



European Security and Defence Assembly
Assembly of Western European Union

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15 June 2010

FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Proposal for a European award for “Citizenship, security
and defence”

REPORT

submitted on behalf of the Committee for Parliamentary and Public Relations by
Christine McCafferty, Rapporteur (United Kingdom, Socialist Group)

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Report transmitted to: the President of the Council of WEU; the Secretary-General of the WEU; the President of the Council of the European Union; the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy; the President of the European Commission; the EU Commissioner for institutional relations and communication strategy; the Presidents/Speakers and the Chairmen of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and European Affairs Committees of the 39 national parliaments represented in the Assembly; the Presidents of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Baltic Assembly, the Nordic Council, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, the CIS Parliamentary Assembly; the President of the European Parliament; the Secretaries General of the Parliamentary Assemblies of the Council of Europe, NATO and the OSCE.

Proposal for a European award for “Citizenship, security and defence”

REPORT¹

*submitted on behalf of the Committee for Parliamentary and Public Relations
by Christine McCafferty, Rapporteur (United Kingdom, Socialist Group)*

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¹ Adopted by the Committee on 18 May 2010.

RECOMMENDATION 853²

on creating a European award for “Citizenship, security and defence”

The Assembly,

- (i) Considering that the Common Security and Defence policy (CSDP), which includes the gradual framing of a common European defence policy that might in time lead to a common defence, cannot move forward without the support of the majority of European citizens;
- (ii) Concerned about persistent public scepticism regarding the merits of European integration and the validity of the institutions created;
- (iii) Conscious that there is still too little awareness about the CSDP and that it is necessary to promote “European security and defence awareness”, defined as the civic aspect of the CSDP;
- (iv) Convinced that there are nevertheless many individual or collective initiatives deserving to be rewarded as they contribute to the development of the CSDP and more broadly to the concept of European citizenship,

RECOMMENDS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL THAT

1. A European award for “Citizenship, security and defence” should be established which would reward outstanding efforts in promoting European citizenship and European security and defence awareness.

² Adopted by the Assembly on 15 June 2010 at the 1st sitting.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

submitted by Christine McCafferty, Rapporteur (United Kingdom, Socialist Group)

I. Introduction

1. The European Union is concerned not only with defending the territories and populations of its member states but also with protecting their common interests and upholding their shared values: in particular the values of democracy and human rights. Through the EU, member states can act together to manage crises and thus promote peace in the world. To those ends, the EU must implement a Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) commensurate with its ambitions and which enjoys wide public support.
2. The actions of national governments and European institutions in the field of security and defence require the support of Europe's citizens. Institutional structures can only claim legitimacy if they are well understood and endorsed by citizens. Greater awareness of European defence issues must be built on firm foundations that repose, not just on clear and credible practical achievements, but on values which all subscribe to and share – a common culture compatible with national differences (of language and tradition, for example). We need thinking European citizens to work together in this direction.
3. As for ways and means of developing awareness of this aspect of our responsibilities as members of European society, an important strand is greater pervasiveness of security and defence information and education, in our schools, universities and in our working and civic lives. Five major groups in society are key to shaping attitudes and putting over the message. They are: politicians, the media, teachers in universities and schools, diplomats and service personnel. These are the people we need to involve.
4. A strong public commitment to European defence and the CSDP are inextricably linked, as the former imparts legitimacy to the latter. A firm political will can come only from those with the courage of their convictions. Good education, training, and information can give us a better grasp of why we may need to defend ourselves, but there also has to be commitment and a readiness to act.

II. *CiDAN's proposal for a European award for "Citizenship, security and defence"*

5. The French non-profitmaking association "Civisme, Défence, Armée, Nation" (CiDAN) has enlisted the support of the European Security and Defence Assembly (ESDA) to promote the launch of a European "Citizenship, security and defence" award, the aim being to recognise and encourage practical initiatives which contribute to raising "European security and defence awareness".
6. The European award would be inspired by the "Citizenship and defence" prize awarded annually in France by CiDAN and presented alternately by either the President of the French National Assembly or of the Senate. CiDAN therefore has not inconsiderable experience and expertise in this domain.
7. CiDAN, whose very name reflects its ambitions, is independent of all political parties and has the backing of the French Ministry of Defence. Its members include people from all walks of life. The association aims to build "defence consciousness", especially among young people, and to strengthen the link between the armed forces and the wider society.
8. The thrust of CiDAN's work is raising awareness among the citizens of European Union countries of their common civic duty in European society and in terms of security and defence. Raising European security and defence awareness, the "people" aspect of the Common Security and Defence Policy, is the essential way forward in building a Europe with military and civil capabilities commensurate with its ambitions – capabilities based on cooperation, pooling and sharing, and on having equipment in common and a strong industrial and technological base.
9. The association considers the European dimension an integral part of any consideration of security and defence matters. Every year for the past 10 years, it has held an international conference

