



48th

INTERNATIONAL PEACE INSTITUTE

VIENNA SEMINAR

EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS:

LESSONS LEARNED AND THE WAY FORWARD

VIENNA, AUSTRIA
5 JUNE 2018

PROGRAM



INTRODUCTION

EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS: LESSONS LEARNED AND THE WAY FORWARD

The 2018 Vienna Seminar will focus on lessons from recent European engagement in United Nations peace operations. The aim of this year's seminar is to examine the prospects of sustainable European participation in current and future UN peace operations in the face of ongoing geopolitical shifts and national political pressures, and better understand the impact of European participation on the effectiveness of UN peacekeeping operations.

The UN has actively encouraged European countries to increase their participation in peacekeeping since the end of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan in December 2014. The UN has both sought to increase overall numbers of European troops and secure contributions of experienced, specialized capabilities, which can significantly bolster the operational capacity and security of UN missions.¹ Although in short supply, these niche capacities have become increasingly vital to effective mandate implementation, particularly in environments where peacekeepers are directly targeted by armed groups and where there is often an absence of viable, national political processes.

The September 2015 Leaders' Summit on UN Peacekeeping, and subsequent ministerial summits in London and Canada in 2016 and 2017, resulted in increased European pledges and enhanced political engagement from capitals. Rather than a large-scale return to peacekeeping however, European commitments have focused on specific missions, including places where there has been longstanding European involvement.² But this has kept the share of European contributions to peace operations at a low-level, amounting to less than 5 percent of all contributions.

The Seminar is also taking place in the context of attempts by member states of the European Union to revamp a "European Defense," such as the creation of the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), and possible newer developments of the cooperation and complementarity between the UN and the EU in that perspective. The planned strengthening at EU level of the civilian component of The Common Security and Defence Policy ("Civilian CSDP Compact"), which aims at more flexible and more rapid civilian crisis management and at the development of more civilian capabilities, will also be looked at.

This year's Vienna Seminar will examine perspectives on European participation in UN peacekeeping operations and the degree to which the UN is successfully addressing the challenges in contemporary armed conflicts. The relatively sizeable deployment of

¹ Joachim Koops and Giulia Tercovich, "A European return to United Nations peacekeeping? Opportunities, challenges and ways ahead," *International Peacekeeping*, Vol. 23, No. 5 (2016).

² Koops and Tercovich, *op cit*.

European troops and other capabilities to MINUSMA, in particular, has necessitated adaptation by European contributors to the UN's model of civilian-led, integrated missions. At the same time, it has spurred the UN to revisit standards, planning processes, operational requirements, and posture to better meet European operational expectations and respond to complex threats on the ground.³ However, this process of mutual adaptation has been uneven. While European participation in MINUSMA and other recent peacekeeping operations has improved their operational effectiveness, it has also highlighted continued challenges and revealed gaps in expectations.

The Seminar also aims at examining the challenges and advantages of different aspects of peacekeeping partnerships. European civilian, military, and police personnel have not only been deployed alongside the UN in parallel military operations, but also in training and civilian missions conducted and deployed by the EU. Continued shortages of critical enabling units, and political obstacles to maintaining a steady and predictable rotation of units have encouraged innovations in joint or sequenced deployments, as well as triangular partnerships for training, equipment, and logistical support.⁴ European countries have also been among the most ardent supporters of increasing the number of women in peacekeeping. Altogether, such operations have underscored the importance of strengthened partnerships between the UN the EU, and other actors involved in UN peacekeeping.

The seminar will conclude by reflecting on the prospects of long-term engagement by European countries in UN peacekeeping. It will explore the extent to which recently increased deployments represent a renewed interest in managing insecurity through the UN, or demonstrate an "arrangement of convenience" based on national political and security interests. In this context, it will also examine the most likely forms of future European participation in UN peacekeeping, and how national and international political, security, and financial considerations might influence decisions on European engagement.

³ John Karlsrud and Adam C. Smith, "Europe's Return to UN Peacekeeping in Africa? Lessons from Mali," International Peace Institute, New York, July 2015.

⁴ International Peace Institute, "Enhancing European Military and Police Contributions to UN Peacekeeping," February 2013.

