

INTERVENÇÃO PARA GRUPO DE
VISITANTES DO CURSO DE FORMAÇÃO
DO 'EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENSE
COLLEGE'
(13 SETEMBRO 2006)

1. SOME INTRODUCTORY REMARKS ON THE
PARLIAMENT'S SUBCOMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND
DEFENSE

- THIS IS A RECENT SUBCOMMITTEE; IT WAS CREATED IN 2004 AND ITS BIRTH REFLECTS THE GROWING INVOLVEMENT OF THE UNION IN SECURITY AND DEFENSE MATTERS; BUT IT ALSO SHOWS THAT **THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IS TRYING TO ACQUIRE THE KNOWLEDGE AND THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK IT NEEDS TO FOLLOW AND INFLUENCE THE DEBATES IN THIS FIELD;**
- ITS INSTITUTIONAL ROLE IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IS TO ASSIST THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, BY, AMONG OTHER THINGS, PROVIDING A FORUM FOR DEBATES ABOUT RESOLUTIONS AND REPORTS THAT WILL THEN END UP IN THE 'MOTHER-COMMITTEE' - THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE - TO BE VOTED: EXAMPLES ARE THE REGULAR REPORTS ON THE EU CODE OF CONDUCT ON ARMS EXPORTS AND ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU'S SECURITY STRATEGY;

- THE COMMITTEE ALSO REGULARLY INVITES THE HEADS OF ESDP MISSIONS ON THE GROUND AND IMPORTANT FIGURES IN THE ESDP'S INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE - FOR EXAMPLE, NICK WITNEY, HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN DEFENSE AGENCY; OR ANNALISA GIANNELLA, SOLANA'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR WMD NON-PROLIFERATION ISSUES; OR EVEN GENERAL PERRUCHE, THE HEAD OF THE EU MILITARY STAFF;

2. A FEW WORDS ON THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENSE MATTERS

- ALL THE MEMBERS OF THIS SUBCOMMITTEE - AND THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE - ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE CHALLENGE OF TRYING TO INTRODUCE PARLIAMENTARY SCRUTINY IN THE VERY AREA WHERE THE EUROPEAN TREATIES CONCEDE LESS POWER TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - NAMELY THE CFSP AND, WITHIN IT, ESDP;
- WE KNOW THAT ACCORDING TO THE RELEVANT TREATIES, THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ONLY HAS TO BE "INFORMED" OF DEVELOPMENTS IN CFSP AND ESDP;
- SO, AS THE ESDP IS FORMALLY AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL OR 'SECOND PILLAR' ACTIVITY, THE RELEVANT EXECUTIVE ORGANS REMAIN THE MEMBER STATES; DECISIONS ON ESDP ARE MADE AT A EUROPEAN LEVEL WITHIN THE GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL AND THE

CRISIS MANAGEMENT DECISION-MAKING BODIES THAT SERVICE IT; BOTH THE PARLIAMENT AND THE COMMISSION ARE MOSTLY LEFT OUT;

- **WE, AS A PARLIAMENT, DO HAVE A POWER TO APPROVE THE YEARLY BUDGET FOR THE CFSP AND THUS, AT LEAST THEORETICALLY, HAVE AN INFLUENCE ON THE MONEY SPENT IN ESDP MISSIONS;**
- **HOWEVER, THE CFSP BUDGET IS ONLY ONE SOURCE OF FINANCING FOR ESDP MISSIONS AND IT IS MAINLY USED FOR THE CIVILIAN ONES; THE MILITARY MISSIONS ARE FUNDED OUTSIDE THE EU GENERAL BUDGET IN AD-HOC FUNDS OR UNDER THE 'ATHENA MECHANISM' FOR SOME COMMON COSTS; IN OTHER WORDS, MUCH OF WHAT IS SPENT IN SECURITY AND DEFENSE BY THE EU IS OUTSIDE OF THE EP'S CONTROL;**
- **IT IS, HOWEVER, IN THE INTEREST OF THE COUNCIL AND THE COMMISSION TO TAKE THE VIEWS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ON BOARD, IF ONLY TO ALLOW FOR COHERENCE IN THE MESSAGES COMING OUT OF ALL THE EU INSTITUTIONS;**

3. SO: WHAT HAVE OUR SUBCOMMITTEE AND THE PARLIAMENT BEEN DOING TO DEAL CREATIVELY WITH THE LEGAL STRAJHTJACKET THE TREATIES LEFT US IN?

