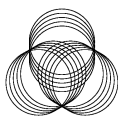


Seminar Report:

European Security Policy

Master of Peace and Security Studies (M.P.S.) 2009/2010



IFSH

Institute for Peace Research
and Security Policy
at the University of Hamburg

**In Cooperation with the
German Armed Forces
(Streitkräfteamt)**

Dr. Patricia Schneider and Naida Mehmedbegović - Captain Guido A. Mauel and Friedhelm Dauns

*June 6 to 11, 2010
Bonn, Geilenkirchen, Brussels and Mons*

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Introduction

From June 6 to June 11, 27 students, mainly from the M.P.S. program but also from various other programs, participated in the seminar on Security Policy in Bonn and Geilenkirchen in Germany, Mons and Brussels in Belgium. The seminar was conducted in cooperation with the Bundeswehr and organized by the Armed Forces Office under the auspices of Captain Guido Andreas Mauel and Mr. Friedhelm Dauns. Group leaders from the IFSH were Dr. Patricia Schneider and Naida Mehmedbegović.

The topic “Security Policy” was covered both from a military (German Federal Ministry of Defense, NATO SHAPE and E3A Component) and a civil (EU, German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development) perspective. Major topics were Afghanistan, the European Security and Defense Policy and the cooperation between NATO and the EU. In addition, a more general introduction into the work of the EU was given, with a timely overview of the changes with the Lisbon Treaty or a meeting with a member of the European Parliament. An interesting alternative perspective was given by representatives from two NGOs, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office. This very interesting but heavy program was balanced by a visit to the German House of History, a tour of an AWACS plane as well as a guided tour of Brussels.

One of the great strengths of the seminar was the many opportunities for discussions with the speakers. They were all very engaged and open for questions, and the students used this opportunity widely, posing also many critical questions and showing their interest and knowledge on the topics. For some students, this seminar provided the opportunity to gather information for their Master’s thesis or conduct interviews.

Overall this was a very interesting and valuable experience and an opportunity to get a more practical insight into the work of these organizations.

Joice Biazoto, Franziska Piontek

Day 1, June 6, 2010

Welcome and Seminar Introduction

The Armed Forces Office and the Bundeswehr Information and Media Centre

Location: Gustav-Stresemann-Haus, Bonn, Germany

Speaker: Captain Guido Andreas Mauel



Our Brussels field trip started with a welcome address at the Gustav-Stresemann-Haus in Bonn, the former Federal Capital of Germany, where we first met our two seminar leaders from the Armed Force Office: Captain Guido Andreas Mauel and Mr. Friedhelm Dauns. Both guided us through the rest of the week. After a short introduction of the participants themselves, their main interests and their expectations of the field trip, Captain Mauel gave an overview of the Armed Forces Office and its work.

First established in 1959, the Armed Forces Office gained its present structure less than ten years ago. Today, it unifies central cross-sectional military tasks. The Office is a part of the joint support services and is therefore as important for the army as it is for the airforce and the navy. It is directly subordinated to the German Federal Ministry of Defense. The Armed Forces Office supports the Bundeswehr at home as well as the German forces abroad. Altogether, it has three major tasks: logistics, communication and education. For example, the Office is responsible for the Bundeswehr University and the Führungsakademie (Armed Forces Staff College) in Hamburg.

The Bundeswehr Information and Media Centre is a central information and media centre for the German forces, located in St. Augustin, Germany. Besides a film service for the soldiers, the center publishes several magazines like “Y”, “infopost” und “if – innere Führung”. It is responsible for the Webpage www.bundeswehr.de and the intranet of the Bundeswehr. In cooperation with the Deutsche Welle, the Centre offers its own TV channel, “bwtv”, which is an important information source for the German soldiers all over the world.



Minutes by Corinna Bock; photos by Naida Mehmedbegović and Diana Heiman

The German House of History (Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland)

Location: House of History, Bonn, Germany

Speaker: Jürgen-Peter Schmied



Our first visit took us to the German House of History in Bonn. Our guide, Jürgen-Peter Schmied, described German history from 1945 until today in a very compelling way in only 45 min. Besides the permanent exhibition, individual aspects of contemporary history are explored in temporary exhibitions, like “We against Us: Sports in divided Germany”, which will last until October this year.

