Research Report

Leiden Model United Nations 2015
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Forum: *European Council*
Issue: *The prospect of further European military integration*

Position: *Deputy Chair*

Introduction

The European Union (EU) is currently experiencing multiple major security and defence issues at its eastern and southern borders. This leads to the belief that something has to change in the EU military defence policy. In the process of updating and changing the already existing defence policy, there are many political, economical and global topics that should be considered. Such as the involvement of international organisations, the worsening global situation, the independent opinion of the EU member states and the fact that previous attempts at achieving a common military have all failed.

Definition of Key Terms

The Common Security and Defence Policy

The Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), before known as the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), is a part of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) of the European Union. The CSDP is the European policy on defence, military aspects and civilian crisis management. The CSDP falls under the authority of the European Council and represents all the countries in the European Union, including countries with no ties to NATO.

Treaty of Lisbon

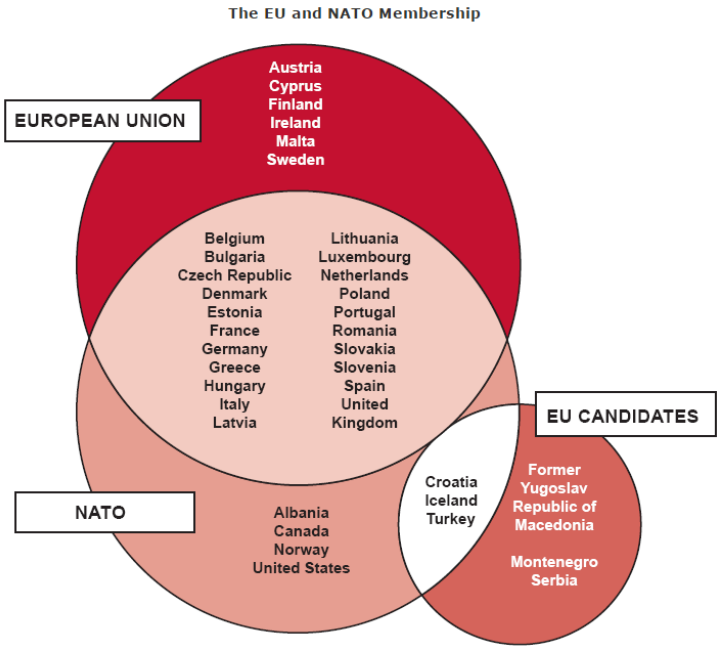
The Treaty of Lisbon is a European agreement signed on 17 December 2013. The treaty amends the already existing treaty of Rome, also known as the Treaty Establishing the European Community, and the treaty of Maastricht, also known as the Treaty on the European Union. These amendments are aimed to achieve better military cooperation and eventually the possibility of an common defence system? for Europe.

General Overview

On 17 March 1948 Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom all signed the treaty of Brussels. In 1954 Italy and West-Germany were invited to join the treaty. This treaty laid the groundwork to the Western European Union (WEU), to the CSDP and eventually led to the founding of the North American Treaty Organisation (NATO). The aim of the treaty was to provide Western Europe with an defence against a possible communist threat. The treaty of Lisbon (2009) took over the tasks of WEU and thus marginalised most of the treaty of Brussels. Because of this, on 31 March 2012, the treaty was terminated.

In 1992 the treaty of Maastricht, also known as the treaty on the European Union, was signed. The treaty officially created the EU, led to a common EU currency known as the Euro and created the CFSP. The CFSP is the EU foreign policy, which domains include security, defence diplomacy and the EU' foreign relations. The CFDP states that the territorial defence of Europe is the responsibility of NATO.

Because of the expanding global instability (the Ukrainian Crisis, ISEL, the middle east) the debate on the topic of the prospect of the EU' military has intensified. Several important leaders such as Angela Merkel (the German chancellor), Nicolas Sarkozy (the previous French minister), Franco Frattini (the previous Italian foreign minister), Jean-Claude Juncker (EU commission president) and Guy Verhofstadt (the previous Belgian prime minister) have called for a common defence for the EU.



