

Seminar Programme

The Military and the Civil Population in Peace Missions

Introducing a Cultural Approach in the Armed Forces' Operations Abroad

Madrid, 17 June 2009

European Commission Delegation in Spain

(Address: Paseo de la Castellana 46)

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Description of the activity:

A group of experts in international relations, security and defence affairs, will meet in the European Commission Permanent Representation in Madrid, to analyse jointly the specific problems arising from the interaction between the militaries and the civilian staff in peacekeeping missions and the civilian population in conflict theatres. Thus during the seminar there will be explored the ways in which the cultural approach may be introduced or enhanced during the planning and implementation the stages peacekeeping missions.

This exercise starts off from the evidence that 'a bad relationship between the international forces and the local population in a given conflict has a negative impact for achieving the mission's civil and military objectives in the medium and long terms'. This poor relationship is partly due to the lack of knowledge about the local culture, its habits and its mentality. Frequently, this lack of awareness contributes to mutual distrust, misunderstandings and unintentional offences.

Knowing the culture and the mentality of the peoples that live in one region is crucial to understanding to draw strategies that receive the support of the local population. Ultimately, this will contribute to gain their cooperation for acheiving the mission's objectives.

Apart, it also seems that some cultural awareness by the contributing States, will bring an increase of the mission's effectiveness, facilitating its development. At last, as missions develop in the Framework of the International organisations, the cultural awareness of its politics, its decision-making culture, its codes, its written and non written rules, are also a must.

With this seminar CITpax –will facilitate the sharing experiences in different peacekeeping and reconstruction missions and will draw some lessons learned and recommendations on what are the most frequent problems that the military has to confront as regards to its interaction with the local population, and what solutions are there in place that have proved most efficient.

The seminar will bring Spain's Defence Culture closer to the general public, will explain the work of its Armed and Police Forces abroad, and will promote the inclusion of a cultural approach in the planning and decision making of humanitarian, peace and reconstruction missions as well as its implementation.

PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 17 June 2009

09:00 – 10:00 OPENING REMARKS

- **Shlomo Ben Ami**, Vicepresident, CITpax
- **Luis Cuesta**, Secretary General of Defence Policy, Ministry of Defence

Key note Speech: Johan Galtung, Professor of Peace Studies and founder of Transcend International: A Network for Peace and Development. *“Rethinking the concept of conflict: the cultural approach”*

10:00 – 11:30 CULTURAL APPROACH: STATE OF THE ART

Moderato: **Emilio Cassinello**, Director General CITpax

Speakers:

- **Efrat Elron**, Senior fellow at the International Peace Institute and a research fellow at the Hebrew University's Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace. *“Cultural diversity and operational unity in the Multinational Peacekeeping Forces”*. **Lt. Col. Iñigo Pareja Rodriguez**, Transformation Unit, Military Staff, *“The cultural approach in the Multinational Experiment 6”*
- **Alicia Cebada**, Director, Crisis Management and Peacebuilding Programme, CITpax *“Cultural Diversity and peaceful dispute settlement: international mediation”*

11:30 – 12:00

Break / Coffee

12:00 – 13:30 INSTITUTIONAL UNDERSTANDING TO THE CULTURAL APPROACH

Moderator: **Miguel Ángel Ballesteros**, Director, Spanish Institute of Strategic Studies (IEEE)

Speakers:

- **María Luisa Huidobro**, Deputy Director General of Peacekeeping Operations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and

- Cooperation
- **Com. Fernando Rocha y Castilla**, Transformation Unit, Military Staff. *“Cross-Cultural awareness”*
 - **Jaime Otero**, Senior Analyst, Language and Culture Area, Elcano Royal Institute
 - **Pere Vilanova**, Director, Strategic and Security Affairs Division Ministry of Defence. *“Cultural Awareness in Lebanon: the UNIFIL”*

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 16:00 CULTURAL APPROACH IN PEACE MISSIONS

Moderator: **Luis Peral Fernández**, Research Fellow, Institute for Security Studies, Paris.

Speakers:

- **Julio de la Guardia** Former-spokesperson of EUBAM Rafah and EUPOL-Afghanistan. *“Cultural Awareness in EUBAM Rafah”*
- **Com. Enrique Silvela Díaz-Criado**, Military Staff, *“Cultural Awareness in Afghanistan”*
- **Amélie Gauthier**, Researcher Peace, Security and Human Rights, FRIDE *“Cultural Awareness in Haiti: MINUSTA”*
- **Col. Emilio Sánchez de Rojas**, Head of the International Relations and Strategy Department, School of the Armed Forces, Centre of National Defence Studies (CESEDEN). *“UNPROFOR to UNIFIL: Evolution of the Cultural Approach in the UN’s peacekeeping operations”*

16:00 – 16:30 Key note speech by **Colonel Francisco Gan Pampols**, Head of Military Doctrine, Ministry of Defence

16:30 – 17:00 FINAL REMARKS AND CONCLUSIONS

Shlomo Ben Ami, Vicepresident, CITpax
Santos Castro, Director General of Institutional Relations, Ministry of Defence