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## EDITORIAL

*Par Jean-Claude Thébault*

### Pour une industrie européenne de défense

L'une des avancées du traité de Lisbonne est de consacrer la compétence de l'Union européenne (article 42) en matière de politique de défense, permettant ainsi de donner un souffle nouveau à l'Agence européenne de défense née en 2004 et à la base industrielle et technologique de défense adoptée en 2007.

Cette perspective apparaît d'autant plus pertinente que la politique de défense, longtemps considérée comme un domaine réservé des Etats, voit aujourd'hui les budgets nationaux qui lui sont consacrés baisser de façon drastique.

Or, dans un contexte géopolitique où les menaces perdurent et où l'Europe a vocation à demeurer l'un des acteurs majeurs sur la scène internationale, il est indispensable que l'Europe gagne en puissance, en autonomie, bref en crédibilité dans le domaine de la défense.

C'est tout le sens du propos de José Manuel Barroso, qui dans son discours sur l'état de l'Union en

septembre 2011 rappelait que l'UE devait développer une base industrielle européenne de défense.

Cette volonté se justifie tout d'abord sur le plan économique : encourager les Européens à pratiquer la mutualisation et le partage (*pooling and sharing*) des capacités militaires à l'échelle européenne serait bénéfique en termes de R&D, de synergies, de soutien aux nécessaires restructurations et de contribution à la croissance et à l'emploi au sein de l'Union, et *in fine* à la création d'un véritable marché intérieur de l'industrie de défense européenne.

Au-delà, il y a tout l'enjeu de l'influence de l'UE sur la scène internationale et de son affirmation comme un acteur global de premier rang, pouvant justifier à terme de nouvelles avancées de l'intégration européenne.

La Commission européenne est pleinement consciente de l'importance majeure de ce sujet. C'est pourquoi elle a créé récemment une taskforce exclusivement consacrée à la défense, qui réunit les directions générales et services concernés, en vue de conforter une vision commune. Vous trouverez ci-après de plus amples informations sur cette taskforce et sur les aspects stratégiques qui y sont liés.

## 1 A common D-Drive for the Union?

By *Antonio Missiroli\**

After the US, the EU as a whole still holds the world's most advanced military capacity, although emerging powers in East Asia and Latin America are catching up quickly and President Putin's Russia seems set to reinvest significantly in this sector. The same is true for the industrial and technological capabilities needed to develop and produce equipment for the armed forces.

At the same time, following the sharp cuts in public expenditure prompted by the crisis, national defence budgets are being downsized all across Europe. As a result, orders and other investments are being cancelled and modernisation plans delayed. On top of that, there is also a definite risk of losing important market shares, especially in East Asia and Latin America – and in a domain in which European industry is still quite competitive.

various fora: what is required now is more and decisive action.

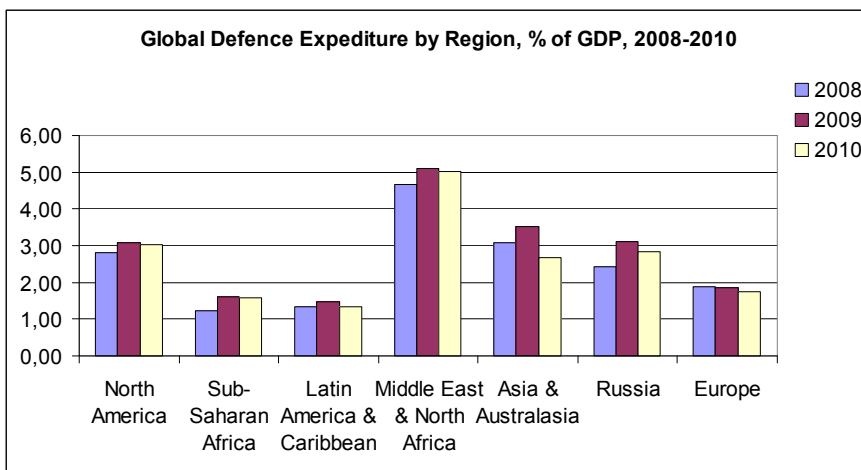
Although the main responsibility for the necessary reforms will remain with the Member States, the Commission has the powers and the means to accompany, support and encourage the much needed transformation and “Europeanisation” of the defence sector.

With the entry into force of the two defence directives on procurement (2009/81/EC) and transfers (2009/43/EC), in fact, the regulatory basis is now partially secured for a European Defence Equipment Market. The *de facto* exemption of national defence and “sensitive” security procurement from the rules of the Single Market (long permitted by art.296 TEC, now art.346 TFEU) may soon be coming to an end. These new rules would also allow strengthen Europe's industrial and technological base and

boost cooperation and coordination among the EU-27.

