

## SACT INTERVENTION AT THE BUNDESTAG

Berlin, 19 March 2014

*Topic : "taking forward NATO transformation; 2014 summit perspectives"*

I must begin by thanking you for the great honour afforded me in allowing me to address you. Both personally and through experiences acquired during previous postings, I have come to appreciate the great and sustained contribution your country has made to the emergence of an empowered European Defence and a stronger and more balanced Atlantic Alliance.

First of all, I want to underline the remarkable commitment of German forces in NATO operations. As NATO prepares its next Summit, I am delighted to have the opportunity to highlight the work carried out by my Command and to connect it to the expectations for the Summit.

I am convinced this Summit will reaffirm the Alliance's commitment to pursuing its transformation, with the main objective being the preservation of its operational effectiveness. Faced with an instable geostrategic environment, NATO's military credibility remains crucial. For this reason, we must prepare the capabilities we will need in the long term based on predictable threats, while obviously remaining ready to react to immediate crises. The crisis in Ukraine has shown how important it is for NATO to maintain its power of deterrence which rests with the credibility of its military capabilities. Our aim should be to have at our disposal a balance of forces to confront both asymmetric and symmetric threats. The rapid pace of events on the ground in Ukraine should remind us that the Alliance must be ready to act at any time and without delay. To that end, I believe that maintaining a high level of training and operational preparedness for Alliance forces must be a priority. The development of partnerships within the framework of Cooperative Security, as launched in Lisbon and reiterated in Chicago, will also be a major issue for NATO.

If you will allow me, I would like to discuss **three points**.

### **[Capability Development]**

**The work** undertaken in the course of the NATO Capability Review has confirmed that critical gaps remain in a number of areas, and in particular Joint Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (JISR). In that context, the drone project recently agreed by the European Council is worthy of support since it will fill one of our priority shortfalls. Other capabilities, such as Ballistic Missile Defence, also need further attention: in both cases, European nations can make a real contribution using their proven operational and industrial know-how. Among capabilities of concern, we should mention Command and Control Systems and the assets required to deploy, transport and support forces, in provide medical support. Nor forget the evolution of threats in cyberspace which will present a significant issue for individual members and the Alliance as a whole. You will of course be aware of the attacks directed against NATO websites just this week-end.

Capability gaps must evidently be seen in the context of the general reduction of defence budgets within the Alliance, with just a few exceptions such as Germany, although even your defence effort remains below the stated objective of 2% of GDP. It is worth noting that elsewhere, large nations

have considerably increased their efforts to modernize their armed forces which will have a significant impact on the future strategic environment. But, while we do not want an arms race, one can but hope that defence investments will resume once we exit this crisis. More than ever, we must address the issue of burden-sharing with regards to security and defence on both sides of the Atlantic, and between European Allies and what this means for capability development.

Addressing capability deficits is a **major objective** for the Alliance, also, in practical terms, it must remain a long term one. But let there be no mistake, we must start now by integrating these requirements within national and within NATO plans as well as in the European framework.

Defining the capabilities we will need in the foreseeable future – up to five or ten years from now – will require **an effort to anticipate this future**. This is the aim of the Strategic Foresight Analysis (SFA) put forward by ACT last year.

**Three strategic military trends** can already be drawn from its conclusions.

First of all, **the need to reinforce the intelligence and strategic foresight capabilities** we will require to manage crises, conduct operations and prepare our forces. This further underlines the need to strengthen and better coordinate the intelligence capabilities supplied by the nations to NATO and to put in place a new architecture for the sharing of operational information within the Alliance. It also argues for the need for advanced command and control capabilities.

Secondly, we must develop **very flexible force systems**, which can be more adaptable and adjusted quickly to deal with the uncertainties of the future operational environment. I would note in this respect that the reform of the Bundeswehr underway has already taken this into account. This flexibility must lead to increased mobility, the greater adaptability for our weapon systems. I would point in particular to anti-air and anti-missile systems, transport aircraft (such as the A400M), multi-mission air refuelling aircraft or multirole ships. The flexibility and adaptability of our forces will also require a high level of training and exercises as well as a high level of interoperability both for command centres and forces.

Finally, we must organize ourselves so that we are able to provide collective support to our long-term commitments, such as those in Kosovo, the Mediterranean, East of Africa, and in Afghanistan or permanent missions such as the air policing mission or cybersecurity. Our force systems must therefore be sufficiently robust and highly interoperable.

These military trends must be taken into account when developing capabilities within the Alliance, including multinational cooperation efforts initiated through Smart Defence. In this way, the 'Framework Nation' concept proposed by Germany will, once validated by the Allies, provide vital support to the transformation of the Alliance.

