

**DEFENCE AND
SECURITY**

252 DSC 06 E
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NATO Parliamentary Assembly

SUMMARY

Meeting of the Defence and Security Committee
Room 200 A, Québec City Convention Centre, Québec City, Canada

Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 November 2006

ATTENDANCE LIST

Chairman	Joel Hefley (United States)
Vice-Chairman	Joseph A. Day (Canada)
General Rapporteur	Julio Miranda Calha (Portugal)
Rapporteur, Sub-Committee on Transatlantic Defence and Security Co-operation	John Shimkus (United States)
Rapporteur, Sub-Committee on Future Security and Defence Capabilities	Frank Cook (United Kingdom)
President of the NATO PA	Pierre Lellouche (France)
Secretary General	Simon Lunn
Member Delegations	
Belgium	Mia De Schamphelaere Yvon Harmegnies Marie-José Laloy Philippe Mahoux Hilde Vautmans
Bulgaria	Yani Yanev
Canada	Claude Bachand James Cowan Laurie Hawn
Estonia	Sven Mikser
France	Jean-Michel Boucheron Jean-Guy Branger Philippe Vitel
Germany	Ernst-Reinhard Beck Ursula Mogg Winfried Nachtwei Hans Raidel Kurt J. Rossmanith Thomas Röwekamp Andreas Weigel
Greece	Michalis Karhimakis Andreas Likourentzos Andreas Loverdos
Hungary	Mátyás Firtl Péter Karsai Attila Mesterházy István Simicskó Vilmos Szabó Agnes Vadai
Iceland	Dagný Jónsdóttir
Italy	Francesco Bosi Elettra Deiana
Latvia	Guntis Berzins
Lithuania	Rasa Juknevičienė

Luxembourg	Claude Adam Fred Sunnen
Netherlands	Luuk Blom Willem Hoekzema
Norway	Sverre Myrli Per Ove Width
Poland	Jan Bury Marian Pilka Jan Tomaka Zbyszek Zaborowski
Portugal	Manuel Filipe Correia de Jesus José Lello Jorge Neto
Romania	Eduard Raul Hellvig Romeo Marius Raicu Attila Verestóy
Slovakia	Rodolf Pucik
Slovenia	Anton Anderlic
Spain	Manuel Atencia
Turkey	Emin Bilgiç Vahit Erdem Muharrem Karsli Mehmet Nessar
United Kingdom	Peter Bottomley David Crausby Jimmy Hood Sir John Stanley
United States	Wayne Alford Ben Chandler John Tanner Tom Udall

Associate delegations

Armenia	Aramayis Grigoryan
Austria	Reinhard Bösch Josef Bucher
Azerbaijan	Ziyafat Asgarov Siyavush Novruzov
Georgia	David Gamkrelidze Nicholas Rurua
Russian Federation	Vasiliy Klyuchenok Victor A. Ozerov Victor Zavarzin
Switzerland	Endi Engelberger
The FYR of Macedonia*	Vlado Buckovski
Ukraine	Hryhoriy Illyashov Andriy Shkil Yuriy Samoylenko

* Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

Mediterranean Associate Delegations

Algeria

Mostefa Chelloufi

Rabah Karaoui

Israel

Ran Cohen

Parliamentary Observer

Japan

Masataka Suzuki

Interparliamentary Assemblies

Assembly of the Western European Union

Robert Walter

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Carina Ohlsson

Parliamentary Guest

Montenegro

Branislav Banovic

Ferhad Dinosa

Miodrag Vukovic

Speakers

Charles Philippe David, Raoul-Danderand Chair in strategic studies at the University of Québec in Montreal

Major General Joe Hincke, Chief of Programs, Canadian Ministry of Defence

Michael Kergin, Former Canadian Ambassador to the United States

Michael Rubin, Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute, and Editor of *Middle East Quarterly*

Committee Secretary

Chris Stanton (United Kingdom)

International Secretariat

Zachary Selden, director

Valérie Geffroy, co-ordinator

Olga Stuzhinskaya, research assistant

Tim Sweijs, research assistant

I. **Consideration of the draft General Report *Lessons learned from NATO's current operations* [167 DSC 06 E] by Julio Miranda Calha (Portugal), General Rapporteur**

