced the facts: we, Europeans, helped create this mess, both in the recent and in the more distant past. What is going on is due to disastrous global policies, including EU action and inaction in the countries of origin of refugees and migrants: Syria and Libya exemplify both. And, what is worse, we have been lacking the political will and the vision to identify what we want and what we should and can do, both in the countries of origin and Europe. This stems from an existential and crippling problem which also explains how we are muddling through, but not actually solving, the financial and economic crisis in Europe: poor leadership at national and EU level.

We cannot continue to muddle through

But the refugee crisis and the insecurity underlying it tell us we cannot continue to muddle through. The fire is coming: in the

form not only of the refugee influx, but the multiplication of terrorist threats - we cannot step up security on every train, at every corner, in every building. Fuelling and aggravating both is the self-proclaimed ISIS – which, despite not being a state, nor Islamic, has a territorial, financial and military base. We cannot continue to be in denial. We need political courage and a strategy to fight and eradicate the criminal gangs of ISIS, wherever they may be operating and trying to get closer to our shores, including in Syria, Iraq and Libya.

Our own security is at stake

We must take this upon our shoulders, because it is our own security that is at stake, not just that of those thousands of people fleeing war, repression and misery and risking their lives to cross the Mediterranean every day. The EU must act decisively to end the war in Syria, through vigorous diplomatic action with all global and regional players, including Iran: that means not accepting the agreement signed between the US and Erdogan’s double-faced Turkey at the expense of the Kurds, which was a mistake. The EU must ally with and support all those really fighting ISIS, and nobody has been doing it more and better than the Kurdish Peshmerga, both in Iraq and Syria. The EU must not rehabilitate Assad and must finally deliver on the much talked about no-fly zone and humanitarian corridors in Syria. And it must commit to work with a UN-brokered government of national unity in Libya, including by putting “boots on the ground” if that is required, to help



The Mediterranean Sea continues to be the deadliest route for refugees and migrants

photo: noborder Network, CC BY 2.0, flickr.com



“It is time for other European governments to follow Germany and suspend the Dublin III Regulation: closing borders is not just immoral and illegal, it is ineffective.”

reorganise the Libyan security sector – this is as crucial for Libya’s security as it is for the EU.

European governments should follow Germany

It is time for other European governments to follow Germany and suspend the Dublin III Regulation: closing borders is not just immoral and illegal, it is ineffective. The UN Convention on the Protection of Refugees was created following World War II because of and for Europeans, remember? – this is what we must not let our fellow citizens forget! That is why we have an obligation to act to protect those seeking asylum in Europe: it is the law and it is our collective responsibility. But to do this, and to avoid continuing subjecting asylum-seekers to tragic and dangerous journeys, we urgently need to open up safe and legal ways for them to come – they will come anyway, until the situation starts to improve in their countries. Safe means of passage are also necessary for economic migrants – whom, it must also be recalled, Europe needs: only concerted action in both Europe and developing countries will stop desperate people from embarking on deadly journeys and will stop us from continuing to ensure a livelihood, against our interests and intentions, for the murderous traffickers operating outside, as well as inside, the EU. We also urgently need to give FRONTEX the mandate and resources to enable it to intercept, arrest and try the traffickers.

Testing times for the European Union

The European Commission should lead and not hide behind Member States: it must see and go beyond what it has been doing to support countries (including neighbouring countries) in dealing with the crisis on the ground: the EU Civil Protection Mechanism must be activated and dispatched to places like the Greek islands, Italy, Cyprus, Macedonia, Hungary, Serbia and

Bulgaria to assist with the reception of refugees and migrants and coordinate their distribution and resettlement. In addition to a distribution key based on objective criteria, this also requires immediate and swift disbursement of financial assistance to the countries that are the most in need and the most cooperative.

These are testing times for the European Union. In our response to this unprecedented crisis lies the future of the Union itself: we are being tested and the world is watching to see if we practise what we preach in the area of human rights, security, freedom and human dignity. Will we sink or swim in this sea of despair?

Ana Gomes MEP

MEP since 2004, currently sits on the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and the Subcommittee on Security and Defence, as well as the Delegations for relations with the US and to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean. Born in 1954 in Lisbon, she graduated with a law degree from Lisbon University (1979) and a diploma in community law (1981). She has a diploma from the International Institute of Human Rights (Strasbourg, 1989). She was Diplomatic Adviser to the Portuguese President (1982–1986) before being posted to the Permanent Mission to the UN and international organisations in Geneva (1986–1989) and to the Embassies in Tokyo (1989–1991) and London (1991–1994). She was Head of Office of the Secretary for European Affairs (1995–1996) before joining Portugal’s Permanent Mission to the UN in New York (1997–1998). From 1999 to 2003 she was Portugal’s Ambassador in Jakarta.

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Outcome of the 14 September Justice and Home Affairs Council

European solidarity – a plea for more give and less take

A commentary by Editor-in-Chief Hartmut Bühl

The refugee crisis shows that some of the newer EU member states have not really completely arrived in Europe. The Luxembourg Presidency is right in concluding that the way forward is to appeal to Europe's sense of responsibility in order to arrive at a voluntary quota of refugees, because it has long understood that the quota system that Germany wants is not feasible for the time being. In proposing to take in 20 000 refugees on a voluntary basis, the UK – like France with its offer of 24 000 places – has scotched a quota system that both have repeatedly rejected. But is that not an encouragement to other states unwilling to accept any limitation of their “sovereignty” to also put forward what they consider to be an appropriate figure?

Angela Merkel's decision – worthy according to some of the Nobel Peace Prize – to abruptly open Germany's borders in order to alleviate the human suffering of thousands of refugees fleeing for their lives, is one bright spot in this tragedy. But equally dramatic was her decision shortly afterwards to reinstate border controls in order, on the one hand, to stabilise the situation in Germany, and, on the other hand, to draw the world's attention to the fact that countries like Germany (but also Sweden and Austria) are no longer able to resolve the refugee crisis on their own.

Generosity is not the long-term answer to the chaos reigning in the Middle East and North Africa. When it comes to combating the root causes of this crisis, the EU remains a toothless tiger. The Union needs a review of its Common Foreign and Security Policy and must then make available the necessary funds and capabilities to pursue a courageous course of action.

At its 14 September meeting the Council at least made some progress in some areas that have been cruelly neglected these past few months, such as relocation measures in support of Greece and Italy, financial support for the UN and the establishment of reception centres in south-eastern Europe. “Disciplinary measures” against the four Visegrad states, which so far have only perceived the EU community of values from the receiving end, could divide the EU politically and should not be envisaged, for the time being at least. In any case, such measures would not be in the spirit of Europe.

From the beginning I have understood Angela Merkel's “we can do it” as a statement of belief in and an appeal to Europe as a whole. As for many European crises, a European Summit will be needed to sort things out. If no satisfactory solution can be found, the danger the EU faces is that of disintegration.

▶ ASYLUM-SEEKERS

European Parliament approves Commission proposal of 9 September 2015

On 17 September 2015, the European Parliament backed the European Commission's 9 September emergency proposal to relocate 120 000 asylum seekers from Greece, Italy and Hungary to other EU member states. In a plenary debate prior to the vote, the failure thus far of the EU Home Affairs Ministers to agree on how to relocate these asylum-seekers was severely criticised by a large majority of MEPs.

Under the Commission proposal, on top of the initial scheme to relocate 40 000 asylum-seekers (outlined by President Jean-Claude Juncker in his State of the Union speech and endorsed by the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 14 September), an

additional 120,000 asylum-seekers would be relocated from Italy (15,600), Greece (50,400) and Hungary (54,000). The total number of people to be relocated is thus 160,000. The Parliament backed the Commission's proposal, without amending it, by 370 votes to 134, with 52 abstentions.

