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Smith/2012/MA12-701268
FASIP/2012/OUT/408



Australian Government
Department of Defence

**MINISTER FOR DEFENCE
MEETING COVERSHEET**

Meeting with General Håkan Syrén, Chairman of the European Union (EU) Military Committee

Meeting Arrangements:

Date/Time: 1400, 6 July 2012
 Venue: Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices, Perth

External Attendees and Organisation: General Håkan Syrén, Chairman of the EU Military Committee (CEUMC)
 Lieutenant Colonel Miguel Riera, Aide-de-Camp to CEUMC

Dept Officer(s) Attending: MAJGEN Brian Dawson, Senior Australian Military Representative to NATO and the European Union

Outcomes:

1. General Håkan Syrén, Chairman of the EU Military Committee, is visiting Australia from 2-7 July 2012 as a guest of the Chief of Defence Force. This is General Syrén's first visit to Australia. The visit aims to further develop Australia's defence relationship with the EU, in view of EU involvement in responses to global security challenges (particularly in Africa and the Middle East), and the negotiation of a framework agreement for Australia's participation in future EU crisis management operations.

Key Points:

2. On 27 June 2012 your office advised that you (Minister Smith) would be meeting with General Håkan Syrén from 1400-1430 on 6 July 2012 at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices in Perth. IP Division has prepared a brief for the meeting at Attachment B.
3. You and General Syrén both attended the NATO meeting in Brussels in April 2012, and the Chicago Summit in May, although no formal bilaterals were held. A record of conversation from General Syrén's meeting with Chief of Defence Force, General Hurley, on 25 April is at Attachment C.
4. The EU's role as an international security actor has been expanding in recent years. It has launched 23 civilian missions and military operations in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia. Within this context, Australia's relationship with the EU has been growing. DFAT-led negotiations are currently underway on a Crisis Management Agreement and a Framework Agreement that will provide a broad chapeau for the whole-of-government relationship.

s33(a)(iii)

5. The main policy objectives for General Syrén's visit are:

- a. [Redacted]

s33(a)(iii)
s33(b)

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- b. enhancing EU understanding of Australia's strategic outlook and encouraging Europe to deepen engagement with the security policy challenges [REDACTED] s33(a)(iii)
- c. improving Defence's understanding of Europe's strategic outlook, in particular counter-piracy operations off the Horn of Africa and [REDACTED] s33(a)(iii)
- d. discussing respective plans for contributions in Afghanistan, including the transition in 2014 and long-term commitments; and
- e. exchanging views on global security issues of mutual interest, including in Africa, Syria and Burma.

6. General Syrén's visit program is at Attachment D.

Sensitivity:

- 7. Low. Possibility exists for some media commentary regarding inconsistencies between Australia's engagement with European partners and the concept of an Asia-Pacific Century.

Attachments:

- A. Biographical details - GEN Håkan Syrén.
- B. Discussion points.
- C. Record of Conversation - GEN Håkan Syrén / CDF, 25 April 2012.
- D. Summary of General Syrén's visit program.

Approved By: 

Contact Officer:

Name: Neil Orme
Title: First Assistant Secretary International Policy
Phone: 6265 2526 / [REDACTED]

Name: George Kosmas
Title: Policy Officer Europe
Phone: (02) 6265 3967

s47F

Date: 4 July 2012

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Attachment A



GENERAL HÅKAN SYRÉN
CHAIRMAN OF THE EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY
COMMITTEE (CEUMC)

General Håkan Syrén was born on 31 January 1952 in Växjö, Sweden. He graduated in 1973 from the Swedish Naval Academy as Lieutenant in the Coast Artillery. His military education includes the Staff Course and the Command and General Staff Course at the Swedish War College in Stockholm. It also includes the Naval Command Course at the US Naval War College in Newport, USA.

Since November 6 2009 General Syrén is the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC) in Brussels. Before taking up his present position, General Syrén was

Supreme Commander of the Swedish Armed Forces for more than five years. His career also includes four years as Chief of Joint Military Intelligence and Security.

In parallel with the positions within the Armed Forces, General Syrén has also served as ADC to His Majesty the King of Sweden from 1988 to 1996. He is member of the Royal Society of Naval Sciences and of the Royal Academy of War Sciences.