Fragmentation, however, does not affect only European defence *markets*. Competences and resources, too, are spread across the EU institutional board and, arguably, even within *institutions*. Decade-old *intergovernmental* arrangements – and fresh bilateral ones – coexist and overlap with the activities of the European Defence Agency

(EDA) and the work on “pooling and sharing” carried out by the EEAS. Inside the Commission, market regulation and controls fall within different DGs, and so do relevant spending programmes and support for R & T. If the goal is to streamline and mainstream our efforts and to equip Europe for the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century – starting with the 2020 horizon – some homework and housekeeping may have to be done also at these levels.



In order to tackle all these challenges, it would be crucial to overcome the current market fragmentation by limiting (and ideally putting an end to) the persisting practice of doing it all at national level. Harmonising military requirements, pooling and sharing, role specialisation, exploiting potential untapped civil-military synergies: all these buzzwords have now to be translated into realities. A number of good and relevant proposals have been put forward in

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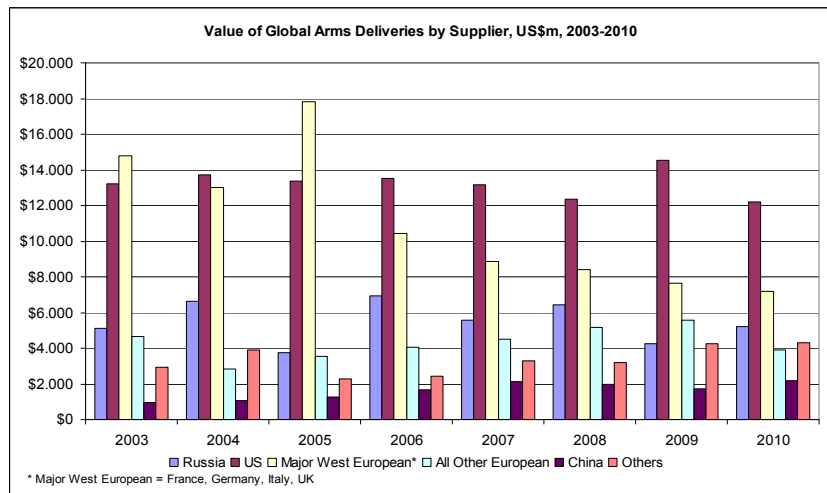
Last but not least, significant differences exist among the EU-27, as also the figures in this issue of BEPA Monthly Brief – elaborated from the 2012 edition of “The Military Balance” published by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies ([www.iiss.org](http://www.iiss.org)) – show.

Against this background, a convincing common narrative could help overcome imbalances and, yet again, generate synergies. The EU may have a good story to tell after all – and its citizens may be willing to listen to it even in the midst of a crisis.

### A story worth being (fore)told

The global security context is evolving very rapidly. More than ever before, addressing the new challenges emerging both close to and far from Europe requires a combination of military and non-military tools, as also our American allies now tend to acknowledge. The “comprehensive approach” to security is an old *leitmotiv* for the EU and surely not one to be ditched now – yet shrinking public resources risk undermining its impact and credibility.

Pooling and sharing is also a way of preserving and saving – both resources and capabilities. The concept behind what the French call “mutualisation” permits to achieve *economies* of scale by applying *policies* of scale at trans-national

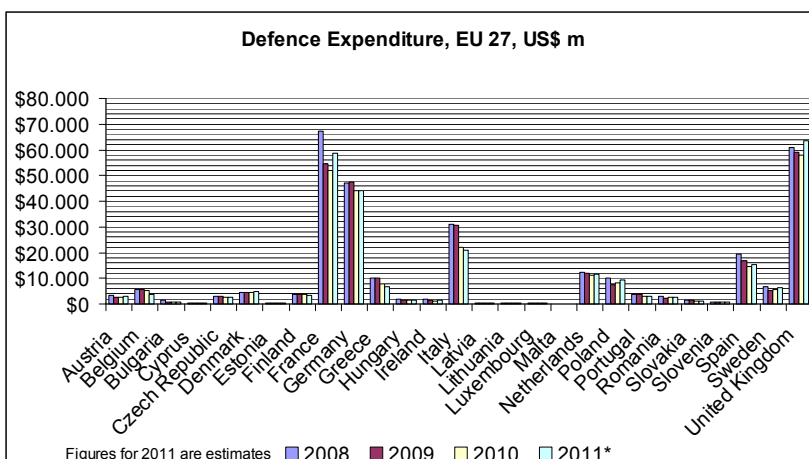


level – through appropriate incentives, increased cross-border cooperation, role specialisation and the opening of national markets to EU-wide competition.

