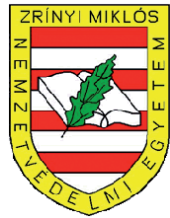




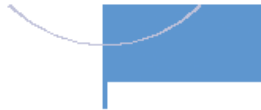
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE



ZRINYI MIKLÓS
NATIONAL DEFENCE
UNIVERSITY



Seminar on Central European Solutions for Pooling and Sharing of Capabilities



25-26 October 2010

BUDAPEST

Seminar on Central European Solutions for Pooling and Sharing of Capabilities

Budapest, 25-26 October, 2010

Co-organized:

Ministry of Defence, Republic of Hungary and
Miklós Zrínyi National Defence University

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Seminar on Central European Solutions for Pooling and Sharing of Capabilities

Background

The concept of pooling and sharing (P&S) of defense capabilities has become a topical issue in Europe, thanks to related negotiations and activities sped up due to the considerable impact of the financial crisis on European defense budgets in the last two years. Countries have to accomplish their tasks with fewer resources, which direct them towards discovering new opportunities in the field of defense cooperation. The idea of pooling and sharing offers the best opportunity to find common solutions to common challenges in a period when none of the European countries are able to maintain the full spectrum of defense capabilities autonomously, and tasks of international crisis management calls for better coordinated efforts than we have today.

The current initiative was raised at the conference Security Cooperation in Central Europe in May 2010, when representatives of six countries gathered in Vienna. The idea of a Pooling and Sharing Seminar was brought up later at the Austrian – Hungarian Political Directors' meeting in November 2009. Although the present seminar at hand has been limited in scope, the representatives of the same countries and joining international organizations on board provided a great opportunity for sharing experience, ideas and facilitating an open discussion on potential regional and sub-regional P&S initiatives. Last but not least, this event has an important role in preparing for the EU-wide meeting in the field of P&S in February 2011.

Structure

The Budapest Pooling and Sharing Seminar was organized by the Hungarian Ministry of Defence and the Zrínyi Miklós National Defense University. The seminar was opened by co-chairs Mr. Peter Siklósi, Deputy State Secretary for Defense Policy (HUN MoD), and Maj. Gen. Johann Pucher, Defense Political Director (AUT MoD) followed by an introduction by the moderator of the seminar, Dr. Zoltan Szenes, former CHOD (HUN) on the types of pooling and sharing.

The morning session focused on international examples, lessons learnt and Central European possibilities in this field. This part incorporated a lecture on the Nordic cooperation offered by H.E. Cecilia Björner, Swedish Ambassador to Hungary; a lecture provided by Mr. József Bali, former Deputy State Secretary for Defense Policy (HUN MoD), mapping the Central European possibilities and Mr. Laszlo Szarvas' presentation which introduced the C-17 Strategic Airlift Capability (SAC) consortium. Following a coffee break, the floor was opened for discussion.

The afternoon session aimed to continue the lessons learnt part of the first session, while also coming up with new initiatives. This part included presentations on multinational education opportunities by deputy head of the Zrínyi Miklós NDU for education, Col Klára Kecskeméthy, and by the deputy head of Operations Branch in the Hungarian Defence Staff, Col János Csombók on P&S opportunities in military training. This session was again followed by discussion providing opportunity to further develop and consolidate the ideas derived from the presentations and preliminary discussions.

Opening remarks

Mr. Siklósi reminded the audience that the basis of the current seminar on Central European Regional Security Cooperation was the introductory conference on this issue in Austria, May 2010. He continued with setting the scene by presenting the rationale behind this initiative. It included common Central European reasons such as *budgetary constraints, avoiding the re-nationalization of defense development projects for the reluctance of sharing the burden, and the realization that a common regional solution is needed* both for EU member states and allied nations in the region. He added that no country has the financial capacity to build the full range of defense capabilities, while sharing experiences and lessons learned in the region would contribute to the formation of best practices.

The Deputy State Secretary called for following the outstanding example of the C-17 SAC program in Pápa, and offered possible fields of cooperation too by mentioning regional air policing and common pilot training programs.

Finally, he expressed that the aim of the seminar is to outline a set of realistic ideas enhancing opportunities and action taken on a cooperative basis.



Maj. Gen Pucher's opening offered some common starting points for the defense cooperation. He highlighted that there is a financial pressure on the armed forces, however, the need for highly qualified sustainable capabilities for crisis management is persistent; the geographic proximity, converging thematic interest and concerns of Central European States (major players in Europe might move on in the CSDP amongst themselves, leaving behind small countries) are binding factors, therefore co-operation would increase the regional relevance also in defense policy. He also added that strengthening regional cooperation on defense issues (through pooling and sharing) would generate support for the Hungarian EU presidency.