General Syrén enjoys outdoor activities of various kinds.

He is married to Birgitta and has two sons and a daughter.

Career

1973-79	Instructor and Platoon Commander at the Coast Artillery Regiment in Vaxholm (KA1)
1980-84	Student at the Swedish War College, Stockholm
1984-88	Staff Officer at Navy Staff, Stockholm
1988-89	Student at the Naval War College, Newport, USA
1989-90	Teacher of Strategy, Swedish War College, Stockholm
1990-92	Head of Planning Department, Navy Staff, Stockholm
1992-94	Commanding Officer Marine Amphibious Battalion
1994-96	Commanding Officer Coast Artillery Regiment
1996-98	Head of Operations Planning Department, Swedish Armed Forces Headquarters
1999	Secretary to the Defence Commission, Ministry of Defence
1999-03	Chief Joint Military Intelligence and Security, Swedish Armed Forces Headquarters
2004-09	Supreme Commander of the Swedish Armed Forces
2009-	Chairman of the European Union Military Committee

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Attachment B

Discussion Points

What we want:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . To discuss Australia's developing relationship with the EU, including current and future operational commitments, in view of DFAT-led negotiations on a Crisis Management Agreement. . To encourage the EU to deepen engagement [REDACTED] . To outline Australia's plans for the NATO-ISAF mission in Afghanistan, including the transition to Afghan security lead and post-2014 commitment. . To discuss international counter-piracy efforts and maritime security training in the Middle East and Africa. 	s33(a)(iii)
What they want:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . [REDACTED] . [REDACTED] . [REDACTED] 	s33(a)(iii) s33(b)

Bilateral Relationship

- Pleased that defence and security ties with the EU are growing, notwithstanding conditions of financial austerity in Europe.
 - We regularly interact through the ASEAN Regional Forum, Asia-Europe Meeting, NATO ISAF meetings and senior level visits.
 - The EU has provided critical stability in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia through its 23 civilian missions and military operations.

:

[REDACTED]

s33(a)(iii)

EU-Australia Crisis Management Agreement & EU-Australia Framework Agreement

- Welcomed the first round of negotiations on a framework agreement for Australia's participation in EU crisis management operations in mid-April.
 - This agreement would strengthen the capacity of our militaries, police and deployed civilians to work together. [REDACTED]
- Also following progress on the proposed EU-Australia Framework Agreement.
 - This agreement would formalise our cooperation across a range of bilateral issues and raise the profile of our strong economic, developmental, security and diplomatic ties.

s33(a)(ii)
s33(a)(iii)

Afghanistan

Chicago

- At Chicago [on 21 May], Prime Minister Gillard and President Karzai signed a **Comprehensive Long-term Partnership agreement**. As part of this agreement, Australia will provide assistance in areas of security, trade and development and build the capacity of the Afghan Government.

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Attachment B

- Prior to Chicago, Australia announced a **contribution of US\$100 million per year** over three years from 2015 to support ANSF sustainment.

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED] s33(a)(iii)
- [REDACTED] s33(a)(iii)
s33(b)

Post-2014 Commitment

- Post-2014, Australia will contribute 25 personnel to the UK-led ANA Officer Academy in Kabul, and we are examining other possible **institutional training support**. Australia is also prepared, under the right mandate, to make a **Special Forces contribution** beyond 2014.
 - We will also **increase aid contributions** to Afghanistan from AU\$165 million to AU\$250 million per year from 2015-16.

Redeployment and Remediation

- [REDACTED] s33(a)(iii)
 - **Redeployment and remediation activities** will become a key task for the ADF in Uruzgan in early 2013, and the primary ADF activity from mid 2013.

Counter Piracy

- Australia remains concerned by piracy in the Indian Ocean and off the Horn of Africa and supports international military efforts to address maritime security through an ADF contribution to the **United States-led Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)**.
 - Understand there was **optimism about the situation in Somalia** at the UAE Counter Piracy Conference from 27-28 June, which focussed on the regional response to maritime piracy and sought to strengthen global engagement.
 - Welcome your views on the prospects for maritime security off the Horn of Africa, noting recent **EU strikes on land-based pirate installations**.
- Australia will host an **international counter-piracy conference in Perth** on 15 – 17 July, and has issued an invitation to the EU.

