

The European Security and Defence Union

SPECIAL TOPIC

The EU Civil Protection Mechanism



**Solidarity in civil
protection – the EU is
a global player**



Why we now need a United States of Europe

Viviane Reding, Vice-President,
European Commission, Brussels



Civil protection from a Swiss perspective

Federal President, Ueli Maurer,
Head of Department DDPS, Bern

www.magazine-the-european.com

Germany and France have responsibilities in and for Europe

The Franco-German exception

by Dr Jean-Dominique Giuliani, Chairman, Robert Schuman Foundation, Paris

No other two states in the world could have matched the feat that occurred on 22 January last in Berlin. Two governments and two parliamentary assemblies convened for debate. It was highly symbolic and equal to the success embodied by Franco-German reconciliation. Since the Schuman Declaration of 9 May 1950 and the declarations by General de Gaulle and Konrad Adenauer on 22 January 1963, a multitude of initiatives have contributed towards making this exemplary achievement complete, since it has orchestrated not only systematic cooperation between two governments but also fraternity between two peoples.

Europe was the aim from the beginning

In the past the rivalry between the two states led to three major wars, two of which engulfed the entire world. Quite uniquely, lessons were learned from this, enabling the launch of the unification of the European continent.

The alliance between Germany and France is not simply of a bilateral nature. From the beginning its aim has been the unity of Europe. The method has been a simple one: we share the things we might fight over most in a way that is open to others. Enough links are created between partners for them to have an interest in deciding together, rather than alone.

Today the European Union is still run according to the same idea. It offers a legal framework, in the form of treaties, procedures and institutions within which differences are settled and are necessarily concluded with joint decisions.

During the crisis France and Germany have been called upon once more. Economic, social, financial and political differences have only been overcome thanks to a prior Franco-German Agreement, which is not intended to be a so-called *Directoire* but a generator of compromise, and which has gradually shaped Europe anew.

We need political determination and exceptional courage to move forward

Nearly all areas of public action have been involved in the application of this successful method. Now work has to be finalised by moving into all domains in which sovereignty proves difficult to share – including that of security and defence. A great deal has been done, but much more work remains ahead.

Our visions of the future have to be brought closer together and this will be difficult, because our experiences of the past are so different. We have to project ourselves into a world of uncertainty with the same goals and this is not easy in view of the divergences between us. We have to be able to influence



Verdun 22.9.1984 – Reconciliation over the graves Source: Bühl, privat

the international arena and everyone has his methods and constraints. We simply have to look at the specifics of what this entails, in terms, for example, of deploying troops, exposing human lives or putting military and democratic requirements on the line.

Again, only political determination and exceptional courage will help us, conditions permitting, to take the last steps along the arduous path towards the union of Europe.

And so, on the basis of reasoned decisions worthy of those of our glorious predecessors, we must prepare with pragmatism and optimism for a future common European army led by one chief, an elected and politically responsible leader.



Professor Jean-Dominique Giuliani

has been Chairman of the Robert Schuman Foundation, Paris, of which he was one of the founders, since 2000. He was born in 1956. J.-P. Giuliani has a degree in law from the Institute of Political Studies. From 1992 to 1998 he was Director of the Office of the President of the Senate, René Monory. He then became the Director for the General Management of TNS Sofres, Paris. In 2002 he founded JD-G.Com International Consultants and has been Special Adviser to the European Commission since 2006.