Undoubtedly, there is no understanding of German history or contemporary politics without basic knowledge about the World War II and the Nazi-regime. Therefore, our tour started with the liberation of Germany from the Nazi regime and the occupation of Germany by the allied powers. From this point on the exhibition is marked by the effort to simplify the complex developments without neglecting key events. Our guide highlighted the intentions of the first actors in this part of history. On the one hand, the three western allies were willing to build up a democratic state in the western part of Germany. On the other hand, there were also many German pioneers establishing the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG). Konrad Adenauer was elected as first Chancellor of the new Republic in 1949. His official car, a Mercedes 300, showed his strong ambitions to reach equality with the allied forces. His focus on European integration and striving for integration in NATO marked the beginning of German foreign policy. After the Marshall Plan and the monetary reform, the economy in West-Germany started to recover. In the meantime, the Eastern part of Germany, occupied by the Soviet Union, was forced to establish a socialist economy and political system.

The division between the FRG and the German Democratic Republic (GDR) is symbolised by metal fences placed throughout the exhibition. The economic rise of the FRG is shown in a very illustrative manner: a helmet used as a sieve next to the famous Beatle, a wedding dress made out of a parachute next to the colour TV. The creativity made necessary by the economic stagnation in the GDR is excellently symbolised by the baby carriage turned into a lawnmower.

The increasing economic slump and political suppression of the dictatorial socialist regime caused a rising resistance of the people in eastern Germany, which led to the Peaceful Revolution in 1989. Finally the wall came down and Germany was reunified in 1990. The Federal Government moved from Bonn to Berlin, which became the capital of the united Germany again.

The museum is very ambitious to be up to date. That is why also the 16 years of the government of chancellor Helmut Kohl are mentioned as well as the first SPD Chancellor after the reunification, Gerhard Schröder. His coalition with the Greens marked the completion of the emancipation of the environmentally friendly movement. In 2005, Gerhard Schröder stepped down as chancellor in favour of Angela Merkel of the rival Christian Democratic Union (CDU), who is still governing Germany, today in a coalition with the Free Democratic Party (FDP).

Minutes by Fabian Giglmaier & Annegret Kunde; photo by Dan Krause

Day 2, June 7, 2010

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Location: BMZ, Bonn, Germany

Speakers: Peter Krahl, Daphne Gross-Jansen, Achim Moebus

On June 7, our study group visited the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation (Bundesministerium für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit, BMZ) in Bonn. Despite the initially improvised program (due to a misunderstanding in the time schedule), the visit can be described as informative and useful.



The program started with two interesting short films about existing international problems and the work of the BMZ, as well as the security policy from a German perspective. Here, the issues of climate change and underlying problems, child labor, AIDS, war and terror were raised. The films addressed the underlying causes of conflicts. According to the

BMZ's statement, they try on the one hand to support relevant projects as well as raise awareness among the German society towards those problems. On the other hand, the BMZ is trying to promote peace by direct conflict intervention in countries with ongoing conflicts.

As far as security policy is concerned, especially the case of Afghanistan is still of great importance. Among other things, the film summed up the comprehensive approach as follows: The intended millennium goals can only be reached if humanitarian aid is combined with the promotion of democracy and the rule of law. Furthermore, this process has to be supportive and in cooperation instead of being forced upon countries. According to the statements made, the BMZ's areas of responsibility reach from support and consulting to awareness-raising among the population.

During the subsequent question time, issues such as corruption, exertion of influence (e.g. concerning education in Afghanistan), the dealing with fragile states and the underlying evaluation process were raised. In terms of corruption prevention, the BMZ does have measures such as money-spending contracts and penalty mechanisms. Also, evaluation of the processes and projects do take place before and after the mission concerned; the speakers mentioned an existing harm assessment that is carried out in advance of any mission. With respect to fragile states Mr. Krahl pointed out that the BMZ does not use the regular measures but concentrates on budget aid and tries to encourage the rebuilding of state structures. Furthermore when dealing with quasi state actors the BMZ cannot cooperate officially and mostly acts through NGOs, embassies, churches, the Red Cross, GTZ, THW etc. and concentrates on emergency aid.





Another important aspect is the issue of “Vernetzte Sicherheit”. Here, the statement was that the projects should not contradict any military aims; however, there are no projects taking place jointly with the Bundeswehr. Collaboration is not always required, but communication is very crucial.

