

Canadian NATO
Parliamentary Association



Association parlementaire
canadienne de l'OTAN

**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation
to the Joint Meeting of the Defence and Security, Economics
and Security, and Political Committees**

and

**The Annual Economics and Security Committee Consultation
with the OECD**

Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association (NATO PA)

**Brussels, Belgium
February 18 to 20, 2007**

**Paris, France
February 21 to 22, 2007**

Report

The Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association has the honour to present its REPORT on the Joint Meeting of the Defence and Security, Economics and Security, and Political Committees of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, held in Brussels and Paris, February 18-22, 2007. The Canadian delegation was represented by the Association's Chair, Mr. Leon Benoit, M.P., Senator Jane Cordy, Senator Joseph A. Day, Senator Pierre Claude Nolin, Mr. Claude Bachand, M.P. and Mr. Charles Hubbard, M.P. The Delegation was accompanied by Mr. Wolfgang Koerner, Analyst, PParliamentary Information and Research Service, Library of Parliament and by Mr. Denis Robert, Executive Secretary.

The session was opened by Mr. Markus Meckel (DE), Chair of the Political Committee. Following introductory remarks, he went on to introduce Mr. Jamie Shea, Head, Policy Planning, Office of the NATO Secretary General, who spoke on *Beyond Riga – NATO's Political Agenda*. Shea argued that 2007 will be a critical year for the Alliance. The feeling at the Riga Summit over Afghanistan was "serious", but it was still believed that the mission could be brought to a successful end. Shea then went on to note that the Alliance was now focusing on certain core issues. First, the number of troops in Afghanistan needs to be increased if security is going to be achieved. Five thousand extra troops have been found since Riga, and the total complement required should not prove more than 2 or 3 extra battalions. Second, it is understood that reconstruction can only take place if there is a secure environment. Caveats need to be lifted and the mission should be pursued as a single theatre of operations with the same principles in place for all. Also needed is an effective training and equipment program for Afghan forces. Third, the Alliance needs to deal with Pakistan. What is needed is a political commitment from Pakistan and real cooperation when it comes to the matter of border surveillance. Shea also argued that military commanders should be given reconstruction funds in order to be able to help where civilian agencies can't. He also went on to note that the EU relationship had to be dealt with and that a dialogue on operations, military capabilities and on a proper division of labour needed to be established. Shea also noted that missile defence has put Article 5 back on the table.

During the ensuing discussion Mr. Claude Bachand (Canada) asked whether more needed to be done in the way of development in Afghanistan. In asking his question he noted earlier comments to that effect by General Richards. He also wondered whether or not more needed to be done by way of diplomacy with Pakistan and the Afghani Parliament. Shea agreed that more needed to be done, in terms of development, in order to ensure that the 3D approach prove successful.

Delegates next heard from Mr. Patrick Hardouin, Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Regional, Economic and Security Affairs, who spoke on *NATO, Energy security, (New) Partnerships*. Mr. Hardouin noted that the Riga Summit was the first time that reference had been made to energy security. According to him, this new focus is important for three reasons: first, there has been a change in the way we now deal conceptually with the strategic environment, second, not all allies have the same access to natural resources, and third, energy is important for all NATO partners, of whom there are now considerably more. NATO's role with regard to energy protection is to provide value added support – largely in terms of infrastructure protection and counter-terrorism.

Mr. Hardouin's presentation was followed by a roundtable with several NATO Ambassadors. In his comments, Ambassador Juneau (Canada) noted that there are three areas of special importance to Canada; the Trans-Atlantic Relationship, Afghanistan, and international organizations. While progress has been made with respect to the first two, NATO's relationship with the United Nations still needs some work. Ambassador Juneau also suggested that if NATO does not win in Afghanistan it will be the end of the organization. Ambassador Schaper (Netherlands) also argued that Afghanistan was of great importance to the Netherlands and went on to suggest that developments in that country were more positive than often described in the press. He also stressed the importance of Pakistani cooperation. Ambassador Nuland (U.S.) also stressed the importance of the Trans-Atlantic link and the need to bring defence budgets up to more reasonable levels. Ambassador Nowak (Poland) argued that the Alliance should not worry about being politically correct with respect to Russia. It needs to engage Russia, but it also needs to ensure that Russia is meeting appropriate standards.

Members were next given a presentation by Mr. Christopher Alexander, Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary General (Political Affairs), the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, Kabul. Mr. Alexander suggested that allied success in Afghanistan is "under-recognized". Afghanistan is the principle arena where international organizations have to demonstrate that they can cooperate. He also noted that Afghans are generally more receptive to international support than often assumed. The most important issues that need to be addressed are areas of governance and rule of law.

