



Records of Discussion
DEFENSE MOU ATTACHÉS GROUP

General Assembly & Monthly Meeting

Thursday September 29, 2023

1:30pm - 4pm, hosted at Embassy of the Netherlands

PART 1. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Opening/Introduction by the Chairman

The chairman, Sander Oude Hengel (NED), opens the General Assembly meeting. He commends the conversations that were held in the past few months and the energy in the working groups. He highlights the success of the pro-active approach taken by sending the letter to on the NDAA to the HASC. In the last mark-up, the MINDS Act amendment contains an explicit exemption from enhanced domestic requirement for all RDP MoU countries – which can be considered a major achievement. He further references a number of successful presentations by DMAG guest speakers, notably those by Bill Greenwalt and Elizabeth Oakes.

Mr. Oude Hengel calls for new ideas for speakers. He also emphasizes the need for reinforcements of the export control working group, chaired by Mr. Martti Wallin (FIN). Some other working groups are also still looking for a deputy. He encourages members to reach out to the respective colleagues.

Review of the DMAG Charter

The chairman opens the review process of the DMAG Charter. He proposes an addition to the Charter, which broadens the executive committee to include the deputy chairman. The addition passes after a unanimous vote in favor. Upon asking whether to extend validity of the Charter, Ms. Rosemary Gauci, Embassy of Australia, clarifies whether the 'logo' is to be taken as part of the Charter. This is not the case and the validity of the Charter is extended, after a unanimous vote in favor.

Report from the Treasurer

The Treasurer, LtCol. Erwin Koeken (NED), is absent. He will share a report via e-mail in due course.



Report from the Communications Officer

No comments.

Report from the Information Technology Officer

The chairman commends the new website. Switzerland requests additional content for its pages. They ask all working groups to submit their charters to the officer, so that these can be included on the website.

The chairman notes that the logo on the website still only has 24 countries on it. The information technology officers will see to updating it with the newest version.

Report from the Working Group on Industrial Base Cooperation (IBCWG)

Ms. Rosemary Gauci, from the Embassy of Australia, holds a presentation on behalf of the working group. The group has adopted a new cadence and now meets every week. She emphasizes that a good quorum shows up, that momentum is building and that the group has made progress.

In terms of tangible results, Ms. Gauci mentions the fact that the working group drafted the letter which was sent to Congress on the NDAA amendment. She also highlights the study which the working group carried out on the 13 Security Of Supply Arrangements (SoSAs) which the U.S. has with Allied countries. The groundwork has been very useful, providing a solid basis for a more exhaustive utilization of these agreements, for which she thanks Mr. Patrick Slaman in particular.

Ms. Heather Messera (CAN) shares some other further lines of work for the working group. One is to work towards an analysis of the foundational similarities of the RDP MoUs. Another is to structure the work around FMS; to identify and overcome hurdles in a more coordinated manner. Thirdly, the working group can strengthen its work to culturally enforce the RDP MoU; not just in the Pentagon, but also in DoD locations where procurement specialists work. Lastly, the working group could improve its position with regards to the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) program. RDP MoU countries should ideally have an opportunity to provide input before any rule-making takes place.

Report from the Working Group on Cyber (CWG)

The working group on cyber is not present. In their absence, Ms. Gauci (AUS), does ask for a common effort toward reciprocal certification and accreditation. It would help RDP



MoU countries to have a platform on which they can present their case for certification and accreditation procedure – in order to work towards reciprocal recognition.

Short of a full reciprocal recognition, Ms. Gauci emphasizes that it would already be helpful to have reciprocal agreement on certifying authorities and suggests that DMAG may be able to help in this matter.

Report from the Working Group on Export Controls (ECWG)

The chair of the working group, Mr. Martti Wallin from the Embassy of Finland, provides an update on the working group's activities and progress. He informs the assembly that an in-earnest start will be made after the summer, but that he has conducted interviews with individual people. A common response is that the discussion on export controls is an uphill battle. It is agreed that specific questions are necessary to make headway on this matter. The working group is still in information gathering mode.

The chairman, Mr. Oude Hengel, suggests having someone over from the State Department to speak on this matter. Ms. Gauci (AUS) proposes to conduct a survey to identify the three main MRPs. She believes that a focus on these, coupled with the information available in think tanks, could help drive the narrative.

Mr. Wallin (FIN) suggests that there is at least the notion that the export control process is too slow is a position shared by everyone. Ms. Messera (CAN) further suggests that even if the DMAG's ability to reform the export control process, an exchange of information on current developments and difficulty can help inform the messaging for countries in their bilateral conversations with DoD.