In the Major General's understanding the Vienna Conference in May 2010 was a first attempt, and related to that he underlined that full co-operation still has to be developed by removing gridlocks of the mindsets, in the structures and managements of the countries. He underlined the need for a change of paradigm: co-operation should be the normality, purely national planning the exception. Enhancing co-operation in capability development would enable cost saving as well as preservation of existing capabilities that otherwise could not be maintained; co-operation should not be focused on economic goals only but has to take into account the political dimension of pooling and sharing incentives. In the beginning the regional co-operation should be flexible and humble and not overambitious.

He closed his opening remarks by asking for an agreement on the notion of re-energized regional co-operation; sharing best practices and experience; identifying some capability areas that have the concrete potential for realistic results; and maintaining support for the Hungarian EU presidency.

The opening remarks were followed by the welcome address of the National Defense University and the moderator of the day. General (ret.) Szenes also introduced the topic at hand by defining "Pooling and Sharing" and shed light on elements:

- 1. Sharing of capabilities:** Member States provide national capabilities for common use without multinational overhead or integrated structure.
- 2. Pooling of capabilities:** National capabilities for common use with multinational overhead or integrated structure.
- 3. Pooling through acquisition:** National capabilities do not exist and are substituted in favour of multilateral capabilities, and the multilateral organization owns the assets.
- 4. Role sharing:** National capabilities are relinquished on the assumption that another country will make it available when necessary.

Source: Pooling of EU Member States Assets in the Implementation of ESDP, Brussels, 27 February 2008; p. iii



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1st session

The first speaker, H.E. Björner, offered a presentation on Defense Cooperation in the Nordic Countries in the Light of Pooling and Sharing. She pointed out that the Nordic and Central European regions are similar since the countries of both regions respectively share highly similar security concerns and threat-perceptions; both regions are made up of a combination of EU and NATO member and non-member states; the countries of both regions have been cutting defense spending during the past 20 years, while also taking greater roles in international peacekeeping operations.

Building a regional perspective is key.

Supporting the audience's understanding of the Nordic Defense Cooperation, the Ambassador describes its background:

- following the end of the Cold War Nordic countries were heavily downsizing their armed forces; radically re-establishing their security policies; and shifted from war forces to defense forces;
- new conflicts began in the 1990s, with a growing number of international peacekeeping missions and growing Nordic engagement;
- armed forces are no longer divided as national defense forces and mission forces but one unified force is being developed with increased capabilities;
- the ongoing revolution of military affairs (RMA) resulted in rising material costs of development and acquisition;
- the first substantial cooperation program began between Norway and Sweden in 2005 after which cooperation has gradually been extended to include Finland, Denmark, and Iceland – proved to be a 'mind-changing' exercise for moving from "national" to "regional".



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As far as the current cooperation is concerned, she highlighted that it is determined by the particular points of view of each EU/NATO member country in the Nordic region (like Sweden being “non-aligned” /not member of NATO/ but member of the EU). However, declaring *solidarity is fundamental among these countries*. Proving this statement, H.E Björner cited the specified Swedish solidarity clause of the Lisbon Treaty: “Sweden will not stay passive if a disaster or an attack would occur against another member state or another Nordic country. We expect these countries act in the same way if Sweden were affected or attacked”.

The Ambassador also mentioned that the Baltic Sea cooperation includes the fields of both civilian and military security. A definitive step forward was last year, when Sweden, Finland and Denmark agreed on *sharing live feed surveillance information*. The plan is to connect this system with other regions in Europe. Consequently – H.E Björner emphasized – the Nordic countries welcome other regional initiatives for cooperation in air space surveillance and are looking forward to even closer cooperation.

Army and air force examples of current cooperation under the Baltic Defense Cooperation were also presented. The aim is building interoperability, harmonization and being more economic through system integration, synergies in providing education, servicing and training. Other examples include the Nordic Battle Group, established in 2008, the Mechanized Battalion (2020) concept, as well as the coordinately reserved army assets on the island of Gotland.

The most recent and highly developed framework for defense cooperation is Nordic Defense Cooperation (NORDEF), formed as a result of earlier successful cooperation. It was established in 2009 and “is enforced as a strong core of individual Nordic defense policies”. Its objective is to achieve better cost-effectiveness and higher quality consequently creating enhanced operational capability.