In the following discussion Senator Joe Day (Canada) noted the role of Pakistan and went on to ask whether or not military commanders should be given budgets for reconstruction. Senator Jane Cordy (Canada) asked how the Afghan people felt about international forces. Mr. Alexander responded by saying that one shouldn't put money in envelopes where it can't be spent properly and agreed that military commanders should have reconstruction funds made available to them. He also suggested that the attitude of Afghans to NATO and the international community is surprisingly positive.

The Committees also heard from Mr. Peter Flory, NATO Assistant Secretary General for Defence Investment, who spoke on *The Future of NATO Forces*, and General Ray Henault, Chairman of the NATO Military Committee who spoke on *Post Riga and the Current NATO Security Situation: A military Perspective*. Mr. Flory told members that the nature of deployments meant that increases in defence budgets were necessary. He also suggested that missile defence is actively on the agenda. More emphasis is also being placed on infrastructure and harbour protection. During the ensuing discussion Mr. Leon Benoit (Canada) noted that although defence expenditures as a percentage of GDP may not have increased, Canada is spending more in real terms because of economic growth. Mr. Charles Hubert (Canada) asked about intelligence sharing. Mr. Flory responded by suggesting that intelligence needs to be shared more effectively. General Henault, in his remarks, argued that Operation Medusa was a good example of NATO resolve and that all the commitments made at Riga had not yet been fulfilled. He also stressed the need for an expeditionary capability. After the session,

members proceeded to NATO Headquarters where a meeting was held with the Permanent Representatives of the North Atlantic Council.

During meetings at the European Commission, members heard from Ms. Catherine Day, Secretary General of the European Commission, who spoke on *The EU at 27: Internal and External Challenges* and Mr. Andris Piebalgs, Commissioner for Energy who spoke on *An Overview of the European Union's Energy Strategy*. Ms. Day argued that it was increasingly important for EU states to better coordinate their economic and social policies in order to make Europe a knowledge-based economy. Energy and the environment are currently at the top of the agenda. Many countries, she noted, are also facing the pressures of illegal migration.

Mr. Piebalgs noted that energy supply was becoming a problem for European economies, especially given the increase in prices. Along with a common energy policy for Europe what is also required are CO2 reductions. If energy efficiency is not increased then it will be difficult for the EU to ensure supply by 2020. In the end, consideration may have to be given to using nuclear energy. He went on to note that on a business as usual scenario, world energy demand is set to increase by more than 50% by 2030. Demand for oil alone is expected to grow by 41% during this period. This level of growth is unprecedented. Further complicating matters is the fact that oil and gas reserves are increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few countries that control them carefully through a national monopoly company. The EU's dependence on imported oil and gas is growing. Today it imports 50% of its energy. By 2030, if no action is taken, it will be 65%, with much of the increase being made up of oil and gas.

The present direction of Europe's energy policy will fail to contribute to Europe's competitiveness. The EU labour costs are higher than those of many of its emerging competitors and that will not change. However, fifty years after its establishment, the EU does not have a common energy policy to deal with these challenges. It has, for example, a series of diverse measures on liberalisation, renewable energy and energy efficiency. But these cannot be described as a coherent set of inter-linked policies.

At the OECD members were addressed by the Secretary General Angel Gurría. In her remarks she noted the importance of security for economic development. While the OECD does not really look at security it is well understood that it is now an important aspect of economic development. Ms. Gurría also noted that non-OECD countries were growing at a rate three times that of the OECD. Thereafter, Mr. Mike Kennedy, Head of the General Economic Assessment Division provided an overview of the outlook for the world economy. This was followed by a presentation given by William Ramsay, Director General World Energy Agency. Mr. Ramsay suggested that EU goals on renewable energy were overly optimistic.

The members of the delegation also participated in the High-Level Parliamentary Seminar on International Migration.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Leon Benoit, M.P.
Chair
Canadian NATO Parliamentary
Association (NATO PA)

Travel Costs

ASSOCIATION	Canadian NATO Parliamentary Association (NATO PA)
ACTIVITY	The Joint Meeting of the Defence and Security, Economics and Security, and Political Committees and the Annual Economics and Security Committee Consultation with the OECD
DESTINATION	Brussels, Belgium and Paris, France
DATES	February 18 to 22, 2007
DELEGATION	
SENATE	Senator Jane Cordy, Senator Joseph A. Day and Senator Pierre Claude Nolin
HOUSE OF COMMONS	Mr. Leon Benoit, M.P., Mr. Claude Bachand, M.P. and Mr. Charles Hubbard, M.P.
STAFF	Mr. Wolfgang Koerner, Analyst and Mr. Denis Robert, Executive Secretary
TRANSPORTATION	\$37,005.34
ACCOMMODATION	\$9,803.09
HOSPITALITY	\$
PER DIEMS	\$3,749.64
OFFICIAL GIFTS	\$102.51
MISCELLANEOUS / REGISTRATION FEES	\$12.88
TOTAL	\$50,673.46