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EIN-A4

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EIN Working Dinner on: "The security and defence consequences after BREXIT"
Brussels

Chair:

- **Paulo RANGEL MEP**, *Vice-Chairman of the EPP party, Vice-Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament, EIN Chairman*

Keynote speaker:

- **Anders FOGH RASMUSSEN**, *Former Secretary General of NATO, Rasmussen Global*

Speakers:

- **Dr Nicholas STARTIN**, *Deputy Head of Department of Politics, Languages & International Studies, University of BATH*
- **Prof Dr Sven BISCOP**, *Director, Europe in the World Programme, Egmont - Royal Institute for International Relations*
- European security and defence capabilities are very limited without the US engagement; therefore, NATO remains for the time being the only real defence mechanism in Europe. EU will be weakened after Brexit and this process will be even worse if Trump wins the US Presidential elections. Clinton will be more engaged in NATO partnership. Brexit could also weaken the UK role in NATO and the UK-US special relations, since UK is the largest investor in security and defence in Europe. We need a reassessment of the EU-UK relations and development of new bilateral agreements.
- To build a true EU defence system, the target of 2% expenditures is needed; at the same time, we have to focus not only on the amount of money that we invest in EU security and defence but more on the actual effect and pragmatic results. European countries has significantly increased their expenses for defence for 2016 compare with 2015.
- United Kingdom is a major stakeholder in NATO; we do not have to overestimate the UK capacity as a global actor. We need to answer the question are France and Germany ready to be the engine of the EU security and defence policy. Currently, UK and France account for 40% of the total EU investments in defence even that UK stopped substantially its contribution since 2003 (taken over by France, Germany, Italy and Spain) and was never eager to integrate. Security is not only defence; it is external relations, energy, economy etc. Many issues should be done thru the EU.
- There are 3 major challenges for the European security: Russia, China and Middle East. We should not only focus on the Russian aggression in Ukraine but also on the facts that they are funding some of the radical movements in EU which aim is to destabilize Europe as a union. We should increase our capability for creating peace and stability. Migration and refugee crisis, Brexit, the terrorism threats are real problems, which could be used from our competitors against us.
- There are many uncertainties that will reflect on the future of the European security and defence strategy, the outcome of the US Presidential elections is crucial, but we also have upcoming elections in France and Germany. The results of those elections could be game changing. And finally, Brexit is still avoidable thru the UK parliament.

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