



**COUNCIL OF
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INFORMATION NOTE

From: Secretariat
To: Political and Security Committee

Subject: Watchkeeping Capability (WKC) for ESDP Operations within the General Secretariat of the Council - Functions and Procedures

1. In his letter to the European Council of 13 June 2006 concerning the Post-Hampton Court adjustments to be implemented in the General Secretariat of the Council, SG/HR Solana announced the establishment of a Watchkeeping Capability to take over the operation of links to civilian and military ESDP Crisis Management Operations undertaken by the Joint Situation Centre (SitCen).
2. On 1 June 2007 the Political and Security Committee noted the "Draft Guidelines for Command and Control Structure for EU Civilian Operations in Crisis Management" (doc. 9919/07) to be forwarded via COREPER to Council for approval. This document confirms that that the EUMS (CivMil Cell) will provide a watchkeeping capability (WKC) in order to ensure 24/7 links with the various civilian ESDP operations and the CPCC.

3. In its Military Advice (Doc. 10243/07), the EU Military Committee **DELETED**.
4. On this basis, SG/HR has begun setting-up of the WKC. Delegations will find attached, for information, the Functions and Procedures of the GSC-WKC.
5. The WKC can only function efficiently and provide added value if it has a critical mass of personnel to ensure a 24/7 availability. The GSC will shortly begin recruiting under the normal SNE recruitment procedures the required 12 experts. A call for Seconded National Experts (SNEs) will be sent to Permanent Representations in the coming days. In addition, military personnel of the EUMS Front End Cell (one Officer at OF-4 level and one Non Commissioned Officer, both with SNE status) who are currently located in the Joint SitCen will be transferred to the WKC.
6. Until a critical mass of the personnel for the WKC is recruited, GSC will continue the operation of links to civilian and military Crisis Management Operations through the current established Functions and Procedures of the Joint Situation Center.

Watchkeeping Capability (WKC) for ESDP Operations within the General Secretariat of the Council - Functions and Procedures

References:

- A. Letter of SG/HR Solana to Heads of State and Government on Hampton Court Follow-Up, dated 13 June 2006
- B. European Defence: NATO/EU Consultation, Planning and Operations (doc. 13990/1/04 REV 1, dated 07 December 2004)
- C. Command and Control Structure for EU Civilian Operations in Crisis Management, doc. 9919/07, dated 23 May 2007
- D. Standard Operating Procedures for the EUMS Front End Cell within the Joint Situation Centre, IC 01-01/21-06 OPS 110/05, dated 14 November 2005

Annexes:

- A. Tasks
- B. Abbreviations

Background

1. In the attachment to his note to the European Council in June 2006 (Ref. A), SG/HR Solana announced a number of adjustments within the Secretariat with a view to strengthen its crisis management capacity, in particular in the field of assessment, planning and implementation. As part of these adjustments, he suggested establishing a Watchkeeping capability. This Watchkeeping capability *"will take over the operation of the links to civilian and military missions currently undertaken by the SitCen. The Watchkeepers will be headed by the Director of the Civ/Mil Cell, who will report to the DGEUMS. This will enhance the capacity of the SG/HR, the PSC, and the civilian operation commander for civilian missions, to communicate with and direct the missions through the head of mission or the military OHQ (particularly during crisis periods)..."*.

Aim

2. This paper sets out the Functions and Procedures of the Watchkeeping Capability (WKC) by defining its mission, functions, tasks and organization. The initial list of tasks for the WKC is attached in ANNEX A.
3. This document will be reviewed regularly. An initial review will be conducted not later than 6 months after the WKC has become fully operational.

Framework

4. The WKC is closely related to the other adjustments outlined by the SG/HR (Ref. A), in particular the establishment of a clearer chain of command for civilian ESDP operations including a Civilian Operation Commander (Civ OpCdr). A Civilian Planning and Conduct Capacity (CPCC) is being established within the General Secretariat of the Council (GSC) in support of the Civ OpCdr for the planning and conduct of civilian ESDP operations. The present Functions and Procedures dovetail with the Guidelines for the Command and Control Structure for EU Civilian Operations in Crisis Management (Ref. C).
5. The WKC needs to be seen in the context of various types of ESDP operations and actions during the planning and conduct phase:

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Mission and Functions

6. The WKC provides a 24h/7days capability to monitor ESDP operations to ensure the passage of operation-specific information in a systematic way. **DELETED**

7. **DELETED**

8. **DELETED**

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10. **DELETED**

11. **DELETED**

12. **DELETED**

Tasks

13. To meet the mission requirements, the WKC will fulfil the tasks set out in Annex A.

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Coordination and Delineation of Tasks between WKC and SITCEN

14. The EU Joint Situation Centre (SITCEN) is responsible for world-wide monitoring and assessment of the political and security situation and for keeping key officials in EU institutions and Member States informed thereof. The WKC is responsible for operating the links to civilian and military ESDP operations, and for the communication and the proper processing of the related information. **DELETED**.

15. **DELETED**

Command and Control / Organisation

16. **DELETED**

17. The WKC will be a department within the Civ/Mil Cell under the Director of the Civ/Mil Cell (CCM).
18. **DELETED**
19. **DELETED**
20. **DELETED**

Resources

21. Personnel. On the basis of the WKC functions and tasks outlined in the Annex A), an initial assessment of the watchkeeping requirements of the ongoing and envisaged ESDP operations and of the workload and the planned output in the daily routine phase and in an emergency situation has been made. **DELETED**
22. **DELETED**

23. **DELETED**

24. Office Space. **DELETED**

25. CIS Equipment. **DELETED**

Outline WKC Tasks

1. **DELETED**
2. **DELETED**

3. **DELETED**

Abbreviations

Civ OpCdr	Civilian Operation Commander
CIS	Communications and Information System
CPCC	Civilian Planning and Conduct Capacity
DG EUMS	Director General of the EU Military Staff
ESDP	European Security and Defence Policy
FHQ	Force Headquarter
FEC	EUMS Font-End Cell in the SITCEN
FFM	Fact-Finding Mission
GSC	General Secretariat of the Council
HoM	Head of Mission
OHQ	(military) Operations Headquarters
PSC	Political and Security Committee
SHAPE	Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers of Europe
SITCEN	EU Situation Centre
SIAC	Single Intelligence Analysis Capability
SG/HR	Secretary General / High Representative
WKC	Watchkeeping Capability