in cooperation with (an as yet small number of) European partners in what is known as the Klingenthal network. These conferences are devoted to themes directed towards raising public awareness of security and defence challenges in Europe. It was within this network that the idea was born to reward, at European level, initiatives which make a significant contribution to that consciousness-raising process.

10. Since 2001, citizens of European Union states, have been meeting every autumn at Klingenthal near Strasbourg for several days of seminars hosted by the Goethe Foundation and organised by (CiDAN) in conjunction with the Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation for Human Progress and the Grenoble-based “École de la Paix”. These seminars have brought together civilians and the military, members of voluntary organisations, think-tanks, academic and research institutions, journalists and young people.

11. Their aim is to engender greater public awareness in the different countries of Europe of European security and defence, thus giving the CSDP a human, social and democratic face. The term “European security and defence awareness” is one intended to encompass notions contributed by the different countries: defence spirit, commitment or culture.

12. The ESDA, through its reports, enables national parliamentarians from European countries to make political recommendations collectively to European governments. The Assembly provides the essential democratic link between national parliaments, public opinion and Europe’s common security and defence activities. The Assembly lends its full support, among the EU member states and institutions, to this very welcome initiative for a European award for “Citizenship, security and defence” proposed by CiDAN.

III. Draft competition rules

Article 1

The European award for “Citizenship, security and defence” is organised by the association “Civisme Défense Armées Nation”, under the patronage of the President of the European Council, and is intended to reward outstanding efforts towards promoting European citizenship and “European security and defence awareness”, defined as the civic aspect of the CSDP.

Article 2

To that end, the main award areas concerned are the following:

- tangible and visible achievements in promoting a sense of European citizenship;
- remembrance ceremonies and the duty of remembrance;
- raising awareness of European security and defence in schools and universities and among the public at large;
- strengthening the European defence and technological industrial base, and
- promoting the concept of key European security interests.

Article 3

The competition shall be open to all European citizens, groups, associations, foundations, companies, armed forces units and military staffs, and public and private educational establishments (primary and secondary schools, universities) in all the countries of the European Union.

Article 4

Each year, the timetable is as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| – September: | invitation to apply |
| – March of the following year: | deadline for applications |
| – April: | jury meets |
| – 9 May: | award ceremony at the European Council building. |

Article 5

Candidates must send in an application form which should include:

- a presentation of the person(s) or organisation(s) involved;
- a detailed account of what has been achieved, including the number of people who have benefited, from when and for how long;
- a presentation of the means used;
- an assessment and accreditation of the results obtained;
- a summary of no more than two pages.

The application can include press articles, photos, films or any other form of media which highlights the achievements.

Application forms can be downloaded from the website: www.cidan.org and sent by email to cidan@free.fr

or by post to:

CiDAN
 Caserne d'Artois – BSN
 9 rue Edouard LEFEBVRE
 F 78000 VERSAILLES

Article 6

The jury shall meet in Brussels or Strasbourg.

It shall be chaired by a high-ranking European official designated by the President of the European Council and comprise representatives from:

- the European External Action Service,
- the EU Military Committee,
- the European Parliament,
- the European Security and Defence Assembly,
- the European Defence Agency,
- the European Commission.

Article 7

The jury shall establish a list which shall include the winner and possibly the second- and third-place winners, as well as merit and special recognition award winners.

The jury's deliberations shall be secret and irrevocable. All participants in the competition shall undertake to abide by these rules and accept the jury's decisions.

The award shall be presented by the President of the European Council at an official ceremony.

Article 8

The award shall be presented annually. The winner in any given year shall not be permitted to re-enter the competition for a period of three years.

Article 9

Participants shall allow the organisers to use their names and photographs as they see fit. There shall be no remuneration for such use.

Article 10

Provisional arrangements:

- September 2010: official launch, invitation to apply
- March 2011: deadline for applications
- April 2011: jury meets
- 9 May 2011: award ceremony at the European Council building

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

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