By contrast, the “costs of non-Europe” – of failing or missing integration – are already apparent also in the D-sector. It may therefore be worthwhile to consider what a “smart, sustainable and inclusive” European defence industrial base may include and imply – to borrow (especially) from *Europe 2020* but also in part from NATO’s 2010 Strategic Concept.

*Inclusiveness* comes with the very notion of pooling and sharing. Despite some inevitable short-term consolidation, more integrated policies and markets may bring higher, and above all, more *sustainable* employment rates in the medium and long run. Yet also environmental sustainability proper may be factored in, as the recent “Go Green” initiative by the EDA suggests.

In principle, role specialisation entails deeper political integration (top-down); yet much can be achieved already through functional integration among like-minded countries (bottom-up), provided all these “islands of cooperation” – as CER Tomas Valasek likes to call them – come to constitute a cohesive archipelago. These could, and indeed should be seen as

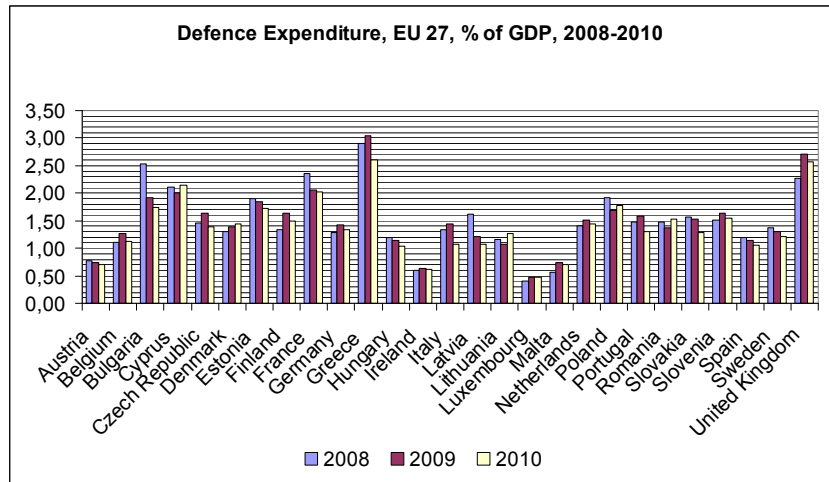


“flagship initiatives” concurring to a common goal.

A more efficient, competitive and integrated defence industry is also crucial to provide higher levels of security of supply to all Europeans in a globalised but increasingly unpredictable world. True, there is no visible existential security threat to Europe (which makes it harder for citizens to accept raising public expenditure on military equipment and personnel). But there certainly are still risks, hazards and challenges – including that of being unable to protect ourselves and secure our neighbourhoods, especially now that American forces are gradually redeploying elsewhere.

Building a liberal and peaceful order around the EU (both East and South) requires precisely the kind of “comprehensive approach” for which adequate means need to be mobilised – failing which, the negative repercussions of instability and conflict nearby would affect first and foremost our own societies and economies. This, too, is a story worth telling our citizens: a certain degree of strategic autonomy and capacity to act is a precondition for shaping our environment and protecting our values and interests.

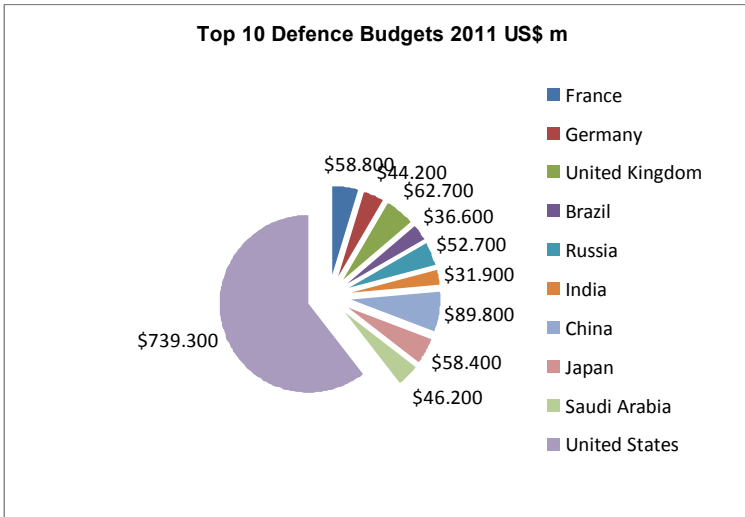
Finally, there are many evident reasons to aim at a *smart* EU defence sector – an ambition that is not only compatible but mutually reinforcing with NATO’s own. Why not set indicative



targets to this end, e.g. a minimal threshold for investment in R & T, possibly involving also (at least for dual use technologies) recourse to EU funds and/or the EIB? The “project bonds” concept launched by President Barroso could well be extended to this domain, facilitating also the establishment of targeted public-private partnerships.

