



Hanch Engineers a New European Diplomacy in the Convention on the Future of Europe

By: Bild

German politician and European Union Parliament President Klaus Hanch is taking steps to revamp operations of the EU to fit the new century. Hanch's primary focus is security policy, but he is pushing the EU to collaborate greatly with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. He is utilizing his spot at the helm of Parliament to advance the interests of the EU as well as those of Germany.

"I wanted to place an emphasis on peaceful cooperation between the EU and NATO and the avoidance of nuclear weapons at all costs," said Hanch about his working paper.

The paper lays the groundwork for an open line of communication between the EU and NATO. Built into the paper is a provision for bi-annual meetings between Ministers of Defense in EU member states and NATO officials. Furthermore, Hanch formulated a plan for a 5-Member Executive Council with top officials from both the EU and NATO, which is to meet in the event of extreme conflict.

"It only makes sense for our top security officials to be collaborating and putting these alliances to use," said Hanch about the collaboration. "We don't want nations to have to choose between



Hanch describes his proposition for an EU-NATO cooperation framework.

being members of the EU or NATO—Germany is a member of both and it's a great advantage."

Objections arose, however, when Hanch expressed his disdain for nuclear weapons through a provision prohibiting nations utilizing nuclear weapons to be integrated into the EU. When asked about the motivation behind this provision, Hanch said, "I'm a huge supporter of nuclear power. Germany relies on it, so we wouldn't want other European nations to not have access to this wonderful power source. We're just trying to limit the possibility of a nuclear war."

Additionally, delegates objected to the creation of a voluntary intelligence-sharing

database for common defense of the EU. Hanch dispelled rumors that the database would be ineffective due to its voluntary nature.

"We can't make this mandatory because we respect the sovereignty of each and every one of the EU's member states. This is just the best balance," he said. "That's always what we're aiming for—balance."

Hanch expressed hope for the future of both the EU and NATO, and said he believes his multi-faceted approach is dynamic enough to forge connections between both bodies that withstand the test of time.

Opinion: The Perfect Way for the European Union to Step Up its Security Game

By: *The Wall Street Journal*

The European Union must walk a fine line.

The Cold War shattered Europe, fracturing it into countries following different ideologies, with many calling for an ad-hoc unified defense policy. This policy has yet to be developed. Now, as the remains of the Soviet Union remain are still shown in Eastern Europe, and terrorism threatens the world as we speak, a new path needs to be forged that incorporates other international organizations into Europe's security.



Members of the European Parliament, Commissioners, and Ministers gather around as they work on the EU's most flexible plan yet for international security and integration into NATO.

The EU's solution is found in a bold new committee that synthesizes security within the EU and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and ensures the freedoms of Europe's people. It is collectively called the Defense European Union Commission (DEUC), with smaller conventions, agencies, and task forces within it.

The DEUC will set the agenda for the EU's defense and security policy. It breaks into smaller committees, which is in itself an excellent idea. The main

DEUC will focus on overall security of its member countries, one committee will lead the EU Intelligence Organization Agency (EUIOA), another will encourage participation in NATO, and yet another will elect members to the European Parliament every five years.

Not only does splitting up the different types of security allow for greater flexibility and efficiency in being secure, but it also promotes an extra layer of security outside of the EU, all reinforced with a bipartisan legislature that forms a strong base for the rest of the DEUC.

Another one of the branches that is created with the comprehensive DEUC is the EUOIA. This intelligence agency targets threats to security, human trafficking, and smuggling of illicit substances. All of these issues are incredibly prevalent in today's society, and a new agency would definitely be welcomed to promote security among the freshly-integrated Eastern European countries, which are still getting back on their feet after the Soviet Union's fall.

Perhaps the most important committee the DEUC sets up is the EUPAT, or the European Union Peace-Affiliated Task Force; it quickly responds to crises in member states and acts as an anti-terrorist operations force. The creation of the EUPAT is nothing short of genius. Having member states at one's back is incredibly important in these turbulent times as the world steadies itself against the final vestiges of the Soviet Union and terrorism.

The final problem the DEUC addresses is that of equal rights--under this plan, a free market economy, stable democracy, and the rule of law will be implemented in all member states and will provide new states with subsidies to meet requirements for the European Union.

In the eyes of these officials, NATO is incredibly important and integral to the success of the DEUC, and it should be. Many countries that belong to NATO also belong to the EU, and it is only common sense that Europe should belong to both international organizations. This would strengthen international relationships in a time where any cooperation in the world is desperately needed, and where Eastern European countries need to be welcomed into a union with open arms.

This plan is incredibly straightforward and easy to understand, and it is quite like no other. The committees and agencies it introduces are not redundant, but advanced and add extra layers of protection.

This plan, the all-inclusive DEUC, allows the EU to achieve its full potential through what it does best: security and diplomacy.

Japanese Generals Plan on Passing the "Uh Oh" Directive

All the Japanese generals gather around the map to discuss ways to take down the Russian army before their time is up. They create the "Uh Oh" Directive which plans on mobilizing the Japanese army to swarm the invading Russians.