As it was described, NORDEF has five different areas of cooperation:

- Strategic development: for 10-20 years, developing courses, manuals;
- Capabilities: ARCHER (C4I program): 2-10 years, Swedish-Norwegian air exercises, joint weapons procurement, joint use of tactical and strategic aircraft;
- Human resources and education: communications, Nordic Center for Gender in Operations (NCGO), Operations Training Center (OTC): 0-5 years, constant integration towards full interoperability;
- Training and exercises: 0-5 years, air, training plan, joint de-mining exercises;
- Operations: Norwegian-Swedish joint airlift to/from Afghanistan.

Amb. Björner provided useful insights to *the lessons learnt* based on the Nordic experience. She stated with the statement that Nordic countries’ recognition of their common values was the key for achieving smooth cooperation. Closely related is the willingness that militaries in the region were ready to cooperate, however a clear political re-focusing was the prerequisite to do so. In other words, building a distinct regional perspective with a Nordic core element

in defense policy was crucial. She also added that *in the era of globalization, sub-regional and regional cooperation is a must for small states to exert influence in complex operations*. Furthermore, the Ambassador also added: “...we learnt that while sharing security responsibilities did help lower our operating costs, it was the pooling of existing resources and now the slowly beginning streamlining of procurement initiatives that holds the most cost-efficient elements of defense cooperation.”

Finally, Amb. Björner focused on the challenges and opportunities. She highlighted, among others, that regional cooperation should ensure security, when wide spectrum of risks, dangers and threats are most likely not effecting one country in a region. She also added that due to financial restrictions there is a continuous need for ambition-revisions. However, there is a need of keeping a critical core of competences and depth of capabilities as well. At the end of her speech, she quoted Aesop “united we stand, divided we fall” and pointed out that closer regional cooperation supports building a stronger and better Europe.



Mr. Bali gave his presentation under the title “Pooling and sharing: Theory vs. Reality” and started with the clarification of the term “pooling and sharing” itself. He built this part of his lecture on a study “Pooling of EU Member States Assets in implementation of ESDP” (2008) requested by the European Parliament’s Subcommittee on Security and Defense.



Mr. Bali put emphasis on clarifying the terminology of pooling and sharing, as such consensus has not been reached yet among European states either. The pooling of assets, as Mr. Bali also noted, includes pooling capabilities, pooling capabilities through acquisition, the sharing of capabilities, and role sharing.

„...the utmost requirement in pooling and sharing is that you share, and share alike.”

As far as „role sharing” is concerned, the speaker provided its subcategories: „niche capabilities” and „rare and costly capabilities” and a so called „sine qua non condition”. As Mr. Bali pointed out, the latest sounds like „*I am willing to relinquish certain capability provided it is surely available for me when I need it. If there is no absolute assurance, just forget it.*” Framing these categories and reaching an agreement on their content and limits, examining current examples and assessing lessons learnt are the key to proceed.

The speaker highlighted that the European Security Strategy is the only strategic document which mentions pooling and sharing so far: “Systematic use of pooled and shared assets would reduce duplications, overheads and, in the medium-term, increase capabilities.” He gave special importance to the issue of pooling and sharing in Europe. Using EDA data, Mr Bali evidenced that EU member states’ defense spending declined 2%, while their GDP per capita increased 10% between 2006 and 2008. The price of neglecting defense issues becomes apparent nowadays: while the economic crisis forces all EU countries to cut budgets, the low level of the European contribution to defense spending and investments is the primary factor of hindering military transformation.

Mr. Bali provided further examples of the reluctance of states to deepening cooperation in this field as he came up with three factors that strengthen pooling and sharing:

- budgetary pressures,
- the fact that maintaining through pooling decreases costs, and that
- shared programs increase interoperability.

Following the description of the European situation, Mr. Bali turned to analyze the Central European region. Facts and figures concerning this region showed an even more disappointing picture. As it was proved, Central Europeans are not benefiting even from the existing and offered opportunities. While EDA provides “dating opportunities” and the Capability Development Plan aims to bring opportunities for pooling and cooperation, the willingness of Central European states to utilize these, are still missing. He expressed his hope that the newly established EDA Pooling and Sharing report will help maximizing the benefits from delivering more and better pooling and sharing solutions to satisfy CSDP capability requirements.