By the same token, why not learn from NATO’s experience with the AWACS surveillance aircraft and set up *ad hoc* consortia and facilities for creating and managing “common assets” (e.g. for air-to-air refuelling and field hospitals) which could be used also for humanitarian operations?

And why not aim, too, at promoting European “centres of excellence” for defence equipment and/or niche productions (an idea already floated i.a. by DG ENTR), thus giving a clear sense of direction to the industrial consolidation process that may have to continue in some sectors?



All this would be fully in line not only with the objectives of *Europe 2020* but also with the criteria set for Permanent Structured Cooperation in the Lisbon Treaty (art.46) as well as with the broader strategic priorities of the EU economy.

But it will be hardly achievable without a readiness by all relevant institutions and stakeholders to act in cooperative mode – and build a common (though not a single) D-Drive for Europe.

## 2 A new narrative for CSDP

By Maciej Popowski\*

When the first men in uniform arrived in the Justus Lipsius building in 1999, right after the entry into force of the Amsterdam Treaty, a shockwave went through Brussels' corridors. The true believers in the *methode Monnet* were confronted with the challenge of reconciling the traditional logic of European integration – based on transferring (or rather moving) national competences to the EC/EU level – with the growing demand for the Union to be(come) a security actor. Today, 13 years and 23 missions and operations later, the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) has become a EU trademark.

Europeans, however, are still struggling with the notion of power, albeit in a different way than in 1999. Whereas the threat analysis enshrined in the 2003 European Security Strategy remains worryingly valid, the willingness and the ability of the EU member states to project their military and civilian assets abroad are eroding. Almost all European countries had to undergo substantial force reductions and significant cuts in their defence budgets.

In addition, the US is moving towards a reduced force presence in Europe, rebalancing its focus towards the Asia/Pacific and the Middle East and thus expecting Europeans to do more, especially in their own neighbourhood. The credibility of the CSDP is very much at stake now. Europeans must be able to show the political will to act, and the EU should be prepared to spell this out in a strong European narrative for the upcoming NATO summit in Chicago.

### Pool, share and combine

Europe must be self-confident enough to live up to its level of ambition in the field of foreign and security policy as set out by the Lisbon Treaty. Each crisis is an opportunity and, despite all budgetary constraints, the EU has managed to revitalise the process of developing its military capabilities. The so-called “Pooling & Sharing” initiative is beginning to bear fruit. At the latest meeting of EU defence ministers, on 22 March, a promising catalogue of projects was presented, encompassing air-to-air refuelling (a critical

capability whose importance was clearly demonstrated by the Libya air campaign of 2011), medical support, helicopter pilot training, maritime surveillance. We cannot afford duplication and uncoordinated national spending in Europe. Pooling and sharing military assets should become a reflex, a rule rather than an exception. Avoiding duplication would also facilitate complementarity with NATO. It goes without saying that a truly European integrated approach to capability development can only be achieved on the basis of mutual trust and guaranteed access.

Crisis management capabilities, be they civilian or military, are not an end in themselves. The EU is not a defence alliance and should capitalise on its competitive advantage, i.e. the ability to deploy all foreign policy instruments in a coordinated fashion. The notion of “comprehensive approach” – also known as “the 3Ds”: diplomacy, development and defence – has become a *leitmotiv* of the European External Action Service and has already been successfully applied in practice. In the Horn of Africa, European navies have been escorting aid vessels and chasing pirates while EU soldiers have been training Somali recruits.

On top of that, the Union as a whole remains the main donor of development assistance in the area and will soon assist the countries in the region in developing their own capacity to police their territorial waters. These actions combined will allow to tackle the root causes – and not just the symptoms and the effects – of piracy.

The CSDP is in high demand and the Lisbon Treaty has created a new framework that fully integrates it in the external relations system of the EU. If the added value of the Treaty is to be exploited to the full, the EU foreign and security policy has to be joined up by default, so to speak: whether we plan a military CSDP operation or the use of a foreign policy instrument, we all need to look beyond our respective comfort zones and try to see the bigger picture. EEAS officials are certainly not surprised to work with their colleagues in uniforms: as a matter of fact, they would find it strange not to.

\* Maciej Popowski is Deputy Secretary-General of the European External Action Service.

### 3 Defending European defence: The Commission's role

By Daniel Calleja-Crespo\* and Pierre Delsaux\*\*

Europe is facing difficult times with most Member States having to deal with the “perfect storm” of an economic downturn and a crisis in the financial markets. No doubt, public debt and the consolidation of state finances are today the most important challenges in Europe and will certainly remain so in the foreseeable future.