**Already, your country has fully assumed the responsibilities associated with the status of framework nation;** in Afghanistan where Germany is coordinating the action of 11 countries within its regional group; in exercises and training through the NATO School in Oberammergau and the

Multinational Headquarters in Ulm ; with four Centres of Excellence<sup>1</sup> working in domains as varied as maritime operations in shallow waters or military engineering; by leading 5 Smart Defence projects such as those dealing with infrastructure development and medical treatment assets or geospatial data and products. Germany is reinforcing multinational cooperation through this original concept. One should however point out that however essential this cooperation, it alone cannot compensate for the effects of budget reductions which will have a lasting impact. We must hope, of course, that as they emerge from the crisis, European countries will once again invest in defence, but we must act without delay. In the short term, we must use any opportunity to cooperate on the training and exercising of forces, ensure the maintenance of our materiel and the pooling of our assets.

We must also work to accelerate the development of our weapons programmes, while reining in their cost and improving their efficiency. We must work together to define the appropriate operational requirement for our equipment. This new approach will require increased collaboration with industry and better use of technological innovations. This too is smart defence.

### **[Force preparation]**

Even the most innovative weapons systems are only as good as the men and women who handle them. Following two decades of operations by the Alliance in very different crises, the preservation of the high-level operational capabilities and availability of NATO forces will be vital. We owe it to the men and women of our armed forces to supply them with the best tools and the best operational preparation possible. Within the Alliance this effort is borne by the Connected Forces Initiative.

In this framework, we have developed an exercise programme which will test the operational level of the new NATO Command and Forces structures, but also the headquarters and forces provided by the nations. Particular emphasis will be placed on the NATO Response Force (NRF) which is at the heart of Alliance readiness and interoperability efforts.

Our Connected Forces project is ambitious but realistic; it will include in particular the organization of a high-intensity crisis management exercise in 2015 for which Germany expects to contribute some 1400 men with staff elements and air and sea assets. It will include a series of major exercises which start this year and go beyond 2016. It also proposes a significant review of our Education, Training, Exercises and Evaluation doctrine. The involvement and participation of Germany in this project is of essential importance to the Alliance, especially in the light of its experience in the areas of training and education, and the quality of its infrastructure.

Furthermore, we intend to develop very realistic exercise scenarios which take due account of new threats related to Cyber Defence or Ballistic Missile Defence, but also of the varied nature of the Alliance geostrategic environment. I also intend to engage the nations in thinking about how the German Framework concept might be applied to the Connected Forces Initiative.

### **[Partners]**

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<sup>1</sup> Germany is the framework nation for the following COEs: Civil Military Cooperation COE, Operations for Confined and Shallow Waters COE, Joint Air Power Competence Centre COE, Military Engineering COE.

I would like to conclude by discussing NATO's partners. Their contribution to cooperative security as defined in the Alliance Strategic Concept has been one of the most notable success stories of the last two decades, as was demonstrated by the operational contributions of many partners in recent operations, especially Afghanistan. We must salute the sacrifices of those who have fought shoulder to shoulder with us. Most of our partners are keen to continue to engage, improve their interoperability and contribute to projects related to Smart Defence or the Connected Forces Initiatives. The Alliance must continue to work on making the best possible use of existing frameworks to promote common strategic interests and shared points of view.

**The European Union is the Alliance's strategic partner par excellence.** We must make full use of the strong potential offered by this partnership for the coordinated development of capabilities and the conduct of operations. The examples of the complementary nature of military and civilian actions carried out in Somalia by the European Union and those of NATO, in collaboration with the African Union and the United Nations are examples of a promising modular collaboration model between our two organizations.

### **[Conclusion]**

ACT's Roadmap is intended to allow the efficient transformation of the Alliance, by reinforcing its military credibility on which rests its ability to carry out the range of its collective defence and crisis management missions. Much of the work carried out by my Command will produce results over the long term. Training Alliance forces, developing their capabilities, reinforcing our military links with partners will also take place over the long term. In this context, what matters is to make the right choices in consultation with our Allies, through a transparent, open and collaborative approach. To this end, I have initiated a series of regular encounters with all Allies. These meetings, like this one, will allow my Command to remain constantly aware of the evolving concerns of member nations, their national and regional understanding of crises and threats as well as the challenges they face. It is in keeping with this spirit of active cooperation that I lead, within NATO's Transformation Command, motivated and able men and women; and I take this opportunity to thank the German authorities, and General Wieker in particular, for their constant support.