



# EUROPEAN UNION

## *~FACTSHEET~*

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### **THE EU BATTLEGROUPS AND THE EU CIVILIAN AND MILITARY CELL**

#### **The concept**

- The ability for the EU to deploy force packages at high readiness as a response to a crisis is an essential aspect of the European Security and Defence Policy and a key element of the EU's military capabilities development and of the 2010 Headline Goal. This ability is developed in full complementarity and mutual reinforcement with NATO and NATO initiatives such as the NATO response force.
- With the Battlegroups, the EU will be able to undertake autonomous rapid response operations either for stand-alone operations or for the initial phase of larger operations.
- A Battlegroup is based on combined arms, battalion sized force (1500 troops) and reinforced with combat support elements. It could be formed by a framework nation or by a multinational coalition of Member States. Each Battlegroup will be associated with a Force Headquarters and, notably, pre-identified transport and logistics elements.

#### **Objectives**

The key objectives for the EU are:

- To take the decision to launch an operation within 5 days of the approval by the Council of the general political and military parameters of the operation.
- In response to a crisis or to an urgent request by the UN, to undertake simultaneously two Battlegroup-size operations sustainable for a maximal period of 120 days. Forces should be on the ground no later than 10 days after the EU decision to launch the operation. EU Operation Artemis in Congo in 2003 represented a first successful example of UN/EU cooperation: the EU was able to deploy two weeks after the UN Security Council's (UNSG) request.
- At the 22 November 2004 Military Capability Commitment Conference, Member States made initial commitment to the formation of 13 EU Battlegroups. The ability to undertake one Battlegroup-sized rapid response operation is already in place. Full operational capability is scheduled to be reached in 2007. The Union should have the capacity to undertake two concurrent single Battlegroup-size rapid response operations, including the ability to launch both such operations nearly simultaneously. Modalities for the force generation (certification, training and rotation of forces) have been developed.

#### **Participation and mutual reinforcement with NATO initiatives**

- Non-EU European NATO countries which are candidates for accession to the EU can participate in Battlegroups.

- The EU is attentive to develop its military tools and capabilities, where requirements overlap, in a mutually reinforcing way with NATO initiatives such as the NATO response force. Given the membership overlap between the EU and NATO/Partnership for Peace, the necessary interoperability between forces developed by EU Member States and NATO nations is primarily a responsibility of individual countries.

### **The EU civilian and military planning cell**

- The creation of the EU civilian and military cell in Brussels is under way. It is a step in the EU's effort to enhance its capacity for crisis management planning and achieve a greater coherence of the civilian and military instruments and structures at its disposal in responding to crises.

The cell, under the responsibility of High Representative Javier Solana, will assist in co-ordinating civilian operations and have the responsibility for generating the capacity to plan and run an autonomous EU military operation. Elements of the cell may reinforce the national HQ designated to conduct an EU autonomous operation.

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