

**Question for written answer E-6567/2010
to the Council
Rule 117
Ágnes Hankiss (PPE)**

Subject: Permanent structured cooperation

As a result of the Lisbon Strategy, Member States now have the opportunity for greater cooperation under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) with the introduction of the concept of 'permanent structured cooperation' in the field of defence.

There are significant differences between the competence, equipment, manpower, etc. of Member States' armies, depending on each Member State's financial situation and defence policy priorities.

What action does the Council intend to take to ensure that, rather than an exclusive club for a few of the larger Member States cooperating in the field of capability development, which requires considerable resources, the CSDP will become a forum for cooperation which:

- is open to all Member States,
- actively endeavours to help strengthen the EU's common defence capabilities, even if only in a few specific areas,
- employs forms of multinational cooperation to use synergies more effectively than previously in the development of defence capabilities, and
- prevents those Member States capable of contributing only to the specific area in question from being cut off from the rest?