Mr. Wallin anticipates that the elections next year will severely slow the operations of the legislature, but that the battle continues after the elections. Mr. Oude Hengel suggests that a new trainee at the Dutch embassy may be able to support this working group after the summer.



PART 2. Monthly DMAG Meeting

Review of the Record of Discussion of the Previous DMAG Meeting

The record is shown on screen, after which it is unanimously adopted.

Debrief EXCOM Meeting

The chairman shared that the latest EXCOM meeting reflected on the letter which was sent to the House Armed Services Committee. The EXCOM decided to refrain from sending a further letter or other DMAG communications on this point, to let the letter speak for itself.

Mr. Oude Hengel shares that the focus is now on the Senate, to see what happens there. He expresses that EXCOM will continue digitally – for members able to join – throughout the summer.

He further relays that the EXCOM spoke about the relation with the Foreign Procurement Group (FPG). They seem to be operating more on the technical/tactical level, whereas the activities of DMAG are more strategic. In light of possible upcoming movements, it seems to Mr. Oude Hengel that it would be good to speak with the chairwoman, Paula Folkes-Dallaire, to which the rest of the meeting agrees.

Mr. Wallin, shares that Paula's successor will start remotely in late July and hopefully be around in the fall. Eric Ploen, from the Embassy of Canada, will facilitate an introduction.

Other Issues Affecting Members

Sweden's Magnus Bergman announces that he will depart the Embassy this summer and is to continue in a position at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Stockholm. His successor has joined him for the meeting and briefly introduces herself. She will start in her new capacity in September.

It is further announced that Mr. Einar Gustafson (NOR) is to appear in a panel at an AIA event shortly.

Upcoming DMAG Meetings/Events

The calendar for the upcoming meetings is shared. The Embassy of Australia may be able to host November's meeting, but asks for clarification on the date. The meeting should take place regularly, on the last Thursday (November 30th), but the chairman will clarify this in due course.



Defense Cooperation Events

No information shared.

Action Items

No discussion on the first point.

With regard to the second point, the new proposed logos are shared on the screen. A discussion ensues. Option 3 and 4 are generally liked the most, except for the fact that some flags are shown upside down in the current design. Italy suggests that we should be mindful of the stock of current gadgets that may go to waste if the logo is changed now.

Eventually, a proposal to retain the current logo is unanimously adopted by all countries present (12). Mr. Wallin (FIN) remarks that this is not to be taken to mean that the logo should never be changed, but that the designs need more work. The discussion will resume at later stage.

Farewell of DMAG Members

The chairman, Mr. Oude Hengel, says some words of farewell to Magnus Bergman (SWE), CDR. Jiri Klepetko (CZ) and, later, to Mr. Patrick Slaman (NED). He thanks them for their important contributions to DMAG and wishes them luck for the future. They, in turn, thank the DMAG for the role it has played in their work.

Guest Speaker: Dr Jerry McGinn, Executive Director, George Mason University

Dr McGinn gave a thorough presentation titled *A "Build Allied" Approach to Increase Industrial Base Capacity*, and held a short Q&A session. The following are highlights from Dr McGinn's presentation:

- Surge capacity req'd by war in UKR; domestic capacity important, but should be augmented by an allied supply chain
- Proposed a "Build Allied" approach, focused on U.S. subsidiaries, co-development and -production, and sustainment – resulting in a larger and more resilient industrial base
- Building blocks include RDP MoUs, SoSAs, Defense Exportability Features (DEF), NTIB, AUKUS and DIANA
- Obstacles persist in the form of Export Controls/ITAR, Tech Security/Foreign Disclosure, Buy American





- Several case studies were mentioned, incl. F-35, MRAP, AMRAAM, THOR-ER, ANTO AGS, NATO Sea Sparrow and 3DELRR
- Findings from case studies incl:
 - Large int'l programs are difficult to set up, but hard to kill
 - Early negotiated commitments important
 - Cooperative production increases resiliency and capacity
- In conclusion, building blocks for a "Build Allied" approach are in place, and leadership support for tackling obstacles to allied collaboration at all-time high
- Dr McGinn ended with several recommendations, including:
 - Industrial collaboration to become core component of defense acquisition system
 - Need to overcome Tech Transfer issues for NTIB, AUKUS to work
 - Raise awareness of benefits to industrial collaboration
 - Modify SoSAs to be more specific on technology areas

DMAG Secretariat

Sep 26, 2023