

The Eurocorps-Foreign Legion concept and the raising of the Single European Regiment: an independent proposal for a conceptual response to the massacre of Srebrenica and Potocari in July 1995 and an enhanced European Union contribution to peace-making and regional disarmament processes in the United Nations framework

Executive summary: the massacre of Srebrenica in July 1995 calls for a conceptual response in support of the European Union defence structures and its contribution to the United Nations framework.

The beginning of the Single European currency further beckons a commensurate and proportionate evolution to it in the defence field and a key reference for citizens-at-large in the European Union.

The raising of a Single European Regiment can provide this conceptual response and proportionate evolution to the Single currency with the formal representation of up to the twenty-five Member-States in the sum of its officer ranks and the twenty-five nationalities represented in the sum of the NCO ranks.

The Eurocorps-Foreign Legion concept and the Single European Regiment would conciliate the European, transatlantic and neutral traditions and vocations of European Union Member-States through the Eurocorps framework and the role of the CFSP High Representative in the proposed concept. The dispositions regarding the deployment of the Single European Regiment would enable the representation of at least a qualified majority of European Union Member-States in a joint EU(WEU)-NATO framework and its availability to the United Nations Secretary-General. Its role would span peace-making, stabilisation and disarmament processes as essential preliminary stages to democratisation and sustainable economic development processes in new Nation-States or states subjected to internal convulsion by the conduct of unaccountable governments or warring political factions and their armed militias.

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Annex I: Proposed roster of political and operational roles and posts of the Eurocorps-Foreign Legion concept and the Single European Regiment between the twelve Member-States of the Euro zone; and the twenty-five European Union Member-States in the Euro zone. The roster applies the verifiable application of the criterion of parity of representation of the framework of the European Union.

FOREWORD

The Eurocorps-Foreign Legion concept and the raising of a Single European Regiment is a proposal for a conceptual response to the devastating events after the withdrawal on 11th July of the UNPROFOR Dutch battalion in Potocari with the remit to protect the United Nations safe-area in the town of Srebrenica: between 5,000 to 8,000 Muslim Bosnians were executed in the worst massacre on European soil since the Second World War.

On this day, the conception of the European Union defence identity was revealed to each and all, who followed the tragedy of the Bosnian conflict, to be fundamentally deficient and defective. Therefore, the massacre calls for a clearly improved concert between its Member-States through greater integration in conceptual terms in order to show a clear European Union response to the massacre of the Srebrenica scenario and to prevent its repetition in the distant future.

The concept is conceived by a private citizen acting outside national institutions or a formal remit in this field. It is conceived following a measure of initial interest expressed in formal responses and, indeed, a measure of interest even tacit approval from conversations with at least one senior officer in France, Germany, Holland and Portugal.

The process of conception is primed by the difficulty of French officers, who are bound by the personal code of honour and professional duty to defend the French national identity and interests as well as to follow the parameters set by their political instances, to conceive outside the national competence and parameters in the fundamental conciliatory approach of the process of European defence integration.

Also, the presentation of the concept was requested to the Soldiers of Peace International Association (S.P.I.A.) at its colloquium held at the European Parliament between 12-14th June 2003 for the one main reason: the difficulty in the presentation of the concept by a French officer, who is again bound by the strict professional and personal code of honour, to the officers of other European Union and United Nations Member-States without giving rise to perceptions of serving French national motives, intentions and interests.

Therefore, the conception and presentation of the Eurocorps-Foreign Legion concept with its militaro-operational and politico-diplomatic suggestions and dispositions including specific voting dispositions in the deployment of the Single European Regiment seeks to overcome individual and collective thresholds in a European approach *stricto sensu* to European defence integration.

This European approach also emphasis the rigorous application of the criteria of parity of representation and voting rights of European Union Member-States without which the Eurocorps-Foreign Legion concept and national representation in the deployment of the Single European Regiment would be of no interest to at least one if not a significant number of European Union Member-States.

