



# DCAF at the Maison de la Paix, Geneva



## Key facts:

1. **DCAF: mandate to support SSG**
2. **Foundation – 65 member states, including all EU states; 160 staff, 40 nationalities; projects in 70 countries, HQ in Geneva, office in Brussels**
3. **DCAF- EU : close relationship (EU SSR facility, support for EP, work for EU missions)**



## **Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)**

**Parliamentary practices in providing parliamentary  
oversight in security and defence policy**

**Two areas:**

- 1. Military deployments abroad**
- 2. Domestic situations (emergencies)**

**Hans Born, DCAF**



# A. Parliament and security and defence



# The five functions of parliaments

<b>Function</b>	<b>Regarding security sector</b>
<b>Legislative</b>	Initiates/reviews/amends/adopts laws that determine mandate and organisation of security sector institutions
<b>Budgetary</b>	Reviews/amends/approves/rejects budgets for security sector institutions
<b>Oversight</b>	Monitors and verifies whether security sector institutions act in accordance with laws and policies
<b>Representative</b>	Organise hearings, constituency relations, plenary and committee debates on security issues
<b>Elective</b>	Confirmation hearings, non-confidence vote in case of disagreement on security operations or policy



## The three qualities of parliaments ("Triple-A")

Authority	Ability	Attitude
<p>Parliaments must have sufficient legal authority to perform the main functions by which they influence SSG</p> <p>→ The <b>legal powers</b> of parliaments</p>	<p>Parliaments must have sufficient resources to fulfil their constitutional roles and functions in SSG effectively</p> <p>→ The <b>capacity</b> of parliaments</p>	<p>Parliamentarians require a strong commitment to democratic process and interest in SSG</p> <p>→ The <b>political will</b> of parliamentarians</p>



## **B. ROLE OF PARLIAMENT IN MILITARY DEPLOYMENTS ABROAD**



# Military deployments and international organisations



14 peacekeeping operations, in total  
102.554 personnel (military, civilian, volunteers),  
top contributing countries: Ethiopia, India,  
Pakistan, Bangladesh



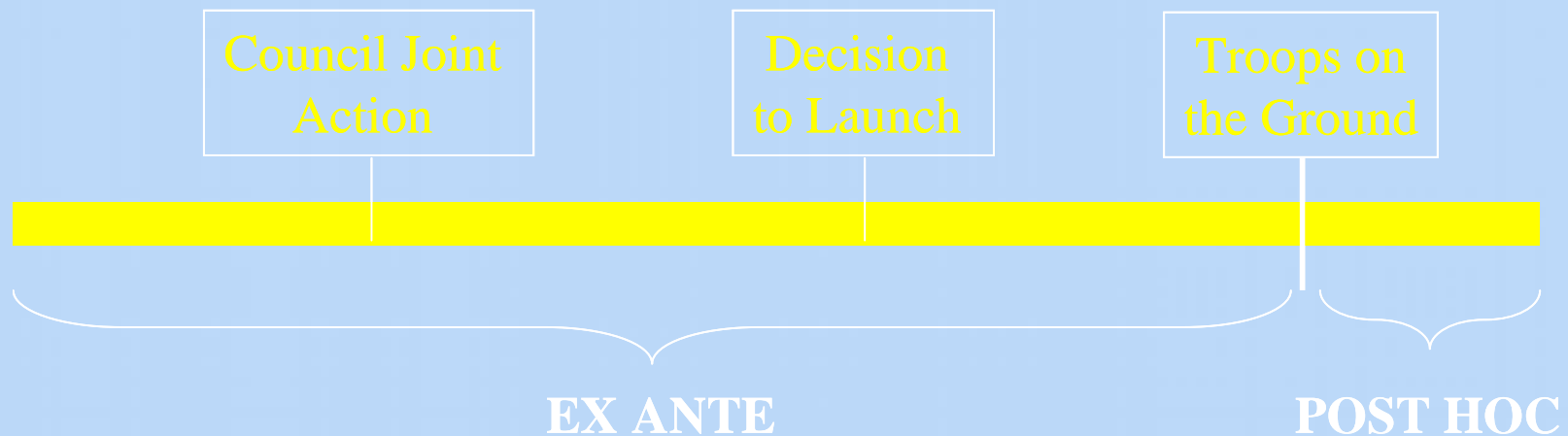
6 military missions, 5 civilian missions,  
over 4000 personnel deployed



6 missions abroad, 20.000 personnel



# Decision-making in international organisations on international missions (example EU)







## 4 types of national parliamentary involvement in international missions

1. Prior authorisation before international decision: e.g. Finland, Sweden
2. Prior authorisation before national decision: Germany, The Netherlands,
3. Consultative role: Belgium
4. Parliament has no involvement: Greece



## Practices of national parliaments

1. Special legislation on deployments abroad (e.g. Sweden)
2. Oversight of early stages of international decision-making on missions abroad (e.g. Finland)
3. Prior approval of deployments, incl. military, civilian and police operations



# Parliamentary oversight of the armed forces in domestic situations (state of emergency)



# Internal roles of armed forces: criteria

- **Proportionality**, meaning that the use of force should be commensurate to the security needs
- **Subsidiarity**, which implies that the armed forces should be confined to supporting the civilian authorities and should be subordinate to local or national civil authorities.



## 4 types of internal roles of armed forces

1. Military assistance in maintaining public order
2. Military assistance in the case of natural disasters
3. Military internal roles not directly related to national security



# Emergency powers

- Safeguarding the balance of powers, i.e. the powers of parliament and the judiciary vis-à-vis the executive,
- Protecting human rights and the rule of law.



# Declaration, Prolongation and Termination of Emergency Rule

- In most European countries, parliament must be involved
- More stringent conditions apply to such a parliamentary decision than to regular legislative acts
- However, half of European countries have no rule on prolongation or termination



# Parliamentary oversight in EU Way Ahead- some suggestions

- Areas for further exploration:
  - EP and national parliamentary control of deepening EU cooperation in defence matters (PESCO - currently 34 projects).
  - Special issues such as cyber security, preventing violent extremism, migration, integrity of elections
  - Challenging issues for oversight: intelligence, special forces, procurement
- Long-term partnership between DCAF and EP