In the second part of his lecture, Mr. Bali portrayed recent examples of multinational cooperation in Central Europe with Hungarian participation. He mentioned unsuccessful

ones like the Central European Nations Cooperation in Peacekeeping (CENCOOP), which was a failed attempt to build up multinational units. He admitted that the reason behind could be manifold, but the key was most likely the lack of true political commitment to replace the national flag with a CENCOOP flag.

„By working together, pooling resources, and fairly sharing cost burdens, SAC nations will achieve greater efficiencies than are possible individually!”

He also mentioned successful examples like the Multinational Land Force, a trilateral Army Brigade composed by Italian; Hungarian and Slovenian infantry battalions, that had been successfully deployed on the Balkans, and gave the basis of the Italian-Slovenian-Hungarian EU Battlegroup in 2007 (July-December). Such contribution will be provided again in 2012. The last major MLF exercise took place in the summer of 2010, assembling 600 pieces of military equipment and 2400 troops.

In the last part of the presentation, important findings calling for more successful capability pooling and sharing were listed, beginning with the fact that less and less countries can afford full-scale independent programs, going on to the call for a proactive pooling policy promoted by a powerful institution and ending with emphasizing the need for higher efficiency and effectiveness. Finally Mr. Bali quoted NATO’s Group of Experts working on the new Strategic Concept and Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, as they emphasized the need for exploring ways of pooling and sharing and of leadership to keep up with evolving threats.

Concluding his presentation, Mr. Bali highlighted: *“Countries are willing to seek pooling and sharing opportunities if their interests are duly taken into account, they enjoy meaningful benefits and it is politically visible. Political visibility is especially important for every politician. However, the utmost requirement in pooling and sharing is that you share and share alike. If not, forget it.”*

The concluding lecture of the first session was given by **Mr. Szarvas**, the Deputy Manager of NAMA, who offered a comprehensive assessment of the “Strategic Airlift Capability (SAC) – A Good Example for Pooling and Sharing Capabilities”. The initiative that dates back to the summer of 2006, when several nations had started to work in a multinational framework on establishing a C-17 Strategic Airlift Capability consortium to meet their national airlift requirements, reached its goal in September 2008 when the Memorandum of Understanding was signed by 12 states, including 10 NATO and two non-allied countries. The program has

been operating successfully ever since, allowing member states to share more than 2500 flight hours of tactical airlift to strategic distance in more than 150 missions. Multinational armed forces have participated in missions to Kosovo, Afghanistan and Haiti, just to name a few examples, since three C-17 airplanes had arrived to Pápa Airbase (HUN) between July and October, 2009.

As Mr. Szarvas pointed out: the integrated multinational ownership of the project, supported by NATO Agencies, such as NAMSA, NAPMA, NC3A, and commanded by NAMA, the executive board of NAMO, is an outstanding example of practical, effective and successful cooperation within a pooling and sharing framework.

The Heavy Airlift Wing has the mandate to participate in the deployment of forces in support of NATO, EU or UN military operations, in response to actual or anticipated armed conflict or crisis where a SAC nation is involved, in cases of national emergencies in direct support of a SAC nation's citizens and when providing national support of humanitarian operations. During such employment SAC countries can either use their national flight time share purchased in the program or cooperate with other nations who provide them flight time or other resources.

As concluded by Mr. Szarvas, the SAC Program is a proven and excellent example of cooperation between nations in owning and jointly operating defence capabilities. For such common enterprises the participating nations need a shared strategic view and long-term commitment in order to be able to launch successful cooperation reaching beyond national borders and international organizations.



1st Q&A session

H.E. Björner – Reflecting on the political decision required for enhancing cooperation, pointed out that the political gain lies within consensus building, while also accompanying economic advantages of cost-reduction through cost-effectiveness. She added that regional and global engagement is at high value in Nordic societies. Then she emphasized: *“What makes Nordic cooperation successful is the trust even in case of political disagreement.”* Trust is the core of this cooperation, keeping it alive, and it serves as an outstanding example to be followed in other regions as well.

Political trust, leadership, demand.

Col Darko Bijuklić (CRO MoD) provided a further example of recent Croatian-Swedish cooperation. Sweden asked Croatia to take part in an exercise of the Nordic Battlegroup with Croatian helicopters providing medical evacuation capability.