MEPs stressed in a subsequent Resolution that this approval was without prejudice to the position the Parliament would subsequently take on the proposal establishing a permanent crisis relocation mechanism, on which Parliament will co-decide on an equal footing with the member states. The proposed mandatory scheme would allocate asylum-seekers to member states ac-



EP President Martin Schulz in the Plenary debate on 17 September 2015 in Brussels

photo: © European Union 2015 - Source: EP/Melanie Wenger

ording to their capacity to absorb them, to be calculated using the following weightings: population size 40%, GDP 40%, average number of past asylum applications 10% and unemployment rate 10%.

Supporting activities in the area of humanitarian aid, refugee assistance and disaster management

European financial instruments to promote solidarity

by Andy Francis Stirnal, EU Grants Consultant, EuroConsults, Berlin

The European Union offers a wide range of opportunities and thematically specific instruments to support its activities in the area of humanitarian aid, civil protection and refugee policy, from disaster relief and conflict prevention to the promotion of stability and development cooperation. European funding, so to speak, materialises European aims and policies.

Financial support for crises in Europe and beyond

The instruments and programmes in the aforementioned areas of activity can be categorised as external action instruments and are financed from the EU general budget and the European Development Fund (EDF). Through these programmes DG ECHO and DG DEVCO are allocating some € 60 billion for the period 2014-2020. All these programmes combine instruments of a long-term nature with short-term and ad hoc instruments designed for emergency cases in order to respond to unforeseen events and major crises. Among these “global Europe” instruments are some that are more closely related to the aims being focused on here. These are the thematic programmes administered by DG DEVCO, such as the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) and the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) whose approach is also geographical, since it is geared to development activities within the ACP group of states. But there is also a fund dedicated specifically to civil protection outside the EU28. The Civil Protection Mechanism set up by DG ECHO has been activated in some of the world’s most severe disasters, such as hurricane Katrina in the US, the earthquake in Haiti and the triple disaster in Japan, and it is currently dealing with the Ebola outbreak as well as the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

DGs and their Executive Agencies are looking for Service Providers

Most of the assistance offered by these programmes is implemented through humanitarian and civil society organisations via grants for carrying out concrete and awarded projects, or contracts awarded through tendering procedures for the purchase of services, supplies or works. Both contracts and grants are awarded for activities that contribute to specific development goals. Indeed, financial resources are also directly transferred to national treasuries for the delivery of aid adapted to the needs identified by the administrations present on the spot, provided that those authorities demonstrate a strong and reliable commit-

ment to the fundamental values of human rights and the rule of law. This implies a certain level of transparency and corruption robustness. Due to its contested track record, pure budget funding is increasingly being complemented by “sector support” to help with the implementation of programmes focusing on needs identified by local authorities, and which consists of a combination of sector budget support and grant and contract funding.

In general, the DGs and their related agencies do not themselves intervene on the ground, but outsource such intervention to implementation partners. A very recent example of this procedure is the provision by DG ECHO of several hundred thousand euros to help Serbia cope with the current refugee problem, which without a doubt can be considered as a humanitarian challenge. The support is channelled through the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). Within DG ECHO there is a special pre-selection process for gaining access to most DG ECHO funds. NGOs have to become partners through the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) process. The FPA sets out the principles for partnerships between DG ECHO and humanitarian organisations and defines the rights and obligations of partners and their respective roles within the projects contributing to the implementation of EU strategies and policies.

Funding opportunities as diverse as demand

This is one example of the EU’s general policy of seeking service providers to contribute to the realisation of broad EU strategies through the implementation of their own and innovative EU projects. A very similar process involving the pre-selection of reliable partners applies to EUROPEAID funding through DG DEVCO.

There are even more important sources of funding. A further sum of about € 7 billion is being made available for the same period by DG Home Affairs. This funding aims to respond to the challenges facing the Union in the field of Asylum, Migration and Internal Security, hence it adopts a more internal perspective. The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) promotes the development, implementation and strengthening of a common Union approach to asylum and immigration through the harmonisation of the EU’s and Member States’ Asylum legislation with a view to the efficient but fair and humane management of migration flows. The Internal Security Fund (ISF) is meant to implement the Internal Security Strategy, law enforcement cooperation and

the management of the Union's external borders. Another key objective of the ISF is to enhance the preparedness for protecting people and critical infrastructure against terrorist attacks and other security-related incidents and to increase the Union's resilience against crises and disasters.

Horizon 2020: offering interesting perspectives

When it comes to improving the resilience of our infrastructure, the preparedness of our societies and the protection of Europe's citizens against a range of threats, the Horizon 2020 research and development framework programme offers interesting perspectives for new and innovative approaches. Via the H2020 stream "Secure societies – protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens" within the Societal Challenges programme pillar, a broad spectrum of topics is addressed. Some € 1.7 billion at least are being allocated to the programme for the 7 years of its duration.

Various ways of funding infrastructure

In addition to instruments like the European Fund for Regional Development (EFRD), there is also the Instrument for Interregional Cooperation (INTERREG), which has the potential for funding infrastructure and even training in fire and disaster protection and infrastructure for coastal protection. Surprisingly, such infrastructure can also be financed via the European Agricultural Fund for Regional Development (EAFRDE), which offers opportunities for enhancing coastal protection as well.

Solidarity among the member states

To complete this tour of European funding opportunities, mention must be made of the European Union Solidarity Fund, which epitomises the principles inherent in most of the instruments discussed here. This fund was set up following the severe flooding that hit Europe in 2002 in order to respond to major natural disasters and to express European solidarity vis-à-vis disaster-stricken regions within Europe. The EUSF has responded to some 67 disasters so far, including floods, major forest fires, earthquakes and storms, offering 24 different European countries support amounting to more than € 3.7 billion.

Putting projects into practice

Thus it is clear that EU funding for humanitarian aid, refugee assistance and disaster management comes from a multitude of sources. Some funding is covered by the External Action area, while other funding comes under Home Affairs. In order to respond to crises with up-to-date measures Research Funding also comes into play. European funding for humanitarian aid, crisis management and refugee policy offers great potential. With in-depth knowledge, or with experienced partners at their side to help them cope with any difficulties that may arise, various actors can identify the programme that matches their project in order to put it into practice.

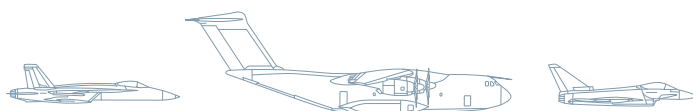
*Andy Francis Stiral studied political science. He is a EU grants consultant with EuroConsults and the Berlin correspondent for this magazine.



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Smart Energy solutions for civil and military users

Reliable temporary and mobile energy management systems are essential for the functioning of deployed military and civilian camps, headquarters, field hospitals, small units dispatched from the main force in disaster zones or military commandos.

Photo: PEISTER, Benjamin G. et al.

“Less dependence on fossil fuels means improved survivability for our troops”

Smart energy for crisis-management forces has become a reality

Interview with Csaba Hende, Minister of Defence, Hungary

The European: Minister, we have reached the end of the NATO Capable Logistician (CL15) logistics exercise. You brought this exercise to Hungary and – following an initial small-scale exercise in 2013 in Brno – you worked very hard to make NATO’s full-scale test of smart energy in real-life conditions a reality.

Csaba Hende: First of all, I would like to thank all the companies who participated in the exercise and honoured us with their presence. Special thanks go to the staff of NATO’s Emerging Security Challenges Division, Dr Susanne Michaelis in particular, for organising an ever more active role for smart energy. I would also like to thank all the employees of the Ministry of Defence and the Hungarian Armed Forces who worked hard in order to achieve the goals in this functional area. As you know, it was the

first time ever that civilian companies were actively involved in a live military exercise, and their representatives acted not only professionally, but I must say also with military-style discipline! I am happy that all together we were able to overcome the obstacles and to raise the issue of smart energy to a higher level.

