



Note taker: Noel Kelly

SIPRI Armament and Disarmament Cluster Meeting

Monday 4 March 2024 - @14:00PM in SIPRI conference room and Zoom.

Participants:

Sibylle Bauer, Barbara Kunz, Giovanna Maletta, Kolja Brockmann (on-line), Lauriane Héau, Nan Tian, Diego Lopes, Lorenzo Scarazzato, Xiao Liang, Wilfred Wan, Tytti Erästö, Nivedita Raju, Vladislav Chernavskikh, Mathew George, Siemon Wezeman, Pieter Wezeman (on-line), Katarina Djokic, Zain Hussain, Vongai Murugani, Joey Fox, Priscilla Frimpond Boateng, Nikos Politis, Larisa Saveleva Dovgal (on-line)

Agenda

1. – Update from other clusters and teams (10 min)

Purpose: Representatives from other clusters and other teams can use the opportunity to briefly share important updates — i.e. things that could not simply be put in the email.

Speaking order: 1) Outreach, 2) Human Resources, 3) Operations - Grant Manager (new funding opportunities?) and GMO (Nikos) 4) Director's office, 4) PD Cluster, 5) CPS Cluster, 6) EUNPDC report.

2. Horizon scanning (20 min)

- Purpose: Identify developments that are or could affect the work of the cluster.
- Guiding question: What world development is particularly preoccupying your team right now?
- How it will work: Each programme is invited to reflect in advance. A team member will report on behalf the programme. Each team gets 4 min. **Note:** Representatives from other clusters and other teams (HR, outreach etc) are welcome to participate in the exercise but not mandated to.

Speaking order: 1) Arms Transfers Programme, 2) Dual-Use and Arms Trade Control Programme, 3) Governance of Artificial Intelligence Programme, 4) Military Expenditure and Arms Production Programme, 5) Weapons of Mass Destruction Programme.

3. Working and learning together: European Security Programme (30 min)

Presentation: The European Security Programme: priorities and first steps – Barbara Kunz.

Guiding questions:

- What are shared research interests between A&D programmes and the European Security Programme?
- In what other ways, beyond joint projects, can we work together?

Notes.

Report back.

Outreach – Joey.

- Congratulations to the Arms Transfers team and related data teams in A&D for handling the press release and factsheet preparations so well, ahead of the new data launch on 11 March. The embargo material was sent out today.
- We are reminded to please be pro-active and scan the website text for our relevant programme/project pages, and make sure the issues are presented in the way one would like to frame them. Please send anything you find to Frank but keep Joey and Stephanie in Cc.
- If you are attending exciting meetings (as defined by you) then don't hesitate to take a photo and communicate with Outreach (Amelie and Emma) for social media coverage to help promote such events.
- In Nov/Dec Joey had made two calls to researchers for when one is planning a production schedule and budget review with grants to contact Outreach (Steph, Joey and Martina) – a reminder of the template e-mail that was circulated.

Human resources

- HR-manager, Clarisa Fuentes Eliasson, has started with SIPRI today and was introduced at this meeting.

Operations – Nikos

- Nikos reports that following review meetings with A&D programme teams our planning is going well for this year, and thanks Sibylle and PDs for all the good cooperation. Project leaders are reminded to review the financial status of any current projects coming to an end, and check if there are any unspent direct costs. On a monthly basis there are meetings with project management and teams with a goal of having an overview of project spending and costs that are registered each month. The aim is to identify surpluses or deficits in any budget line so this can be discussed.

Directors Office – Priscilla

- There is an RSC meeting on Wednesday 6 March, from 10:30-12:00. A presentation on institutional finances will be given.
- Dan is travelling to Nagasaki on Friday 8 March, and will also be in Toyko for meetings during this trip and back in Stockholm on Wednesday.

Peace and Development cluster.

- The cluster have been participating in the institutional wide effort in preparing an application for the European Parliament call.
- Information on confirmed sessions for the Forum will be shared closer to the date.

- Dates for future P&D cluster meetings will be on Monday's and trying to keep them to one hour. The next one is on Monday 11 March. P&D are trying to have dedicated research days within the cluster Thursday/Friday with no meetings if possible.

Conflict, Peace, and Security cluster

- Luc and team have been busy coordinating the European Parliamentary call and appreciate all efforts. Final submission is today.
- The C, P&S away day is on Tuesday 12 March. Jair van der Lijn, Virginie Baudais, and Jason Mosley (Associate Senior Researcher) will be here in person.

EUNPDC

- The consultative meeting is scheduled for 10-12 June.
- EUNPDC paper no. 87 - 'The Chemical Weapons Convention After Its Fifth Review Conference: Key Issues For The European Union' is now published.
- Continuing the conversation from the last EUNPDC Network meeting, it was decided to establish an internal working group on equality, diversity, and inclusion practices. The working group will have its first meeting on 8 March at 2:00PM. If you are interested to being part of this working group, then let Vladislav know.

Horizon scanning.