Following the line started by the Swedish ambassador a question was raised from the audience to Mr Szarvas *“Why does SAC work, while other programs do not?”*

According to **Mr. Szarvas** the main reasons why SAC works, while several attempts at multinational cooperation do not, are the following:

- *There is a leader (USA)*, a main player with a key interest who is willing to push the program forward (based on her interest of selling C-17 planes and helping other nations to contribute with their troops to multinational operations).
- *There is a need (on behalf of small countries)*: in order to be able to participate in multinational operations, troops need to be lifted to the scene of deployment; otherwise there would be no need for strategic airlift capacity for small countries as it is not cost-effective. Together with other founders, making limited investment per country possible, it was worth to develop SAC as now *it provides a guaranteed capacity with affordable costs.*

Mr. Bali also commented on the topic of strategic airlift capability saying that SAC pooling had not always been widely supported in Hungary. Knowledge and expertise was necessary to see that it does not require extra funding, financial sources, but would be funded from the same sum that otherwise would have been spent on buying airlift-capacity for our troops on the international market, but using it in a new international pooling and sharing form. In this process miscommunication traps are to be avoided.

Col Szabó (HUN MoD) extending the discussion asked about the *possible practical solutions available for joint regional air-policing and common pilot training in the Central European region.*

Mr. Bali pointed out that air-policing is a national responsibility, parallel capacity building is usual due to the lack of political trust.

Mr. Kromar (SVN MoD) provided an example as he recalled MLF and the EDA Cougar helicopter training program as successful examples. Regarding shared Italian air-policing of Slovenian airspace, both political and expert debate is going on the future of this task. They are open and ready to consider every feasible solution. The question that remains is whether a bottom-up approach could generate top-level political will? When there is a requirement, but political trust is missing, it does not work – so trust is the key.

Mr. Bali added that there is more space for negotiation in case of tactical lift. National defense planning must be open to multinational solutions in order to avoid parallel acquisitions – a leader in this is required, like EDA. *The consultation of defense planners developing a matrix for the resources – time frames – requirements sets will generate a bottom-up approach.*

Mr. Szarvas offered remarks and ideas concerning future developments in Pápa: In ten years, Pápa could be developed into an airfield hosting 3-4 C-17, 3-4 A-400M and 6-8 Spartan airplanes as a result of cost-effective multinational cooperation.

Major General (ret.) Isaszegi (HUN A) came up with a supplementary question concerning SAC usability in cases of emergency, for example in humanitarian relief missions. He also referred to recent Central European cases.

NAMA representative, **Mr. Szarvas**, gave valuable insight to the working mechanism of his organization. The national capacity of flight hours purchased (in case of Hungary 50 hours) can be used for any purpose; it can be offered for use to any other state as well. Providing an example he mentioned the case of the Haiti earthquake when Swedish equipment was transported using US 'flight hour capacity'. Swedish, Estonian and Norwegian cargoes had been transported to Haiti within a response time of three days.

As a concluding comment, **Mr. Slovák (SVK MoD)** offered the Slovak perspective on the current state of affairs in Central Europe concerning pooling and sharing. He stated that small, properly equipped armed forces had been envisaged during the 1990s. Although demand has increased and further plans had been drafted, resources at the same time had been decreasing significantly. Therefore currently a working program of Strategic Defense Review (SDR) is being drafted in Slovakia. First results of the SDR are expected by mid-2011, and their implementation should be completed by 2014. Capability planning with pooling and sharing, as he indicated, is one of the ways how to get more capabilities for less money, but it will be quite difficult to reach this goal due to an uncertain resource (financial) perspective. He claimed that while the current Slovak V-4 presidency's working program supported initiatives of regional cooperation, no exact results had been agreed. However, Slovakia supports the application of pooling and sharing solutions in the widest range possible, also supporting the present initiative and willing to participate in future cooperation.

The first speaker, **Col. Prof. Kecskeméthy (HUN A)** offered a presentation with the promising title “Multinational Education Projects – Rethinking the Role and Task Sharing of Higher Military Institutions in Central Europe”.

Education and training: a wide spectrum for pooling and sharing

She started with describing the challenging task to implement the Bologna program in military education. Fitting to the current trends in Hungary, she claimed some “privacy” to military education and socialization which *per se* cannot be as transparent as requested in the Bologna system. After highlighting practical details of this challenge she continued to raise several other questions, like how to reconcile the national character of the military education with mobility among institutions.

After sharing questions and dilemmas, Col Kecskeméthy moved to describe the current circumstances in which institutions of military education are being increasingly recognized as a full-fledged part of European civilian education. Providing well working examples, she mentioned the “Erasmus Militaire” program. The initiative is coordinated by the European Security and Defense College but it is still facing difficulties such as organizing trimesters or semesters, the harmonization of curricula, and most importantly costs sharing among partners.