The European: The aim of this international exercise was to demonstrate the feasibility of interoperable logistics within NATO. Would you describe it as a success, both for Hungary and NATO?

Csaba Hende: Yes indeed: Capable Logistician 2015 was a real success. We received positive feedback and assessments from both the political and the military sides. It was a Logistic Standardisation and Interoperability Field Training Exercise (IOX/FTX) focusing on logistics command and control, as well as on theatre level logistics, aimed at testing logistic capabilities for the NATO Trident Juncture 2015 (TRJE15) high visibility exercise. Its aim was to prepare participating nations to operate as part of a Joint Logistic Support Group Headquarters (JLSG HQ) and to support Multinational Integrated Logistic Units (MILUs) and other logistics units in preparation for NATO’s TRJE15 exercise, with the focus on the key modalities of multinational logistics.

The European: How many functional logistic areas were involved and what was the main objective of focusing on key modalities of multinational logistics?

Csaba Hende: We were able to establish and effectively operate more than 12 different functional areas, including ammunition,



Minister Hende with Hartmut Bühl during CL15

Photo: Rósz Tünde, MOD, Budapest

fuel handling, water purification, airdrop, etc. Our main goal was to create real interoperability in a multinational environment. Capable Logistician 2015 clearly illustrated that the Alliance can operate together with its Partner nations in any environment. 32 Allied and Partner nations committed some 1800 personnel and 600 pieces of equipment to this exercise.

I am proud that the Hungarian Defence Forces' logistic system was able to handle the challenges of Host Nation Support (HNS) and Real Life Support (RLS) so successfully.

The European: *What particular role was played by participating Visegrad countries*?*

Csaba Hende: Indeed, the other important aim of the exercise was to train and prepare the Visegrad countries' (V4) Joint Logistic Support Group Headquarters (JLSG HQ) Core Staff Element (CSE) for the European Union V4 Battlegroup.

The European: *What motivated you, as the host nation, to drive forward the additional part of this exercise: smart energy? Was it your idea to show how reducing fossil fuel consumption lightens the logistics burden and enhances operational security?*

Csaba Hende: We are strongly committed to modernising the Hungarian Armed Forces. In this spirit, the Government decided to stop the decline in the defence budget and from 2016 onwards, to gradually and continuously increase the resources devoted to defence. Hungary also wants to strengthen existing capabilities and to provide her soldiers with new capabilities. Logistics is one of the main pillars of modern warfare and energy is a very important component of that. We have recognised that saving energy is not just a financial or environmental issue: less dependence on fossil fuels means improved survivability for our troops. CL15 was a good opportunity for decision-makers and potential users to learn about the new technologies for power management and to discover both the possibilities and limitations. Our experts were of course familiar with these technologies, but the exercise gave them the opportunity to see them being implemented in life-like military circumstances.

The European: *For that you issued a relatively informal invitation to the energy industries to demonstrate their smart energy products on the spot and to deploy them in an operational setting. And you evidently appreciated their attitude as you mentioned before. But do you think that the energy industry brought along a sufficient number of viable products to enable the next step: the deployment of those products within the forces?*

Csaba Hende: Most of the products had already been exhibited on several occasions. The main novelty of Capable Logistician was that it showed that smart equipment can also work in battlefield conditions, of the kind simulated by the exercise. So these technologies exist not only in theory as experimental devices, but also as ready-to-use products.

The companies that participated in CL15 represented the entire smart energy spectrum, i.e. the production, saving and also use

of energy. I am convinced that European armies will take on board the new possibilities offered by smart energy for the development of their armed forces. I hope that the use of such equipment will become widespread relatively quickly. Some of this equipment, such as LEDs, is really easy to deploy and can seamlessly replace conventional technologies. However, the fielding of other technologies such as, for instance, hybrid generators, requires proper standardisation first. Everything will depend on how the purchaser side changes its attitude in order to manage the use of conventional and smart energy technologies, and how the contractor side can justify that it is worth spending more money on these new technologies. I am hopeful, because the most important steps have already been taken.

“The main novelty of Capable Logistician was that smart equipment was also shown to work in battlefield conditions”

Csaba Hende

The European: *Am I right in understanding you to be saying that a “rethinking” process has now become possible and that a start can be made towards equipping forces with smart energy products?*

Csaba Hende: This exercise provided an excellent opportunity to exchange professional knowledge and information in practical conditions. Efficiency and cost-effectiveness are important aspects of our military technical procurement and innovation procedures. Of course, we are searching for the best, most environmentally friendly solutions. During the exercise we saw many interesting professional areas and equipment, such as power generators, different type of tents, etc., all of which is useful for our future way of thinking. An analysis of the lessons learned has already started. As you so aptly put it, providing forces with new equipment always starts with a “re-thinking” process that may be followed by testing, evaluation, field-testing, and finally, procurement. Hungary does not have much experience with smart energy products, but we have definitely started to be more environment and ecology-oriented.

The European: *In autumn 2015 Hungary will deploy an operational unit for a two-year stabilisation mission in Iraq. Will Hungary have recourse to smart energy products on the spot, thereby reducing the logistic requirements for fuel and hence the number of tanker deliveries, leading not only to savings on personnel and costs but also benefiting the environment?*

Csaba Hende: Everything depends on the concrete tasks and operational conditions in the mission area. Of course, we are seeking the most cost-effective and environmentally friendly approach to all areas of operations.

The European: *Minister, many thanks for this interview!*

* Member States: Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic and Slovakia

Another innovative step towards smart energy infrastructure

Mobile and energy-efficient water purification

by Dr Andreas Arnold, Director Product Management & Business Development, Blücher GmbH, Erkrath

With the “Smart Energy” approach being increasingly pursued for military operations and humanitarian aid/disaster management projects, the focus of technology development is not only on energy generation from different renewable sources, energy storage and management through smart grids, but also on energy-efficient equipment, which is key to the successful implementation of the smart energy approach.

Time for innovation

The two long-established technologies for the treatment of water are: ultrafiltration for water with particulate pollution only and reverse osmosis whenever there is known or suspected chemical pollution. More recently, however, the increasing presence of dissolved organic compounds and of traces of heavy metals, pharmaceutical pollution and pesticides has turned out to be a challenge in both urban and rural environments. The existing technology has proven to be incapable of removing certain critical substances, as well as having high energy demands and requiring bulky, heavy and immobile installations. The user community – either small, deployed military forces or disaster management units – has therefore been encouraging industry to provide innovative solutions with enhanced mobility, energy efficiency and water quality. BLÜCHER’s mobile BWP₄₀₀ water purification unit addresses those user requirements.



Soldiers installing BLÜCHER’s BWP₄₀₀ system, which delivers 8 000 litres of drinking water per day with a power consumption of no more than 1 kW from various energy sources



Photo: BLÜCHER

Dr Andreas Arnold

born in 1961, leads the Product Management and Business Development Division of Blücher GmbH in Erkrath. He graduated with a degree in physics from the Technical University of Dortmund and holds a PhD in natural sciences.

After several leading technical positions in the automotive and pharmaceutical supplier industries, he joined Blücher GmbH in 2001 as Technical Director.

Within the Blücher Group, he coordinates research and development programmes between end-users and the research teams, most of which cover both product development and methodologies for validating product performance and the benefits to end-users.

Low weight and small footprint

Thanks to its low weight of approximately 100 kg and small footprint the size of a Euro pallet, four operators are enough to move the water purification unit. Its low energy consumption (less than 1 kW) keeps energy requirements to a minimum, and in environments with scarce water supplies its yield of typically 90% is advantageous.