Summarizing, the visit to the BMZ has been an interesting and informative experience and it was enriching to talk directly to people involved in these processes.

Minutes by Marion Bolten, Cosima Zentara; photos by Mubashir Mir and Naida Mehmedbegović

NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control System

Location: Geilenkirchen, Germany

Speaker: Lt. Col. John Schraudy, Executive Officer in the office of the component command

The E-3A Component NATO Air Base in Geilenkirchen, Germany is home to three NATO Trainer Cargo Aircrafts (TCA) and 17 NATO E-3A Aircrafts - all built on the platform of Boeing's 707. The latter ones represent the core of NATO's Airborne Early Warning and Control System - commonly known as AWACS. It provides wide-range airspace surveillance and air battle management, both at an unbeaten superior level. The unit was built up by 12 of today's 26 NATO nations and is currently run by 16 of them. Every nation provides an individual share of the 290m EUR budget - not including the soldiers' pay. According to the size of the financial contribution, the 1400 positions within its military structure are assigned to the respective countries. Further benefits for the contributors include free usage of the modern infrastructure and benefits for the countries' industries.



This NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control Force (NAEW&CF) is not embedded in the ordinary NATO air force command structure; it directly reports to top-level NATO bodies. Its main operating base - established within the cold-war setting about 30 years ago - is supplemented by four other forward operating bases/location across Europe. Together with air-to-air refueling and a resulting flight time of up to 16 hours, the horizon for operations is significantly broadened, contributing to the goal of providing worldwide deployment within five days of notice. This is of major significance to the NATO's military capabilities, but at the same time also a highly demanding job for the 16 crew members. An impression of the latter could be experienced during a subsequent inspection of one of the E-3A aircrafts, which included a presentation of both the cockpit and the mission crew.

Minutes by Michael Strautmann, Dan Krause, Jörn Fiedler; photo by Mubashir Mir

Day 3, June 8, 2010

NATO's Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe - SHAPE

Introduction to SHAPE

Location: SHAPE, Mons, Belgium

Speaker: Lt. Col. Günter Schellmann



At the beginning of our third day, we were introduced to the origins, tasks and structure of Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) situated near Mons (Belgium). “Vigilia Pretium Libertatis” (Vigilance is the Price of Liberty) is SHAPE’s official motto appearing on its emblem. From 1951 to 1967, SHAPE was located in Rocquencourt in France. But as France left the military structure of NATO under General De Gaulle in 1966, SHAPE had to be removed from French territory. Hence, the Belgian Government offered Camp Casteau in Mons to NATO and SHAPE moved there.

In 1951, General Eisenhower signed the activation order for Allied Command Europe (ACE) and its headquarters at SHAPE, which was responsible for the command of NATO operations in Europe. But since 2003, SHAPE has been responsible for controlling all allied operations worldwide. Consequently, ACE has been renamed Allied Command Operations (ACO). The main tasks of SHAPE are thus military advice, future planning, directing and monitoring NATO operations and military policy. Moreover, after the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, the general tasks of NATO changed considerably: In addition to the security guarantee in Article 5 of the Treaty, the New Strategic Concept of 1999 states that regions of crisis close to member states also fall under NATO responsibilities. Thus, the ISAF mission in Afghanistan is one example of the new NATO tasks outside of its member states’ borders.



ACO is commanded by the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), who is always a four-star general from the United States. Furthermore, a British Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (DSACEUR) and a German Chief of Staff (COS) form the heads on the strategic level. We also learned that the structure of SHAPE has just changed in order to reduce military personnel.

Minutes by Florence Metz; photos by Diana Heiman and Mubashir Mir

ESDP and NATO

Location: SHAPE, Mons, Belgium

Speaker: Lt. Col. Markus Fuhrmann



An essential part of the presentations at SHAPE was the connection between the EU and NATO in the framework of the Berlin Plus arrangements. To increase cooperation between NATO and the EU as organizations which share common strategic interests, there was a need to make their work more complementary. The decision to increase cooperation in security issues goes back to 2001. In an exchange of letters, the NATO Secretary General and the EU Presidency defined the scope of cooperation and the modalities of consultation between the two organizations. These letters paved the way to the Berlin Plus arrangements. The latter refers to a comprehensive package of agreements between NATO and the EU, based on conclusions of the NATO Washington Summit, and forms the foundation for their practical work in crisis management. The Berlin Plus arrangements provide the EU in particular with access to NATO planning capacities and identify a range of European command options for EU-led operations as well as setting up procedures for the exchange of classified information.

