



ISIS Briefing Note 2009:5

SIPRI 2009 Yearbook Launch - At least a world with less nuclear weapons

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Following the annual launch held in Stockholm in June, the presentation of the SIPRI Yearbook 2009 to the Brussels audience was organised by ISIS Europe and hosted by MEPs Ana Gomes and Hannes Swoboda at the European Parliament. The Yearbook gives insights into recent developments in security-related fields of armament, disarmament and international security. Its extensive database, both in the book and online, is widely used as a definitive reference.¹ Director of SIPRI, Dr. Bates Gill, provided a summary of the contents of the 2009 Yearbook. Invited to speak on the panel were: Carl Hartzell, Deputy Representative of Sweden to the Political Security Committee (PSC); Mika-Markus Leinonen, Director of DG E IX at the Council of the EU; and Heather Grabbe, Director of the Open Society Institute.

Disarmament

MEP Swoboda praised the work of SIPRI in the field of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation as well as the valuable attempts of this institute to change the realities. He also maintained that the new attention by the US administration under President Obama on nuclear disarmament revives hope, at least for a world with less nuclear weapons if complete disarmament still seems far away.

Carl Hartzell, welcomed the work of SIPRI and stressed the importance of mapping topics such as disarmament, military expenditures and peace operations. He argued that understanding the nuclear dossier is now “more important than ever”, requiring consideration on the bigger picture and different influences. Commenting the useful data provided by the Yearbook 2009 on arms expenditure in the last ten years (see Table 1), he highlighted how Western and Central Europe only registered a slight increase (+5%) in comparison to the other regions of the world (average +45%).

Table 1 (Source: SIPRI Yearbook 2009)

MILITARY EXPENDITURE		
Region	Spending 2008(US\$b.)	Increase 1999-2008
Africa	20.4	+40
N. Africa	7.8	+94
Sub-Saharan	12.6	+19
Americas	603	+64
Caribbean	
Central America	4.5	+21
North America	564	+66
South America	34.1	+50
Asia	206	+52
Central Asia	
East Asia	157	+56

¹ Available at: <http://www.sipri.org/collectiondatabases>. SIPRI figures are also featured in the ESDP Mission Analysis Partnership www.esdpm.org

Oceania	16.6	+36
South Asia	30.9	+41
Europe	320	+14
Eastern	43.6	+174
West and Central	277	+5
Middle East	75.6	+56
World Total	1226	+45

Peace Operations

Regarding peace operations, Mr Hartzell mentioned the increasing relevance of European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). According to SIPRI data (Table 2), the EU is the third largest provider after UN and NATO in terms of size and the second (behind the UN) in the number of operations. After pointing out that EU has moral authority due to its civilian component, he remarked that it is still necessary to follow up with planning, training and cooperation - all aspects are on the agenda of the Swedish EU Presidency – and to draw the right conclusions to move forward.

Table 2 (Source: SIPRI Yearbook 2009)

Peace operations, by conducting organisation, 2008		
	No. of operations	No. of deployed staff
UN	23	98.614
NATO	3	65.978
EU	12	7.932
OSCE	9	461
African Union	2	3560
CIS	3	5349
OAS	1	40
CEEAC	1	504
Ad hoc coalitions	6	5148
Total	60	187.586

Crisis Management – EU and the comprehensive approach

Mika-Markus Leinonen, noted that the Yearbook provides a good example of the comprehensive approach needed in crisis management. It shows how security and crises are increasingly interlinked and complex in our globalised world. He pointed out that ESDP, in its first 10 years, has demonstrated a strong civilian focus (16 out of 22 missions are civilian), credible military efforts (Chad, DRC and Somali waters) and a unique civil-military capability (Western Balkans). However, Mr. Leinonen reaffirmed that conflict prevention is the essence of EU security policy and explained that the EU has all the relevant tools (civil-military synergy at its disposal, even if civil focus is dominant) to respond to high expectations of the Member States. In face of new complexities that require a variety of crisis answers, the EU has the capability to undertake a wide range of crisis management activities ranging from Security Sector Reform (SSR), rule-of-law, peace monitoring, and counter-piracy operations. However, the EU still faces relevant challenges such as lack of human resources

and limited budget (only €243 million for Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)²) and also still has to work on important aspects such as the integration of ESDP with Commission actions, the coordination with international organisations (NATO and UN) and the involvement of NGOs in its activities. Mr. Leinonen concluded that crisis management implies taking risks and Member States should be mentally prepared to cope with this element.