Highly automated, the system can be easily commissioned and operated even by personnel with a minimum amount of training. It is easily transportable on any small truck or trailer, or on any of the transport helicopters used by NATO, enabling it to be deployed in inaccessible zones or delivered to small units in difficult terrains.

An innovative filtration concept

The Blücher BWP₄₀₀ is designed to cope with a range of difficult water purification challenges. The concept is based on an ultrafiltration step which retains particulate contamination such as suspended solids, bacteria and viruses, followed by an adsorptive filtration unit made from a special high-purity and high-capacity synthetic activated carbon bed designed to remove dissolved organic material (odour, colour, pesticides and pharmaceutical residues) and heavy metals such as ar-

Photos: Blücher



Weighing only 100 kg, the BWP400 was easily relocated during the CL15 exercise in Hungary

senic. Approximately 8 000 litres of drinking water are delivered per day in a nearly continuous mode and, depending on the water quality, the unit can produce approximately 200 000 litres of drinking water before cartridge replacement.

Prototypes successfully tested in CL15

Prototypes of the BLÜCHER BWP400 water treatment unit took part in NATO's Smart Energy demonstration activities in the Smart Energy Camps set up during the Capable Logistician 2015 (CL15) exercise organised in Hungary by the Multinational Logistics Coordination Centre (MLCC) in Prague. The systems attracted a lot of interest during the exercise, not only from military users but also visitors with disaster management and humanitarian aid backgrounds.

The system successfully proved its readiness for use in military or disaster response environments. It was deployed and relocated several times for the purpose of different scenarios, thus demonstrating its high mobility and ruggedness. Thanks to its low energy requirements and resulting connectivity to a range of sources, e.g. solar panels, the system can be autonomously operated, dispensing with the need for a continuous fuel supply. Easily and quickly to various water sources, different energy sources and water supply and storage equipment, it successfully demonstrated its interoperability and hence its important role in a smart energy environment.

Lessons learned and consequences

Water treatment and supply is an essential element in military and civil operations, and energy-efficient, mobile components are a highly appreciated part of smart energy installations. Trials in realistic scenarios showed that new customised systems are readily available. The experience during the exercise and extensive on-the-spot discussions revealed the need for the current technology-biased standards for drinking water purification to be revised in a performance-focused manner.

documentation

CL15 – NATO's smart energy exercise in Hungary

(ed/nc, Paris) The NATO "Capable Logistician 2015 (CL15)" exercise took place from 8 to 19 June at the Bakony Combat Training Centre near Veszprem, Hungary. The exercise was part of NATO's ongoing Smart Energy programme, which has the long-term goal of reducing the fuel consumption of forces deployed on military operations and improving their energy efficiency through a wide range of measures, including the increased use of renewable energy and better energy management. More than 50 Smart Energy technologies were tested during this exercise involving some 1700 troops from 23 nations, as well as, for the first time ever in such an exercise, a number of civilian companies. Together with two public procurement agencies (the Bundeswehr and the DoD, Washington), a total of 14 civilian private companies were thus able to showcase their energy-efficient solutions in the three camps.

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Batteries – the hard core of smart energy systems

Energy Storage – be smart: use battery management systems

by Tjeerd de Vries, Advisor Sustainable Land Systems, ESTechnologies, Medemblik

In 2007 a Netherlands military helicopter hit a high voltage line near the river Waal. The line broke and fell into the river. Some 50 000 households and many companies were completely cut off from power supply for two days. Never before had the country witnessed such a massive loss of electricity. Emergency plans quickly entered into force. Available generators from the power company and the army were hastily deployed to cover the most urgent needs, leading to a continuous and substantial logistic effort to ensure a sufficient supply of diesel fuel. Although the power supply was quickly restored, the incident made painfully clear how dependent we are on an uninterrupted power supply. What would have happened if the power cut had lasted longer? Are we able to deal with long-lasting massive power failures?

Electricity – a precondition for development

In less developed countries this question is not of interest: there is no grid, no power. Yet one of the most important pre-conditions for development is having access to electricity: preferably cheap electricity, because then communities and companies will benefit from lower fuel costs and reduced health risks and at the same time industrial and agricultural activities will become more productive.

Unfortunately, in our unstable world peacekeeping missions are the last resort for the protection of peoples and interests. Troops are deployed in camps. The environmental burden of these camps on the mission area is often considerable.



Photo: private

Tjeerd de Vries

served for 33 years in the Dutch defence forces. His last position was Senior Chief Engineer. After his retirement he started working for ESTechnologies in the field of sustainable land systems.

Solution: hybrid off grid energy systems

In the three situations mentioned above these systems offer a clear solution, not least of all because they make use of the world's best friend: the sun.

The concept behind the design of hybrid off grid power systems is quite common: through solar panels the energy of the sun is converted into electricity to power the community, factory, farm or camp. Whenever there is not enough sunlight a backup diesel generator will automatically start to generate power. More advanced hybrid off grid power systems contain an energy storage system in which the solar energy can be stored for use during the night or less sunny hours. The effectiveness and efficiency of these particular systems are highly dependent on the quality of the energy storage. This in turn depends on two important capabilities of the batteries used: the amount of energy the battery is able to store and its dynamic flexibility. The



ESTechnologies Smart Energy plant in Mali supplying the Netherlands Camp

Photo: ESTechnologies



ESTechnologies Smart Energy plant during CL15

Photo: ESTechnologies

first capability is self-evident: the large power demand of communities, camps and installations obviously requires large energy storage capacities. The second one, dynamic flexibility, is necessary in order to meet the power demand of the supported facilities at all times, meaning that the energy storage is able to be discharged during the charging process, to deliver a very high peak load in a very short period of time and to be quickly recharged.

The safety of the batteries is guaranteed

Considering that such energy storage can add up to a high capacity in megawatts one might wonder whether it is safe to operate such large battery systems. The answer is yes, provided that the chemical process in each of the battery cells is completely under control. For that purpose ESTechnologies has developed a unique Battery Management System that uses an active cell balancing technology.

How does the system work?

Every ESTechnologies battery consists of fourteen 3.7 Volt lithium polymer cells. During operation every cell experiences a unique chemical process potentially leading to differences in voltage between the cells. Lifetime, performance and safety will be enhanced if this difference is minimised. To accomplish this, each cell receives automatically from a built-in active balancing and monitoring board a specific data address. Through this address the system can continuously monitor cell parameters such as the state of charge (SOC) and temperature. This information is compared constantly with safety parameters. In case of an imbalance between the cells, the

system immediately intervenes by sending energy from one cell to another. This happens in milliseconds, leading to a stable situation in which the difference between the 14 cells is never more than 0.015 volts. Should a safety parameter in one of the cells be exceeded the system automatically switches off the battery. A so-called Battery Control Unit facilitates the cooperation between a string of 13 batteries, ensuring that all 182 cells in the string remain balanced. A Master Battery Control Unit completes the control and monitoring system overseeing the energy storage as a whole.

A mature technology against waste

The ESTechnologies technology is mature. The same applies to the technologies of other companies belonging to NATO's Smart Energy community. Together during CL 15 we demonstrated the possibilities that exist in the field of Smart Energy, not only in terms of technology but also of economics. I challenge you to start using this technology in order to make our world better!



ESTechnologies Battery Package to be tailored for the need

Photo: ESTechnologies



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steep Smart Energy capillary cooling and system integration solutions in deployment at CL15

Bionic Capillary System in operation

by Melanie Thomas, Project and Marketing Manager, steep GmbH, Bonn

The Capable Logistician 2015 was the first NATO exercise to include fully functional Smart Energy solutions by private companies as part of the exercise. The aim was to test and observe interoperability as a step towards enhancing energy-efficiency in military operations. Over the course of the exercise, the steep GmbH demonstrated its capabilities in system integration and operation in projects with partner companies and presented the latest in-house developed product from the company's range of mobile solutions for military applications, the steep Bionic Capillary System.