In such a financial and political environment, it does not come as a surprise that many Member States have significantly reduced their defence budgets. Unfortunately, there is little hope that this tendency will be reversed any time soon. The consequent lack of resources to invest in new major defence and research programmes is putting into question Europe's capability to produce the next generation of military equipment. This is not just an issue for each Member State but for Europe's ambition for its Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). This was a point President Barroso strongly made in his State of the Union speech last September where he committed the Commission, within its competences, to do all it could to develop the single market and industrial base in the European defence sector.

The need for an effective CSDP is just as strong as it has ever been, with Europe facing a wide range of threats in the form of terrorism, international piracy and regional instability. The means to deal with these threats increasingly require state-of-the-art technology – e.g. communications and surveillance – and the use of highly mobile and well equipped professional forces. None of this is cheap.

#### States and markets

Market structures to generate the capabilities the CSDP needs are far from optimal. Even small Member States still try to maintain a maximum range of military capabilities on a national basis. Moreover, most defence purchases are done purely nationally and, wherever possible, preference is given to national suppliers – resulting in costly duplications and inefficiencies.

The cuts in defence budgets and the fragmented defence markets are already adversely affecting Europe's military capabilities and Europe's Defence Technological and Industrial Base. For the time being, many European defence companies are still doing well, with exports to third countries compensating (at least partly) for shrinking home markets. This proves that European industries are, in many areas, at the cutting edge of technology and competitive also on a global scale. However, current strengths are the fruits of investments which were made many years ago. The challenge today is to maintain, in spite of severe budget constraints, the capacity to develop – at affordable prices – the military capabilities of tomorrow.

Europe needs to tackle the fragmented nature of its defence market. To achieve this objective, far reaching structural reforms are necessary. As long as defence and security remain national prerogatives, the main responsibility for reforms will rest (in most areas) with the Member States. In this context, it is crucial to consolidate the demand side and to ensure jointly the necessary investments in key future-oriented technologies. The European Defence Agency (EDA) has a major role to play in this area.

#### The Commission's task (force)

The Commission can act via its regulatory power and its competences in policy areas which have, directly or indirectly, a bearing on defence markets and industries.

The most prominent examples of this are the two Directives on defence procurement and defence transfers which were adopted in 2009. These Directives introduce specific EU legislation and the principles of the Internal Market into national defence markets. They streamline regulatory frameworks, enhance EU-wide competition and foster cooperation. In short, these Directives are today the regulatory backbone of a European Defence Equipment Market.

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Moreover, the Commission has recently set up a Defence Task Force which aims at further strengthening the defence market and industries. The establishment of this Task Force was initiated last summer by Vice-President Tajani and Commissioner Barnier, with strong support from President Barroso.

The Task Force is first and foremost a Commission initiative and project. However, we are fully aware that progress can only be achieved if all stakeholders are involved. Consequently, the External Action Service and the EDA are closely associated to the work of the Task Force. In many areas, discussions will also be held directly with Member States. Last but not least, a hearing with industry and other stakeholders is also in the pipeline.

The Defence Task Force is in its early stages, but three priority areas are already emerging: internal market; industrial policy; and research and innovation.

With regard to the *internal market*, we are focusing on ensuring the effective transposition and implementation of the legislation and related areas. In this context, the phasing out of offsets is particularly important. Moreover, we will work towards an effective market monitoring mechanism and assess how the Commission can contribute, with its regulatory power, to the Union's long-term security of supply.

In the *industrial policy* domain, we are concentrating on the need to develop, with all the concerned stakeholders, a European approach to the restructuring of the defence industry, including its social impact. Such an approach needs to be based on increased

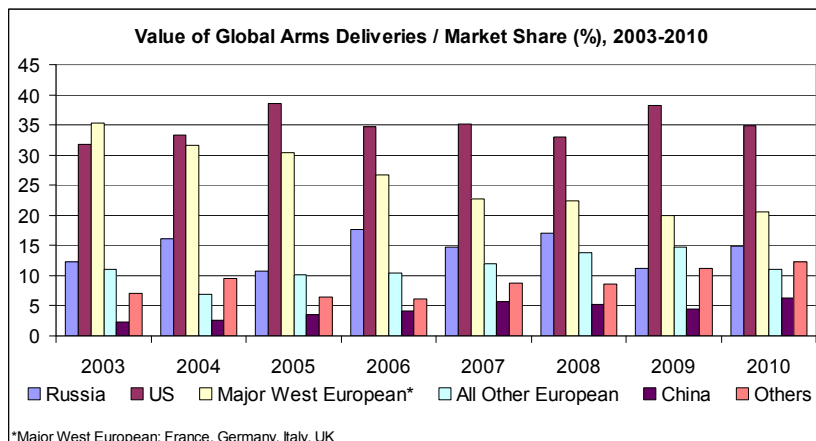
interdependence and the development of European "centres of excellence". Leaving restructuring simply to market forces and national initiatives risks losing essential capabilities and technologies, whereas cooperation and specialisation are the only way to maintain them.

