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Report on the ambition of the European Union regarding its own armed forces

Introduction

There have been several 'moves' by the EU to gain control of member states military assets and recently David Cameron has blocked plans for European Union owned military forces and told a summit of Europe's leaders that NATO is the "bedrock" of defence in Europe. The Prime Minister told a Brussels summit that there can be no question of British support for proposals from Baroness Ashton and the European Commission for the EU to run its own military via the [Common Security and Defence Policy](#) (CSDP) branch for the Union's [Common Foreign and Security Policy](#) (CFSP).

Pasted from <<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/10528852/David-Cameron-flies-to-Brussels-determined-to-fight-EU-drones-programme.html>>

The EU already has **EUFOR** or **European Union Force**, which is a generic name for a [rapid reaction force](#) operated by the [European Union](#) as part of the [Common Security and Defence Policy](#). EUFOR[1] is subordinate to the [European Union Military Staff](#), and complements other EU military forces such as [Eurocorps](#), the [European Gendarmerie Force](#), [European Maritime Force](#) and [EU Battlegroups](#)¹. EUFOR has been used four times so far: in the [Republic of Macedonia](#) from March 2003 to December 2003 as [EUFOR Concordia](#), in [Bosnia](#) from 2004 as [EUFOR Althea](#), in the [Democratic Republic of the Congo](#) in 2006, and in [Chad](#) and the [Central African Republic](#) since 2007.

Pasted from <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EUFOR>>

Preamble

The development of an EU controlled armed force is enshrined in the Treaty on European Union/Title V: General Provisions on the Union's External Action Service and Specific Provisions on the Common Foreign and Security Policy

Article 42(ex Article 17 TEU)

1. The common security and defence policy shall be an integral part of the common foreign and security policy. It shall provide the Union with an operational capacity drawing on civilian and military assets. The Union may use them on missions outside the Union for peace-keeping, conflict prevention and strengthening international security in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter. The performance of these tasks shall be undertaken using capabilities provided by the Member States.

2. The common security and defence policy shall include the progressive framing of a common Union defence policy. This will lead to a common defence, when the European

Council, acting unanimously, so decides. It shall in that case recommend to the Member States the adoption of such a decision in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.

The policy of the Union in accordance with this Section shall not prejudice the specific character of the security and defence policy of certain Member States and shall respect the obligations of certain Member States, which see their common defence realised in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), under the North Atlantic Treaty and be compatible with the common security and defence policy established within that framework.

3. Member States shall make civilian and military capabilities available to the Union for the implementation of the common security and defence policy, to contribute to the objectives defined by the Council. Those Member States which together establish multinational forces may also make them available to the common security and defence policy.

Member States shall undertake progressively to improve their military capabilities. The Agency in the field of defence capabilities development, research, acquisition and armaments (hereinafter referred to as "the European Defence Agency") shall identify operational requirements, shall promote measures to satisfy those requirements, shall contribute to identifying and, where appropriate, implementing any measure needed to strengthen the industrial and technological base of the defence sector, shall participate in defining a European capabilities and armaments policy, and shall assist the Council in evaluating the improvement of military capabilities.

4. Decisions relating to the common security and defence policy, including those initiating a mission as referred to in this Article, shall be adopted by the Council acting unanimously on a proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy or an initiative from a Member State. The High Representative may propose the use of both national resources and Union instruments, together with the Commission where appropriate.

5. The Council may entrust the execution of a task, within the Union framework, to a group of Member States in order to protect the Union's values and serve its interests. The execution of such a task shall be governed by Article 44.

6. Those Member States whose military capabilities fulfil higher criteria and which have made more binding commitments to one another in this area with a view to the most demanding missions shall establish permanent structured cooperation within the Union framework. Such cooperation shall be governed by Article 46. It shall not affect the provisions of Article 43.

7. If a Member State is the victim of armed aggression on its territory, the other Member States shall have towards it an obligation of aid and assistance by all the means in their power, in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. This shall not

prejudice the specific character of the security and defence policy of certain Member States.

Commitments and cooperation in this area shall be consistent with commitments under the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, which, for those States which are members of it, remains the foundation of their collective defence and the forum for its implementation.

Article 43

1. The tasks referred to in Article 42(1), in the course of which the Union may use civilian and military means, shall include joint disarmament operations, humanitarian and rescue tasks, military advice and assistance tasks, conflict prevention and peace-keeping tasks, tasks of combat forces in crisis management, including peace-making and post-conflict stabilisation. All these tasks may contribute to the fight against terrorism, including by supporting third countries in combating terrorism in their territories.

2. The Council shall adopt decisions relating to the tasks referred to in paragraph 1, defining their objectives and scope and the general conditions for their implementation. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, acting under the authority of the Council and in close and constant contact with the Political and Security Committee, shall ensure coordination of the civilian and military aspects of such tasks.

Article 44

1. Within the framework of the decisions adopted in accordance with Article 43, the Council may entrust the implementation of a task to a group of Member States which are willing and have the necessary capability for such a task. Those Member States, in association with the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, shall agree among themselves on the management of the task.

2. Member States participating in the task shall keep the Council regularly informed of its progress on their own initiative or at the request of another Member State. Those States shall inform the Council immediately should the completion of the task entail major consequences or require amendment of the objective, scope and conditions determined for the task in the decisions referred to in paragraph 1. In such cases, the Council shall adopt the necessary decisions.

