



CROATIAN PARLIAMENT

Foreign Affairs Committee
Defence Committee

Zagreb, 15 July 2014

Senator Nicola Lattore
Chairman
Defence Committee of the Italian Senate

Hon. Elio Vito
Chairman
Defence Committee of the Italian Chamber of Deputies

Dear Colleagues,

Having in mind the last Inter-parliamentary Conference on CFSP and CSDP held in Athens where we all welcomed the initiative to discuss the topic of EU Battlegroups we would like to express our interest for further discussion regarding this matter.

We also believe that effectiveness and visibility of CSDP is one of the important aspects of the Common Foreign and Security Policy and Common Security and Defense Policy, so with this goal in mind we are open for the informal exchange of views with other EU parliamentary counterparts regarding proposals for a reform of EU Battlegroups.

Therefore we have prepared general information about Croatian activities regarding EU Battlegroups and our future interest, in the following part of text, so we could together explore and draw up a first version of new EU Battlegroups Concept next time we meet in Rome.

Croatia considers the EU Battlegroups as an important instrument of security and defense policy of the European Union, which directly contributes to strengthening the capacity and capability of the EU crisis management.

EU Battlegroups are powerful military tool and a valuable mechanism for the transformation of the Military Forces, which EU member states participate in the Common Security and Defence Policy of the EU in accordance with their capacities and abilities.

Participation in the EU Battlegroups directly contributes to strengthening interoperability among member states and the development of bilateral partnership.

We welcome initiative about reform EU Battlegroups considering them to be flexible enough to incorporate various elements and capabilities in addressing problems we are facing regarding filling of EU Battlegroups roster, time of commitment or lack of certain capabilities.

Additionally, we welcome further and continuous EU-NATO cooperation and synchronization in order to avoid duplication and develop synergies.

Regarding Croatian participation in EU Battlegroups, Croatia has so far participated in two battlegroups, Nordic 2011/II with two helicopters and 21 people in 2012/I and in the battle group led by the Federal Republic of Germany with 250 people.

Croatia will contribute to Germany-led battlegroup with up to 250 members of CAF which will be on a stand-by during the second half of 2016 and to Italy-led battle group which will be on a stand-by in the first half of 2017 with up to 20 people.

Looking forward meeting you soon,

Milorad Pupovac
Chairman
Foreign Affairs Committee



Tomislav Ivić
Chairman
Defence Committee

