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NOTE

From : General Secretariat of the Council
To : Political and Security Committee

Subject : PMG recommendations on concrete measures to improve EU-NATO cooperation

Delegations will find attached PMG recommendations on concrete measures to improve EU-NATO Cooperation as finalised by PMG on 8 December 2009 with a view to PSC notation at its meeting on 9 December 2009.

PMG Recommendations on concrete measures to improve EU-NATO cooperation

Taking into account developments since 2003, work should continue on finding a way through the high-level political issue which impedes the most effective and mutually beneficial development and implementation of the EU/NATO strategic partnership in crisis management.

In parallel, the following measures will allow a concrete and pragmatic reinforcement of EU-NATO relations, fully respecting the agreed framework and principles governing the partnership between the two organizations, in keeping with the different natures of the EU and NATO and the principles of the EU's integrity and autonomy of decision making and inclusiveness through the participation of all Member States;

- when CSDP and NATO crisis management operations/missions operate in the same theatre, agreements to facilitate interaction in the field are needed in particular with regard to, but not limited to, the duty of care. In this context agreements on solid and effective arrangements between EUPOL Afghanistan and ISAF, as well as EULEX Kosovo and KFOR, should be pursued as a matter of priority.
- reinforce the practice of informal meetings between the High Representative and the NATO Secretary General on operational issues of common interest, including with strategic-operational expertise. This measure can be implemented immediately in consultation between the HR and the NATO SG. On crisis management issues, including capability development, regular staff to staff contacts remain important.
- “cross-invitation” of the High Representative to the NAC and of the NATO Secretary General to the PSC. Similarly, build on the recent Presidency initiative to brief the NAC at an informal session on ATALANTA on 14 October 2009 and invite reciprocal briefings from NATO to the PSC on operational issues of common interest. On the same basis of reciprocity, with the progressive implementation of the Department for Crisis Management and Planning this practice should be extended to its Deputy Director General.

- continue to further exploit the approved framework between the two organizations and further foster mutual understanding and transparency by informal meetings involving all the members of the EU and NATO :
 - making full use of the informal Transatlantic formats, including MFAs and MoDs and continuing the practice of meetings of this type at Defence Policy Directors level ;
 - expanding the practice of PSC+8 meetings to EUMC +8, on the basis of the same principles agreed by PSC. NATO is accordingly encouraged to establish NAC +6 and NATO MC +6 informal meetings;
 - seminar-type meetings on single issues of common interest could also be organised on a case by case basis, taking Afghanistan as a potential first issue.

- recalling the potential for increased transparency, efficiency and coherence between the distinct CSDP Capability Development and NATO Defence Planning processes, accelerate the implementation of the common Information Gathering Tool and a common language on capability development within the EU available to all Member States. This will allow to better inform sovereign national decisions on planning and the delivery of improved military capabilities. There should also be further informal meetings of the EU Member States and NATO Allies to seek to identify further possible measures on this issue, in full respect of the principles of the EU's integrity and autonomy of decision making, of a distinct EU process and of inclusiveness through participation of all Member States.

- consider ways to enhance coherence and mutual reinforcement of capability development within the EU-NATO Capability Group. This should include inviting the EU-NATO Capability Group to discuss concrete proposals on possible coordinated capability projects and initiatives, including by using single item meetings and on the basis, where necessary, of preparatory analysis available to all Member States. Contributions by all relevant EU and NATO agencies/bodies are very important. In this area inclusiveness through the participation of all EU member states would further facilitate exchange of information in the field of military capabilities.

- full utilisation of the Headline goal Task Force + format (HTF+) in order to strengthen coherence and mutual reinforcement in the field of capabilities.
- following the highly successful example of the Helicopter Initiative, examine the potential for further multinational projects, drawing also on the support of the EDA and NATO agencies, which would serve to fill identified shortfall categories common to both organisations.
- consider synergies between EU and NATO in training in crisis management issues, and in particular when both organisations operate in the same theatre.

The PMG recommends to the PSC that the measures outlined above are taken forward as appropriate and communicated to NATO in a spirit of cooperation as soon as possible.
