

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

## DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

**Annual Session of the NATO-PA  
in Orlando, USA, 7 - 11 November 2003**

### REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN, GENERAL PHILIPPE MORILLON

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1. The autumn session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, held from 7 to 11 November 2003 in Orlando, Florida, USA, focused most of its attention on the situation in post-war

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Iraq and the issue of how to mend damaged transatlantic relations. In this context, it is important to stress the moderate nature of discussions between Americans and Europeans at the Florida session, which was a welcome change from the sometimes aggressive tones at the previous meetings in Istanbul and Prague, before and during the war in Iraq.

There was general agreement in Orlando that it was much more difficult to establish peace than to win the war and that, alongside the capabilities of the US military administration, reconstruction and nation-building in Iraq required broad international support, not least from the Europeans.

2. In the Defence and Security Committee's Resolution (presented by Pierre Lellouche), the Assembly demanded a formal role for NATO in the process of stabilising and rebuilding Iraq and recommended that it should 'develop options for participation in NATO operations in Iraq as soon as possible'.

There was also a call for political control of Iraq to be handed over to the Iraqi people as soon as was practicable.

3. Another key message sent out by the meeting in Orlando was the need to re-inject trust into transatlantic relations.

The President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the US congressman Doug Bereuter, wished the EU to play a greater peacekeeping role in the Western Balkans and advised them to be prepared to take over from NATO in Bosnia and Kosovo.

In his speech to the plenary, he also stated the following:

*'An effective peacekeeping capability will complement other EU competencies, such as the EU's work to build civil institutions, its economic and infrastructure assistance, and its deployable pool of civilian police officers. In that fashion, the ESDP can be an important part of a comprehensive spectrum of capabilities for crisis management in Europe.'*

The conclusion that can be drawn from his statements is that the USA would primarily like to see the ESDP as a peacekeeping force and not a peace enforcement force. That would remain more the reserve of NATO, which is why he is opposed to a mutual defence clause in any European Constitution.

*'NATO remains the organisation that can most effectively defend the nations of Europe and North America against serious threats to their security.'*

*Those European nations that desire a mutual defence alliance have already turned to NATO to provide this security guarantee.'*

*A mutual defence clause in the EU constitution would result in ESDP competing with, rather than complementing NATO. It would leave us with two organisations charged with doing the exact same thing. At a time when many European countries are unable to fund*

*their current defence commitments, I dare say that they cannot afford a new mutual defence organisation, either politically or financially.'*

4. The message to the Europeans from the outgoing Secretary General, Lord Robertson, was that they must have more troops ready for deployment and able to work together.

*'1.4 million regular soldiers under arms in the 18 non-US NATO countries plus another million or so reserves. Yet with only 55.000 soldiers currently deployed on multinational missions, most of your countries plead that they are overstretched and can do no more.'*

*That is quite simply unacceptable. It risks strategic failure in current operations and the inability to react if new crises - or opportunities - occur. Not only NATO's credibility is at stake. The same pool of forces is used by the UN, the EU and coalitions.'*

His second plea was that Afghanistan must be a success.

*'If we fail, we will find Afghanistan on all of our doorsteps. Worse still, NATO's credibility will be shattered, along with that of every NATO government. Who will stand with us in the war against terror if we take on a commitment such as this and then fail to deliver?'*

*I am confident that NATO will succeed in Afghanistan. But to do so, we must meet a second challenge: to increase substantially the usability of European armed forces.'*

His third message concerned the challenge of making a success of the strategic partnership between NATO and the EU.

*'One of the biggest achievements of my term in office was the agreement earlier this year on the so-called Berlin Plus arrangements under which the EU has guaranteed use of NATO assets for its operation.'*

*This is a good deal for taxpayers and voters on both sides of the Atlantic. It means more resources for real capabilities rather than paper armies and paper headquarters. It means no unnecessary duplication between organisations. And it means a net increase in our overall ability to deal with the problems we all face.'*

*Berlin Plus does not block. It facilitates. It worked in FYROM where the EU made use of NATO's assets. It worked in the Congo where NATO decided not to be involved and the EU decided that it did not need NATO's assets. It can work on each and every occasion because it was designed to cover the whole strategic waterfront.'*

Reference is also made to this in the EP Delegation's press release of 9 November 2003 (see annex).

5. The need for greater efficiency in NATO's internal decision-making was illustrated in a presentation by the Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Richard Myers, using video clips showing a crisis scenario of terrorist missile attacks in the Mediterranean area. General Myers suggested that NATO's Supreme Allied Command in Europe, SACEUR, needed to be given greater freedom when taking decisions concerning

operational planning. The current stages of decision making would have to be speeded up in order to be better equipped to deal with new threats like terrorist attacks.

