

SECURITY MATTERS

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ARE WE IN OR OUT OF BUSINESS?

Mixed message at civil-military relations event

From 9-12 May 2001 the Centre for European Security Studies (CESS) abandoned its home base in Groningen for The Hague. The occasion was an international conference "Taking Stock on Civil-Military Relations" organised in collaboration with Canada's Centre for Security and Defence Studies (CSDS) and the recently-established Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF).

Keynote speakers were NATO Secretary-General Lord Robertson and Dutch Defence Minister Frank de Grave. Other contributors to plenary sessions included the Secretary-General of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Simon Lunn, Romania's Defence Minister, Ioan Pascu, and CESS Director Peter Volten.

There were mixed messages in the Opening Addresses. Minister De Grave said that, because of the

speed of change in Central Europe, further CESS, CSDS and DCAF activities aimed at promoting democratic control of the military there might become superfluous. These organisations could become 'victims of their own success', he said. However, Lord Robertson congratulated the institutions for the organisation of the timely event on a topic which, he thought, would require continuing attention in the years ahead.

Enhancing legislative oversight in South-East Europe

One field where there is still work to do is in helping legislatures in South-Eastern Europe to become more effective in overseeing national security sectors. So CESS has launched a Democratic Control: Parliament and Parliamentary Staff Education programme in the region (DEMCON-SEE for short). Events scheduled for 2001 include a multinational conference in Bucharest and individual country-workshops in Belgrade, Tirana and Zagreb. (For details, see Programmes and Calendar overleaf.)

'It has taken us a long time to get this important programme underway', says Margriet Drent, Executive Director of the Centre, 'but it will acquire momentum very quickly now. We shall be organising – with local partner-institutes – approximately one activity per month over the next year or so'.

DEMCON-SEE is part of the Quick Start Package of the Stability Pact for South-East Europe.

This venture is being financed by the governments of The Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom plus the Dutch Stichting Fondsenwerving Militaire Oorlogsen dienstslachtoffers (SFMO). It is fully-funded until mid-2002.

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NATO Secretary-General Lord Robertson at the opening session of the 'Taking Stock' conference.



Dutch Defence Minister Frank de Grave is one of the 110 attentive listeners at the conference just before delivering his own keynote speech.

Website Watch

Additional copies of this or previous Newsletters can be downloaded from the CESS Website www.let.rug.nl/cess under Publications. Look to the website also for the most up-to-date News about the Centre's activities and information about who we are and what we do (and have done in the past).

Programmes

As noted in the front-page story, our **Democratic Control: Parliament and Parliamentary Staff Education** programme for South-East Europe (DEMCON-SEE) is now up and running. We are planning the initial Regional Meeting, to be held in Bucharest, 27-30 September 2001; and we are recruiting elected representatives and staffers for the series of national workshops (two or three per country) which are the programme's central feature.

In making these arrangements we are liaising closely with our partner-institutions in participating countries. These are: Albania – Study Center on Parliamentary and Democracy Practices, Bosnia-Herzegovina – Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues, Bulgaria – Institute for Security and International Studies, Croatia – Institute of International Relations, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia – Institute for European Studies, Macedonia – Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research, Romania – Eurisc Foundation.

Projects

Around 100 people attended the **Taking Stock on Civil-Military Relations** conference held in The Hague, 9-12 May 2001 in splendid facilities made available by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Besides hearing the addresses of Lord Robertson, Defence Minister De Grave and the other plenary speakers, delegates discussed papers presented – in parallel working groups – by a number of distinguished scholars, analysts and practitioners.



Romanian Defence Minister Ioan Pascu in conversation with CESS' board member Willem van Eekelen at the 'Taking Stock on Civil-Military Relations' conference in The Hague.



A group picture of the participants at the 9th Course in Management Skills organised by the Slovak Ministry of Defence and CESS in Tatranské Zruby from 11-15 June 2001. A jubilee 10th event is planned for June 2002, again in close co-operation with the Slovak Ministry.

Themes covered were (a) the theory and practice of civil-military relations, (b) the influence of changing armed forces' roles and missions, (c) the international dimension of civil-military relations and (d) the experience of both mature democracies and the transition states of Central and Eastern Europe.

On the eve of The Hague conference the staff at Groningen completed their Interim Report on a commissioned **NATO Enlargement Study**. The remit is to assess the performance – in selected areas – of the nine would-be NATO members participating in the Membership Action Plan (MAP) process. This work continues, on preparation of a Final Report to be submitted in July.

Another Interim Report was handed-in at the beginning of June: on the study entitled **Reshaping European Defence Efforts** which is being conducted under the aegis of the NATO Fellowship scheme (Institutional Award). The first venture in our European Defence Futures portfolio, this in-depth analysis will be completed in mid-2002.

Considerable headway was made during the first half of 2001 in the realisation of the Stability Pact-related **Budget Transparency Initiative** (for South-East Europe) with which the Centre is associated.

The Initiative was formally launched at a gathering in Vienna (March 2001), where the managing Multinational Steering Group tasked its Group of Experts – now in place at

Sofia's Rakovsky Military Academy – to produce a Handbook on South-East European Defence Spending and a Survey of South-East European Defence Budgeting Systems.

Proposals

As an independent not-for-profit research, education and training enterprise – and one which receives no core funding – the Centre for European Security Studies has to pay a lot of attention to money-raising. Accordingly it always has proposals in the pipeline for future programmes and projects.

We continue to seek funds for the ESCADA and SCOPE-North programmes, details of which have also appeared in earlier Newsletters.

The ESCADA enterprise is an innovative scheme for bringing together, on a regular basis, representatives of the nascent security communities of eight South-East European countries (a) to engage in dialogue on their shared security concerns and (b) to produce locally-generated policy recommendations related to these concerns.