Moreover, we are also analysing what we can do to support the SMEs in this sector. SMEs are an important source of employment and innovation in all sectors, and defence is no exception. However, with the current fragmented nature of the defence market, SMEs find it particularly difficult to access other Member States markets.

Finally, with *research and innovation* we plan to explore what can be done to limit the impact of the cuts in funding for defence R&D, which is an essential element of industry competitiveness. The main objective is to develop greater synergies between dual technologies funded in the different Commission's research programmes and the defence research agenda of the EDA.

We should not necessarily spend *more* but we must definitely spend *better* together. Even if the industry needed to go through further restructuring, doing this with a collective understanding of Europe's capability requirements would allow us look to Defence still playing a critical role in generating the technologies and skill-intensive jobs on which Europe's industrial future depends.

The objective of the Task Force is to ensure that the Commission does all it can to support Member States to achieve this objective.



## 4 Think Tank Twitter

*Think Tank Twitter (TTT) aims to provide regular information and updates on what is produced by think tanks and research centres across Europe (and beyond) on EU policy issues. As an analogy to the original Twitter, each summary – or tweet – does not exceed 140 words, rather than characters. Those who wish to signal new publications for possible inclusion can send them to the email address [bepa-think-tank-twitter@ec.europa.eu](mailto:bepa-think-tank-twitter@ec.europa.eu)*

### Four Scenarios for the Reinvention of Europe

The report elaborates a new framework for understanding Europe's efficiency and legitimacy crises, and examines the political and legal obstacles to a solution in different member states, the new cultural divisions in Europe, and the rise of new populist forces (including a discussion of the new German and British questions). It sets out four scenarios for solving the euro crisis without exacerbating the chronic crisis of declining European power: asymmetric integration by working around the existing treaties; a smaller, more integrated eurozone based on the existing treaties; political union through treaty change; and a deal among a new vanguard through a Schengen-style treaty. There are also calls to strengthen each of the three traditional channels for democratic participation in order to restore legitimacy: European elections, referendums and national opt-outs.

[http://www.ecfr.eu/page/-/ECFR43\\_REINVENTION\\_OF\\_EUROPE\\_ES\\_SAY\\_AW1.pdf](http://www.ecfr.eu/page/-/ECFR43_REINVENTION_OF_EUROPE_ES_SAY_AW1.pdf)

### Long live the United States of Europe

The global financial crisis is forcing Europe to become an ever closer union. While EU member states still hold onto this idea, many EU citizens continue to be sceptical. The situation calls for a new approach to how we think about the future of Europe and how we act for Europe. The report argues that there is a need for the United States of Europe. The author claims that “solidarity, security and strength are the cornerstones upon which the United States of Europe should be built.” He emphasises that democratic efficiency, economic stability, solidarity as well as social cohesion are principles already set out in the EU Treaties. All that remains to be done is to put them into practice.

[http://www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de/cps/rde/xbcr/SID-43E98FB7-3D037330/bst/xcms\\_bst\\_dms\\_35831\\_2.pdf](http://www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de/cps/rde/xbcr/SID-43E98FB7-3D037330/bst/xcms_bst_dms_35831_2.pdf)

### Poland's U-turn on European defence: A missed opportunity?

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Poland has been on a permanent quest for “insurance policies” in order to strengthen its security. Worried about Russia's intentions, Poland saw NATO as its primary insurance policy for about two decades. Now, with the United States withdrawing from European security, Poland is attempting to broaden its security guarantees, including through an unprecedented commitment to EU defence cooperation. During its EU presidency, Poland tried to reinvigorate the EU's defence efforts, but the EU countries have remained reluctant to increase cooperation among their armed forces. In failing to respond to Poland's proposals on EU defence, European governments are missing an opportunity to improve European military cooperation, which could lead Poland to give up on its European allies and undermine the stability of Europe.

