

THURSDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2007

Present

Anderson of Swansea, L
Boyce, L
Chidgey, L
Crickhowell, L
Hannay of Chiswick, L
Jones, L
Roper, L (Chairman)
Selkirk of Douglas, L
Swinfen, L
Truscott, L

Witnesses: **Mr Andrew Mathewson**, Directorate for Policy on International Organisations, **Professor Phil Sutton**, Director General Research and Technology and **Captain Richard Stokes**, Assistant Director, Defence Equipment Plan, Ministry of Defence, examined.

Q40 Chairman: Mr Mathewson, we did give you notice that we are now doing a second study on the EU Reform Treaty and there is one question which I would like to ask you about that because we will not have another opportunity to ask a question to a defence witness. I realise that you may want to reply that you would like to me about it, but the question is that one of the innovations in the defence area – the EDA of course is already up and running so that particular part of the Treaty we know about – the other part of the Treaty is the Protocol and the clauses which deal with something called Permanent Structure Cooperation. Would you like to say a little bit about what that is? Is that Battlegroups Plus or is it something quite different?

Mr Mathewson: Thank you for giving the opportunity to write and I will indeed take up your kind offer, my Lord. In principle Permanent Structure Cooperation is a device for raising the bar; it is a device for encouraging nations to do more by way of generating capability. It is a

form of peer pressure – I think the Battlegroups can be seen as a form of Permanent Structure Cooperation. Here is a challenge, generate the capacity, raise your level of ability to contribute. I think the forthcoming Presidency – I know the French Presidency in particular – is giving some consideration as to how it can use the provisions for the Permanent Structure Cooperation in order to raise the general level of capability. I think it is a refined form of peer pressure and the generation of some internal pressure to do more.

Chairman: Thank you very much indeed for that answer and we look forward to having something further in writing, which will be valuable.