



FLASH

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Karl von Wogau (EPP-ED/CDU):

European security research should emphasize information technology and telecommunications

The European Union will spend around 100 million Euros on security research this year. This amount should be increased up to 300 million Euros as soon as possible according to Karl von Wogau MEP, Chairman of the EP Sub-Committee on Security and Defence.

The German MEP demanded at the "*European Security Round Table*" in Brussels that the European Union should use these means in particular to eliminate security deficits in the fields of information technology and telecommunications.

"A special characteristic of the European security and defence policy is the close connection of civilian and military crisis management. Common security risks such as terrorism, distribution of weapons of mass destruction, regional conflicts, natural catastrophes and dependence on energy supply cannot be mastered by military means.

Civilian and military crisis management must therefore still be linked more closely in Europe thereby removing obstacles like the serious deficits in European information and telecommunication technology. Soldiers deplore that there are five different telecommunication systems in the European Union which are partly incompatible with one another in multinational employments.

But also domestically difficulties occur, if for instance in the case of a natural catastrophe the national telecommunication systems of military, police and disaster prevention services are not compatible.

European security research should therefore contribute to the development of telecommunication systems on the basis of common standards. These devices should make an individual coding for each user possible, but they should also be compatible with one another if necessary".

Besides telecommunications, Wogau sees further serious deficits particularly in the area of satellite-based information:

"We need satellite information for common European operations and for the supervision of our common European external borders. The information we need together should be gathered together, as well.

Until now this is not the case. France, Spain and Italy have a common system of optical reconnaissance satellites named HELIOS. Germany will have with SAR Lupe its own satellite reconnaissance system based on radar technology starting in 2007.

However, the next generation of reconnaissance satellites should be a common European system, open to all Member States at the European Satellite Centre in Torrejón, Spain.

With a common European system of reconnaissance satellites we could save substantial tax spending and improve its technical efficiency. This would be an important contribution for our common security in Europe".

For these reasons the means of the European Union available for security research should be used in particular to remove the deficits in the telecommunication and information sector, Wogau continued.

"It is irresponsible to send troops in a crisis region with incompatible telecommunication equipment or without direct access to satellite-based information", the German MEP concluded.

Translation from the original German

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