She concluded her speech with claiming that no single nation can maintain a military institution that can educate every branch of the armed forces, thus cooperation is really necessary in this field as well.

As the second topic for the afternoon, **Col Csombók (HUN A)** delivered a speech on “Regional Defense Cooperation – Examples and Opportunities for Pooling and Sharing in Training Areas”.

First, he provided clarification on how to understand *interoperability* and the *aims of regional cooperation*. Listing the possible aims, he especially emphasized that regional defense cooperation in training carries benefits due to financial effectiveness.

After defining terms and the significance of regional cooperation, Col. Csombók went through the existing examples of sub-regional cooperation in which Hungary is involved (Multinational Land Force, Tisza Engineer Bn, Hungarian-Romanian Peacekeeping Bn, Visegrád Group). Providing useful insights to these examples led him to conclude that regional cooperation in training contributes not just to financial effectiveness but *to the common understanding of our security architecture, to reach higher level of interoperability among national forces, as well as to have more effective forces in crisis response operations*.

He continued widening the scope and highlighted that regional defense cooperation in the field of training provides opportunity for a *stronger representation in NATO and EU, and it also helps to foster a more effective defense industry*.

Col. Csombók emphasized that the knowledge of foreign languages and the use of the same terminology are key in regional cooperation and cooperation in training offers the opportunity to deepen the knowledge of those participating.

The topic of training was extended by the Commandant of the Hungarian Central Training Base, **Col Mikusi (HUN A)**. He highlighted some important aspects of the international cooperation in the field of training in countering improvised explosive devices (C-IED). He highlighted the significance of C-IED training and let the audience know the structure of NATO's C-EID training programs offered for European allies. He especially drew attention to the available C-EID training opportunity in Hungary.

2nd Q&A session

The chairman started the discussion with offering further extending the seminar, querying about exercises in the region.

Having the opportunity, **Lt. Col. Gyenge (HUN A)** introduced the cooperation in the field of developing special operation forces (SOF) capabilities since 2005. NATO recognized such need in 2006 due to ISAF experience, thus the NATO SOF Coordination Center had been created, with members joining on a voluntary basis. Soon it had been developed into NATO SOF HQ in Mons and besides a Federation of Training Centers across Europe had been created. The first multinational training program began in February 2010, with the participation of Slovakia, Estonia and Hungary, and has been concluded in mid-October. This training program is planned for 2011 as well. Further capabilities and training sites may also be added, like the Polish Parachute Training Center. EU partners are also welcome in common capability development programs as in ISAF we also share roles.

A broad understanding of pooling and sharing?

Lt. Col Apáti (HUN A) picked up the line and commenced the Special Operation Forces Training Center in Szolnok (HUN) which is a current scene of such multinational cooperation. Hungarian national special force qualification courses have been running since 2006, while multinational programs based on a US mobile training facility began in 2010. In this program 50-60 SOF personnel can receive training a year, during which English language enforcement is a key factor. He underscored that further implementation of EU/NATO SOF cooperation is desirable.

Lt. Col. Oujezdsky (CZE MoD) offered the Czech position regarding regional cooperation. Czech Republic welcomes the Pooling and Sharing Initiative in Central Europe initiated by Austria and is willing to participate in it. Czech Republic supports capability development in multinational approach. As a small nation Czechs will be happy to participate in this activity both bilaterally and multilaterally. He highlighted that the Czech position is very similar to that of the Slovak as the Czech Republic is also currently drafting a White Paper, to be completed in 2011. The two countries cooperate in the frame of a common working group. The Czech Republic already has multinational experience as in 2009 (July-December) Czech and Slovak troops formed a Visegrad-4 EU Battlegroup, which is planned to be repeated in 2012, possibly incorporating German troops. He drew attention to fundamental questions selecting the lead nation, and avoiding conflict with NRF troop contributions.

Mr. Bali took the floor and stressed that *there is a danger of misunderstanding the notion of pooling and sharing*. He claimed that we need to keep in mind what comes under the term pooling and sharing. *Plain training and education exchange programs do not belong to pooling and sharing* as they are not developing something that has not existed before, and do not provide a more economic solution. When a Central European nation gives up a national education or training facility or program for benefiting from an agreed, co-financed international one that holds all those benefits previously mentioned.

In a final comment of this session, **Col Frank (AUT MoD)** claimed a common Central European strategic vision as a substantial prerequisite for successful regional cooperation.



