

Implementation Group

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4th Meeting of the Implementation Group for European initiative for the exchange of young officers (inspired by Erasmus) Brussels, 26 January 2010

Draft Minutes

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted unanimously.

2. System of Equivalences

The Austrian Chair of LoD 1 presented his proposal for the creation of a Military European Credit-accumulation and Transfer System (MECTS). In his briefing he underlined the flexibility and voluntary character of the criteria indicated in the guide, in particular that the factors to correct MECTS credits awarded for training in foreign languages are not obligatory, but can be attributed to the exchange student by the sending institute. The reference to NATO STANAG on language in the document will be replaced by another equivalent, internationally recognised norm. Taken this into account, the document is endorsed by the Group, with a view to forward it to the ESDC Steering Committee. It can be put into effect immediately by those institutes who so wish, in accordance with their national legislation. Both the MECTS users' guide and the above mentioned presentation can be consulted on <http://www.emilyo.eu> or on <http://campus.milak.at/campus/iep/mects.php>.

3. Legal Framework

The French delegation gave an overview of the text on the legal framework as well as on some legal options for the paper. In the meeting several proposals for amendments were made and a new version will be distributed by the ESDC Secretariat for endorsement under silence procedure. The legal framework should not necessarily lead to the revision of already existing bilateral arrangements.

The French proposal to further develop this text into a Council Decision was considered not to be the right way by the Council Legal Service, since most of the topics treated in the Legal Framework fall under pure national responsibility and not directly related to CFSP/CSDP matters. The Group, not being the appropriate body to judge on this matter, forwards the content to the Steering Committee with the recommendation that chosen legal form should provide sufficient visibility at the European level and can enter into effect as soon as possible for those Member States that choose to apply it.

4. Progress Report

The ESDC Secretariat briefly introduced the draft annual report on the Initiative, identifying slots where Member States can introduce their inputs, in terms of general and conceptual contributions to the overall initiative and to specific concrete actions they did or intend to offer for the development of the Initiative.

The input from the Member States is expected by 09 February CoB, after which the ESDC Secretariat will distribute a finalised text for endorsement under silence procedure until the end of February. The report will then be forwarded to the Steering Committee with a recommendation to submit it to the relevant Council bodies for information.

5. Work Plan

The ESDC Secretariat gave an overview of the state-of play of the different quick-wins and Lines-of Development. The Group agreed to close down the different quick-wins and from now on only to talk about Lines-of Development in the understanding that the work on the Legal Framework continues under LoD 5 until the legal framework is approved and that the work of the former quick-win 5 shall continue as a new LoD 8. The Secretariat will distribute the work plan for 2010 together with a new call for contributions from the Member States. The main focus for this year should be on starting up remaining LoDs, particularly the LoD2 (comparison of competencies), and LoD 6 (communication strategy).

6. AOB

Under this agenda item, the Group received an information briefing by Mme Claudine Korall on 'Intercultural Anthropology'. She explained how this field of study could facilitate the interaction of young officers with people from a different cultural background and offered to include this as a topic in the upcoming common modules on CSDP in Spain.

In recognition of the longstanding good cooperation with the ESDC, the Swedish National Defence College offers their crest to the Secretariat.

Next meeting: 25 May 2010 in Brussels
