

AFES-PRESS summary of the 12 Months Report

There is no disagreement amongst researchers, policy makers and the general public that the events typified by the fall of the Berlin Wall in November, 1989 marked a sea-change in Europe's security. However debate is still ongoing as to what the new security challenges, threats, vulnerabilities and risks are or how we should face them. Even within GMOSS there are different opinions. [Solana refers to challenges and threats, Barroso to all four concepts]

PERCEPTIONS OF SECURITY

AFES Press has argued that the perception of security threats, challenges, vulnerabilities and risks depends on the world-views or traditions of the analyst and on the mind-set of policy-makers. They distinguish three - a Hobbesian pessimist (realism) where power is the key category; a Kantian optimist (idealism) where international law and human rights are crucial; and a Grotian pragmatist where cooperation is favoured. AFES-PRESS states that social science research programmes focusing on war, military, strategic or security studies have primarily a Hobbesian perspective whilst those focusing on peace or conflict prevention have either a Grotian or Kantian view.

ECONOMIC, SOCIETAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY THREATS, CHALLENGES, VULNERABILITIES AND RISKS

"Economic and societal threats, challenges, vulnerabilities and risks" are included as one of six categories of threat in the United Nations recent panel of experts report. This includes poverty, infectious disease and environmental degradation. AFES-PRESS argue that those with a Hobbesian world-view tend to underestimate or neglect environmental challenges which disproportionately affect those with a high degree of societal vulnerability. Those with a Kantian or Grotian worldview believe that combating these threats, challenges, vulnerabilities and risks marks a good opportunity to demonstrate international collaboration and that GMOSS should therefore also focus a part of its activities on them. AFES-PRESS is exploring further the political and social issues through two books edited by AFES-PRESS "Globalisation and Environmental Challenges: Reconceptualising Security in the 21st Century" and "Global Environmental Change: Environmental, Human, Energy, Food, Health and Water Security Concepts". It will include contributions from other GMOSS partners. A table of contents and list of contributors has been agreed with the publishers.

EU SECURITY STRATEGY

FOI on the other hand has examined the more narrow military threats identified by the EU in its security strategy presented in December 2003 - terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, organised crime, regional conflict and state failure. On the first three of these issues - terrorism, proliferation and organised crime - FOI noted an increasing awareness that the EU needs to act collectively and an increasing consensus as to what needs to be done. Nearly all the measures proposed - increased police cooperation, legal instruments and treaties - are civilian in nature and, where military force is mentioned as a last resort, the central role of the United Nations is emphasised. Other than closer economic integration with near neighbours - eastwards towards Russia and on the southern shores of the Mediterranean - the response to state failure and regional conflict is less clear. Humanitarian aid and peacekeeping operations in the Balkans and the Democratic Republic of Congo show the EU's willingness to deploy troops although in other areas denoted as of being special interest to the EU, such as the Southern Caucasus, the strategy is still being defined.

But as the report submitted to Solana in September 2004 by a group of high-level European security experts has indicated there may be a need for a human security doctrine for Europe that includes non-military components for the post-conflict rehabilitation stage. This proposal

has been repeatedly mentioned by EU-Commissioner (DG Relex), Dr. Ferrero Waldner (DG Relex) after the Tsunami disaster of 26 December 2004.

FOCUS FOR SECOND YEAR OF GMOSS in WP 21.000 and WP 21.300

A proposal to continue focusing on environmental themes was discussed at a meeting in Goldegg, Austria in February, 2005 which gathered some of those responsible for both socio-economic and remote-sensing applications. It was felt by some present at the discussions that although environmental degradation or resource shortages might pose security threats, challenges, vulnerabilities and risks, they should not be the only focus of GMOSS because they are covered by other research projects. However, a major part of the remote sensing work of GMOSS during the first 12 months has focused on the impact of a natural event, the Tsunami of 26 December 2004. Others not present (AFES-PRESS) or who have not been invited (Swiss peace) to the discussion on 18 February do not share this view and have subsequently expressed their different preferences in writing. [if you refer to many focus then you would have to remove the work on the Tsunami from the GMOSS website because it has nothing to do with military threats]

But in the context of the basic social science research on security concepts (including new security challenges, threats, vulnerabilities and risks) a wide theoretical and empirical approach is needed both scientifically and politically to permit a broad hierarchy new security challenges, threats, vulnerabilities and risks. This approach that will be pursued in the modified work package 21.000 on security threats, early warning and conflict prevention jointly with Swisspeace and JRC (if you so please to join) is fully justified by the Strategic Objectives 2005-2009 by the President and Vice-president of the Commission (COM 2005, 12 final) as well as by major parts of the Solana Strategy. Swisspeace and AFES-PRESS will pursue joint research on conceptual issues of early warning, while Swisspeace continues its work with JRC on other early warning activities launched during the first year. One major joint focus of AFES-PRESS and Swisspeace is to enhance the scientific communication among Ph.D.s in the social sciences focusing on broader security issues.

A new work package 21.300 with a more narrow focus on military threats will focus in the second year of GMOSS, on translating the threats identified by the EU strategy and adopted by the European Council into requirements for monitoring for space, on clarifying the end-users for this monitoring and on exploring the boundary between the needs of confidentiality and openness.

The modified WP 21.000 will continue its work on a wide security concept including all five dimensions and focusing on longer term security challenges, threats, vulnerabilities and risks for these dimensions and different reference objects (from human, national, European to international security). In this regard early warning activities focusing on conflicts and hazards will contribute to foreign (DG Relex), development (DG Dev) and environmental (DG Env) policies of the EU and its member countries as well as of the Human Security Network with the goal to enhance the potential for conflict prevention and avoidance using diplomatic, developmental and environmental tools. This has also been the focus of GMES.

The new proposed WP 21.300 - by those present at the Goldegg discussion on 18 February - may focus on more imminent narrow military threats that are of interest to the Council and to European Defence Ministries, where the European Commission has a present only minor competencies. The tools are both of a diplomatic and military nature.

Both WP can produce different requirements for remote sensing activities in the framework of GMES that has a purely non-military focus and other space related activities (SPASEC) funded or reviewed by the Commission that include industrial and military stakeholders.