



The European Defence of Europe?

*International Expert Seminar
Egmont Palace, Brussels, 6-7 February 2017*

In view of Donald Trump's statement during the US election campaign that "NATO may be obsolete", it seems that High Representative Federica Mogherini was prescient when writing the objective of strategic autonomy into the EU Global Strategy, which she presented to the European Council in June 2016. That, however, was just a few days after Britain voted for Brexit, which at a stroke made strategic autonomy that more difficult to achieve.

About half a year later, this international expert seminar aims to take stock. Is Europe on the way to becoming an autonomous strategic actor, including in defence? Europe: that includes the EU, NATO, and the various multinational clusters in which states engage in defence cooperation. The institutions should be instruments, not obstacles to achieving strategic actorness.

Following a keynote speech, four questions will be addressed:

1. *Does Europe have a strategy?* The obvious answer would be yes: the EU Global Strategy. But do European states really have a clear and collective view of their level of ambition in implementing the tasks that it sets for Europe's armed forces? Have Europeans fully integrated the implications of a Trump Presidency and of Brexit in their overall strategic analysis?
2. *Can Europe defend itself?* Think the US out of NATO, and not much remains of the credibility of Article 5 – if anything. How can Europe reinforce its contribution to conventional deterrence? At the same time, a whole range of "hybrid" threats and challenges at the nexus of internal and external security, which fall below the Article 5 threshold, must be addressed too. Are Europeans organized to this end?
3. *Can Europe project power?* Already since President Obama announced the "pivot" to Asia do we know that Europeans will have to assume more responsibility in stabilizing their own neighbourhood. Simultaneously, maintaining the freedom of the global commons, and contributing to collective security under the UN, demand a global outlook. What are Europeans really prepared to do?
4. *Can Europe arm itself?* The answer to the fragmentation of Europe's defence effort is integration. Europeans keep saying it, but are they really willing to do

it? Whether through Permanent Structured Cooperation under the EU or a Framework Nations Group under NATO: is defence integration progressing. Will France and/or Germany be the engine? And is the defence industrial dimension a driver or a hindrance?

This seminar is organized by the Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations, with the kind support of Raytheon.

Participation by invitation only – The Chatham House Rule applies
Working language English



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Monday 6 February

13.30-14.00 Registration

14.00-14.30 Welcome & Introduction

- Prof. Dr. Sven Biscop, Egmont & Ghent University
- Christopher Lombardi, Vice-President, European Business Development, Raytheon

14.30-15.00 Keynote Speech

Chair: Sven Biscop, Egmont & Ghent University

- Prof. Dr. Jolyon Howorth, Yale University

15.00-16.30 Session 1 – Does Europe Have a Strategy?

Chair: Brigadier General (Ret.) Jo Coelmont, Egmont

- Dr. Nathalie Tocci, Deputy Director of Istituto Affari Internazionali and Special Advisor to HR/VP Federica Mogherini on the EU Global Strategy
- Dr. Giovanni Grevi, Senior Fellow, European Policy Centre
- Prof. Dr. Richard Whitman, University of Kent

16.30-17.00 *Coffee*

17.00-18.30 Session 2 – Can Europe Defend Itself?

Chair: Prof. Dr. Alexander Mattelaer, Egmont & Vrije Universiteit Brussel

- Timo S. Koster, Director of Policy and Capabilities, NATO
- Lieutenant General Esa Pulkkinen, Director General of the EU Military Staff
- Christopher Lombardi, Vice-President, European Business Development, Raytheon



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Tuesday 7 February

09.00-09.30 Registration

09.30-11.00 Session 3 – Can Europe Project Power?

Chair: Daniel Fiott, EU Institute for Security Studies, Paris

- Brigadier General Heinz Krieb, Director for Concepts and Capabilities, European Union Military Staff
- Prof. Dr. Luis Simón, Vrije Universiteit Brussel & Real Instituto Elcano
- Dick Zandee, Netherlands Institute for International Relations Clingendael

11.00-11.30 *Coffee*

11.30-13.00 Session 4 – Can Europe Arm itself?

Chair: Dr. Margriet Drent, Netherlands Institute for International Relations Clingendael

- Graham Muir, Head of the Strategy and Policy Unit, European Defence Agency
- Dr. Christian Mölling, German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), Berlin
- Dr. Yves Boyer, Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique, Paris