Asia Pacific Security

- **Europe has a stake in the security of this region** – any serious conflict in this area would have global economic and strategic implications given the presence of global trade routes.
 - To help ensure a peaceful Asia, a region-wide network of rules-based confidence- and security-building measures is essential, including frequent dialogue, to lay a groundwork that is robust to shocks.
- Australia will release its next **Defence White Paper before mid-2013**, one year early. This will reinforce the importance of **strengthening defence cooperation** with global partners.
 - We will review the **mix and scale of our defence capabilities** to ensure we are postured and structured to meet our core tasks to deter and defeat attacks on Australia and contribute to regional stability.

– [REDACTED] s33(a)(ii)

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Attachment B

Background**Bilateral Relationship**

Our defence relationship with the EU is based on biennial Political Military dialogue (last held September 2010) and contact through multilateral meetings. A Military Representative to the EU and NATO (MAJGEN Brian Dawson) was established in April 2010. Our defence engagement may deepen with the growing involvement of the EU in responses to global security challenges, particularly in Africa and the Middle East.

s33(a)(iii)

The EU has launched 23 civilian and military operations in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia, ranging from post-tsunami peace building in Aceh, a training mission in Somalia, the EU police mission in Afghanistan and the Op ATALANTA counter-piracy mission.

Crisis Management Agreement and Framework Agreement

The first round of negotiations on a bilateral DFAT-led Crisis Management Agreement between Australia and the EU was held on 27 March 2012,

s33(a)(iii)
s33(b)

s33(a)(iii)

Australia and EU officials have held three rounds of negotiations on the text of the Framework Agreement: 8-9 December 2011 in Brussels, on 27-28 February 2012 in Canberra, and on 16 May 2012 in Brussels. The next round of negotiations will take place on 26-27 July 2012 in Canberra.

Afghanistan

At the NATO/ISAF Leaders' Summit held in Chicago, Leaders' agreed and achieved the Summit's three main objectives: affirming the transition strategy agreed at Lishon in 2010, agreement to commit to funding, training and support for the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) post-2014.

s33(a)(ii)
s33(a)(iii)

Partners also committed to supporting Afghanistan's development in the long-term. Australia will contribute US\$100 million per year for three years from 2015 to ANSF sustainment, making us a leading contributor.

Transition

Transition is underway in Afghanistan, with two of the five anticipated tranches, comprising over half of the Afghan population, having already entered the process. The third tranche, announced by President Karzai on 13 May, will see all remaining 15 provincial capitals enter the process, so that all 34 provinces and over three-quarters of the Afghan population will have entered the transition process by the latter half of 2012.

When the last districts in the fifth and final tranche formally enter the transition process in mid-2013, the international community will shift from a combat role to a training, advisory and assistance role.

s33(a)(i, j)

This shift represents the mid-2013 transition 'milestone' announced by US Defence Secretary Panetta in February 2012 and affirmed by leaders attending the NATO/ISAF Summit in Chicago on 20-21 May.

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Attachment B

Redeployment and Remediation and Closure of the Ground Lines of Communication (GLOCs)

Redeployment and remediation activities will become a key task for the ADF in Uruzgan in early 2013, and the primary ADF activity from mid 2013. Redeployment (returning force elements to Australia or relocating them within Afghanistan) and remediation (site or environmental rectification of locations that have been occupied by Australian forces) will be a significant undertaking, with a substantial amount of infrastructure and equipment amassed in Afghanistan over the last ten years. This will be complicated by all ISAF partners undertaking these processes along similar timelines.

The Ground Lines of Communication (GLOCs) between Pakistan and Afghanistan were closed in retaliation to an ISAF air attack on two Pakistan military border posts resulting in the deaths of 24 Pakistani soldiers on 26 November 2011. On 3 July Secretary Clinton announced that the US and Pakistan had agreed on a formula for expressing sorrow for the incident. Pakistan has undertaken to reopen the Ground Lines of Communication (GLOCs) without additional fees (i.e. a return to the status quo ante), and the US expects trucks to start moving tomorrow. But details still need to be worked out, and Pakistan is yet to announce the reopening of the GLOCs itself.