ATP

- The issue about production of arms in Europe was raised and how this is going to change and possible the impact.
- The team are also looking at recent arms transfers to Israel, and transfers to China, and China's production of its own and how its transferring to neighbours. The team are also examining developments on transfers in Southeast Asia and Asia Pacific and the instability arising.

DUAT

- A topic on the F-35 aircraft was raised. In mid-February, a Dutch court ordered the Government to stop supplying Israel with F-35 parts and components, that are produced in the Netherlands, on the grounds there was a clear risk that serious violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) would be committed with the aircraft in Gaza. This judgement overturns an early decision made in December. The Dutch Government confirmed they would halt supply but also appeal the judgement. This is of interest to DUAT because in the ruling judges made references to the arms trade treaty (ATT) and EU common position and how they link up with Dutch law on arms exports. The link is also made to a recent ATT meeting that took place in February, where states for the first time within the forum of the ATT discussed their arms transfers policy in relation to transfers to Israel. This highlights a lot of questions to explore, including diverging views that different states have on the export to Israel. The comment is also made how this undermines one of the cornerstones of cooperative programmes in Europe.

Governance of AI

- Laura and Alex are at the UN in Geneva this week to attend a meeting of the group of governmental experts on autonomous weapons systems at the convention on certain conventional weapons (CCW). The team obviously are following how the discussion will go and how the Chair of this meeting (Netherlands) will navigate this conversation so that Russia does not get too many opportunities to disrupt.
- Another topic brought up was about the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots – a former representative was laid off (claiming for comments made on X in relation to Gaza) and has started a campaign on social media and this is attracting a lot of attention.
- The connection between AI and biosecurity – was mentioned and as highlighted in EUNPDC report – Jules from GovAI team will be involved in coordinating from the SIPRI side for this ad hoc seminar. A podcast episode on this topic should be released later this week (produced by UNODA) and link circulated.

MILAP

- There was recently some publications about the Russian war economy and arms production in 2022/2023, and then looking at expectations in 2024. This was relevant for the team, as even within the latest factsheet less is known on Russia due to a lack of transparency. This also impacts the way we look at Russia military spending in the coming years. Most western experts are surprised with how quickly the Russian economy has been able to mobilise around this war economy. The fact that Russian arms production has increased in the last couple of years impacts the assessment of Russian capacity to continue the war in Ukraine. There are open questions on how this might impact the European and US support for Ukraine, and production in these regions might be affected by what they see happening or expect to happen.

WMD

- There are several developments from the last number of weeks highlighted. On the space side, the continued rise in GPS jamming exhibits electronic warfare will play a role in contemporary warfare. Recently such behaviour has been reported as impacting Sweden, Poland, and some neighbouring states and attributed to Russia.
- Russia and the US allegations of the nuclear weapons in space is highlighted as a popular news item but details are scarce. Given the limited information leads to open questions, are we talking about nuclear arms or nuclear powered?
- The Financial Times published leaked secret documents that document Russia's nuclear war fighting plans. Some experts say this is nothing that wasn't known already.
- Finland's new President Alexander Stubb has recently mentioned that Finland would be ready to let nuclear weapons be transported through the country, though not stored there. This is a significant development because the Finnish nuclear energy act prohibits these weapons from being in Finland, so does this mean changing the legislation?

Working and learning together: European Security Programme

Presentation: The European Security Programme: priorities and first steps – Barbara Kunz.

The European Security Programme has three overarching priorities that doesn't necessarily translate into a project each.

- a. Bringing the international system back in as a level of analysis.
 - b. To discuss and provide ideas for the future of the European security order. Where do we go from here?
 - c. In this changing international order, what role is there for Europe and how can Europe act in this context?
- This programme was described as having a strong transatlantic dimension – so in that sense the European Security Programme is more of Euro-Atlantic programme in many ways. There are lot of voices missing in these debates – particularly from southern Europe. Bringing these voices in is an ambition. The debate now is precarious, very emotional, and extremely dominated by the countries for understandable historical reasons scared of Russia.
 - At the fundamental level there is a material basis for a lot of things happening in international relations. Weapons systems matter as they have certain effects. The interest in arms control as an instrument to manage the security dilemma is described. How Sweden and Finland design their deterrence posture in light of these states joining NATO will matter.
 - Barbara is currently exploring possibilities and doing applications for various projects in the programme. If funding is received there is an ambition to do a one-day conference about NATO and Sweden. This year most of the time remaining will be taken up with organising the Stockholm Security Conference (SSC). Another project being pitched is on Helsinki +50, to the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Helsinki final act will turn 50 in 2025 – given the current context – what now for the OSCE? Other ideas mentioned is an ambition to work on the Arctic, examining questions such as local military balance and strategic stability, again not exclusively but partly linked to Sweden and Finland joining NATO (NordForsk might be a funding possibility depending on the call). Barbara is of course open to new project ideas and collaboration with others and has had discussions with colleagues already from this cluster.

This presentation was followed by a discussion with the cluster.

AOB

- The A&D cluster away day is on Monday 18 March.
- The next in-house A&D cluster meeting is on 8 April.