[http://www.cer.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/attachments/pdf/2012/pb\\_poland\\_9march12-4791.pdf](http://www.cer.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/attachments/pdf/2012/pb_poland_9march12-4791.pdf)

### Options for EU engagement in post-conflict Libya

The EU's initial response to the Libyan crisis was weak and divided: it failed to speak with one voice and to respond to the need for military crisis management. While the UN and NATO have been the main players in the first months of the Libyan civil war, the EU is expected to step up its civilian support to post-conflict reconstruction. This policy brief analyses the most serious medium- and long-term challenges for (re-)building a functioning Libyan state. It examines options for EU engagement in the area of security sector reform taking into account lessons learned from previous CSDP missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. The policy brief concludes that the establishment of a civilian CSDP mission providing training mainly outside Libya will be the most feasible option.

<http://tepsa.be/TEPSA%20brief%20by%20Marlene%20Gottvald%20March%202012.pdf>



## The European Union and India: Partners in democracy promotion?

In the context of the 12th EU-India Summit, EU and Indian leaders took stock of the state of their strategic partnership. Among other, they discussed events and developments in North Africa and possibilities of assisting the ongoing changes in the region. The author holds that engaging India in this context will require a better understanding of its approach to democracy support and a frank dialogue about the differences between the EU and India in this particular area. The report then explains the reasons for these divergences and identifies possible avenues for cooperation. It argues that different approaches to democracy should be considered as complimentary rather than contradicting. The EU and India can work together on very specific issues, even if the differences may be impossible to bridge.

[http://www.pism.pl/files/?id\\_plik=9511](http://www.pism.pl/files/?id_plik=9511)

## Making the European Stability Mechanism Work

The European Stability Mechanism (ESM) represents the most ambitious regional financing arrangement to date. It is an important institutional step in the right direction, but one can already see its limits. The mechanism as currently conceived remains too small in scale to provide reassurance that firewalls are impregnable, and its design fails to draw sufficiently on key lessons from crisis management. Europe's leaders must move decisively to shore up the mechanism's available capital to a credible critical mass, ensure predictable and readily deployable instruments, and devise a governance structure that is able to respond swiftly to fast-moving crisis situations. The ESM is an important step. But a systemic crisis in the globalised economic and financial world requires a global approach, such as the establishment of a Global Stabilisation Mechanism.

<http://www.lisboncouncil.net/in-the-news/355-new-policy-brief-making-the-european-stability-mechanism-work.html>

## Greece and Portugal: Similar fundamentals but different outcomes?

While Portugal is far from being in the same dire situation as Greece in terms of its levels of public debt and deficit, excess private consumption is a real problem in Portugal. The private sector has spent much more than its income and the net foreign debt is worth more than 100 percent of GDP. Although this excess spending was financed by banks, this private debt will eventually become a public one. In order to ensure that income and spending levels are compatible, the Portuguese authorities must combine structural reforms – aiming to lower public debt – with the control of banking systems. If this problem is not addressed, the eurozone might soon have another country in need of debt forgiveness.

<http://www.ceps.eu/book/greece-and-portugal-similar-fundamentals-different-outcomes>

## The End of Climate Policy as We Knew It

The first attempt to seal a global and legally binding treaty on climate change failed in 2009 in Copenhagen. Subsequent meetings in Cancun and Durban exacerbated the crisis of the global top-down approach to share the remaining carbon budget among 194 nations. It is unlikely that the climate change conference in 2015 will deliver a global treaty. The EU is responsible for one tenth of global emissions and urgently needs a Plan B. Measuring the progress of decarbonisation of major economies is required to save instruments like the Emission Trading System. The endurance of the strict (2 degrees centigrade) border between safe and dangerous climate change is not a given; adaptation will gain importance. The EU should regard climate policy as “politics” and admit that “optimal” solutions are not feasible.

[http://www.swp-berlin.org/fileadmin/contents/p\\_r\\_o\\_d\\_u\\_c\\_t\\_s/\\_research\\_papers/2012\\_RP01\\_lpt\\_prt.pdf#page=19](http://www.swp-berlin.org/fileadmin/contents/p_r_o_d_u_c_t_s/_research_papers/2012_RP01_lpt_prt.pdf#page=19)

## 5 BEPA News

### Arrivées

Arrivée le 1<sup>er</sup> mars, Martina Gunda est en charge des conférences et réunions dans l'unité de coordination.

Trois nouveaux stagiaires ont rejoint le BEPA le 6 mars pour cinq mois: Niklas Heusch (équipe Analyse), Erik Olsson (projet ESPAS) et Carole Richard (équipe Outreach).

Carmen Fernandez-Tresguerrez est venue renforcer depuis le 16 mars le secrétariat de l'équipe analyse du BEPA. Le 16 mars également, Jan Marco Mueller de la DG Recherche et Innovation a rejoint l'équipe scientifique du BEPA pour soutenir la Conseillère scientifique en chef.

Nous leur souhaitons la bienvenue.

