



PSC Europe

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PSCE SATCOM Policy

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PSCE SATCOM Policy

Introduction

Public Safety Communication Europe Forum (PSCE) is a permanent autonomous organisation aiming at improving provision of public safety communications and information management systems and the safety of the citizens during crisis and emergency situations. PSCE provides a unique common platform for users, researchers and industry enabling regular exchange of ideas, information, experiences and best practices.

This paper aims to highlight the importance of the satellite communication (SATCOM) during emergency situations, identify the associated challenges and call for concrete actions to overcome them.

SATCOM in crisis management

SATCOM is making an increasingly important contribution to the security of Europe. European citizens are constantly facing security threats that are now more diverse, less visible and less predictable than in previous decades. Europe therefore needs to have access to the best affordable capabilities for the effective conduct of its actions. SATCOM provides a significant contribution to overcome these threats.

Complementarity to other existing communication systems

There is a growing dependence and interest of military and civilian security actors on SATCOM not only during crisis and disaster, but also in every-day routine. It is a unique capability ensuring long-distance communications and broadcasting. It facilitates the use of mobile or deployable platforms as a substitute or support for ground-based communication infrastructures and to cater for the exchange of large quantities of data.

SATCOM is often the only possibility for PPDR (Public Protection and Disaster Relief) to communicate when they have to intervene in distant areas where the ground infrastructure is damaged or destroyed, using mobile or deployable systems.

Challenges

- The demand for SATCOM for security is very fragmented in Europe depending on the type of users, nations, regions, organisations, etc. This fragmentation generates specific and ad-hoc demand on a case per case basis, does not optimise capacity allocation, and consequently increases the overall cost of provided services. This situation does not help to optimise services and creates security risks (costly services that might not be accepted and therefore not used).
- The immediate access to and deployment of SATCOM services at affordable cost is still not a common practice for PPDR missions.
- Terrestrial and SATCOM solutions are therefore deployed independently and miss a coordinated approach whereas joined 'hybrid' offers would benefit both, users and providers.

Call for actions

PSCE encourages the European Union to propose appropriate measures which would:

1. Overcome the fragmentation of demand for security SATCOM;
2. Motivate the European and Member State's organisations to play an active role in the aggregation of such demand;
3. Encourage the pooling of European military and security demand for commercial SATCOM services;
4. Improve immediate access to commercial SATCOM service at affordable cost;

PSCE recognizes and appreciates the achievements of the European Commission and relevant stakeholders which have been accomplished already and future initiatives such as GovSatcom with regards to the SATCOM and expresses its willingness to address the above-mentioned challenges by sharing its expertise in this domain.