Thus, the Berlin Plus arrangements serve as a basis for EU-led operations. Operation ALTHEA to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is one of the most vivid examples, with the assets and capabilities of NATO made available for this undertaking of the Union. The EU launched this follow-up mission in BiH, including a military component, after the NATO decision to conclude SFOR operations in BiH was taken at the Istanbul Summit in 2004. ALTHEA is a part of the overall ESDP mission in BiH and facilitates maintenance of a secure environment and strengthening of local BiH authorities to enable the peaceful cooperation of BiH with its neighbors on its track towards EU membership.

Minutes by Yuliya Borshchevska; photo by Diana Heiman

Discussion

In the following discussions with experts (specialized advisers to SACEUR) interesting points were raised on the existence of various opinions within the NATO regarding its future direction as well as the existence of the Alliance as such.

The ongoing debate on NATO's New Strategic Concept (to be completed by the NATO Summit in Lisbon, Portugal in late 2010) shows that there are as many opinions as NATO member states (28) on the vision of NATO. The conceptual question is whether NATO should remain "NATO as it was" (defense of its members as the core task), whether it should evolve into a "NATO plus" (defense of its member states plus out of area operations as core tasks), or if it should be a "different NATO" (out of area operations as the core task).



Minutes by Evija Rimšāne; photo by Diana Heiman

Sightseeing Tour of Brussels: Impressions

Guide: Mr. Jan Peter Diemar



Photos by Mubashir Mir, Dan Krause and Diana Heiman

Day 4, June 9, 2010

The European Institutions and the Lisbon Treaty

Location: European Commission, Brussels, Belgium

Speaker: Jo Vandercappelen



Our first speaker at the European Commission, Jo Vandercappelen, gave a talk about European Institutions and the Lisbon Treaty. The speaker highlighted the role of the European Union and the changes brought in by the Lisbon Treaty.

Signed and approved by 27 member states, the Lisbon Treaty makes the EU more transparent and democratic. The Treaty is structurally based on and inspired by the U.S. Constitution, and is supposed to meet the challenges and changes of 21st century by improving working methods and efficiency of decision-making in the Union. One of the main

changes brought in by the Lisbon Treaty is the legal personality conferred to the EU, which makes the Union able to be a signatory party in treaties, for instance.

The speaker also placed emphasis on the modified decision-making procedures of the Union. He highlighted the introduction of a new clause of Citizen Initiative, according to which one million citizens of the EU can petition the European Commission and thus bring policy proposals into the European level. In addition, the Treaty increases the fields in which the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers share the decision-making process, commonly known as co-decision procedure. As for the Council of Ministers, qualified majority voting replaced the unanimous voting system, making the process more simplified and efficient.

Monetary policy after the Lisbon Treaty remains in the exclusive competence of the EU. The European Central Bank has been rendered into an institution of the European Union, thus having been formalized.

Minutes by Nino Khelaia ; photo by Naida Mehmedbegović

EU – Afghanistan Relations

Location: European Commission, Brussels, Belgium

Speaker: Mrs. Bettina Muscheidt

The meeting began by Mrs. Muscheidt highlighting the key documents – *State of Play* (2009/10), a bi-annual document, outlines the current situation; the '*Blue Book*', which delineates each member state's role; and the *EU Action Plan*, which was adopted by EU foreign ministers in October 2009 and explains how the EU plans to continue to improve



its program in Afghanistan. Mrs. Muscheidt explained that, since 2002, the European Commission has focused on three fields of work: rule of law, which includes salaries for the police, support to the judicial sector and training of police by EUPOL; agriculture, a very broad field which includes rivers, veterinary services, local administration, rural development, seed certification and so on; and health, which is hailed as a key success as primary healthcare was accessible by 7% of the population when the Taliban left and is now available for 80%. For a country with the second lowest Human Development Index in the world, everything is a priority in Afghanistan, but in order to achieve anything, there must be focus on key areas. This, Mrs. Muscheidt thought, is something that has been acknowledged both by the European Union and now the Afghan government. The security situation is paramount and a secure environment is necessary for the achievement of any other goals.



