

## DEVELOPMENT OF DEFENCE RAPID REACTION CAPABILITIES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENSE POLICY

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***Abstract:** In May 2004, General Affairs and External Relations Council agreed upon the new Headline Goal which will guide the European cooperation in the field of defense activities until 2010 (HLG 2010). The main aspects taken into consideration were structured along three priorities regarding forces interoperability, deployment and sustainment capability. In this regard, HLG2010 introduced the notion of “highly deployable force packages” as the main element to be taken into account for planning purposes and overall management of operational commitments. The theoretical support in this approach was based on the Battle Groups Concept having as the main objectives achievement by 2005 of the Initial Operational Capability (IOC) and, subsequently, by the end of 2007 of the Final Operational Capability (FOC). Within the overall EU Level of Ambition regarding the capacity to conduct, simultaneously, two rapid reaction operations, it was decided to have two Battle Groups for six months stand-by periods.*

***Keywords:** ESDP, Battle Groups, Artemis Operation, European Security Strategy, Petersberg missions, HLG2010.*

Creating the adequate rapid reactions capabilities in the field of crisis management was a constant feature of the European cooperation in the field of security and defense. The general approach of this topic was strongly related with the Common Security and Defense Policy evolutions, with a particular view on EU autonomous capacity to conduct crisis management operations, initially undertaken by Franco-British Declaration of St. Malo (December 1998). Furthermore, the development of rapid reaction capabilities played a central role in the overall decisions on EU Headline Goals. The first one, adopted by the Helsinki European Council, in December 1999, was focused on creating, by 2003, a Rapid Reaction Force (50-60.000 personnel) / HLG2003, able to be deployed within 60 days, with the possibility to be maintained in the field for one year. From this

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