The SCOPE-North programme aims to engage audiences in the Baltic States, Belarus, Russia's Kaliningrad Oblast, Poland and Ukraine in a sequence of seminars and workshops on options and prospects for security co-operation in Europe's North.

We are also seeking support for a venture aimed at exploring how to reconcile the distinctive civil-military traditions of Turkey with that country's aspiration for EU membership (for which clear subordination of the military to civilian authority is probably a 'hard' precondition).

Publications

Peter Volten has had an article entitled 'In Hindsight: The Red Threat Viewed from Ten Years After' published in the Dutch journal *Internationale Spectator*. (The original title is in Dutch.)

David Greenwood has a chapter entitled 'Observations on the Stability Pact ... and Bulgarian Defence Modernisation' in a book published recently: Tilcho Ivanov (ed), *Defence Policy Modernisation and Security on the Balkans* (Sofia: Stopanstvo Publishing, 2001).

Public Activities

At CESS we receive frequent invitations to undertake outside speaking assignments. Several were fulfilled in the period from January until July 2001.

In **March** this year Programme Manager Sander Huisman attended the NATO Parliamentary Assembly's 49th Rose-Roth Seminar held in Dubrovnik. The theme was on Security and Stability in South-Central Europe.

Also in March, Director Peter Volten went to Loccum in Germany where he gave a presentation entitled The EU as an Actor in Security Policy: Rival or Partner for the USA to a conference on the transatlantic partnership.

In the same month, David Greenwood (Research Director) travelled to Vienna for the inauguration of the Budget Transparency Initiative for South-East Europe (see Projects earlier). He presented the terms of reference for the exercise – which he had drafted – and a paper which participating nations accepted as a 'common understanding' of its wider objectives.

In **April** Peter Volten fulfilled two 'outside' engagements. He lectured at the Military Academy in Liptovsky Mikulas (Republic of Slovakia) early in the month and some weeks later attended a conference on the professionalisation of armed forces held in the United Kingdom (at the Shrivenham higher military education facility). The Director was in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) in mid-**May** for a Belgrade conference on South-Eastern Eu-

ropean Security on the eve of the XXlth Century (sic). At the same time the Research Director was in Bulgaria on a visit which included (1) presentation of a paper on Transparency in Defence Decision-making to an event organised by the Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), (2) attendance at the meeting of the Academic Working Group of the Budget Transparency Initiative (see above and opposite), and (3) participation in the third of a series of high-level workshops with Bulgarian policy-makers and planners.

Margriet Drent was 'on the road' in May also. She paid a short visit to Slovenia as part of fact-finding for the Centre's NATO Enlargement Study (mentioned under Projects opposite).

In **June**, three staff members travelled on NATO Enlargement Study business. Sander Huisman conducted interviews with academics, journalists, government officials, military officers, and parliamentarians in the Baltic States and Poland, while Peter Volten did the same in Romania and Margriet Drent in Hungary.

People

Jos Boonstra joined the Centre's staff in February 2001 as a Programme Manager. He is currently working on DEMCON-SEE business (see Programmes above).



Jos Boonstra

Jos Boonstra studies History and International Relations with special interest in Russia, South-East Europe and the Caucasus.

We should record that in April (senior) Programme Manager Sander Huisman became the proud father of a fine son. Congratulations to Bianca; and welcome to Kees.

We had a temporary Programme Assistant on the payroll, March-May 2001 – Groningen graduate Dennis Vleugels. Dennis was engaged to help organise the early-May conference on civil-military re-

lations which is reported on elsewhere in this issue of Security Matters. He did an excellent job and we are grateful to him for that.

Dennis Vleugels:

Joining the 'club of intern memoirs':

I sincerely appreciate the chance granted me at CESS assisting in the organisation of the 'Civil-Military Relations' conference. It provided me, not only, an excellent opportunity to gain experience in project management, but it also offered me an ideal working environment to successively improve upon my Dutch language skills.



Dennis Vleugels

Moreover, it permitted my active involvement in international security matters - namely preparation and participation in the conference (which concurrently re-ignited prior interests and sparked new ones). The successful completion and positive judgement of the conference was most rewarding.

Subsequent invitation to partake in the 'Management Skills Course' in Slovakia was most pleasing, especially regarding my interest in international conflict prevention/management, and it was therefore not difficult to say yes. Slovakia was a most fruitful experience which will certainly have influence upon my way of thinking in future.

It was a great pleasure being a part of the dynamic team which gives CESS its special character. Many thanks CESS!

PROGRES

The long-awaited publication of the volume reporting the research done under our 1999-2000 Programme on European Security (PROGRES) is imminent. The text, entitled *Towards Shared Security: 7-Nation Perspectives* should be available for late summer holiday reading. Edited by the CESS Directing Staff – Margriet Drent, David Greenwood and Peter Volten – at the heart of the volume is a sequence of chapters by the Chairs of the five PROGRES Working Groups. The work will appear as a Special Issue in our Harmonie Papers series.

Calendar DEMCON-SEE activities (see Programmes)

- 13-16 September 2001,** Belgrade, FRY: Workshop Essentials of Legislative Oversight
27-30 September 2001, Bucharest, Romania: Regional Meeting Parliaments in South East Europe and Reform Priorities for the Security Sector

11-14 October 2001,

25-28 October 2001,

8-11 November 2001,

Belgrade, FRY (t.b.c.): Workshop The Role of the Legislature in Monitoring the Security Sector in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
Zagreb, Croatia: Workshop Exercising Democratic Control over the Armed Forces in Croatia
Tirana, Albania: Workshop Parliament and Reform of the Security Sector in Albania