Counter Piracy

Australia has maintained an almost continuous maritime presence in the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) since 1990. Defence's contribution to international maritime security efforts in the MEAO comprises a Major Fleet Unit, currently HMAS Melbourne, and a portion of our AP-3C maritime patrol aircraft effort, flexibly cross-tasked between Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), Combined Task Forces (CTF) 150 (counter-terrorism), 151 (counter-piracy) and 152 (Gulf maritime security). Australia has also been an active participant in the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia since its inaugural meeting in New York in January 2009. The Contact Group was established to coordinate international efforts to suppress piracy off the coast of Somalia. Australia remains actively involved in multilateral cooperation through the Shared Awareness and De-confliction (SHADE) group, which helps coordinate CMF, NATO, European Union and other counter-piracy activities.

As a contribution to international counter-piracy efforts, Australia will host the Perth Counter Piracy Conference on 15 – 17 July. The Conference will aim to improve multilateral cooperation and build people-to-people links at the operational level. Invitations have been sent to around 65 countries and international government agencies, international organisations including the European Union, peak industry bodies and relevant think tanks.

UAE Counter Piracy Conference

The UAE Counter Piracy Conference was held 27-28 June 2012, focussing on the regional response to maritime piracy, and strengthening global engagement. There was a great deal of optimism with respect to the situation in Somalia, which has reportedly seen unprecedented military progress this year. The next step is for capacity-building to follow-up this success.

[REDACTED]

s33(a)(iii)

Europe and the Asia Pacific

[REDACTED] However, there are significant economic ties between Europe and Asia. Up to 14 million barrels of oil pass through the Straits of Malacca every day – around a quarter of the world's seaborne oil. The movement of most of Europe's \$860bn in trade with North East Asia passes through the South China Sea.

s33(a)(iii)

[REDACTED]

s33(a)(ii)

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Attachment C

Record of Conversation

Conversation between: General David Hurley, Chief of Defence Force

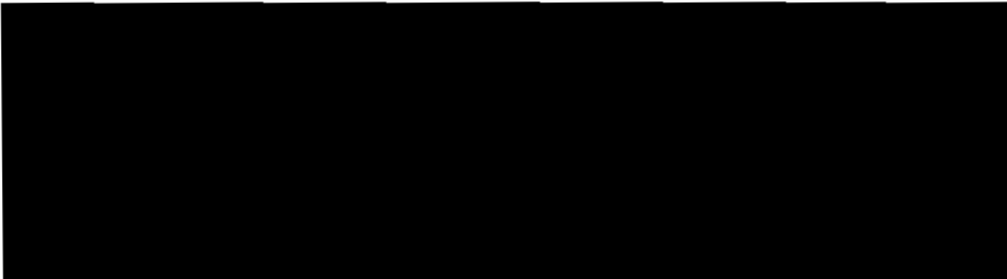
and: General Håkan Syrén, Chairman of the Military Committee, European Union

on: 1420 hours, 25 April 2012

at: Room 12, NATO Headquarters, Brussels, Belgium

Others present: Major General Brian Dawson, Military Representative to NATO (Notetaker)
LCDR Emma Gaudry, Staff Officer to Chief of Defence Force
CAPT Daniel Waugh, ADC to Chief of Defence Force
Phoebe Smith, International Policy Division Officer (Notetaker)
One EU official

MAIN SUBJECTS: Horn of Africa; Submarines; Swedish Defence Force reform; General Syrén visit to Australia.

1. 

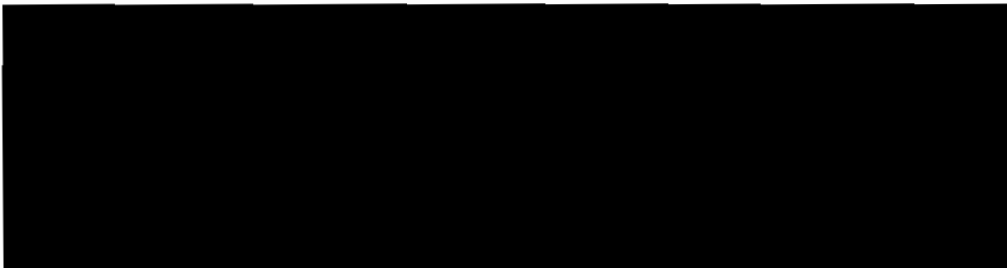
s33(b)

2. 

