

Paris, Berlin, Warsaw, 6 December 2010

Ministers of Foreign Affairs  
of France, Germany and Poland  
Ministers of Defense  
of France, Germany and Poland

Ms. Catherine Ashton  
High Representative of the Union  
for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy  
Council of the European Union

Madam High Representative,

Since Saint-Malo we have come a long way towards genuine European contribution to crisis management and defence. Its objectives and institutional framework have been developed and confirmed by the European Council from Cologne in 1999 to Brussels in 2008. We have also been able to coin the European Security Strategy, which gives us guidelines for continuous efforts based on shared assessment of security environment on the continent and beyond. The Lisbon Treaty brings us another step forward in building CSDP which would match our ambitions.

After several successful operations – in Bosnia, Congo, Chad, Kosovo, Georgia or against piracy off the coast of Somalia, the Common Security and Defense Policy is consolidating as an effective crisis management tool. The European Union has become a recognised and sought-after security actor. It will become more solicited, alone or in coordination with other actors such as UN, NATO, the United States and emerging powers.

To keep the momentum we need to give a fresh impetus to European Security and Defence Policy, in full complementarity with NATO. Your personal involvement in this endeavour is key.

Lessons learned should be turned into practical steps to improve the EU performance in CSDP including in terms of structures and capabilities. We want the Union, with the broad range of instruments at our disposal, to enhance its contribution to international peace and security and to develop its capacity to tackle the challenges to its security. The Lisbon treaty provides us with a clear direction in this respect. In the future, Permanent Structured Cooperation may be a useful tool to achieve progress in reinforcing European capabilities.

In times of challenging financial constraints we must be ready to take bold decisions. CSDP must become more cost-effective and efficient at the same time.

France, Germany and Poland are convinced that with you, Madam High Representative, in the lead and with active support from the Member States we have today a good opportunity to make significant progress in the following areas.

### ***EU-NATO cooperation***

We have vested interests in sound EU – NATO relations for a simple reason: most European partners belong to both organizations. An improved EU - NATO cooperation is needed for a more effective European engagement in global affairs. We appreciate and strongly encourage you and the Secretary General of NATO to intensify cooperation between both organisations adding new momentum to EU - NATO cooperation keeping Member States and Allies fully involved.

Working contact should be instrumental in achieving operational goals. There is ample room for improvement in our relations, regarding both in-theatre operational cooperation and pragmatic initiatives in the area of capabilities and beyond. In this respect, we fully support the need to enhance mutually reinforcing cooperation to facilitate the delivery of capabilities. We should notably build on the key partnership between EDA and ACT and encourage their fruitful cooperation in already identified areas. EU and NATO dialogue could also focus on new challenges, such as cyberdefence.

As a complement to the EU-NATO relationship we also welcome further cooperation with the United States and other third States for CSDP operations and missions, building on our experience in Kosovo, in Operation Atalanta and EUTM Somalia.

We believe that you, together with NATO Secretary General, have a critical role to play to encourage Member States to turn these commitments into concrete steps.

### ***Permanent Civil-military Planning and Conduct Capabilities, Development of Battlegroups***

Analyzing lessons from past operations and missions and taking into account our enhanced level of ambition we consider the CSDP needs to be more efficient particularly in the field of civil-military crisis management. To complement and take forward the decisions already taken at the European Council on 11. December 2008, we see a specific need to improve our capacities to plan and to conduct operations and missions, to strengthen cooperation among our militaries and to create synergies in

times of scarce resources, taking due care for complementarity with national and NATO planning capacities.

Building on lessons learnt we propose to work on three elements:

- At the strategic level, how to improve the ability to plan and conduct civilian, civil-military and military operations and missions, building on existing structures.
- At the operational level, improvement of the military conduct capabilities.
- At the tactical level, to adapt our Battlegroups to complex operational needs including through enhanced civil-military capacities. In this context, we will also consider the creation of modules accommodating comprehensive military, and civilian capabilities.

In order to reflect in practice the above considerations, Germany, Poland and France will enhance their cooperation within the Battlegroup which they are to provide in the first half of 2013 inviting partners to share their experience along the way.

In the light of the opportunity offered by this Battlegroup, Germany, Poland and France reaffirm their willingness to deploy it if required. In that respect we intend to enhance its availability to better react to operational contingencies, including by focussed advance planning in cooperation with CSDP structures.

In parallel, we are convinced that appropriate and balanced financial principles would be conducive to BGs' deployability. To prepare the revision of the Athena Mechanism under the Polish Presidency, we will work with you on proposals, including on common funding, aiming at increasing the readiness, deployability and cost efficiency of the BGs (e.g. strategic lift).

### *European capabilities*

The operational objectives endorsed by the European Council two years ago require the development of robust, flexible and interoperable capabilities. In the current financial circumstances this will be an even more pressing challenge. Yet, we need to make continued progress in concrete projects and initiatives, whether in a bilateral or collective framework, by strengthening cooperation within the EU and between the EU and NATO on military capability developments issues and seeking new methods for developing and optimising our capabilities (e.g. pooling of efforts, specialisation).

Restructuring European DTIB remains a strategic and economic necessity, together with stimulating research investments. Particularly in this field we see a potentially substantial role for EDA as well, under your leadership.

We would encourage you to provide in due time a report on progress achieved in this important field as a basis for an in depth discussion at ministerial level.

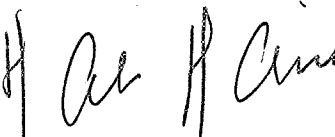
### *Partners in Leadership*

France, Germany and Poland will support you in your leadership to make sure the EU develops more robust and efficient tools to allow for coherent European action.

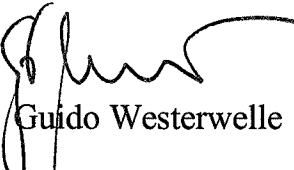
Our initiative should be seen as a comprehensive package which could be pursued step by step.

Germany, Poland and France propose you to launch a reflection process as soon as possible as a first step to implement our initiative.

We are willing to assist this process in close cooperation with the current and incoming Presidencies, our colleagues and you. We are ready to share our ideas with our colleagues and would be grateful if you could put this item on the agenda of the upcoming FAC meeting. The aim is to achieve concrete results under the Polish EU Presidency in the second half of 2011.




Michèle Alliot-Marie



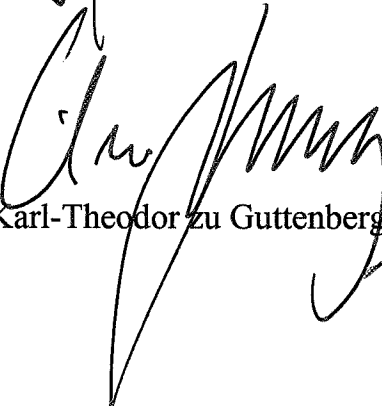
Guido Westerwelle



Radosław Sikorski



Alain Juppé



Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg



Bogdan Klich