

EuroDefense Working Group 13 (EWG-13)

“PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY”

Executive Summary

The world’s most fundamental environmental changes

1. Overtime our planetary ecosystem has remained relatively stable, but humanity has seemingly exceeded some limits, putting at risk the availability of resources as well as the current way of life, mainly based upon cheap mineral sources of energy.
2. Among other factors, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is having an impact on the world’s temperature with two consequences: a dilatation of oceans and a reduction of ice and snow in polar and mountainous zones. This leads to the rising of sea levels and, in many regions, to the growing scarcity of fresh water.
3. Due to the rapid growth and development of human societies, both leading to new needs and less resources, a new model of society will inevitably emerge over the next fifty years, It will be a much more environmental friendly oriented society characterised by new standards in the field of transportation, communication, information, economy and security. Such new societies will be based on knowledge, information, high technology and cheap, renewable sources of energy. There lie quite a few risks to security with regard to the developing inequalities bred by uneven access to vital resources: conflicts might occur for the control of such riches in many places over the world.

Consequences for international security

4. Soaring concerns and widespread debates regarding the security consequences of the climate change are based upon the following issues:
 - Increased poverty and inequalities
 - Potential conflicts regarding resources, specially energy, water and food
 - Potential damaging economic losses and hazards to coastal cities and critical infrastructures
 - Loss of territory and border disputes
 - Potential conflicts arising from territories under ice and snow (Arctic) open to exploitation
 - Environmentally induced migration
 - Circumstances of fragility and radicalisation.
 - Intensified tensions with regard to energy supply
 - Pressure on international governance
5. Climate change will certainly aggravate or even exacerbate existing tensions in those fields. Today, as well in the near future, not only the poorest countries, but also some developing

countries are at risk. For score of developing countries poverty and migratory movements might lead to crises and conflicts.

It is the responsibility of the EU to be ready to tackle, in the short and mid term, the main defense and security challenges brought about by the climate change.

6 Indeed, the problems facing Humanity are of such a nature and size and are so interconnected that all of them have implications in terms of international security, when broadly understood. As a matter of fact, all countries are increasingly reliant on the vital communication, transport and transit routes on which international trade and energy security heavily depend. This potential vulnerability will require greater international efforts to ensure the security of both energy sources and transit energy supply routes against attack or disruption. As a larger share of world consumption is transported across globe, energy supplies are increasingly exposed to disruption.

7. Key environmental and resource constraints, including health risks, climate change, water scarcity and increasing energy needs will further shape the future security environment and have the potential to significantly affect international security.

8. Addressing these new challenges and risks, notwithstanding that the boundary between security and defence and the distinction between internal and external threats are unclear and involves some overlap, there are some situations that can require a holistic approach to the combined intervention of armed forces, security forces as well as other humanitarian organisations. Despite the current international financial crisis, in response to the various challenges, we are witnessing a frenzy of measures at country, or regional level, including international, institutional and non-governmental organisations.

9. Given the seriousness and urgency of the problems, the measures being taken are primarily short-term financial, economic and social measures focused on current events. It is however also necessary to look further into the future consequences and to take adequate preventive measures to respond to them. Failure to do so now will inexorably lead to more serious and in some cases irreversible consequences later on. Indeed many more structural environmental-driven measures must be enforced in due course in such areas as large scale increase of energetic efficiency and the use of renewable sources of energy.

Recommendations to allay the consequences for international security

10. The seriousness of the situation may well require that the humanitarian military forces, already developed to intervene in external theatres of operation, should use the organisational resources at their disposal, as far as possible, to support local populations in the field of economy, education and health, whenever no local organisations or other International Institutions are available or even exist in the area.

11. Appropriate organisations such as Fire Brigades, Civil Defence, Civil and Medical Emergency Planning have been set up to respond to crisis situations, which also rely on the collaboration of the security forces, the armed forces and the whole plethora of non-governmental and civil society organisations. Each of these organisations was created to respond to a specific need, but there are frequently overlaps between them, or even situations in which two or more of these organisations have to coordinate and act jointly. The existence of co-ordination rules, emergency plans, common training and even a somewhat centralised

command, which can contribute to minimize duplications and optimizes response, is indispensable in crisis situations.

12. The international community must therefore include other non-governmental (internationally certified) humanitarian aid organisations in the concept of multinational military and civil forces, in order to create a joint, combined, multi-disciplinary task force, which includes all the military and non-military means and resources with a view to a global humanitarian intervention with a medium/long term vision. There is therefore a need to monitor the international situation and pre-crisis situations in order to prevent crisis break-out, which could even lead to preventive measures involving social and economic aid in order to ensure security.

The European Parliament Report on the implementation of the European Security Strategy and ESDP (15.5.2008) states: “*Invites the Council to study the options to the creation of a civil-military integrated Intervention Force for Human Security, to carry out human security operations composed of around 15.000 elements, of which at least a third will be civilian experts (police, human rights, development, humanitarian assistance and administrative personnel)*”;

13. We consider that this Force, based on the existing CSDP structures, could be composed of dedicated military troops and civilian capacities already made available by Member States (Military and Civilian Headline Goals, Battlegroups and Civilian Response Teams), and could also include a *Voluntary Service for Human Security* which would associate a *Civil Corps for Peace* , as it is provided for in the Lisbon Treaty (Art° 214 n°5) for the *Voluntary European Corps for Humanitarian Aid*.

14. A new important development in this realm is the brand new European Commission Action Plan for the implementation of the European Internal Security Strategy, dated 22 November 2010. In fact, included in the 41 proposed actions for the Strategy implementation it is expected by 2011 that a European Emergency Response Capacity will be developed, with a view to reinforcing the European resilience to crisis and catastrophes.

15. Facing such dire situation and urgent necessity, the EU should, with no delay, display a long range foresight, reliable capabilities, a strong political will and a recognized leadership.