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s33(b)


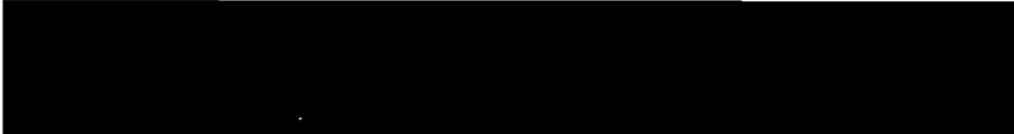
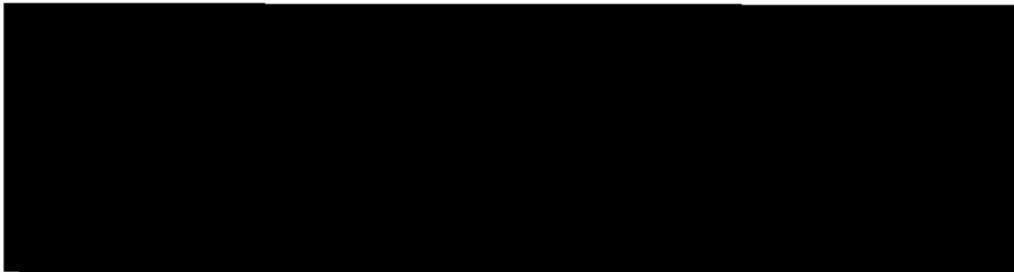
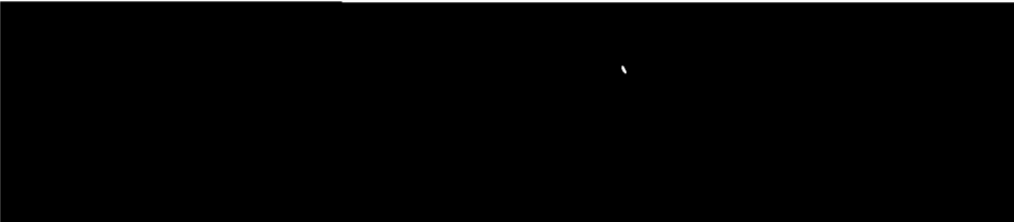
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Attachment C

-  s33(b)
5.  s33(b)
6.  s33(b)
7.  s33(b)

Distribution: AF-PAK Posts, Defence Canberra, DFAT Canberra

Action: Provide program for General Syrén's visit to Australia as soon as possible.

Report prepared by: Ms Phoebe Smith, International Policy Division Officer

Report cleared by: General David Hurley, Chief of Defence Force

Date: 08 May 2012

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Attachment D

General Syrén Program Summary

General Syrén's visit program began on Monday 2 July in Sydney with a day of cultural sightseeing. General Syrén visited North Head Fort, where he received a 45 minute guided tour of WWII tunnels and gun emplacements. On Tuesday 3 July he visited Fleet Base East before departing for Canberra.

General Syrén's program on 4 July commenced with an honour guard prior to a call with the Chief of Defence Force. He participated in a one-and-a-half hour Special Chiefs' of Service Committee Meeting which addressed the strategic outlook for Europe and the Asia Pacific, Australia's Defence White Paper 2013 and counter-piracy. He then visited IIQJOC for a tour and meeting with the Chief of Joint Operations, Lieutenant General Ash Power and Deputy Special Operations Commander Australia, Brigadier Daniel Fortune.

On Thursday 5 July General Syrén visited Border Protection Command, laid a wreath at the Australian War Memorial and gave a presentation at the Australian Defence College Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies on European Defence and Security Policy.

General Syrén is visiting Perth for the remainder of his program on 6 and 7 July. This will include a meeting with you (Minister Smith) and a visit to HMAS Stirling. General Syrén will also make a presentation at Future Directions International (a think-tank focusing on the Indian Ocean) and a cultural program. An engagement with SASR at Campbell Barracks, which was to follow your meeting, was cancelled in view of the death of a member of that regiment on Monday. General Syrén will depart Australia on the afternoon of Saturday 7 July following a scenic drive through the Swan Valley and lunch at the Sandalford Estate Winery.

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