Closing remarks

Major General Pucher claimed that the conceptual framework of pooling and sharing is still not clear to all players. Participants at this conference need to agree to integrate the notion of co-operation in the region. He highlighted that political impetus is necessary as we are dealing not just with an economic issue, it is also about reliability: one party of such co-operation might consider to give up specific capabilities because an other partner will maintain this specific capability in a concept of role and task sharing; in this direction integrative and mutually coordinated defense co-operation might develop gradually in the region.

We need to estimate and map the long-term interests of the region.

The Austrian representative also indicated the necessary steps to be taken such as generating common interest; drafting a short list of concrete projects, subject to regional cooperation. He went on, talking about political sensitivity and pointed out that “capability development cannot become a zero-sum game based on exclusive national interests, as such game only leads to parallelisms.”

He cited German Minister of Defense, Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, who noted in Ghent that there are overlapping interests on the national and the multinational level in pooling roles and sharing tasks. Consequently, we need to estimate and map the long-term interests of the region in order to be able to establish successful forms of cooperation.



He was followed by the host, **Mr. Siklósi**, who reminded that a possible task-list for the future will also include the above mentioned topics in general (air-policing, pilot-training) and in particular (SOF, CEID) as well. As he expressed, the near future will offer several chances of continuation:

- in the end of January 2011 a regional 6-party discussion will take place on the possible areas of cooperation on the margin of the informal meeting of EU defense policy directors;
- in February 2011 an EU seminar will be held on pooling and sharing;
- the coming Hungarian EU presidency will support and promote the discussion of pooling and sharing possibilities within CSDP with Catherine Ashton as well.

The near future will offer several chances of continuation.



List of Participants

Austria

1. Col. Johann FRANK, MoD, Head of Bureau for Security Policy
2. Lt. Col. Michael KUGLER, MoD, Deputy Head of Bureau for Security Policy
3. Maj Gen Johann PUCHER, MoD, Defence Policy Director
4. Maj BG. Reinhold SIMON MoD, Director of Transformation Division

Croatia

1. Col. Darko BIJUKLIĆ, MoD, General Staff, Planning Directorate, Head of Force Planning Branch
2. Maj. Tadija LUČIĆ, MoD, Defence Policy and Planning Directorate, Defence Planning Studies, senior advisor
3. Col. Nenad PREDOVAN, MoD, Defence Cooperation Directorate, Head of Branch for Bilateral Defence Cooperation

Czech Republic

1. Lt. Col. Roman OUJEZDSKY, MoD, Force Planning Division, NATO and EU section, senior officer
2. Ivan GERHAT, MOD, Defence Policy and Strategy Division, Head of Section

Hungary

1. Lt. Col. Zoltán APÁTI, HDF, Commander of Peace Support Training Centre
2. József BALI, Former State Secretary for Security Policy
3. István BALOGH, ZMNDU
4. Lt. Col. Gyula BENCZE, MoD, Development and Logistic Agency, Programme Planning Directorate, Deputy Head of Section
5. Lt. Col. Attila BOCZÁK, Defence Staff, Logistic Division, Head of Operations Branch
6. Tamás CSIKI, ZMNDU
7. Col. János CSOMBOK, Defence Staff, Operations Division, Head of Operations Branch
8. Ottó DOBIS, MoD, Defence Policy Department, desk officer
9. Lt. Col. Sándor GYENGE, Defence Staff, Operations Division, desk officer
10. Csaba GYIMESI, MoD, Defence Policy Department, desk officer
11. Maj Gen (ret.) Dr. József HORVÁTH, ZMNDU Budapest Institute for Strategic and Defence Studies, senior research fellow
12. Maj. Gen. (Ret.) János ISASZEGI, Former Commander of HDF Central Training Base
13. Col. Ferenc JAKAB, Defence Staff, Logistic Division, Head of Planning Branch
14. Col. Dr. Klára KECSKEMÉTHY, Deputy Rector for Education, ZMNDU
15. Lt. Col. Tibor KOVÁCS, MoD, Defence Staff, Force Planning Division, desk officer
16. Bálint KUNOS PhD., Former State Secretary for Defence Economy
17. Ede LAKNER, MoD, International Cooperation and Arms Control Office, senior advisor
18. Prof. János MATUS, ZMNDU