The conception of the Single European Regiment targets also a lesser emphasis on national demarcation to facilitate the deployment of the European regiment by at least a qualified majority of European Union Member-States in a number of scenarios. Its deployment would, nevertheless, maintain the fundamental right of each Nation-

State to exercise its sovereignty and the defence of its values, citizens, national and geo-strategic self-interest by the means at their disposal and their consequent reach.

Also, the presentation of the Eurocorps-Foreign Legion concept and the Single European Regiment during the S.P.I.A colloquium at the European parliament before lecturers and researchers in national institutions seeks to find the necessary relay, and to facilitate the vital reflection within and between such institutions and think tanks in the European Union prior to any attempt at the raising of Single European Regiment in the aftermath of the Srebrenica massacre.

The raising of the Single European Regiment would set clear political challenges between European Union Member-States with differing and at times divergent national interests. These challenges involve a conciliatory approach between European Union Member-states through an enhanced role of the Common Foreign and Security Policy High Representative in the evolution of a coherent and viable European Union common foreign and defence policy. Also, the conciliation process through a single regiment seeks to allow a more significant contribution by European Union Member-States to the United Nations and to support its Secretary-General in a limited number of scenarios defined by the Petersberg declaration including the Srebrenica scenario of July 1995.

In addition, the Eurocorps-Foreign Legion concept and the raising of the Single European Regiment further seeks to contribute to the process of European Union defence integration and its transatlantic dimension; and to engender genuine multilateral approaches to the questions and processes of disarmament and democratisation in the world and the contribution of the United Nations Member-States with genuine and verifiable democratic institutions through its framework.

The Eurocorps-Foreign Legion concept and the raising of a Single European Regiment also calls on the French president and government to assume their joint French historical and guiding role dating to the inception of the Western European Union in the evolution of a coherent and credible European defence identity. These instances would act in tandem with its German counterparts with actions to follow statements of clear political intention to support the favourable evolution of an integrated and viable European Union defence identity in applying the criteria of parity of the European Union.

The Eurocorps-Foreign Legion concept is also presented as an individual and initial challenge to private citizens of the European Union with a European dimension. This challenge involves taking up this concept before their respective national instances and authorities and to seek the vital military and formal national representation in the Single European Regiment with corresponding national battalions and regiments in the European Union framework.

On the raising of a Single European Regiment and its contribution to the United Nations framework, the Eurocorps-Foreign Legion concept presents a similar and subsequent challenge for private citizens from outside of the European Union in the proposed contribution of national regiments as counterparts in regional organisations namely the African Union, the Arab League, ASEAN, NATO, OSCE and the Organisation of American States.

These private citizens can take up this challenge by interacting with their respective national institutions or in forums outside them in generating a vital awareness

among national military authorities and political instances among others of their respective national contribution to the United Nations framework and its global approach.

The Eurocorps-Foreign Legion concept adopts a pragmatic approach in the current European Union defence frameworks and provisions namely the Franco-German brigade, the Eurocorps and Eurofor frameworks and the Petersberg and Helsinki Declarations, the setting-up of the European Union Military Committee and its General Staff as integral parts of an evolving Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) in the European Union and the European Security and Defence Identity (ESDI) in NATO.

This approach is then combined with a measure of idealism in the United Nations framework by the operational and political innovation in the proposed roles and provisions of the Eurocorps-Foreign Legion concept as a conceptual response by the European Union framework to the massacre in Srebrenica and Potocari in July 1995.

This set of ambitious ideas and goal requires a '*supplément d'âme*', that is, the vital and initial leap of political will by French political instances with a clear European vocation at the French presidency, government and parliament to engage in an erstwhile European Union defence identity; and thereafter for other European Union Member-States to act in tandem with French instances and authorities to provide a genuine conceptual response in the aftermath of the Srebrenica massacre that took place in the United Nations framework.

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