Hard and soft power

Heather Grabbe illustrated the Yearbook's utility in showing the 'hard power' component of the European Union, often critiqued for having only 'soft power'. She also raised the question of the effectiveness (i.e. Battlegroups) and sustainability of ESDP missions (lack of support, political will and resources). EU operations, she argued, require a long term commitment and huge resources, key elements that EU Member States are not always able and willing to provide. As the Yearbook has the merit to point out, it is very important to demystify these issues and explain to public opinion that these operations involve relevant costs. The lack of human resources might remain a problem, she added, when the experience abroad has not been provided enough incentives and is actually damaging for the careers of personnel. Given the extremely limited budget for CFSP, Ms. Grabbe called for a more selective use of ESDP. The missions should be undertaken when common European interests and political will of local authorities are present, otherwise it can be seen as a waste of resources.

Military expenditure and the changing face of violence

Dr. Bates Gill, concluded the event by focusing on the three main topics characterising the 2009 Yearbook: the diffusion and fragmentation of violence, the increase in military expenditure and proliferation of arms. Regarding violence, he noted that conflicts are increasingly more complex because of the involvement of non-state actors and civilians (Afghanistan is the current example). In support of this argument, in 2008 SIPRI counted sixteen major armed intrastate conflicts and estimated 26 million internally displaced people worldwide. Dr. Gill remarked that the international community is still not in a better position to answer these problems. Military expenditure was reported to reach all time peak in 2008 (US\$1.4 trillion). This trend was guided by the US, accounting for 41% of global share (see Table 3). Furthermore, nuclear weapons remain central as strategic assets. Globally there are still more than 21,000 nuclear warheads, 5,000 on strategic alert (see Table 4). Non-proliferation and disarmament were said to see little progress since the previous year. In a bleak outlook however, positive developments were found regarding work on regulating cluster munitions.

Table 3 (Source SIPRI Yearbook 2009)

The Top 10 military spenders, 2008		
Region	Spending (US\$b.)	World Share (%)
1 USA	607	41.5
2 China	[84.9]	[5.8]
3 France	65.7	4.5
4 UK	65.3	4.5
5 Russia	[58.6]	[4.0]
6 Germany	46.8	3.2
7 Japan	46.3	3.2

² The Council has a budget of € 243 million for ESDP missions. Comparatively, the EU Commission has at its disposal € 8 billion for external activities.

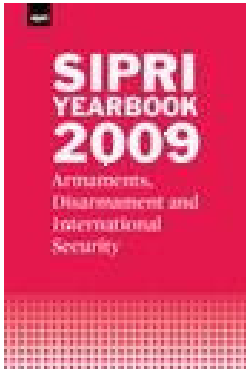
8 Italy	40.6	2.8
9 Saudi Arabia	38.2	2.6
10 India	30.0	2.1
World Total	1464	

Table 4 (Source SIPRI Yearbook 2009)

Deployed Warheads, January 2009		
Country	Strategic Warheads	Non-Strategic warheads
USA	2.202	500
Russia	2.787	2047
UK	160	
France	300	
China	186	
Others: India (total deployed warheads 60-70); Pakistan (60) and Israel (80).		

In a future perspective, Dr. Gill explained that there are still high expectations from Obama on several issues, such as advances in Iraq and Afghanistan and improvements in the relations with Russia, China and the Muslim world. However, he concluded that the global financial crisis and growing complexities will lower the capacity of the international community to address local and regional problems and to muster change towards improving international security.

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The SIPRI Yearbook is available online as individual chapters <http://www.sipri.org/yearbook>

Or

To order the Yearbook, visit:
<http://www.sipri.org/yearbook/yearbook/order> or
<http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/product/9780199566068.do>



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