

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0198/07
by Sylwester Chruszcz (NI)
to the Council

Subject: European armed forces

Following reports of plans to create European combat units (a European army) consisting of as many as 100 000 soldiers, I would like to know whether there are already definite proposals or a definite timetable for the creation of this European army. To whom would the army be answerable and what would be the scope of its operations? Have the Member States already drawn up plans or issued statements concerning the level of each country's commitment to this project in terms of financial and human resources?

How many troops does the European Rapid Reaction Force currently number and what is the cost of running it? Is it funded directly from the budgets of the Member States and, if so, what is Poland's financial contribution to the European armed forces? Who makes the decisions concerning their deployment and on the basis of what procedure?

In the light of the plans to create so-called 'battle groups' in 2007, what is the proposed level of commitment of the individual Member States, including Poland? What is the intended structure of these groups and who will command them? Will the soldiers in these units serve under national or EU insignia? What plans are there to make use of 'battle groups' in the future and could they be deployed on the territory of any EU Member State?