System Integration and Operation at CL15

At Smart Energy Camp West, steep was responsible for the construction, commissioning, monitoring and ongoing operation of the Energy Management System and thus ensured the power supply of the infrastructure and logistics for the bulk fuel installation. At the Water MILU near Kádárta, steep performed support services ensuring the supply with potable water. This included the support of the water trailer operation as well as support in setup, monitoring and operation of the water purification system.

steep Bionic Capillary System at CL15

The steep Bionic Capillary System is a development providing energy-efficient cooling and heating for tents, shelters or buildings. The system was deployed at CL15 in a total of three locations. After the breakdown of the originally designated air conditioning in the French laboratory at the Water MILU, steep installed and operated the steep Bionic Capillary System in order to ensure the temperature regulation of the laboratory. In addition to the Water MILU, a second system was installed in the tents of the Military Police at Camp Zero.

The third and largest system was located at Újmajor Base in the Smart Energy First Aid tent. This solution consisted of the steep Bionic Capillary System and a fast erecting military shelter



Photo: steep GmbH

Melanie Thomas

was born in Koblenz in 1985. She studied at University College Cork, Ireland, and the University of Bonn and holds an MA in History and Political Science. She has been working at steep GmbH in Marketing and Project Management since 2012. Focus areas are International Affairs and Training Concept Development.

system implemented in direct cooperation with Losberger RDS. At outside temperatures between 40°C during daytime and cold nights below 15°C, the solution proved successful in creating a temperature-controlled area of comfortable temperatures about 25°C.

Live Operation of steep Bionic Capillary System

The capillary mats of the system are installed in the roof or walls of the tent, where they radiate coolness or heat without noise emission or a cross draught that may lead to infections. This makes the system particularly suited for medical facilities. The system can be operated or supplied with water, the carrier medium for cooling and heating, in different ways, for example with solar thermal plants, photovoltaic installations or energy-efficient generators.

In combination with a heat pump, as demonstrated at CL15 in cooperation with Tiegel GmbH, the steep Bionic Capillary System can provide temperature regulation for approximately four tents at the same energy consumption a standard air conditioning needs to supply one tent. The data collection gathered during CL15 has confirmed the system's functionality and energy efficiency. In addition, live operation delivered results regarding interoperability that will be most valuable for the future development within the Smart Energy sector.



During the exercise CL15, one of the steep Bionic Capillary Systems was installed in the First Aid tent at Újmajor Base, Hungary

Photo: steep GmbH

Energy saving is the new norm

Smart energy for multiple fields of application

Interview with Paolo Barbatelli, Chief Innovation Officer, ROLD Group, Milano

The European: *Mr Barbatelli, you are the Chief Innovation Officer for your group, renowned for the high quality and reliability of its products. How is it organised?*

Paolo Barbatelli: ROLD, a leader in the manufacture of components for household appliances, has been an international reference for more than 50 years. Firmly committed in the interests of creativity and research to improving its production techniques, it strongly believes in quality and environmental compliance and on placing the focus on staff training to obtain the best possible skills. Notwithstanding a family-type managerial structure, the Group has been able to consolidate its reputation for quality and reliability at global level: accurately constructing and testing every single item is the best possible guarantee for a high-quality end product. ROLD's success has led it to upgrade its product range and to expand into the lighting technology and energy-management markets with a new division, ROLD Lighting, offering a new catalogue of LED lamps and a smart power monitoring system under the ROLD SmartPower brand.

The European: *ROLD Lighting offers three types of smart energy products: LED lamps, a smart power system and smart power sockets. Could you elaborate their mode of operation?*

Paolo Barbatelli: The new lamps, refined and elegant, are entirely designed and assembled in Italy in a cutting-edge plant specifically renovated and equipped for this purpose. ROLD Lighting's lamps for industrial use, office ceiling lights, spotlights and light bars use highly efficient LEDs as light sources: the energy savings can be as much as 80% compared to traditional incandescent or neon lights.

The European: *How did you establish your SmartPower system?*

Paolo Barbatelli: It was established thanks to our partnership with Tekpea, an American company specialised in smart metering, with offices in Palo Alto, California. Within this alliance ROLD has developed special electrical appliances incorporating a control system that can accurately check the power absorbed and used by a device connected to the mains. The ROLD plugins (SmartPower sockets) and the embedded systems exploit the common power line to collect and send electrical consumption data. They can be applied to any kind of electrical equipment or lamp to ensure safe energy management and control.

The European: *Yours is a business-to-business model. How*



Photo: ROLD Group

Paolo Barbatelli

is Chief Innovation Officer of the ROLD Group, Executive Controller at ROLD Elettrotecnica and President of the ROLD Research Network of Enterprises. Born in 1964, he trained in Electronics and Management. He is co-founder of the Media Consulting company, which evolved in the following years into Solgenia Corp., where Mr Barbatelli is still Chief Operating Officer and Member of the Board. At the end of 2008, he joined the ROLD Group's top management with the specific task of changing the company from a "traditional" Italian family manufacturing business into an international Group.

about the end-users, in the military field and civilian disaster relief in particular?

Paolo Barbatelli: Looking to the end-users, we are talking about the Internet of Lights and Social Lighting, both leading back to the Internet of Things (IoT), a topic we feel is very important. The focus is on well-being and quality of life, with light engineering attaining both.

The European: *How do "well-being" and "quality of life" translate into practice?*

Paolo Barbatelli: Lighting plays an important role in people's lives: an informed use of light, efficient light sources with a chromatic output increasingly similar to sunlight, dynamic and flexible real-time automatic control, are all elements that will help improve the quality of people's lives in the workplace, at home or elsewhere. Modern technologies allow the energy consumption of electrical and electronic equipment to be monitored via innovative systems that require significant investments (home automation, WiFi systems, new communication protocols, etc.). The ROLD Group overcomes these barriers by proposing a smart power monitoring system accessible to all and without infrastructure work having to be done in corporate offices or homes.

The European: *How does this work?*

Paolo Barbatelli: The ROLD plugins and embedded systems use the common power line in order to collect and send electric consumption data and can be applied to any kind of electrical

equipment to ensure its safe energy management and control. Users can monitor and control its consumption independently through a simple App directly from their tablet or smartphone, or alternatively via a web portal, which can be accessed via an internet browser.

The European: *Your smart energy products are easy to transport and install, but what about energy savings?*

Paolo Barbatelli: The benefits are multiple. ROLD Lighting presented its most recent product, Adhi – a false-ceiling light of exceptional mechanical solidity made with extruded aluminium and an opal polycarbonate diffuse – during the NATO CL 15 exercise in Hungary. The lamp uses the latest generation LEDs to ensure high performance and energy efficiency. Adhi is an ideal substitute for traditional neon lights, which are not very efficient and have become obsolete. Replacing the old neon lights with this ceiling lamp will ensure vastly improved lighting and cut energy consumption in half. To give you an idea: 30 Adhi LED lamps in a military tent together consume only 1.5 kW.

The European: *And what does this mean in terms of control?*

Paolo Barbatelli: Our SmartPower system can communicate, monitor, manage. Nothing can be truly intelligent without communication. But the big obstacle for the IoT is the lack of a standard and shared communication system. The ROLD SmartPower technology ensures the proactive measurement, monitoring and management of any type of device by simply communicating data over traditional power lines without any additional energy consumption by the regularly connected device. We had to develop a new embedded monitoring system incorporated into our LED ceiling lamps: by using the power line for the transmission of data, our embedded system enables genuine control over the use of a single lamp or groups of lamps.

