



Delegation for Relations with the NATO-Parliamentary Assembly

REPORT

on the 51st Annual session of NATO Parliamentary
Assembly in Copenhagen,
11-15 November 2005

December 2005

General remark on the 51st NATO-PA

This session characterised a growing recognition of the role of the EU in security and defence. ESDP is now taken seriously by NATO partners and with the creation of the European Defence Agency the EU is considered to be developing its efforts to make this policy credible and efficient. As NATO is increasingly determined to become a political organisation, as stressed by the US Ambassador to NATO, Mrs Victoria Nuland, the EU and NATO have to work in close co-operation as it is already the case in the Balkans or in Darfur.

The NATO PA's five committees (Political, Defence and Security, Economics and Security, Civil Dimension of Security, and Science and Technology) met during this session on Saturday and Sunday 12 and 13 November, followed by the plenary session held on Tuesday 15.

The session was attended by approximately 356 parliamentarians from some 40 countries, including delegates from all 26 NATO member countries, 15 NATO-PA associate delegations and 12 other delegations with the status of parliamentary observer.

The next annual session in Quebec, Canada, on 13-17 November 2006, will overlap with the EP plenary session on 13-16 November 2006. Therefore derogation from the Conference of Presidents of the EP will be needed in order to participate. In the meantime, the NATO-PA should have completed an internal reform, as it has been proposed by Mr. Lellouche, President of the Assembly. A special group will be set up in order to conduct a study on the reform of the Assembly and its adaptation to the security challenges of the 21st century.

Composition and status of the EP's delegation

The EP Delegation included 7 Members:

- Mr **Paulo Casaca** (PSE), Chairman of the Delegation for Relations with the NATO-PA;
- Mr **Pawel Piskorski** (PPE-DE), Vice-Chairman of the Delegation for Relations with the NATO-PA;
- Mrs **Angelika Beer** (VERTS-ALE), Member of the Subcommittee on Security and Defence;
- Mrs **Ana Maria Gomes** (PSE), Vice-Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Security and Defence;
- Mr **Tobias Pflüger** (GUE-NGL), Member of the Subcommittee on Security and Defence;
- Mrs **Teresa Riera Madurell** (PSE), Substitute in the Delegation for Relations with the NATO-PA; and
- Mr **Karl von Wogau** (PPE-DE), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Security and Defence.

The status of the EP delegation within the NATO-PA remained unchanged. According to a previous decision of the NATO-PA Standing Committee it has the following rights:

- the EP delegation is invited to the sessions of the Assembly, the Rose-Roth seminars, the Mediterranean Special Group seminars, and the activities of its Committees and Sub-Committees;
- MEPs are allowed to speak in Committee and plenary discussions;
- they can present texts but not amendments;
- they can present reports (at the invitation of Committees);
- they do not have the right to vote;
- the size of a delegation is up to ten MEPs.

Debates in the Committees

The Political Committee, attended by Mr. von Wogau and Mr. Casaca, discussed among other subjects NATO's future role and cooperation with the EU in Kosovo. This was done in the presence of Mr Kai Eide, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General to Kosovo. During the debate, consensus developed on the need to reinforce the role of the EU in this region, as stressed by Mr von Wogau, and to provide for a new political environment in the framework of its policy towards the Balkans. The delegates reflected upon the role of the EU, while taking over from NATO, in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and which could soon lead to the opening of accession negotiations with this country. The other topic of high importance discussed in this Committee was Mr Polenz's report on NATO and Persian Gulf Security. Mr. Paulo Casaca, in the name of the EP, expressed his general support for the analysis and viewpoints of Mr Polenz. Based on his recent visit to Iraq, he stressed the fundamental importance of monitoring the coming December parliamentary elections with observers from the parliaments of NATO and EU countries. This point was supported by the rapporteur. Mr Casaca also stressed the need to avoid being intimidated by fanatic and terrorist-like declarations.

Mrs Gomes and Mr Piskorski attended the Defence and Security Committee which debated NATO's ongoing operations, as well as its commitments and funding. Mrs Gomes underlined the constructive role of the recently established European Defence Agency, the EU Green Book on Defence Procurement and the EU's overall efforts to spend national military budgets in a more efficient way. In her speech, she commented on the rather intensive competition between American and European defence companies and pleaded for more cooperation among the Allies in this area.

Mrs Beer took part in the meeting of the Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security, where topics such as terrorism preparedness and security in Central Asia and the South Caucasus were discussed.

Mrs Riera Madurell attended the meeting of the Committee on Science and Technology, which held discussions on WMD material in Russia, the 2005 NPT Review Conference and the use of nanotechnology.

The Economics and Security Committee, with the participation of Mr Pflüger, held a meeting on development issues, multilateral economic relations and avian flu.

Discussion in the plenary session and adopted recommendations

The plenary session was held on 15 November with addresses by Mr. Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Prime Minister of Denmark, Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of Turkey and Mr. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, NATO Secretary General.

It adopted important policy recommendations, including:

- On Belarus - an agreement to support the forces of opposition to the regime of President Alexander Lukashenko. Key opposition figures spoke at the session and the Assembly offered to monitor the presidential election in July 2006,
- On Georgia - the NATO-PA said it would be watching with great attention the withdrawal of Russian troops from their bases in Georgia as this would greatly contribute to security and stability in the South Caucasus,
- On Ukraine - the NATO-PA declared it was a priority for the Alliance to help Ukraine eliminate dangerous surplus weapons and munitions dating from the Cold War,
- On Azerbaijan - the NATO-PA stated the parliamentary elections of 6 November were not up to international democratic standards. Serious abuses were registered, despite some positive signals in the process.

All declarations and resolutions approved by the plenary session can be found in annex I (238 SESA 05 E), the list of discussed reports is in the annex II (164 SESA 05 B).