Major Parties Involved

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) an international military alliance based on the North Atlantic Treaty. NATO was founded in 1949 and was a part of the response to the expanding communist threat. NATO is based on a system of mutual defence. NATO has 28 member countries. Although most of these countries are also in the European Union, NATO has no official military connection to the EU since not all European countries are a member of NATO. Other member countries of NATO are the United States of America (USA), Canada, Norway, Croatia, Iceland and Turkey.

European Union

The European Union (EU) is an union of several countries stated on the continent of

Europe. The EU has 28 member states that, even though they all differ in size, population, wealth etc. all have equal rights. The member states work together in several different fields such as the economic/financial sector, trade, agriculture, lawmaking and many other topics. Unlike many other international organisations the member states of the EU are legally bounded to a common rule of law on topics such as human rights, democratic principles etc.

Timeline of Events

1945	End of the 2nd World War (WW2)
17 March 1948	The signing of the treaty of Brussels
1949	The founding of NATO
1952	The founding of the EDC and the signing of the treaty of Paris
1954	The founding of the Western European Union (WEU)
1992	The signing of the treaty of Maastricht
1 December 2009	the treaty of Lisbon enters into force
30 June 2011	The official annulment of the WEU
18 March 2014	The annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation

Previous attempts to solve the issue

The Western European Union (WEU) was an international organisation and military alliance that consisted of seven European member countries and that had several observer countries, associate member countries and associate partner countries. The WEU was founded in 1954, as a reaction to the expanding communist threat to Europe. The WEU was tasked with the execution of the treaty of Brussels from 1948. The aim of this treaty was to establish a mutual European defence against the Communist threat and better cooperation between western European countries. After the cold war, the tasks of the WEU were slowly integrated into the CSDP of the EU. On 30 June 2011 the WEU was officially annulled.

As a response to the American proposal of the rearmament of West-Germany, the French Prime Minister, René Pleven, came up with the plan for the European Defence Community (EDC). The EDC included six western European countries: West-Germany, France, Italy, The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. The EDC was meant as an alternative to the proposed accession of West-Germany to NATO and also

as a way to using its military value against a potential communist threat.
A treaty devoted to the EDC, called the treaty of Paris, was signed on 27 may 1952. The aim of the EDC was to establish an common military for all of the member countries. In this plan, the armies of France, Italy and the Benelux countries would have had to comply to their own government whereas the German military would have fallen directly under the EDC.
The plan eventually failed due to resistance in the French parliament. Many people feared that the EDC threatened the French sovereignty and there were a lot of worries because of the rearmament of West-Germany. After the death of Joseph Stalin and the end of the Korean War the NATO supreme commander was put in charge of the military capabilities of the former EDC.
Besides the WEU and the EDC there have been many other attempts at establishing a common European military policy. For instance the Fouchet plan and the European Political Cooperation (EPO) of which the last one eventually led to the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)

Possible Solutions

Due to the global unstable situation and the multiple EU security issues, the EU must revaluate its defence policy. The EU is faced with security and defence challenges both in its vicinity and in more far away parts of the world. Most of the EU' problems are at its borders and this is why the European Council must think about the future of the EU' defence policy.

One solution could be a EU defence policy aimed at a common defence at the borders. This could be desirable option from a EU point of view because it would improve the unity of the EU. Given the past of this issue, it may take a lot of persuasion to convince the individual EU member states of this plan.

Another solution could be to make NATO responsible for the security of the EU' borders, by making every EU member state a NATO member and by integrating European defence tasks into the NATO defence policy. This, however, would most likely be a illogical solution since NATO also includes member countries that aren't a part of the EU. These countries, especially the USA, would most likely not want to be responsible for such a large part of the 'homeland' security of the EU.

There already are many forms of military cooperation between individual EU member states. Another option is to build upon this situation and expand these alliances. It is, however, highly uncertain that sustaining this situation will provide the EU with the military strategy, cooperation, manpower and defence it needs.

Useful document

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:ai0026
http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cmsUpload/cg00014.en07.pdf
http://europa.eu/index_en.htm

Appendix/Appendices

http://www.eeas.europa.eu/csdp/about-csdp/index_en.htm
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_of_the_European_Union
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_Security_and_Defence_Policy
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_Foreign_and_Security_Policy
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union
http://europa.eu/index_en.htm
http://www.weu.int/
http://www.cvce.eu/obj/plans_for_the_edc-en-d4532186-fdc4-4226-a94a-9510928e1070.html