The European: *So what does the system intelligence consist in?*

Paolo Barbatelli: Not only does the system enable the real-time assessment of the lamp's effective energy expenditure, both in terms of watt consumption and spending, but also its "smart use", which is controlled and managed through the creation of usage scenarios, modelled according to the lamp's specific function and the context in which it is installed, all this happening continuously through data transmission via a power line.

The European: *NATO's CL 15 Exercise was a success for industry. Do you think Smart Energy will go from being a prestige project to a reality in armed forces' planning? How to get us there?*

Paolo Barbatelli: I most certainly think it will. Energy saving is not just a requirement in terms of environmental sustainability but, due to the recent economic circumstances that have created a "new normality" characterised by continuous dynamic changes of market scenarios, is coming to play a key role in cost containment for both companies and households. Modern

technologies allow energy consumption to be monitored and controlled but in view of the abovementioned significant investments this entails, in a military camp and for the armed forces it is not sustainable! It is not secure. That is why we are also developing an interesting new technology allowing data transmission using the light beam only! Based on the VLC (Visible Light Communication) system, the technology developed by ROLD sends data through common LED lamps using visible light beams. By modulating the light intensity, the light beam generated by the LED becomes the data transport medium: data can travel directly from a transmission circuit/chip to the user device through a sensor (receiving data through visible light). ROLD is continuing its research into the possibility of simple and direct communications between devices through sensors incorporated into smartphones, tablets, laptops, etc. using the light connection instead of WiFi.

The European: *Innovation and research go hand in hand. What is ROLD's engagement in this sector? Are you offering SMEs the possibility of joining you in this effort?*

Paolo Barbatelli: Research in the production field has allowed ROLD to be the holder of some important patents (the first in 1970) which over the years have contributed to strengthening and consolidating the company's reputation and commitment, which today have become synonymous with the INDISPENSABILITY of the ROLD brand. Today the Group's prolific research is focused on choosing the best materials and the design and development of state-of-the-art solutions. ROLD is also recognised for its quick study of new solutions and new products to put on the market, using advanced technology. In 2010 we founded ROLD Research, an innovative research centre suitable for SMEs. An initiative by Gruppo ROLD, Gruppo Componenti and Fluid-O-Tech, three historic companies in northern Italy who decided, by making use of their own capital and investments, to become Institutional Members of the Polytechnic Foundation in Milan.

The European: *Mr Barbatelli, thank you for this interview!*

► ROLD Elettrotecnica

Rold Gruppo consists of three different companies:

ROLD Elettrotecnica: set up in 1963, the company currently has two manufacturing units; ROLD Elettrotecnica and ROLD Lighting, at the head of four product brands: ROLD Elettrotecnica, ROLD Elettronica, ROLD Lighting and ROLD SmartPower;

ROLD America: commercial representative company based in Belmont in North Carolina;

ROLD Electronic Trading (ROLD Shanghai): commercial representative company based in Shanghai.



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CL15 – Milestone for the manufacturers of mobile solar power plants

New impetus for mobile solar plants

by Sven Leinardi, Executive Manager, Multicon Solar Group, Duisburg

Off-grid solutions utilising renewable energies can ensure a power supply in regions where there is no connection to a power grid. Previous attempts to create a power supply using photovoltaic off-grid solutions have often failed due to a lack of qualified staff for setup and subsequent maintenance. Trained engineers in the energy sector are usually not available and foreign engineering is only worthwhile on larger projects. The most frequently used diesel generators are noisy and expensive, both in terms of procurement and in relation to the current cost of diesel. In addition, in many places there is no guarantee of being able to obtain the fossil fuel.

Mobile solar power plants to generate electricity

In order to meet power demands even in remote regions, for example, the Duisburg-based Multicon Solar Group has developed mobile solar power plants for the self-sufficient generation of solar power. The mobile solar power plants consist of foldable solar modules, a battery and an intelligent energy management system. Since the turnkey systems work according to the plug & play principle, they are ready for use after just a short time. Installed in a container, trailer, or portable case, these solutions cover a power range of 1-50 kWp. So far, mobile solar power plants are used mainly in the civilian sector. They are used mostly to supply power to villages in rural areas, for agricultural irrigation or to supply power in remote



The solar trailer is a mobile, wheeled solar generator. This solar generator is capable of supplying power to small settlements, hospitals and cold stores. It has a PV output of up to 7 kWp and a battery capacity of up to 30 kWh. The solar trailer can be set up and dismantled in five minutes and driven to a new location.



Photo:private

Sven Leinardi

is Executive Manager at Multicon Solar Group in Duisburg. Born in Stuttgart, Germany, he studied economics at the Schumpeter School of Business and Economics in Wuppertal. Since 2013, Sven Leinardi has been responsible for developing (mobile) renewable off-Grid solutions for military and civilian applications.

mining operations. The advantages of these systems, and particularly the possibility of entirely self-sufficient and readily available electricity generation, are also interesting for military forces in their worldwide deployments.

NATO CL15 exercise

During the NATO Capable Logistician 2015 (CL15) exercise, which took place in Hungary, manufacturers of mobile solar power plants had the opportunity to test their products for the first time under real conditions as fully integrated team members. The focus was on the interaction with military units and the testing of interoperability with other systems. The manufacturers' innovative solar solutions were therefore tested for a variety of applications.

The Multicon solar container

A Multicon solar container supplied the tents and the military police control room with energy day and night. The power requirements of the military police included several air conditioning systems, LED lights, computers and radio equipment.

The solar container consisted of a turnkey solar system, including an energy management system and a battery, built into a 20-foot container. On site, the wired solar modules were extended and opened within one hour and were immediately ready for use. The container that was used for CL 15 had a solar output of 18 kWp and a storage unit of 45 kWh. Most of the energy was consumed by air conditioners during the day and by heaters at night. The average consumption was 6

Photo: Multicon Solar



The patented solar containers come in four different output levels ranging from 5.4 to 50 kWp. A solar container with an output of 20 kWp and 30 kWh of energy storage was delivered to the German Armed Forces in December 2014.

Photo: Multicon Solar

kWh; the peak was at around noon, at about 11 kWh. As the solar container was able to generate more power during the day than could be used by the connected consumers, the excess energy was used to recharge the batteries. Towards evening, the batteries were fully charged and the energy could be delivered directly from them. During the two-week exercise, the solar container produced a daily average of 100 kWh of energy. Some 450 litres of diesel could thus be saved during the exercise period.

A glance at other systems

Solar trailers

Solar trailers by Multicon and Renovagen were also used. They proved themselves as mobile power generators during the exercise. Several power cuts were simulated in different locations during the exercise; these were resolved using the solar trailers.

Water purification systems

Water pollution was another scenario during the exercise. The wastewater was purified by a small mobile water treatment plant made by Blücher. The energy for this was provided alternately by a solar trailer and the Multicon Energy Power Rack (EPR). The EPR is a mobile turnkey solar system that was installed in a 20-foot half-height container. The EPR was placed on the roof of an NSPA container and supplied the VIP tent with power.

Microgrids

Several smaller electricity networks (microgrids) that operated in isolated mode were set up for the exercise. Power was generated from a combination of diesel generators, wind turbines and solar power. Mobile solar power plants were an important part of these microgrids. Multicon and Renovagen solar trailers were

periodically connected to the Pfisterer and ESTechnologies microgrids, as well as to a portable Remulus solar power system.

Industry forges ahead

All of the mobile solar systems used proved successful during the exercise; there were no significant complications during this time. It has been shown that the mobile solar power plants can meet the demanding military requirements. CL 15 was a milestone for the manufacturers of mobile solar power plants. The test for interoperability has led to new ways of thinking for the military, but also for the manufacturers. Solar containers with built-in water treatment plants and solar trailers with an extendable light tower are just some of the potential combinations of these systems.