1. **Julio Miranda Calha** (PT) presented the general report of the committee on *Lessons learned from NATO's current operations*. **Vahit Erdem** (TR) asked about the relationship between Operation Enduring Freedom and ISAF. **Jean-Michel Boucheron** (FR) acknowledged the relevance of NATO's presence in Afghanistan but stated that he is not optimistic about current events, particularly the growth in opium production. **Sven Mikser** (EE) noted that there is a misperception that opium production was generally curtailed by the Taliban regime and questioned if the surveys of popular opinion in Afghanistan that showed strong support for the government earlier in the year are still accurate. **Claude Bachand** (CA) noted that national caveats still inhibit NATO's flexibility to conduct its operations, and that we need to focus on training Afghan forces and improving the quality of life of the citizens. **Elettra Deiana** (IT) found the report very informative but she said that the situation is very complex. There is a socio-cultural dimension to this fight, which needs more than military means alone and we should put more emphasis on diplomacy. **John Shimkus** (US) argued that we cannot allow failed states to provide fertile ground for terrorist organizations. Furthermore, he stressed that we need to invest more in equipment, do away with national caveats and improve common funding of operations. **Ursula Mogg** (DE) said that the public support for the mission is diminishing in several countries. Germany sent forces for stabilization and would need a new authorization from its parliament to send combat forces. **Michalis Karhimakis** (GR) stressed the importance of public communication to help our populations understand the nature of our mission. **Wayne Allard** (US) expressed his concern about national caveats and opium production. He argued that we need to do more to reduce demand for heroin in our societies.

2. **Laurie Hawn** (CA) said that it is critical to improve security before development can occur, which means that NATO forces will need to continue to engage in combat. **Francesco Bosi** (IT) said that we should work to enable cooperation between governments and prepare the local police to take care of the security problems so that Afghanistan can be truly independent. **Hilde Vautmans** (BE) stated that we must improve NATO-EU cooperation, perhaps even creating a unified command to coordinate their respective efforts. **Victor Zavarzin** (RU) said that Russia continues to support the ISAF and exchanges intelligence with NATO countries. He drew attention to Russia's involvement in the training of Afghan police forces and drug enforcement capabilities.

The draft General Report [167 DSC 06 E] was adopted with a large majority.

II. **Presentation by Michael Rubin, Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute, and Editor of *Middle East Quarterly*, on *Understanding the Iranian Threat to Regional Stability***

3. **Michael Rubin**, Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute, and Editor of *Middle East Quarterly* discussed the Iranian threat to regional security. Iran often feels wronged by history. Iran is only half the size it was in the seventeenth century, when Baghdad was the capital of the Persian empire. Iran's desire for nuclear weapons long predates the US military presence in the region. In fact, Iranian strategic thinkers worry more about Pakistan and take note of the fact that Pakistan's nuclear tests took place close to the Iranian border. Any Iranian nuclear weapons would be under the control of the Revolutionary Guard – the power base of President Ahmadinejad - as they invariably receive the most significant weapons in Iran's arsenal. Nevertheless, the vast majority of the Iranian people are disenchanted with theocratic government. There is widespread dissatisfaction with the outcome of the revolution and high levels of unemployment. Iran's influence in Iraq is limited. Iraq's Shia population is wary of Iran in general and Iraqi Shia clerics take steps to demonstrate their independence from Iran. **Joel Hefley** (US) asked if Syria and Iran can be included in a regional peace-initiative, Dr Rubin answered that it is fine to talk, but we

should be wary of being exploited. It is not clear that Syria or Iran have an interest in a more stable Iraq.

III. Consideration of the draft Report of the Sub-Committee on Future Security and Defence Capabilities *NATO's Role in South Caucasus Region* [168 DSCFC 06 E Rev.1] by Frank Cook (United Kingdom), Rapporteur

4. **Frank Cook** (UK) presented the report of the Sub-Committee on Future Security and Defence Capabilities on *NATO's role in South Caucasus Region*. Mr Cook stressed in his introduction that the NATO Parliamentary Assembly cannot take a position in disputes between associate members and that his role as Rapporteur is as a detached, clinical observer. After noting the progress that each country in the region has made in implementing its plans for closer relations with NATO, he emphasized that it is our collective interest to assist the states of the region develop stable, democratic institutions.