TUESDAY, 5 JUNE 2018



Sala Terrena

Austrian National Defence Academy

Stiftgasse 2A, 1070 Vienna

08:30-09:00 REGISTRATION

09:00-09:30 WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Welcoming remarks:

Lieutenant-General Karl Schmidseder

Director General Operations, Austrian Federal Ministry for Defence

Introduction:

Adam Lupel

Vice President, International Peace Institute

09:30-11:00

SESSION ONE

Strategic Context for UN Peacekeeping and Recent European Engagement

This session provides an overview of recent geopolitical shifts that have led to European re-engagement in UN peacekeeping over the past few years, from both a European and UN perspective, and examines the evolving challenges of contemporary peacekeeping operations in which these deployments have taken place. This session is taking place also in the context of attempts by member states of the European Union to revamp a “European Defense,” such as PESCO, and possible newer developments in cooperation and complementarity between the UN and the EU. The planned strengthening at EU level of the civilian component of CSDP (“Civilian CSDP Compact”), which aims at more flexible and more rapid civilian crisis management and at the development of more civilian capabilities, will also be discussed.

Chairperson:

Adam Lupel

Vice President, International Peace Institute

Koen Davidse

Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, United Nations
Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)

Manuel Lafont-Rapnouil

Head of the Paris Office and Senior Policy Fellow,
European Council on Foreign Relations

Richard Gowan

Senior Policy Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations

Corinne Kitsell

UN Co-ordinator,
Foreign & Commonwealth Office, United Kingdom

11:00-11:30 COFFEE BREAK

11:30-13:00 SESSION TWO

***Perspectives on European Participation in UN
Peacekeeping Operations***

What has been the experience of recent European involvement in UN peacekeeping operations – particularly in Mali, where Europeans have increased their contribution the most, as well as in other contexts (e.g., Lebanon, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Somalia)? What is the UN experience with integrating new European contributing countries into civilian-led and integrated peacekeeping operations? How do recent/current European contributions to UN peacekeeping operations complement and interact with more traditional troop/police contributor capabilities? What challenges and synergies do parallel operations (e.g., Operations Barkhane in Mali, Sangaris in Central African Republic, European Union operations and missions) have with UN missions?

Chairperson:

Andreas Riecken

Director-General for EU and Multilateral Affairs,
Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs

Diane Corner

Former Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Multidimensional
Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA)

Rolf Landgren

Senior Police Advisor to the Civilian Operations Commander, Civilian Planning and
Conduct Capability, European External Action Service

Major-General Michael Beary

Force Commander and Head of Mission of the
United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)

John Karlsrud

Senior Research Fellow, Peace and Conflict Research Group,
Norwegian Institute of International Affairs

13:00-14:00 LUNCH

14:00-15:30 SESSION THREE

***Addressing the Challenges of Contemporary UN
Peacekeeping Operations***

How are peace operations addressing the operational challenges faced in contemporary mission environments? Where has progress been made? What are the most significant gaps? How can the UN, European contributors, and other contributors work together to address gaps in and improve niche capabilities, including aviation, logistics, combat engineering, intelligence, women peacekeepers, and counter-IED? What has been the experience with innovations like rotational deployments and multinational contingents? What is the status of UN-EU cooperation at the strategic and operational level, including consultation and information sharing, joint assessment, and joint lessons learning?

Chairperson:

Brigadier-General Reinhard Trischak

Head of the Military Policy Division, Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence

Alexandra Novosseloff

Senior Visiting Fellow, International Peace Institute

Adam Smith

Chief, Policy and Best Practices, United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)

Jean-Marc Séré-Charlet

Deputy Director, United Nations, International Organizations, Human Rights and the Francophonie, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France

Damien Cole

Director of the Policy Planning Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade,
Ireland

15:30-16:00 COFFEE BREAK

16:00-17:30 SESSION FOUR

Moving Ahead – Sustaining European Involvement in UN Peacekeeping

To what extent is the recent reengagement by European countries in UN peacekeeping sustainable, including based on recent pledging conferences? What types of engagement are most likely to continue? How are national, European and international political considerations likely to influence such engagement? To what extent will the SG's reform agenda address European TCCs' expectations regarding the UN's agility, flexibility, and planning?

Chairperson:

Jake Sherman

Director of the Brian Urquhart Center for Peace Operations,
International Peace Institute

Oliver Ulich

Head of the UN Policy, Evaluation and Training Division,
United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)

Peter van der Vliet

Director of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands

Joachim Koops

Dean of the Vesalius College, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Clara Ganslandt

Head of Division, Partnerships & Agreements, Crisis Management and Planning
Directorate, European External Action Service

17:30-17:45 CONCLUDING REMARKS