

PSCE Newsletter n°4 / 2010

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Forum for Public Safety Communication Europe

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POLICY

Insight into the Solidarity Clause of the Lisbon Treaty

One of the articles published in the first issue of PSCE Newsletter this year analysed the consequences of the Lisbon Treaty on the area of Civil Protection. From rather a global point of view, it tried to assess the most relevant changes reshaping the policies in this field. In particular, attention was paid to the institutional changes redefining the area of Civil Protection and role of the Standing Committee on Internal Security (COSI) while only marginally mentioning another significant element - the Solidarity Clause. In fact, based on the latter, any member state may call upon the Council, at any time, to trigger this clause, even though there are not yet any 'implementing arrangements' in place. In order to make it operational, several safeguard measures need to be adopted at EU level. This article therefore further addresses this issue by outlining its content, basic concerns and future challenges.

Latest legal developments

There are other relevant policy questions currently under consideration of EU decision makers. First, the Internal Security Strategy will be followed-up through legislation in the autumn of 2010. Links between the Solidarity Clause and the Internal Security Strategy, especially in the area of new threat assessments, are likely to emerge. Second, a review of the EU's disaster response capacities will be presented in a Commission Communication in November 2010. This review may highlight gaps and weaknesses that could be rectified by the Solidarity Clause. Third, European Parliament currently analyses the report on civilian-military cooperation and the development of civilian-military capabilities.

Internal security strategy

On 21 July 2010, the European Commission adopted a communication taking stock of the main tools in place under the EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The communication outlined achievements and foreseen upcoming challenges and initiatives, laying the foundation for a broader Internal Security Strategy, which is planned for this autumn.

Commission Communication on Reinforcing the European Union's Disaster Response Capacity

Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection of European Commission (DG ECHO) is planning to issue Communication on Reinforcing the European Union's Disaster Response Capacity in November this year. The Communication will present ways to reinforce the EU Disaster Response capacities inside and outside Europe (by means of enhanced coordination and enhanced arrangements aiming at guaranteeing the availability of a core set of disaster management assets).

EP draft report on civilian-military cooperation and the development of civilian-military capabilities

On 8 September 2010, Christian EHLER, Member of European Parliament introduced to Committee on Foreign Affairs a draft report on civilian-military cooperation and the development of civilian-military capabilities.

SPECTRUM: Commission adopts new broadband package

On 20 September 2010, the European Commission adopted three complementary measures to facilitate the roll out and take up of fast and ultra-fast broadband in the EU. The package comprises of:

- Commission Recommendation of 20.9.2010 on regulated access to Next Generation Access Networks (NGA);
- Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the first radio spectrum policy programme ;
- Communication on "European Broadband: investing in digitally driven growth".

The IPv6 Forum releases “the IPv6 Security (IPsec) Ready Logo Program”

On 15 September 2010 the IPv6 Forum Ready Logo Program Committee released the IPv6 IPsec Logo Program to promote the adoption of IPv6 to the Security Community.

This program defines and certifies courses, engineers and trainers with Silver & Gold Logo levels and requires IPv6 implementation on the web site of the education program.

PSCE ACTIVITIES

PSCE issues position paper

Following its endorsement by the Board on 13 September 2010, PSCE issued the position paper on the EP “Report on a Community approach on the prevention of natural and man-made disasters”, adopted by the ENVI Committee on 22 June 2010 expressing its support and calling for its adoption at the Plenary session. The report was consequently adopted in the plenary session on 21 September 2010.

PSCE supports the EENA position paper

PSCE recently supported the position paper on the provision of mobile caller-location information in the context of calls to the European emergency number 112 prepared by European Emergency Number Association (EENA) in June 2010.

First Partnership agreement signed with Tetra Association

On 26 May 2010 a formal co-operation agreement between PSCE and the TETRA association was signed in Singapore at the occasion of the Tetra World Congress. Recognising the advantages of co-operation, and the synergies that exist between the two organisations, the agreement was ratified by Egil Bovim, the PSCE President at that time, and Phil Godfrey, Chairman of the TETRA Association.

Rotation of PSCE Board members

The PSCE Forum is managed and directed by a Board currently comprising of four members: the President, the Vice-President, the Treasurer and the Relation and Communication Officer. These Board members are elected for a four years period and can be re-elected. Each year, there is a rotation of the positions. The last rotation took place on 1 June 2010.

The Board of PSCE Forum is currently comprised as follows:

- Mr. Eric Davalo (EADS, France) - President
- Mr. Guy Weets (University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg) – Vice-President
- Mr. Manfred Blaha (Ministry of Interior, Austria) - Treasurer
- Mr. Egil Bovim (National Centre on Emergency Communication in Health, Norway) – Public Relation and Communication Officer.

Workshop on Tetra/ Tetrapol and interoperability of communication systems

On 28 – 29 June 2010, the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission organised the workshop on “Interoperable communications for Safety and Security”,

Egil Bovim, Chair of the PSCE User Committee and Board Member represented PSCE at this workshop.

PSCE welcomes three new institutional members

In the past weeks, Ericsson, eVigilo Ltd and Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC) joined PSCE as its institutional members.

Extra-functionalities at PSCE website

The profound restructuring of the PSCE website, finalised by the end of July 2010, introduced several new features made available to PSCE Institutional Members.

Next PSCE Conference

Next PSCE Forum Conference will be held on 30 Nov-1 Dec 2010 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. It will be hosted in CISCO Systems premises at Haarlerbergpark, Haarlerbergweg 13-19 / 1101 CH Amsterdam.

Thematic highlights of the conference include:

- Critical Information Protection;
- Public Warning Policy;
- Interoperability.

PSCE Forum Conference will host for the first time also an external dissemination event on Common Operational Picture Exploitation (COPE) Project.

The objective of this EU funded project is to create technological solutions which enable improved emergency management by better command and control performance and reliability of technical support.

Booth presenting the COPE technology developments will be available during the conference.

More information about the project is available at <http://cope.vtt.fi/>.

For any further information regarding the programme, accommodation and logistical support please consult <http://www.psc-europe.eu/index.php?id=378#c885>.

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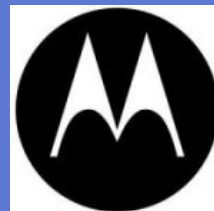
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