5. **Vasiliy Klyuchenok** (RU) said that Russia aims to maintain good relations in the region, but that Georgia's involvement in NATO and its acquisition of strategic weaponry threatens the stability of the region. **Ziyafat Asgarov** (AZ) said that Azerbaijan has a strong partnership with NATO but wants even more NATO engagement in the region. **Sverre Myrli** (NO) was of the opinion that you cannot talk about the region without including the Nagorno-Karabakh issue, and that we need more international engagement to solve the problem. **David Gamkrelidze** (GE) stated that the real reason for Russia's interference in Georgian affairs is the fact that Georgia wants to join NATO. Russia has cut its economic ties with Georgia, and Georgian people are being forced out of Russia. He called upon the international community to help monitor the border and pressure Russia to moderate its stance on Georgia. **Aramayis Grigoryan** (AM) said that NATO is helpful in creating a stable and secure region. He also pointed out that in 1987 many EU and NATO member countries designated the events of 1915 as a genocide. **Victor Ozerov** (RU) stressed that 100 Russians died as peacekeepers in Southern Ossetia. **Bruce George** (UK) stated that Russian fears of Georgia's acquisition of tanks is absurd given the power disparity. He added that Russia should stop pressuring Georgia, and accept the course of history. But Georgia should also be careful not to take steps that could precipitate a Russian military response. **Siyavush Novruzov** (AZ) stated that Azerbaijan's army is already up to NATO's standards and that NATO has enough resources to solve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict if it has the will. **Nicholas Rurua** (GE) stated that Georgia's process of democratisation is irreversible, but that in the area where Russian peacekeepers are responsible for security, 2000 Georgians have been killed and 800 houses have been burned. He would like to invite truly independent observers.

The draft Report [168 DSCFC 06 E Rev.1] was adopted by a large majority.

6. Mr Cook proposed that the Sub-Committee produce a **Special Report in 2007** in addition to its normal work that allow Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia to discuss their relationship with NATO and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. He proposed that each delegation submit a section, which would be combined by the Rapporteur and presented at the Spring session of the NATO PA. Details of this proposal will be sent to the three delegations for their approval.

IV. Consideration of the draft Report of the Sub-Committee on Transatlantic Defence and Security Co-operation *Changes in the forward Deployment of the United States' military and the effects on the Transatlantic Alliance* [169 DSCTC 06 E] by John Shimkus (United States), Rapporteur

7. **John Shimkus** (US) presented the report of the Sub-Committee on Transatlantic Defence and Security Co-operation on *Changes in the forward deployment of the United States' military and*

the effects of the Transatlantic Alliance. He noted that the withdrawal of US forces from Europe is mainly aimed at returning them to the United States and that this is part of a process that has been ongoing since the end of the Cold War. He emphasized that redeployment is part of transforming the military to be better able to meet the current security challenges. Mr Shimkus also noted that the bases offered by Bulgaria and Romania for use by American forces will be relatively small and will not have the same level of economic impact on local communities as the much larger bases that were typical of the American military presence in Germany.

8. Ms Deiana asked about the impact of the changes in the forward deployment of the US military on Italy and about the absolute priorities of the United States. **Andreas Likourentzos** (GR) asked about the real costs of changes in the forward deployment as he had read estimates that it will cost \$ 20 billion, and about the consequences of the latest election results. **Yani Yanev** (BG) thanked Mr Shimkus and invited the Sub-Committee to visit Bulgaria. **Muharrem Karsli** (TR) says that the Global Defense Posture Review (GDPR) is driven by US energy needs.

9. Mr Shimkus replied that the US GDPR is driven by the need to meet the new threats of the 21st century. With respect to the costs, it is a short-term investment for a long-term gain. In addition, the United States only has military bases in countries by invitation and there is much more than energy interests driving the changes in the forward deployment.

The draft Report [169 DSCTC 06 E] was adopted by a large majority.

10. **Joseph A. Day** (CA) paid tribute to Chairman Joel Hefley who is retiring from the United States Congress. He thanked Mr Hefley for his four years of service as the Chair of the Defence and Security Committee. Mr Hefley announced that Committee Director Zachary Selden was also leaving the Assembly to join the faculty at the University of Florida.

V. Presentation by Major General Hincke, Chief of Programs, Canadian Ministry of Defence on *Canada's Military Operations and Transformation of the Canadian Armed Forces*

11. Mr Day served as chair of the committee in Mr Hefley's absence. **Major General Hincke**, Chief of Programs at the Canadian Ministry of Defence, delivered a presentation on *Canada's Military Operations and Transformation of the Canadian Armed Forces*. He spoke about Canada's role in Afghanistan: the contribution of the Canadian forces, strategic accomplishments and challenges ahead.