Mobile solar power plants have proven that they will soon play an important role in the military sphere. Fast set-up, flexibility and independence from diesel fuels make these systems a valuable tool. Additional future areas of application will be civil protection and humanitarian aid operations.



The eye-catcher during CL15 was smartflower's REMULES system

Photo: © smartflower energy technology GmbH

Communications

The development of state-of-the-art secured communication systems is progressing more rapidly than the standardisation which is needed to simplify interoperability and protection and ensure greater flexibility. This is valid not only for Software Defined Radio and Encryption Technology but also for Hybrid Command Posts combining different operational communication domains.

The AFCEA NITEC 15 – Applications, Education and Training in C4ISR

Enabling C4ISR

by Mandy Rizzo, Event Manager AFCEA, Europe, Brussels

The NATO Communications & Information (NCI) Agency and AFCEA Europe have organised their fourth joint conference & exhibition. This became a truly joint event two years ago when the organisers began to create an intertwined programme. Held annually, this conference draws high-level defence experts from NATO, the Allied militaries, industry and academia to discuss the latest technological developments and to collaborate on NATO C4ISR business opportunities and major procurements.

Synergy and intrinsic complementarity

The success of the NITEC formula lies in the synergy and intrinsic complementarity of capabilities and fields of operations unique to the two organisations: AFCEA International's organisational capability and wide reach in the defence industry world on the one hand, and the worldwide strategic, military and political-institutional power of NATO and its NCI Agency, on the other.

This year's conference, held on 5-7 May 2015, in Madrid, Spain, focused on Applications, Education and Training in C4ISR. As always, this event was organised with the support of the host country's Ministry of Defence; over 500 senior NATO officials as well as mainly European and North American industry representatives attended the conference. Participants came from all over the world, from some 30 countries. In addition to the formal conference sessions, each day during NITEC 2015 some 30 NCI Agency representatives offered advice on how to do business with NATO. The exhibition provided a close look at cutting-edge hard and software applications and the AFCEA Business-to-Business (B2B) Speed Dating



General Manager AFCEA Europe, Major General (ret) Klaus Peter Treche during his opening address

Photo AFCEA, Brussels



Networking during the Congress

Photo AFCEA, Brussels



LtGen Frederick Hodges, Commanding General, US Army Europe, during his speech to a highly attentive public

Photo AFCEA, Brussels

Workshop gave industry participants the chance to meet each other during pre-arranged bilateral meetings in order to find new business opportunities. More than 80 such meetings were organised.

Highly appreciated opportunities

- Special Theme Tracks of the conference included Lessons Learned from Previous/Ongoing Operations:
 - NATO Industry Cyber Partnership;
 - IT Modernisation;
 - Future C4ISR Applications;
 - Cyber Training;
 - Distributed Training;
- Networking opportunities – as underlined by AFCEA General Manager Europe, Maj Gen ret. Klaus-Peter Treche, in his closing remarks – were one of the highlights of this annual event. Walking through the exhibition featuring 45 exhibitors, participating in the conference, speaking directly to high-level military and industry representatives on a one-on-one basis and answering real-life situational questions addressing their particular questions and challenges were also key elements in this event.

► Next events 2015/2016

2015: AFCEA's TechNet Europe, taking place in Berlin, Germany on 20-22 October 2015 with the theme Urbanisation, Migration, Disaster Relief: Key Challenges of the Future

2016: The next "edition" of NITEC -16 will take place in Tallinn, Estonia, on 7-9 June 2016.

2016: AFCEA Europe's second largest flagship event, TechNet Europe, will take place during the first week of October 2016 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. The event will be held under the Patronage of the Ministry of Defence, The Netherlands and organized with The Hague Chapter of AFCEA.



Photo: Olaf Köster

Mandy Rizzo

has been the Marketing & Events Manager for AFCEA Europe in Brussels since 2013. Born in Tennessee, USA, in 1980, she graduated from Clarion University of Pennsylvania with specialties in French, Spanish and Business Administration and has been organising international congresses and exhibitions for professional associations around the world since 2003.



AFCEA is the association for Communications, Electronics, Intelligence & Information Systems Professionals. AFCEA Europe is an extension of AFCEA International, headquartered in Virginia, USA. It supports the European regions and chapters and offers international events in Europe to represent AFCEA vis-à-vis NATO, the EU and national governments.

The Frequentis Hybrid Command Post meets the military's control and command requirements

The Future of Military Command and Control Centres

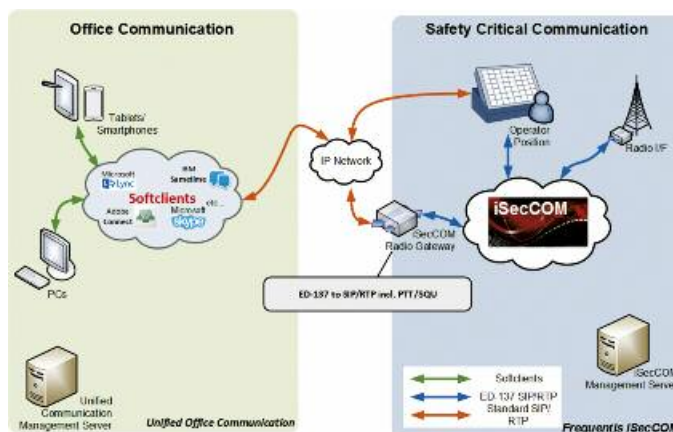
by Sven-Colin Rowley, Area Sales Manager, Frequentis Nachrichtentechnik GmbH, Langen

In an environment where multiple military branches and multinational forces are increasingly cooperating in order to achieve their objectives, the nerve centre of worldwide military missions is made up of a large number of military command and control centres. The past few years have brought about a paradigm shift in military requirements due to the increasing prevalence of complex stabilisation operations in worldwide NATO missions. The complexity of these missions is mirrored by the processes used at command and control centres, meaning that a variety of communication and information systems are now being used in a customised and task-oriented manner.

Hybrid Communication Solutions

In the age of IP solutions and service-oriented architectures, "unified communication" approaches almost always meet with wide acceptance in standardised (business-critical) communication domains. However, these solutions have so far been unable to find acceptance in niche applications, as evidenced by their absence in the highly specialised and safety-critical communication domains of military air traffic control and military command and control centres with operational (mission-critical) elements, a prime example of which can be seen in air defence control and reporting centres (CRCs).

The Frequentis Hybrid Command Post consists of an innovative architecture that combines the advantages of standardised and operational communication domains. Its purpose is to expand the areas of application for high-availability, specific communication systems in the world of standardised IP communication by integrating communication solutions already available on the market, such as Microsoft Lync, Adobe Connect or IBM Sametime. With this communication solution, Frequentis is able to provide a wide range of command and control centres with an easily scalable and particularly cost-effective solution. At the heart of the solution is a high-availability communication system that retains its specific characteristics while seamlessly integrating the standardised features of products already available on the market (low costs, standardised communication, familiar user interfaces, mobile device frequency bands, etc.). As a worldwide leader in the field of safety- and mission-critical voice communication, Frequentis can rely on its comprehensive know-how when going beyond this highly-specific communication domain, being fully aware that doing things the other way around would be much more complex and difficult.



The Frequentis Hybrid Command Post consists of an innovative architecture combining standardised and operational communication domains

Photo: Frequentis



Photo: Frequentis

Sven-Colin Rowley

began his business career in 1999 in the German Bundeswehr. 13 years of service as an army officer have given him broad experience in the land and air force domains. Since 2012 he has been responsible for sales and business development tasks at Frequentis, a leading communication and information system provider in the air traffic management domain with offices worldwide. He has been involved in the development of several innovative solutions based on current air force requirements.