19. Col Zsolt MIKUSI, Central Training Base, Commandant
20. Col Dr. Ferenc MOLNÁR, ZMNDU Institute for Strategic and Defence Studies, deputy director
21. Maj. Zoltán NAGY, Defence Staff, Force Planning Division, desk officer
22. Lt. László NAHALKÓ, MoD, Development and Logistic Agency, desk officer
23. Bence NÉMETH, MoD, Defence Planning Department, desk officer
24. Col. Tibor SZABÓ, MoD, Defence Planning Department, Strategic Analysis and Evaluation Section, Head of Section
25. László SZARVAS, NATO Airlift Management Agency, Deputy Director
26. Gen (Ret.) Dr. Zoltán SZENES, ZMNDU
27. Márta SZŰCS, MoD, Secretariat of the Assistant State Secretary for Defence Policy and Planning, Deputy Head of Secretariat
28. Krisztián VARGA, MoD, Press Office, desk officer
29. Miklós VARGA, MFA, Security Policy Department, CSDP Section, desk officer
30. Korinna VAS, MoD, Defence Planning Department, desk officer

Slovakia

1. Ivan MÁČOVSKÝ, MoD, Defence Planning and Resource Management Department, Director of Defence Planning Division
2. Peter SLOVÁK, MoD, Defence Policy, International Relations and Legislation Department, Head of Defence Policy Division
3. Peter SZÓRÁD, MoD, Defence Policy, International Relations and Legislation Department, Chief State Advisor

Slovenia

1. Brane KROMAR, MoD, Acting Head of Multilateral Affairs Department

Sweden

1. H.E. Cecilia BJÖRNER, Ambassador of Sweden to Hungary
2. Eddy FONYODI, Second Secretary, Embassy of Sweden to Hungary

EDA

1. PhD/Lt Col László CZÖVEK, Project Manager for Sustainability, Capability Directorate

Seminar on Central European Solutions for Pooling and Sharing of Capabilities

25 – 26 October 2010

Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University, Budapest

25 October 2010, Monday

Hotel Hadik

Check in the Hotel	16.00 – 19.00
Registration	19.00 – 20.00
Welcome Speech	20.00 – 20.10
<i>Péter Siklósi (Assistant State Secretary for Defence Policy and Planning, MoD, Hungary)</i>	
Ice Breaking	20.10 – 22.00

26 October 2010, Tuesday

Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University

Registration	08:30 – 08:50
Opening of the Seminar	08.50 – 09.10
<i>Péter Siklósi (Assistant State Secretary for Defence Policy and Planning, MoD, Hungary)</i> and <i>Maj. Gen. Johann Pucher (Defence Policy Director, Federal Ministry for Defence and Sports, Austria)</i>	
Welcome Address of the Host	09.10 – 09.15
<i>Maj. Gen. (Ret) Dr. László Lakatos (Secretary General of Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University)</i>	
1st Session	
Defence Cooperation in the Nordic Countries in the Light of P&S	09.15 – 09.45
<i>HE Cecilia Björner (Ambassador of Sweden to Hungary)</i>	
Pooling and Sharing: Theory vs. Reality	09.45 – 10.15
<i>József Bali (Former Assistant State Secretary for Defence Policy, MoD, Hungary)</i>	
Strategic Airlift Capability (SAC) – An Example for Pooling and Sharing	10.15 – 10.45
<i>László Szarvas (Deputy General Manager, NATO Airlift Management Agency)</i>	

Coffee Break	10.45 – 11.00
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Discussion	11.00 – 12.30
<i>Moderator: Gen. (Ret.) Prof. Zoltán Szenes (Former CHOD of the Hungarian Defence Forces)</i>	

Lunch	12.30 – 13.30
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2nd Session

Multinational Education Projects – Rethinking the Role and Task Sharing of Higher Military Institutions in Central Europe	13.30 – 14.00
<i>Col. Prof. Klára Kecskeméthy (Deputy Rector for Education, ZMNDU)</i>	

Multinational Defence Cooperation – Examples and Opportunities for Pooling and Sharing in Training Areas	14.00 – 14.30
<i>Col. János Csombók (Head of Operations Branch, Operations Division, MoD)</i>	

Coffee Break	14.30 – 14.45
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Discussion	14.45 – 16.00
<i>Moderator: Gen. (Ret.) Prof. Zoltán Szenes (Former CHOD of the Hungarian Defence Forces)</i>	

Closing Remarks	16.00 - 16.30
<i>Péter Siklósi (Assistant State Secretary for Defence Policy and Planning, MoD, Hungary)</i> and <i>Maj. Gen. Johann Pucher (Defence Policy Director, Federal Ministry for Defence and Sports, Austria)</i>	

Farewell Cocktail	16.30 –
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