12. Mr Cook opened the debate by asking if national caveats are preventing some NATO members from sending their troops to southern Afghanistan. Mr Hawn expressed his regret that national caveats were preventing all Allies from sharing the burdens equally and found the situation to be disappointing for both for the Canadian public and for the troops currently serving in Afghanistan. **Winfried Nachtwei** (DE) asks about the various elements that the Alliance has to deal with in the south of Afghanistan and what approaches are being applied when dealing with different groups. General Hincke answered that the main focus in the south should be on developing alternative livelihoods in order to replace the production of opium.

VI. Presentation by Michael Kergin, Former Canadian Ambassador to the United States, on *Border Security in North America*

13. **Michael Kergin**, former Canadian Ambassador to the United States, spoke to the Committee about *Border security in North America*. His comments sparked a discussion of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative and its possible negative consequences for the citizens of Canada.

Mr Bachand called the initiative somewhat restrictive and predicted that the initiative would have negative economic consequences. Mr Kergin agreed but said that his American counterparts are determined to implement the new regulations. Mr Kergin noted, however, that the new passport requirements might have some negative effects on local economies in the northern parts of the United States and that this might prompt a reappraisal of the policy.

VII. Consideration of amendments and vote on the draft Resolution on *Reaffirming unity of purpose in Afghanistan* [201 DSC 06 E] by Julio Miranda Calha (Portugal), General Rapporteur

14. General Rapporteur Mr Miranda Calha presented the Committee draft Resolution on *Reaffirming unity of purpose in Afghanistan*. He stressed the importance of the NATO mission to Afghanistan as well as the importance of Afghanistan to NATO. Failing to meet our commitments to the country would be a very serious blow to the credibility of the Alliance. In his view, if NATO hesitates to make concrete steps now, it will risk losing all the progress made so far. The Resolution is designed to send a strong message to NATO, the national governments of the member countries, and the people of Afghanistan.

15. Most of the debate focused on the amendment offered by the Canadian, UK and US delegations that called on member countries to remove national caveats on the use of their forces in Afghanistan. Representatives from several delegations proposed substituting the word "diminish" for "remove". The majority of the Committee preferred the original amendment language. The amendment was accepted by the Rapporteur.

The draft Resolution on *Reaffirming Unity of Purpose in Afghanistan* [201 DSC 06 E] was adopted as amended.

VIII. Presentation by Charles Phillippe David, Raoul-Danderand Chair in strategic studies at the University of Québec in Montreal, on *Developments in US-Canadian relations and the Transatlantic relationship*

16. **Charles Phillippe David**, Raoul-Danderand Chair in strategic studies at the University of Québec in Montreal, spoke to the committee about US-Canadian relations. Although this relationship can fluctuate with the personalities of the countries' leadership, it is also highly dependent on issues such as border protection, security and trade. The United States remains concerned about the potential for terrorist infiltration across its northern border, but there is good cooperation between US and Canadian intelligence services. The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) is an example how US and Canadian security is intertwined inextricably. Further opportunities for enhanced cooperation lie in the area of maritime protection of the Arctic. Although Canada did cash in on the Cold War Peace dividend over the 1990s, it is currently reinvesting in its military. Canada's military presence in Afghanistan is a contentious issue but the government is committed to keeping its forces there until at least 2009.

17. Mr Hawn stated that Canada will be in Afghanistan until 2009 assuming there is no change in government. **Jorge Neto** (PT) said that NATO should define a new philosophy for tackling the ongoing problems in Afghanistan. **Robert Walter** of the WEU Assembly asked whether the United States and Canada have a special relationship within a transatlantic perspective. Professor David noted that the support for the mission in Afghanistan is weakening in Canada. It is not a peacekeeping mission and politicians should have better prepared the public for a long term commitment.

IX. Elections

18. Defence and Security Committee

Chairman	Julio Miranda Calha (PT)
Vice-Chairman	Francesco Bosi (IT)
General Rapporteur	Frank Cook (UK)

Sub-Committee on Future Security and Defence Capabilities

Rapporteur	Sverre Myrli (NO)
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All re-eligible Committee and Sub-Committee Officers were re-elected.

The next meeting of the Defence and Security Committee will take place in Washington DC on 22 January 2007.