6. Another aspect of internal reform within NATO would be more urgently required when it expanded from 19 to 26 member countries in June 2004. The consensus model used by the NATO Council will make decision-making increasingly difficult. The rapporteur for the Political Committee, Bert Koenders, therefore proposed that a 'coalition of the willing' within the alliance must be an option for future NATO operations. A corresponding resolution from the Assembly stated accordingly *'that in future a NATO 'Committee of Contributors' should be mandated to carry out operations on behalf of the Alliance after authorisation by the North Atlantic Council (NAC).'*
7. An important item on the agenda at the annual session in Orlando was the issue of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their proliferation.

Here the main message was a call for improved intelligence sharing among NATO member countries with a view to reaching agreement over the degree of threat posed by WMDs and terrorism. The Assembly called for further development in cooperation with partners in the struggle against the threats of proliferation, terrorism and failing states.

8. Discussions in the various committees focused on transatlantic relations, the rebuilding of Iraq, peacekeeping missions in the Balkans and Afghanistan, protecting civilians from terrorist attacks and international trade issues and their importance in terms of global security.

**All reports and speeches can be found on the following website: <http://www.nato-pa.int>**

9. The next spring session of the NATO-PA will take place in Bratislava, Slovakia from 28 May - 1 June 2004.

Annex:

- List of participants from the EP-Delegation
- Press release

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

## DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH THE NATO-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

### *DELEGATION TO THE ANNUAL SESSION OF THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY*

Orlando, Florida, USA, from 7 to 11 November 2003

#### List of participants

#### Members Committee

Mr Philippe MORILLON, Chairman D&S	PPE-DE	France	
Mr Helmut KUHNE, Vice-chairman E&S	PSE	Germany	
Mr Ward BEYSEN CDS	NI	Belgium	
Mr Glyn FORD D&S	PSE	United Kingdom	
Mr Vitaliano GEMELLI CDS	PPE-DE	Italy	
Mr Demetrio VOLCIC	PSE	Italy	PC
Mr Karl VON WOGAU E&S	PPE-DE	Germany	
Mr Matti WUORI S&T	Verts/ALE	Finland	

#### **Abbreviations of the political groups:**

PPE-DE	Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats
PSE	Group of the Party of European Socialists
GUE/NGL	Confederal Group of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left
Verts/ALE	Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance
NI	Non attached

#### **Abbreviations of committees:**

D&S	Defence and Security
E&S	Economy and Security
PC	Political Committee



# European Parliament

## Delegation for Relations with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly

### Press Statement

9 November 2003, Orlando / Florida

*“Europe has to produce more deployable and interoperable troops in order to be an equal partner to the US within NATO”*, declared the Head of the European Parliament Delegation, General Philippe Morillon, at the annual session of the NATO-Parliamentary Assembly in Orlando, Florida, on 9 November 2003.

In contributing to the debate with the Joint Chief of Staff, General Richard B. Myers, who demanded more efficient and more rapid decision making within NATO in order to keep up with the ever more dynamic threats, EU MPs agreed to the necessity for better coordination and transparency in military planning between NATO and the EU according to the Berlin Plus agreement.

In this context intelligence sharing (“need to share”) between the US and European partners would be of utmost importance in order to arrive at more common evaluations of the new threats of global terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, state sponsorship of terrorism, and the nexus of these three – the possibility that a state will provide/sell these weapons to terrorists.

The main questions discussed in the different Committees at the session in Orlando, at which the European Parliament participated as an associated member with a 10-member strong delegation, were transatlantic relations, the rebuilding of Iraq, peace operations in the Balkans and Afghanistan, the protection of civilians against terrorist attacks as well as trade issues including their effects on global security.

*“NATO and the EU are mutually reinforcing institutions”*, stated Philippe Morillon, *“but we have to become more precise about the missions and mandates of the NATO Response Force (NRF) and the EU Rapid Reaction Force (RRF) as both are pulling from the same pool of forces”*.

*“I hope that the new European Security Doctrine, as developed by High Representative Solana and to which the European Parliament has recently contributed through its annual CFSP report, will be a good basis for the necessary strategic dialogue between Europe and the United States”*, declared General Morillon.

With regard to rebuilding Iraq, EU MPs expressed interest in the recommendation of the NATO-PA for a formal role for NATO in the stabilization and reconstruction of Iraq and to ensure that political control in Iraq is returned to the Iraqi people as soon as practicable, but insisted that within this process the UN must play a leading role.