



SPACE & SECURITY CONFERENCE

Athens, Greece, 19-20 June 2014



CONFERENCE ON SPACE AND SECURITY, Athens 19-20 June 2014

CONCLUSIONS OF THE CO-CHAIRS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION, GREEK PRESIDENCY

In December 2013, the European Council stressed the importance of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) in a rapidly evolving strategic and geopolitical environment. In addition to traditional security threats, new challenges have emerged. As stated in the Council Conclusions: "The EU and its Member States must exercise greater responsibilities in response to those challenges if they want to contribute to maintaining peace and security".

"The European Council called on the Member States to deepen defence cooperation by improving the capacity to conduct missions and operations and by making full use of synergies in order to improve the development and availability of the required civilian and military capabilities, supported by a more integrated, sustainable, innovative and competitive European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB)."

The Conference emphasised the instrumental role of space in meeting these challenges. Space is a key capability for security and defence and an area where civil military synergies can bring maximum benefit both to fulfil security users' missions but also to promote growth and jobs in Europe.

The participants, underlining the dual nature of space activities, urged all European actors in the space security and defence domain to foster synergies between civilian and defence space activities to maintain a competitive and innovative industrial base while improving the cost efficiency and the resilience of the space services for security and defence.

The discussions on navigation highlighted the progress in the deployment of Galileo. The Regulation on the implementation and exploitation of the European satellite navigation systems came into force on 1 January 2014 providing the necessary funding for the next seven years. After the successful entry into operations of EGNOS in 2011, Galileo is expected to provide its first services at the beginning of 2015, including search and rescue and public regulated services. Discussions showed the multiple applications that Galileo can have, notably with regard to search and rescue.

The discussions on Earth Observation also recalled the interest of satellite imagery to anticipate, plan and conduct crisis response when confronted with natural disasters and manmade threats.

All participants recognised the relevance of the EU Programme Copernicus (formerly GMES) to meet these challenges and appreciated the steady progress in the development of its civil security dimension and the close cooperation with the relevant stakeholders, namely FRONTEX, EMSA and EUSC, for the establishment of operational services in support of security applications as from 2015.

To meet more stringent security needs, access to both governmental and commercial High Resolution satellite imagery should be improved, fully exploiting the EU SATCEN's recognized expertise in processing geospatial information for CSDP and other security users, based on a timely, reliable and guaranteed access to high resolution optical and radar satellite images.

In parallel, the emergence of a market for geospatial services serving both security and defence and other sectors should be encouraged. Participants welcomed the recently adopted Commission proposal for a Directive on the dissemination of Earth observation satellite data for commercial purposes which will improve the market predictability at European level.

Finally, there will be the need to keep pace with technology evolution and to prepare the next generation of services and infrastructure, so that Europe will remain at the forefront of space technology, contributing to a more secure world and a first class industrial base in the space domain.

Satellite Communication (SATCOM) is a key capability for security and defence. It is often the only possibility for security users to communicate when they have to intervene in distant areas where the ground infrastructure is damaged or destroyed, using mobile or deployable systems.

SATCOM links are also key enablers for large communications infrastructure such as the next generation of Air Traffic Management, Maritime Systems or future Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems.

The demand for SATCOM for security is very fragmented in Europe. This situation is costly and creates security risks. The participants called upon the EU to improve the pooling of Security SATCOM demand in Europe.

The European Defence Agency's (EDA) European SATCOM procurement cell, used by the Defence community, offers an inspiring solution to improve access to commercial SATCOM service on a larger basis through a pooling effect.

Furthermore, security and defence user need resilient and guaranteed SATCOM resources. To this end, as underlined in the December 2013 European Council conclusions, the Member States with the support of the EDA will prepare the next generation of Governmental Satellite Communication through close cooperation with the Commission, and ESA. In this context, the participants welcomed the creation of a users' group. The European Commission will work on the identification of civil security requirements for SATCOMS while the EDA is gathering defence needs.

All participants insisted on the necessity to combine and to seamlessly integrate the various space services. These services should be tailored to the specific operating procedures of the various security actors. They should be made available through dedicated and often legacy information infrastructures

Another key element addressed at the conference is the security in and from space. The growing dependence on space infrastructure calls for specific action to be envisaged at European level.

Space debris is a very serious and growing threat to space activities. Participants welcomed the initiative taken by the EU in the area and, in particular, the decision establishing a Space Surveillance and Tracking Support Framework to support EU Member States that own radars and telescopes capable of monitoring satellites and space debris or relevant data centres, to bring together their capacities and offer, for the first time, a European space surveillance and tracking (SST) service which would be further developed.

But the EU is also at the forefront of a diplomatic effort to promote an International Code of Conduct on outer space activities led by the European External Action Service and funds research activities aiming in the long term at removing space debris.

In addition to space debris, both the ESA via its Space Situational Awareness programme, and the EU in the framework of the space research programme under Horizon 2020 are addressing the challenges of Space Weather and Near Earth Objects.

In addition to the risks induced by the space environment, participants suggested considering the risks to space infrastructures induced by human activities and, in particular, the issues of interferences and cyber threats.

Finally all participants recognized that the biggest challenge for space and security is to deliver better space services with decreasing security and defence budgets. Innovative ideas must be explored to develop new space programmes, provide space capabilities taking into consideration new governance schemes such as the one developed for SST and new procurement models.

All participants shared the conclusion that the space services are the right place to start delivering successes in the area of civil/military synergies thus also fulfilling European Council mandate.