Another lesson which has been learnt is the need for development and governance programs to begin as soon as an area has been secured. Mrs. Muscheidt felt that this year is one of great importance and dynamic – in part because of the troop surge and an emphasis on the need for the Afghan people and government to take on responsibility. Other developments include the conferences in London and Kabul (forthcoming) in which there is a tight agenda for the transfer of responsibility of security to Afghan troops, socio-economic and governance developments. A recent peace Jurgaha with representatives from various tribes was promising in that it

was well organized, had a comparatively high participation of women and discussed the need for better governance and delivery of public services, accountability of public appointments and professionalism. In elections too, there has been an increase in the participation of women with 25% more women submitting their candidature for the parliamentary elections. In answering questions from participants about DG RELEX and the need for coordination between the EU and ISAF, Mrs. Muscheidt emphasized the importance of donor and actor coordination as one of the most crucial issues in Afghanistan and that the changes brought in by the Lisbon Treaty will help this coordination by creating a more cohesive face of European external policy in all sectors.

Minutes by Clare Preece; photos by Mubashir Mir and Diana Heiman

The European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)

Location:Hanse-Office, Joint Representative of Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein to the European Union, Brussels, Belgium

Speakers:Josephine Liebl and Ben Moore - EPLO Policy Officers

The European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) is a platform of European peacebuilding NGOs, NGO networks and think tanks founded in 2001 and advocates in Brussels for peacebuilding and conflict prevention. The speakers emphasised that EPLO's underlying principle is that of added value, which means that the organizations only acts when it can do things better than its individual members. EPLO's main activities, on the one hand, are those of informing its members about EU policies related to peacebuilding, about what EU funding is available and about the role of different EU



institutions, and on the other hand, of bringing NGO knowledge and analysis to the level of decision-makers by developing joint policy positions and advocating on that basis. Therefore, some of the main objectives of the organization are to: ensure prominent place for conflict prevention and peacebuilding in EU structures and institutions, secure increased resources for conflict prevention and peacebuilding and make the EU's conflict prevention and peacebuilding work more effective. To this purpose, the speakers emphasised the important role that the European External Action Service plays and that EPLO has recently submitted a Statement of Peacebuilding to this organism.

The discussion that followed the presentation focused on the approach of EPLO towards peacebuilding – meaning how do they define it, if they are in favour of robust or non-robust intervention – and on questions about how the organization advocate, how successful they are and what channels of information they use. In answering the questions, the speakers underlined that the position of the organization is actually that of its members, which decide on a common approach on different issues.

Minutes by Daniela Marinas; photo by Mubashir Mir

ICRC – International Committee of the Red Cross

Location: Hanse-Office, Joint Representative of Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein to the European Union, Brussels, Belgium

Speaker: Martin Lacourt

As the final meeting of the day, we had the pleasure to listen to Martin Lacourt, the Senior Delegate to Armed Forces of the ICRC in Brussels. The presentation was titled “The neutral, independent and impartial humanitarian aid of the ICRC”. It focused very much on the guiding principles of the ICRC's work, going beyond Red Cross' mere organizational characteristics. Episodes of Mr. Lacourt's extensive experience, which he gained as an ICRC delegate in Afghanistan, Colombia, Western Africa, Haiti, Mexico and Venezuela, greatly enriched the presentation. In the following, some of the main points of his presentation will be recapitulated.



Mr. Lacourt first emphasized the unique nature of the ICRC. Unlike NGO's, the ICRC, being mentioned in the Geneva Conventions, gets its mandate directly from the states. Therefore, he pointed out that the ICRC is an international Organization, not an NGO. Its exclusively humanitarian mission aims to protect the lives and dignity of victims, foster respect the international humanitarian law, influence non-compliant states and assist those in need with food, water, shelter and medical support. The Red Cross gets the vast majority of its funding from governments, with the US, Japan and the European countries as the main contributors.

In order to guarantee its independence from the main donors, the organization only very limitedly accepts funding linked to a certain country or purpose.

Two of the main guiding principles for the work of the ICRC as described by Mr. Lacourt are neutrality and impartiality. Under neutrality, the organization understands to strictly not take sides in any conflict. Mr. Lacourt stressed the importance of backing declarations of neutrality with concrete actions: “There is no neutrality without neutral action”, he stated. As a case in point, he mentions the challenges the

organization faces in Afghanistan, where ISAF tries to understand the work of the ICRC as a part of their comprehensive approach. Yet, bearing in mind a Taliban leader, who reminded the local head of office in 2009 to “know when humanitarianism becomes a sword – and stop there”, the Red Cross consequently insists to differentiate itself from any international presence in the country perceived as a part of the conflict.

