



Presidents Council

EURODEFENSE

Madrid, November 8, 2012

Mr Herman Van Rompuy
President of the European Council

Querido Presidente.

As you may be aware, EURODEFENSE is a network of associations covering thirteen European Union countries. It aims at highlighting the geopolitical and geostrategic aspects which should help Europe play its rightful role, given its economic and cultural weight. Made up of experienced public figures, EURODEFENSE is de facto a real catalyst at the service of the European Institutions. It is by that virtue that we are writing this letter to you, a copy of which will be sent to the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, to the President of the European Commission and to the President of the Subcommittee Security and Defence of the European Parliament.

You have the very difficult task of trying to obtain a consensus in the European Council of the 27 Member States on the questions raised by the current crisis. Economics and the national debt of the Member States are of course at the centre of the problem confronting the Union's future. The defence and security area is also of great importance and merits particular attention by the European Council ; it might figure as a point on the agenda of its next meeting, scheduled for 13 and 14 December next.

The Lisbon Treaty opened the way towards significant progress on defence and security questions. Whether in the realm of enhanced or permanently structured operational cooperation, or in the preparation of the technological and industrial future, the dispositions of the Treaty provide tools which should render the common Security and Defence Policy more credible and more effective.

Unfortunately, most of these provisions remain unexploited by the Council of the Union to date, several years after the ratification of the Treaty.

This is the reason why EURODEFENSE ventures to make a proposal which may even be deemed an innovation : why not attempt to meet the requirements of the Lisbon Treaty by following the intergovernmental process which prevailed in putting into place the European Treaty for Stability, Coordination and Governance in the economic field ?

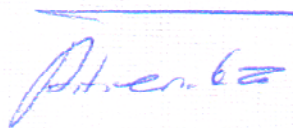
EURODEFENSE is absolutely convinced that it is vital to define a common foreign policy for the EU. When the Union decides on a military operation in the context of this policy, it must have the means necessary to carry it out. Such an operation, based on a global approach, should be able to rely on appropriate military tools, including in particular a permanent command structure.

If it proves impossible in the Council to find a consensus on the definition of a common policy and the military means of implementation, it would be advisable, we believe, to adopt an intergovernmental approach based on a group of willing countries, as allowed for in the Lisbon Treaty provisions for launching permanent structured cooperation.

Such an intergovernmental process would take its inspiration from what has been used recently in the economic and financial area. Its implementation would be consistent with the spirit of Lisbon and would surely overcome the reticences which have prevented progress in this important domaine.

Mr President, this initiative which EURODEFENSE ventures to bring to your attention, responds to the high stakes involved in formulating a Common Security and Defence Policy. We trust that you will find it of interest.

Yours sincerely,



Arturo Fernández Álvarez
President of EuroDéfense-España
Acting President of EURODEFENSE