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Media seminar on

Security and Defense in Southern Europe

How to improve protection of the southern borders of the European Union



Madrid, 27, 28, 29 June 2017
European Parliament Office in Spain. Paseo de la Castellana, 46

Programme

Tuesday 27 June

Flights: Individual arrivals to Madrid
Transfers to hotel (individually)

Wednesday 28 June

08:15 Bus Depart to the Madrid Information Office

09:00-09:15 **Opening and technical briefing**

- María ANDRES , Head of EPIO Spain
- Damián CASTAÑO, Press Officer EPIO Spain

09:15 **Welcome Message from Antonio Tajani**, President of the European Parliament

09:15-10:00 Keynote Speaker - Ewa MORCURE, spokesperson for the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) and a head of the agency's press office in Warsaw.

10:00-11:00 Debate with MEPs: **Increase European Defense through closer cooperation.**

- Jonás FERNÁNDEZ (S&D, ES)
- Eleni THEOCHAROUS (ECR, CY)

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-12.30 Debate 2: **Control of borders in southern Europe**

- Paulo RANGEL (EPP, PT)
- Maite PAGAZAURTUNDUA (ALDE, ES)

12:30-13:30 The view of the **European Commission**
Dimitri BARUA. Press Officer European Commission (Spain)

13:30-14:00 Time for interviews

14:00-15:30 Lunch

15:30 Bus Depart from Madrid Information Office

16:00 -18:00 **Visit South Border Coordination Center** (C/ Guzmán el Bueno, 110).

This is the Coordination Center for Coastal and Maritime Surveillance, located in a 6,000 square meter underground complex. From there, all patrols, boats or personnel in the service of border surveillance are monitored.



18:00 Bus depart to the Hotel

Thursday 29 June

09:00 Bus Depart from the Hotel

09:30-10:30 Spanish Ministry of Defense

Elena Gómez Castro, Director General of Defense Policy

10:30 Bus depart from Ministry of Defense

11:00-13:00 Visit to the European Union Satellite Centre. Torrejón de Ardoz (Madrid)



The Centre supports the decision making of the European Union in the field of the Common Foreign and Security Policy, in particular the Common Security and Defence Policy, including European Union crisis management missions and operations, by providing products and services resulting from the exploitation of relevant space assets and collateral data, including satellite imagery and aerial imagery, and related services.

13.00 End of the Seminar

13:00 Bus depart from the European Union Satellite Centre to the airport and return to the hotel.

Contacts in the EP Spain press service

Damian Castaño
Paloma Diaz

+ 34 91 436 47 67 / Movil +34 608 577 966
+34 91 435 47 40 / Móvil +34 696 808 217

Media seminar on Security and Defence in Southern Europe

The European Parliament press service is holding a media seminar in Madrid on 27, 28 and 29 June titled 'Security and Defence in Southern Europe', with a view to generating a debate between key media actors and leading MEPs on issues regarding the future of EU defence policies, as well as the possibilities for deepening EU-wide defence cooperation.

Interpretation: EN, ES

Background

The European Parliament stresses that developing an EU common defence policy depends more upon the political will of Member States to make it happen than upon legal considerations, given that the Lisbon Treaty already provides a sufficient framework for building a truly common defence policy.

In a resolution approved in March 2017, MEPs highlighted that the European Defence Agency (EDA) and the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) should be treated as *sui generis*, like the EU External Action Service, and funded through a specific section in the Union budget. The EP considers it is essential to increase national defence expenditure to 2% of GDP, stressing that this would mean finding an extra €100 billion for defence by the end of the coming decade.

The seminar will cover topics such as the new rules adopted on February 2017 to ensure stronger checks at the EU's external borders and to prevent the preparation of terrorist acts. Europeans becoming radicalised and travelling to fight in Iraq or Syria represent a growing threat to the EU. Most of the recent terrorist attacks in Europe were perpetrated by home-grown terrorists. It is hoped the new directive will be a valuable tool in tackling the phenomenon of aspiring or returning foreign fighters and so-called "lone wolves".

In the same month, MEPs also approved a regulation to tighten up the screening of Europeans as well as people from other parts of the world when they enter the EU. They will be checked against databases of stolen and lost documents, the Schengen Information System (SIS) and other relevant EU databases. The checks will be mandatory at all air, sea and land borders, on both entry and exit.

Looming on the horizon, there are several legislative proposals related to security and defence. On the one hand, one of them seeks to replace the current measures to safeguard the security of gas supply in order to ensure that all the necessary measures are taken to safeguard an interrupted supply of gas throughout the EU, in particular to protected customers. This would help make the single energy market operate better.

On the other hand, another proposal aims to amend the European regulation on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code), whose purpose is to establish an Entry Exit System as well. In fact, a different proposal suggests that a European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) should be established in order to improve external border management. Concerning the same topic, there is another legislative proposal on the table to reform the Schengen Information System (SIS), in order to enhance the general provisions of EU border management.

Furthermore, there is a draft report which states that the EU should use Private Security Companies abroad to guard its delegations and staff and to support its civilian and military CSDP missions. Their services would fill those capacity gaps that the EU would otherwise have difficulties in tackling.

In terms of cybersecurity, firms supplying essential services, e.g. for energy, transport, banking and health, or digital ones, such as search engines and cloud services, will have to improve their ability to withstand cyber-attacks under the first EU-wide rules on cybersecurity, approved by MEPs in July 2016.