Article 45

1. The European Defence Agency referred to in Article 42(3), subject to the authority of the Council, shall have as its task to:

(a) contribute to identifying the Member States' military capability objectives and evaluating observance of the capability commitments given by the Member States;

(b) promote harmonisation of operational needs and adoption of effective, compatible procurement methods;

(c) propose multilateral projects to fulfil the objectives in terms of military capabilities, ensure coordination of the programmes implemented by the Member States and management of specific cooperation programmes;

(d) support defence technology research, and coordinate and plan joint research activities and the study of technical solutions meeting future operational needs;

(e) contribute to identifying and, if necessary, implementing any useful measure for strengthening the industrial and technological base of the defence sector and for improving the effectiveness of military expenditure.

2. The European Defence Agency shall be open to all Member States wishing to be part of it. The Council, acting by a qualified majority, shall adopt a decision defining the Agency's statute, seat and operational rules. That decision should take account of the level of effective participation in the Agency's activities. Specific groups shall be set up within the Agency bringing together Member States engaged in joint projects. The Agency shall carry out its tasks in liaison with the Commission where necessary.

Article 46

1. Those Member States which wish to participate in the permanent structured cooperation referred to in Article 42(6), which fulfil the criteria and have made the commitments on military capabilities set out in the Protocol on permanent structured cooperation, shall notify their intention to the Council and to the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

2. Within three months following the notification referred to in paragraph 1 the Council shall adopt a decision establishing permanent structured cooperation and determining the list of participating Member States. The Council shall act by a qualified majority after consulting the High Representative.

3. Any Member State which, at a later stage, wishes to participate in the permanent structured cooperation shall notify its intention to the Council and to the High Representative.

The Council shall adopt a decision confirming the participation of the Member State concerned which fulfils the criteria and makes the commitments referred to in Articles 1 and 2 of the Protocol on permanent structured cooperation. The Council shall act by a qualified majority after consulting the High Representative. Only members of the Council representing the participating Member States shall take part in the vote.

A qualified majority shall be defined in accordance with Article 238(3)(a) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

4. If a participating Member State no longer fulfils the criteria or is no longer able to meet the commitments referred to in Articles 1 and 2 of the Protocol on permanent structured cooperation, the Council may adopt a decision suspending the participation of the Member State concerned.

The Council shall act by a qualified majority. Only members of the Council representing the participating Member States, with the exception of the Member State in question, shall take part in the vote.

A qualified majority shall be defined in accordance with Article 238(3)(a) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

5. Any participating Member State which wishes to withdraw from permanent structured cooperation shall notify its intention to the Council, which shall take note that the Member State in question has ceased to participate.

6. The decisions and recommendations of the Council within the framework of permanent structured cooperation, other than those provided for in paragraphs 2 to 5, shall be adopted by unanimity. For the purposes of this paragraph, unanimity shall be constituted by the votes of the representatives of the participating Member States only.

Pasted from:

http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Consolidated_version_of_the_Treaty_on_European_Union/Title_V:_General_Provisions_on_the_Union%27s_External_Action_Service_and_Specific_Provisions_on_the_Common_Foreign_and_Security_Policy#SECTION_2:_PROVISIONS_ON_THE_COMMON_SECURITY_AND_DEFENCE_POLICY>

Note 1

The [United Kingdom](#), as part of the [European Union](#), contributes part of its [armed forces](#) to the [EU Battlegroup](#) scheme. This scheme puts a [battlegroup](#) composed of elements from one or more EU member states at the disposal of the [European Council](#) to be deployed as required. As one of the larger EU members, the United Kingdom contributes to two individual battlegroups. One of these is made up entirely of British forces, while the other has the UK as the "framework" (i.e. lead) nation in the formation, in conjunction with forces from the [Netherlands](#). The Netherlands also contributes to a [second battlegroup](#), alongside [Germany](#) and [Finland](#).

The two UK led battlegroups are formed from units declared to the UK's [Joint Rapid Reaction Force](#), a rapid deployment element formed either from [3 Commando Brigade](#) or [16 Air Assault Brigade](#), which are the elite [commando](#) and [paratroop](#) formations.^[1] The UK/Dutch battlegroup is drawn from the UK/NL Landing Force, which sees a battalion of the [Korps Mariniers](#) fully integrated within 3 Commando Brigade.

The British battlegroups, along with the others from other EU nations, are placed on standby for possible deployment for six months on a rotational basis. At any one time, two battlegroups are available for deployment.[2] The single British battlegroup was declared during the second half of 2008, alongside a Franco-German battlegroup.[3] The British–Dutch battlegroup was on standby for the first half of 2010, alongside the Polish unit.[4]

Pasted from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_EU_Battlegroups>

Battle Group definition

An EU Battlegroup (EUBG) is a military unit adhering to the [Common Security and Defence Policy](#) (CSDP) of the [European Union](#) (EU). Often based on contributions from a coalition of [member states](#), each of the eighteen Battlegroups consists of a [battalion](#)-sized force (1,500 troops) reinforced with combat support elements.[1][2] The groups rotate actively, so that two are ready for deployment at all times. The forces are under the direct control of the [Council of the European Union](#).

The Battlegroups reached full operational capacity on 1 January 2007, although, as of January 2013 they are yet to see any military action.[3] They are based on existing *ad hoc* missions that the [European Union](#) (EU) has undertaken and has been described by some as a new "[standing army](#)" for Europe.[2] The troops and equipment are drawn from the [EU member states](#) under a "lead nation". In 2004, [United Nations](#) Secretary-General [Kofi Annan](#) welcomed the plans and emphasised the value and importance of the Battlegroups in helping the UN deal with troublespots.[4]

Pasted from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EU_Battlegroup>

Conclusion

There is no EU air force as such but the EU can draw down on certain air assets with the approval of the sovereign states. Cooperative military operations are an established practice within the EU and their ambitions are for a Commission controlled military force with an established HQ in Europe.