

Working Group VIII

Working document 7

## **WORKING GROUP VIII « DEFENCE »**

**Subject :** Note by Mr George Katiforis

In view of the meeting on 14 October, Members of the Working Group will find attached a note by Mr George Katiforis, member of the Convention.

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**POLITICAL CONTROL  
AND  
STRATEGIC DIRECTION  
ON EU CRISIS MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS**

Political control is the

- setting of political objectives, and
- the balancing of aims and means to achieve these objectives.

It provides the framework within a crisis management operation should take place and defines its nature and scope.

Political control should be exercised by the PSC on behalf of the Council. Throughout a EU-led operation, political control by the PSC, on behalf of the Council, implies a dynamic process of providing political guidance to the Operation Commander on the conduct of a ongoing operation, taking into account operational developments and political constraints. If necessary, the PSC on behalf of the Council adapts political objectives and the balancing of aims and means to achieve these objectives according to the evolution of the situation.

The PSC, on behalf of the Council, should take the decision to

- launch,
- suspend or
- end the operation.

The PSC, on behalf of the Council, should decide on the criteria for the fulfillment of the political objectives. It would specify when the operation starts and ends. The PSC, on behalf of the Council, will select an option put to it according to agreed procedures.

The PSC, on behalf of the Council, may have exchange of views with

- international organizations, depending on the role they play in a crisis, and
- the parties in conflict.

Strategic direction is the translation of political objectives into directives which enable the Operation Commander to undertake the mission, the provision of all necessary means and further guidance during the EU-led operation as required.

Strategic direction should be exercised by the PSC, on behalf of the Council. It would -select the headquarters for the EU-led operation,

- appoint the Operation Commander, and
- issue an initial directive for the Operation Commander.

It would also

- approve the operation plan prepared by the Operation Commander, and
- the nomination of the Force Commander.

The PSC, on behalf of the Council, would decide on the mission and the composition of the force drawn from the EU Member-States, and eventually, additionally, from third countries.

The PSC, on behalf of the Council, will approve the Rules of Engagement and define the organization of Command and Control, and arrangements for civil-military coordination and cooperation. It would also activate procedures for the force generation, the transfer of authority and the provision of additional intelligence.

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