

Symposium

Realities of European Security

Reacting to growing uncertainties and waning capabilities

16 May 2012



**Eerste
Kamer** der Staten-Generaal



PROGRAMME

- 12.00 - 13.00 hrs:** Lunch
- 13.00 - 13.05 hrs:** Word of welcome by the President of the Senate of the Netherlands, Mr. Fred DE GRAAF
- 13.05 - 13.15 hrs:** Introductory remarks by the Chairman of the Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Development cooperation of the Senate of the Netherlands, Mr. Frank VAN KAPPEN

13.15 -14.45 hrs: Panel discussion 1

European defence: Hanging together or hanging separately?

European integration has gone far, especially in the economic realm. The spill-over effects on defence-related issues have nonetheless remained relatively minimal. More than a decade ago, the 1998 Anglo-French summit of St. Malo was supposed to trigger something grand. Since then we have seen the emergence of European battle groups and the European Defence Agency as well as of the practice of pooling and sharing. However, is this enough? The defence capabilities of Europe are still below par. Cuts in defence spending by the far majority of European nations further increase the gap between expectations and capabilities. Operation Unified Protector (Libya) hinted that Europe as a whole lacks the capability to conduct large-scale military operations without the assistance of the United States. If this is the reality of today (is it?), creating a coalition of the willing of those European nations that are willing to come to an increased defence co-operation could be an alternative approach. Will Europe ever create a truly integrated, effective and affordable European defence force without a coherent common foreign and defence policy? Will European states ever give up their sovereign right to decide, if and when it sends its forces into battle? Will pooling and sharing sufficiently safeguard our vital interests?

Speakers: **Prof. François HEISBOURG** - IISS, London
Mr. Michael STÜRMER - Die Welt, Berlin

14.45 - 15.00 hrs: Coffee break

15.00 - 16.30 hrs: Panel discussion 2

Weakness of the West? The future of Transatlantic ties

Critics of NATO often argue that the strategic interests of the United States and Europe are diverging. As a result, they argue, the Transatlantic relation is losing in value and relevancy. Europe, it is often heard, has to invest in a strong and capable EU that is strategically independent of the United States and look for partners beyond the United States. An additional criticism is that Europe is unable to speak with one voice and therefore denies its own strategic dimension. As a consequence, some argue, the (non-)bloc disqualifies itself as a strategic partner of the more solid and straightforward United States. The United States, it is often argued, has to look for strategic partners in other parts of the world. Nonetheless, threat perceptions as outlined in the U.S. National Security Strategy greatly overlap with those in the European Security Strategy and those of individual EU member states. While the right of existence of NATO might not correspond any longer to the context of 1949, the new dimension of the Transatlantic link might be that only together the United States and Europe have sufficient critical mass to face the challenges of an increasingly complex security situation. Can the U.S. and Europe do without each other if the goal is to safeguard their vital interests and prevent the decline of the West?

Speakers: **Mr. Igor IVANOV** - MGIMO University, Moscow
Mr. Rem KORTEWEG - HCSS, The Hague

16.30 - 17.00 hrs: Wrap up and closing remarks

17.00 hrs: Reception