

Working Group VIII

Working document 5

WORKING GROUP VIII « DEFENCE »

Subject : Note by Dr. Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann

Members of the Working Group will find attached a note by Dr Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann, member of the Convention.

Working Group on Defence
- Contribution for the meeting on 4 October 2002 -

- 1. What measures might be envisaged to ensure that decisions by the Member States on armaments take account of the objectives of the ESDP (adaptation of means to missions) and its requirements (interoperability of equipment)?**

It's hardly understandable that we are taking and discussing first about the means of the ESDP and afterwards about the objectives of the ESDP. So I propose that we first discuss about the objectives and then about the means to fulfil these objectives of the ESDP. Otherwise a discussion about the objectives is senseless, because by having fixed the means already, a discussion about the objectives couldn't be guided without prejudices. For instance the objective of a real European defence policy which would also include the incapability of the European Union to attack other countries, would require completely different means than an objective of a world-wide "enforcing of peace" through an European intervention army.

Taking into account these reflections, the group should first discuss about the objectives and then about the means to fulfil these objectives.

- 2. How could co-operation between the Member States and the development of joint projects be encouraged? Must a European armaments policy be established?**

There is a need for a joint European peace policy. The question arising is if the current lack of a common European disarmament and conversion policy isn't one of the biggest problems concerning the discussion about the means of the ESDP. Therefore I would propose to create a specific number of joint disarmament and conversion projects. These examples could also help to counter the new world-wide armament race.

- 3. How should the diversity of the Member States in this area be taken into account?**

Especially for the neutral states of the European Union, a common European armament policy could violate their status of neutrality. So taking account the diversity of Member States, it seems quite evident to me that a joint European armament policy would endanger the status of neutral states through the back door.

4. Should there be a European armaments agency? With what aims and missions? With what conditions for participation?

The Priority for the European Union should be building peace and international co-operation through disarmament. Therefore there is a need for an European disarmament agency, because since the end of the cold war, European disarmament has slowed down and there is still no co-ordination for a joint disarmament policy to fulfil the common goal of ensuring peace on the European continent.