Impartiality, as a second principle, is closely linked to neutrality, yet it refers to the treatment of victims. It means that every victim is treated the same way, no matter which side of the conflict it is affiliated with. Mr. Lacourt admits that total impartiality is difficult to achieve, as the reach of the organization is often limited, either due to lacking capacities or due to the security situation in certain regions.

The presentation was very interesting and informative. The many questions asked during the talk were proof that Mr. Lacourt managed to gain the attention of the group through his lively and interactive presentation. The latter discussion mainly focussed on the ICRC principles to assure impartiality and neutrality and Mr. Lacourt’s own experience. The main case that the discussion was driven by was the ICRC’s role in Afghanistan. Given the very hot weather and the various presentations we had earlier that day, this was not as self-evident as one could think.

Minutes by Ilyas Saliba, Andreas Graf, Isabelle Gunselmann; photo by Mubashir Mir

Day 5, June 10,2010

The Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP)

Location: Council of the European Union, Brussels, Belgium

Speaker: Kaija Vanonen – Operations Directorate

The CSDP was created in 1997 with the Amsterdam Treaty. The basis of this treaty is the fact that the European Union is no military organisation. This must not be a negative factor in implementing the CSDP, as the EU has a unique approach to conflict management. One key step towards the CSDP was the development of a European Security Strategy in 2003. With the Lisbon Treaty in 2009, the CSDP framework was fully established. The new position of a High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy was stipulated; he or she is assisted by a dedicated External Action Service. Just like NATO, the EU uses military tools to reach its policy goals; however, the EU complements this approach with the use of civilian development tools.



The CSDP is focused on combating the following distinct threats to the security of the EU: terrorism, proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), regional conflicts, state failure, organised crime, energy security and climate change. Ms. Vanonen said that the EU wants to support long-term prevention actions, as they are more effective compared to actions where states have already failed. However, the EU still lacks its own military capabilities, and requires the use of national military headquarters to implement military force projection to conflict regions. The EU has three options for

that case: the first would be to use one of the five national OHQs in France, Germany, Italy or Greece. The second option is to use the NATO assets and capabilities of the OHQ at SHAPE. The third one is to activate the EU Operation Centre. The last choice allows for civilian and military actions at the same theatre.

Ms. Vanonen explained the EU military missions using the example of the EU mission „Atalanta“. Atalanta consists of Naval action, supporting the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and train Somali security forces. Asked how the mission could be claimed to be successful, as the number of Somali attacks had increased, she stated that the mission objective was only to deter pirate attacks, and that the navy only acts as an intelligence asset to the trade fleets travelling through the gulf of Aden, for example, to protect the ships of the World Food Program. She said that the mission is clearly not ending pirate attacks in the region. Therefore, other non-military instruments would be required, which focus on the primary causes of piracy. Ms. Vanonen stated that the next steps in combating piracy would be that „the burden would have to be spread more equally“, i.e. the prosecution and trial of pirates, currently left to countries like Kenya and the Seychelles, would have to be supported, and the captured pirates should be prosecuted in other countries as well.

On the question of what constitutes energy security, and why it does not entail the use of military force, Ms. Vanonen answered that energy security is established using diplomatic measures only, and military action to secure energy resources would only happen if the EU were asked for assistance by the government of the country where the action would take place.

Minutes by Jonathan Barber and Isabell Michel; photos by Mubashir Mir

Information Visit to the European Parliament

Location: European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium

Speaker: Jan Philipp Albrecht, Member of the European Parliament

Mr. Albrecht was introduced to us by his assistant as the youngest German delegate of the European Parliament. He is a member of the Green Party and serves in the committees on civil liberties, justice and home affairs and as a substitute member in the committee on legal affairs. Moreover, he is a member of the delegation to Israel and substitute member of the delegations to the Arab Peninsula and to Japan.