Communication Solutions for the Future

Based on the concept of unified communication, the Frequentis Hybrid Command Post relies on a pioneering approach combining standardised and operational communication domains with a high quality of service. In fact, it already features the availability of a modular and easily scalable communication platform for today's military command and control centres, both for stationary and mobile operational scenarios. Moreover, the Hybrid Command Post not only enables the system to be customised as required for different missions and individual needs, but also increases efficiency by allowing for the use of components already available on the market while simultaneously using tried-and-tested high tech.

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Standardisation is required to simplify interoperability and waveform portability

Software Defined Radio – a new approach to wireless

by Stephanie Chiao, Product Marketing Manager, Per Vices Corporation, Toronto

Software-defined radio (SDR) has come a long way since its inception, and has evolved considerably to play a significant role in wireless. It is now a cost-effective and commercially viable communications device for use across a vast part of the spectrum.

SDR technology revolutionised the defence industry, as it brought flexibility and interoperability for radio devices. Before SDR, basic functions such as encoding/decoding and modulation/demodulation were all dependent on hardware. They can be both small and light, and offer a single platform, negating the need to have multiple platforms and multiple radio devices (sigint, ew, comms, all in one platform).

How does SDR work?

SDR functions like a computer for wireless, where the software being installed into a radio system offers adaptability while completely (re)configuring the functions (both protocols and firmware layers) of the radio without making any changes to the hardware. This makes migration, changes in frequencies, and modulation schemes a breeze, which is unique since, in the radio market, separate chipsets or hardware are designed for one part of the spectrum or protocol of interest (e.g., WiFi, GSM, CDMA, Bluetooth, GPS, etc.). Now with SDR a user can tune to a number of different frequencies and decode the information, for example with a Crimson Software Defined Radio Transceiver, a user can send and receive wireless information anywhere from DC to 6 GHz (www.pervices.com)

SDR in Defence

Military communication demands more than simple voice and data transmission on civilian bands, and now requires communication on several different frequencies while implementing several different protocols. SDR is the only device that can make all this possible while still being used for standard two way communication, communication repeaters, secure wireless nodes, interoperability between devices, and provide low latency point to point wireless links. Military activities today require monitoring and communication on



Photo: private

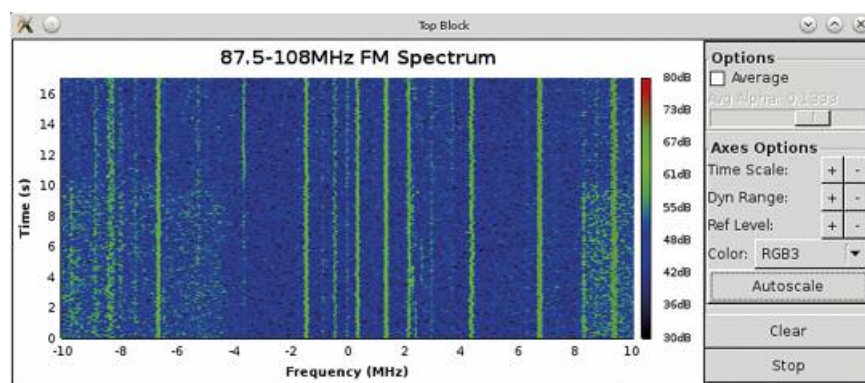
Stephanie Chiao

is the Product Marketing Manager at Per Vices Corporation, where she is responsible for marketing strategy, technical promotion, and media relations. She brings over 8 years of consumer and enterprise marketing experience and has worked with brands including Microsoft, Rogers Wireless, and Torstar Corporation. She holds an Honours Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the Schulich School of Business.

several different frequencies (HF, VHF, and UHF) and use of various protocols (GSM, CDMA, LTE, WiFi, Bluetooth, etc.). SDR can not only tune into one of the desired frequencies and support only one protocol, but is also able to monitor a large portion of the spectrum while supporting multiple protocols.

European Standardisation and Certification

The European Commission (EC) as well as the European Defence Agency (EDA) have been working together to promote standardisation in order to improve universality and competition in internal European markets. This standardisation is required to simplify system interoperability and waveform portability. Further, there is still sensitive ground to be covered on issues both political and commercial. This will mainly focus on a framework for security certification of digital communication equipment.



87,5-108MHz FM Spectrum

Source: Per Vices Corporation

>> [The interview from page 23](#)

Worldwide secure governmental communications – a step towards global security

platform, with the Luxembourg Government, which will offer a dedicated secure civil and military spectrum, the so-called X-band, to institutional and government customers, NATO partners and allies.

The European: *Data mobility: what are your strong points?*

K.M. Sabbagh: Our biggest strength – and a unique differentiator – is the combination and complementarity of our large fleet in the geostationary orbit (GEO) with a new fleet flying lower, in the Medium Earth Orbit (MEO), owned by the innovative start-up O3b, in which we hold a 45 per cent stake. GEO satellites can cover continents from a 36,000 kilometres distance, MEOs are closer, at 8,000 kilometres, allowing a fibre-like connection, high power, speed and low latency, for private and public fixed and mobile businesses. With GEO and MEO, we are beginning to offer major capacity to global clients in the aeronautical and maritime sectors. Not only with the growth of mobile devices in every consumer's hand, but also with the increasing need for high-speed coverage in airplanes and ships, our business is leveraging considerable growth potential and benefits from unique strengths and selling points that satellite and SES in particular can develop.

The European: *Where do you see your best chances of providing your SES programme for public services, also available for security and defence?*

K.M. Sabbagh: As mentioned before, this capacity, to be hosted first on a satellite called SES-16 (GovSat) and launched in 2017, is dedicated to our NATO partners and allies for purely military and civil defence and security purposes. The Luxembourg Government has invested in this venture and has pre-committed to a considerable amount of capacity, in the framework of its NATO obligations. We consider that this public-private partnership will deliver much-needed capacity and guaranteed stability and security to many governments and countries that are looking to fulfilling their capacity and connectivity needs as part of their defence and institutional strategies.

The European: *What is behind your idea of developing the payload of future satellites by means of a digital process, which represents a totally new approach to the re-use of satellites?*

K.M. Sabbagh: Re-usability is a core criteria and driver of efficiency and profitability on several levels in our business. First, the re-use first stage of rockets by flying it back to the Earth. SpaceX, as a case in point, are working on such a concept, and they can revolutionise the way we account for a major cost block of our business: the launch cost. On satellites, the



SES Headquarters at Chateau Betzdorf, Luxembourg

Photo: SES

question is rather how to flexibilise the hardware, once in space, how to change and adapt payloads, how to optimise the use of spectrum. It is here that on-board microprocessors will help us to optimise the use of spectrum that otherwise would remain idle in certain timeframes and zones. It is a question of optimisation. And third, re-usability of spectrum also plays a major role by using identical frequencies in parallel, different, non-overlapping beams. This will help us to further leverage our prime resource, spectrum, over large geographies and for different customers and markets at the same time.

The European: *What is your approach regarding the future generation of launchers?*

K.M. Sabbagh: Our approach is to be close to our industrial partners and support their development in a long-term perspective. This is valid for Airbus/Ariane as well as for SpaceX and Proton. We need at least three reliable launchers in our commercial world in order to secure an affordable and timely access to space. We have always pioneered new developments and launchers: that is an SES track record. We were first on Proton and first on Falcon9 from SpaceX. This pioneering role underscores our support for continuous improvements in the launcher profile, performance and economy. We push for efficiencies. As a main actor and customer of that industry, we help drive sustainable technological and economic improvements. We have to work on the democratisation of satellites and translate space technology into highly useful and efficient applications. Our philosophy is: the more we improve launch technologies, the better we play our part in enlarging the scope of satellite-based applications, easing innovation and access to this high-performing pillar of connectivity. This is what our mission is about.

The European: *Mr Sabbagh, thank you for this interview. I wish SES all the best!*



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