- **WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY FOUGHT TO HAVE A REGULAR PRESENCE OF COUNCIL AND COMMISSION OFFICIALS IN OUR SUBCOMMITTEE, TO KEEP US INFORMED ABOUT THE MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN ESDP AND HELP US EXPLAIN TO OUR CONSTITUENCIES WHAT THE EU IS DOING;**
- **WE ARE PUSHING FOR THE AD HOC SPECIAL COMMITTEE THAT DEALS WITH THE EXCHANGE OF CONFIDENTIAL AND SENSITIVE INFORMATION BETWEEN COUNCIL AND PARLIAMENT TO BE STRENGTHENED AND USED MORE SYSTEMATICALLY;**
- **WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY ASKED FOR MORE TRANSPARENCY IN THE SPENDING ON CFSP AND ESDP, ESPECIALLY WHAT CONCERNS ESDP MILITARY MISSIONS AND THEIR OPAQUE FUNDING MECHANISMS; WE ARE ADVOCATING FOR THE SIMPLIFICATION AND THE 'BUDGETIZATION' OF SPENDING, SO IT DOESN'T ESCAPE DEMOCRATIC SCRUTINY BY PARLIAMENT;**
- **WE HAVE, ABOVE ALL, BEEN PUSHING FOR THE BROADEST POSSIBLE INTERPRETATION OF OUR RIGHTS UNDER THE TREATIES, BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN TO EUROPEANS WHERE CFSP AND ESDP ARE HEADING, WE HAVE TO INTRODUCE DEMOCRATIC CONTROL AT A**

EUROPEAN LEVEL FOR THE COMMON EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENSE, AND WE MUST WORK FOR AS MUCH CONSISTENCY AS POSSIBLE IN THE EU'S FOREIGN ACTION;

- WE BELIEVE THAT THE PARLIAMENT IS THE INSTITUTION THAT IS CLOSEST TO EUROPEAN CITIZENS AND THAT ITS POWER IS GROWING;
- IT HAS BEEN QUITE AMAZING TO WATCH HOW EVERY EU PRESIDENCY HAS GRADUALLY BEEN SPENDING MORE TIME IN THE PARLIAMENT - IN OUR SUBCOMMITTEE - LISTENING TO US AND TAKING OUR VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT: THE TREND IS CLEAR - NO ONE IS IGNORING THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ANYMORE, EVEN IN THE FIELD OF SECURITY AND DEFENCE.

4. LET ME FINISH BY GIVING YOU ONE CLEAR EXAMPLE OF AN AREA WHERE THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HAS BEEN LEADING THE DEBATE.

- THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, AND ESPECIALLY OUR SUBCOMMITTEE, HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING CLOSELY THE IMPLEMENTATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE EUROPEAN CODE OF CONDUCT ON ARMS EXPORTS, WHICH WAS CREATED IN 1998;
- SINCE 2004, OUR COLLEAGUE ROMEVA i RUEDA HAS BEEN PRODUCING YEARLY REPORTS ON THE CODE; HIS REPORTS HAVE ACQUIRED AN EXCELLENT REPUTATION AND HAVE BECOME THE YARDSTICK FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS

TO THE CODE, NAMELY THE NEED TO TURN IT INTO A LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT: BY THE WAY, THE PARLIAMENT FIRST CAME UP WITH THIS IDEA - THE COUNCIL EVENTUALLY PICKED IT UP;

- EVERY YEAR WE WITNESS HOW THE COUNCIL IMPROVES THE CODE OF CONDUCT ON THE LINES OF WHAT MR ROMEVA AND THE PARLIAMENT HAD SUGGESTED PREVIOUSLY: IT IS CLEAR, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE COUNCIL IS AWARE OF THE OUTSTANDING EXPERTISE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PARLIAMENT BY SPECIALIST NGOs;
- THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN THIS AREA HAS BEEN THAT MR ROMEVA WILL BE REGULARLY INVITED TO THE COUNCIL WORKING GROUP (COARM) THAT ACTUALLY DRAFTS THE CODE AT A TECHNICAL LEVEL;
- TO CONCLUDE THEN, PARLIAMENT IS PUSHING INTO A MORE OR LESS OPEN DOOR: THE COUNCIL AND THE COMMISSION HAVE LEARNED THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING THE EP ON BOARD IN FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES AND SECURITY AND DEFENSE: WE ARE IN A VERY DYNAMIC SITUATION AND IT IS AN EXCITING TIME TO BE A MEMBER OF THIS PARLIAMENT.