In contrast to all our previous visits, Mr. Albrecht didn't start off by showing us a PowerPoint presentation as an introduction, but wanted us to immediately go over into asking him whatever we were interested in related to his tasks and ranges of topics within his work at the Parliament. One question was concerning the prevalent working field of Mr. Albrecht, the issue of data policy and protection in accordance with measures against terrorism, for example concerning the preparations of the new SWIFT agreement between the European Union and the United States. According to Mr. Albrecht, there has been an ongoing debate on cross-border organized crime and terrorism, and the relevance and use of

telecommunication data and personal flight data for the last five years, now taking also financial transmission data into account. In his opinion, there are measures already infringing fundamental rights granted by the Lisbon Treaty and the European Charter of Fundamental Rights, such as the retaining of telecommunication data for at least six months.

Another question referred to the influence of the European Parliament on the Middle East conflict. To this Mr. Albrecht replied that, in order for the European Union to have a more common voice, there needs to be more coordination within the Union, but also with the United States. In his opinion, one has to look at the whole region, not only at Israel, but in general he sees no good perspective for the peace process at the moment, given the right-wing government in Israel and the promised new and more active role of the United States that still has to be fulfilled.



Towards the end of our discussion, Mr. Albrecht pointed out that the role of the European Parliament has changed a lot since the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty, and that this was becoming particularly visible also with the topics he deals with. In his opinion, the members of the current Parliament are very experienced and informed, and he sees the main challenges ahead in the protection of fundamental human rights and especially data protection and internet policy.

Minutes by Franziska Baumann & Nicola Nymalm; photos by Mubashir Mir and Diana Heiman

Day 6, June 11, 2010

Introduction to the Federal Ministry of Defense and Bundeswehr Missions abroad

Location: The Federal Ministry of Defence, Media and Information Centre, Bonn, Germany

Speaker: Col. Klaus Bücklein

The last station of our security policy seminar was the Federal Ministry of Defence. The discussion with Col. Bücklein, the Chief of Media and Information Centre, whom we already knew from his previous work at the Bundeswehr Operations Command in Potsdam, was mostly dedicated to the ISAF Operation in Afghanistan.

Col. Bücklein opened the floor for open discussions, basing his report on answering to the questions of the participants related to the present topic. According to the diagram presented by the Col. Bücklein, the situation in Afghanistan is marked by security relevant incidents, which increased since the beginning of the operation. Unfortunately, it is expected that these incidents will increase this summer to a new peak. The reasons of such expectations were explained by a usual increase in activities of terrorist groups during this season, due to goodweather conditions.



To Col. Bücklein, the acceptance of the international troops depends on the improvement of the concept of working with the civilian population, taking into account cultural differences, perceptions and the mentality of a local population. However, answering the question of students concerning reduction of military forces and increasing number of civilian personnel of NGOs as a possible solution for the security situation in the land, Col. Bücklein expressed his doubts that a reduction of military troops and increasing the number of civilian personnel will automatically lead to a bettering of the situation. The presenter stressed the necessity of the right combination of civil personnel, working in the field of civil-military assistance with the military forces, which should provide a secure environment in Afghanistan. The last losses of the ISAF troops, also within the German forces, showed that the situation in the land is far from secure. Col. Bücklein mentioned that the increasing of security incidents and losses within the Bundeswehr, unfortunately, also leads to an increasing of Post Traumatic Stress Disorders within the troops. The Ministry of Defence of Germany is taking this issue seriously to provide psychological care for its own soldiers, although there is a clear necessity of further, more active work in that field. Taking into account the present problem, the Ministry of Defence tries to implement the right instruments, like special trainings, to build up capabilities of the soldiers, so they can adapt to the special situation in Afghanistan in a better way.

To the question of students concerning possible studying of the Soviet experience of 1979 in Afghanistan, Col. Bücklein mentioned that it should be taken into account, that the most challenging for the international troops are the insurgence and the changing tactics of resistance of terrorist troops during the last years, which have become more unpredictable against the international forces. According to the new ISAF strategy, the involved nations will try to implement the lessons learned made by the Soviets and the NATO-Troops in the last 8 and a half years.

In the conclusion of the discussion, Col. Bücklein stressed that the UN and NATO mandated the ISAF operation, based on Chapter VII of the UN Charter, and that the present outcome of the ISAF Operation is important for the future of Afghanistan as well for the integrity of the NATO alliance.

Minutes by Diana Heiman, Akbikesh Mukhtarova; photo by Naida Mehmedbegović



Photo by Mubashir Mir