### Evénements

Le 6 mars, le BEPA et l'Ordre Souverain de Malte ont organisé conjointement un séminaire ayant pour thème la "Protection des lieux sacrés de la Méditerranée, une contribution au dialogue interculturel", auquel le Président Barroso et la Commissaire Vassiliou ont participé. Les discussions ont porté sur l'accès et la protection juridique des lieux sacrés ayant une signification culturelle universelle.

Le même jour, la taskforce ESPAS s'est réunie afin de discuter du processus de mise en œuvre et du financement. La prochaine étape de cette taskforce sera le lancement de la décision financière de l'action préparatoire.

Le 14 mars, le BEPA a participé à la conclusion des ateliers "Open Dialogue between Institutions and Citizens: Chances and Challenges" organisés par l'Austrian Institute for European Law and Policy, afin de faire part aux participants du dialogue de la Commission européenne avec les citoyens et la société civile (Article 11 TUE). Le médiateur Diamandouros, également présent, a fait part de la volonté d'ouverture et de transparence des institutions européennes envers la société civile.

Le 15 mars, le BEPA a organisé conjointement avec Carnegie Europe un séminaire pour discuter des perspectives sur les relations entre l'Union européenne et les pays du Printemps arabe. Réunissant des participants travaillant dans les institutions européennes, des think tanks et diplomates, il a été question du clivage laïcité-islamisme et de la manière dont l'Union européenne pouvait aider ces pays, sans ingérence, à conduire le processus de transition démocratique.

Les 20 et 21 mars s'est déroulée la rencontre mensuelle du Groupe européen d'éthique (EGE), lors de laquelle plusieurs auditions sur le nouvel avis sur l'éthique et l'énergie ont été menées. L'EGE a aussi rencontré Prof. Anne Glover, la Conseillère scientifique en chef du Président Barroso, avec laquelle il a été décidé de créer des synergies de travail, ainsi que la Commissaire Kroes afin de discuter de l'avis de l'EGE sur l'éthique des technologies de l'information et de communication.

Le 22 mars, le BEPA et le German Marshall Fund of the US ont animé un séminaire rassemblant des fonctionnaires de la Commission européenne, du SEAE et de think tanks, et portant sur les "Global Swing States", c'est-à-dire les puissances émergentes démocratiques sur lesquelles l'UE et les Etats-Unis pourraient s'appuyer pour défendre un ordre international fondé sur les règles de la bonne gouvernance. Une des conclusions principales de ce débat a été que l'Occident devrait s'adapter au nouvel ordre mondial plutôt que d'essayer de continuer à imposer son modèle.

Le 22 mars s'est également tenue la conférence "Le cadre financier pluriannuel de l'UE et les ressources propres" afin de parler du budget 2014-2020 de l'Union européenne. Cette deuxième Conférence de haut niveau avec des parlementaires nationaux, coparrainée par le Parlement européen, la présidence danoise du Conseil, la Commission européenne, était consacrée à l'étude de nouvelles ressources propres de l'UE et à l'utilisation du prochain

cadre financier pluriannuel comme un outil d'investissement stratégique. Les Présidents de la Commission et du Parlement européens et la Première ministre du Danemark ont fait part de leurs vues concernant ce prochain cadre financier pluriannuel.

Enfin le 30 mars le BEPA a organisé avec la Commission des conférences épiscopales de la communauté européenne (COMECE) et la Conférence des Églises européennes (CEC) un séminaire dans le contexte du dialogue prévu par l'Article 17 sur "La liberté de religion: un droit fondamental dans un monde en mutation rapide". D'éminents experts des Eglises, de la Commission et du SEAE ont discuté de la liberté de religion en Europe et au-delà de ses frontières.

## Activités à venir

Dans le dialogue instauré par l'Article 17, le BEPA organise le 23 avril avec l'Association européenne de la pensée libre (EAFT) un colloque sur le Printemps arabe. Le colloque réunira environ 150 représentants de l'EAFT, de la Commission et du SEAE qui échangeront sur le thème: "Un partenariat pour la démocratie et la prospérité: promouvoir les droits et libertés démocratiques dans les pays du Sud de la Méditerranée".

Le 25 avril, le BEPA organisera en partenariat avec l'Open Society Institute (Bruxelles) et le Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (Berlin), un séminaire sur le populisme. Les panelistes discuteront des facteurs conduisant au populisme ainsi que de la manière de répondre au populisme.



Helle Thorning-Schmidt, Première Ministre danoise, Présidente du Conseil de l'Union Européenne; Martin Schulz, Président du Parlement Européen; et José Manuel Barroso, Président de la Commission Européenne, lors de la conférence du 22 mars sur le cadre financier pluriannuel et les ressources propres de l'Union.