



## Assembly of Western European Union The Interparliamentary European Security and Defence Assembly

### THE MESSAGE FROM BERLIN TO THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT ON THE WAY AHEAD FOR THE EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

for their consideration ahead of the European Council meeting to be held on 25 March 2007 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome  
Berlin, 7 February 2007

Fifty years ago, six European states signed the Treaty of Rome. We applaud the progress made by these states and those who have joined them in the intervening years, towards a Europe with:

- common values;
- shared economic growth and prosperity;
- shared responsibility for security and defence.

Now, fifty years on, the European Union exists and twenty-seven European countries have thrown their weight behind that initial endeavour.

Today the security of our societies, and the survival of our democratic values themselves are at risk from the emergence of new threats – terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, mass migration and organised crime – that affect not only the security of our continent but also the viability of our democratic principles.

We need to articulate common responses to these new common threats in relation to security and defence. This response must be closely coordinated with our allies in NATO.



We urge the European Heads of State and Government to make every effort to develop a European Security and Defence Policy based on:

- The shared objectives** described in the European Security Strategy formulated in 2003; this requires implementation of the commitments already entered into in the field of security and defence.
- Credible capabilities and technology:** for the European Security and Defence Policy to encompass the genuinely effective capacity advocated in the Helsinki Declaration, it is imperative to:
  - encourage all member states to invest in the requisite military capabilities;
  - make sure that quick decisions on the management of crises are possible through intelligence gathering, highly responsive planning capabilities and operational command structures;
  - provide the resources to evolve policies in European research and technology and joint armaments programmes leading to coordinated and compatible national defence procurement.

These developments should be coordinated with NATO so as to strengthen both the ESDP and the Atlantic Alliance.

- Democratic legitimacy:** these policies must be subject to increased democratic scrutiny of ESDP by national parliamentarians. In this respect the Assembly of WEU plays a decisive role. We need to strengthen this process. This existing interparliamentary forum, which is not a European second chamber, should be enhanced as a vital democratic link with citizens and public opinion. We call on the European Council to further this idea as a matter of urgency.