



NATO  
OTAN

NATO Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society

CCMS

ENVIRONMENT and SOCIETY

## NATO COMMITTEE ON THE CHALLENGES OF MODERN SOCIETY

### INTRODUCTION

The NATO Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society (CCMS) was **created in 1969** by the North Atlantic Council with the initial aim of addressing problems affecting the environment of the nations and the quality of life of their peoples. Its activities have been **expanded** over the years to include Partner countries in the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) and more recently **adapted** to take into account emerging issues to security. The member countries of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council are the 19 member countries of NATO, plus the 27 Partner countries. The North Atlantic Council in Ministerial Session has decided that CCMS activities should also include experts from Mediterranean Dialogue countries.

The Committee meets twice a year in plenary session and annually with Partner countries (EAPC format meeting).

The Committee provides **a unique forum for the sharing of knowledge and experience** on technical, scientific and policy aspects of social and environmental matters in both the civilian and military sectors among NATO and EAPC Partner countries.

After more than thirty years of successful activity, the Terms of Reference for the CCMS were updated in 2000 to better reflect the programme's adaptation to NATO's new mission.

To provide the guidelines for future work, the following **Key Objectives** have now been identified:

- (a) Reducing the **environmental impact of military activities**;
- (b) Conducting **regional studies** including cross-border activities;
- (c) Preventing **conflicts in relation to scarcity of resources**;
- (d) Addressing **emerging risks to the environment and society** that could cause **economic, cultural and political instability**; and
- (e) Addressing **non-traditional threats to security**.

These Key Objectives are not exclusive or restrictive. The primary criteria for initiating CCMS activities remain the interest of a sufficient number of nations to work collectively on topics related to challenges of modern society in line with the five key objectives, and their willingness to commit resources.

2002 was an exciting year for the Committee with progressive evolution towards the five Key Objectives. 2003 will be a challenging year since, after the decisions taken by Heads of State and Government at the Prague Summit in November 2002, these Objectives are more than ever relevant to NATO goals.

Among the decisions taken at the Prague summit was an agreement for restructuring of the NATO International Staff, and CCMS activities will in future be administered within a new public diplomacy division which will be tasked to inform citizens and opinion formers of the international community about NATO's roles, missions and activities, and to foster mutual understanding between networks of influential people.

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#### **Member countries of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council:**

**NATO countries:** Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States

**Partner countries:** Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

(\* Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name).

#### **Mediterranean Dialogue countries:**

Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia



## ORGANIZATION AND METHODS OF WORK

In creating the CCMS, the North Atlantic Council decided that the Committee would not itself engage in any research activities. Work is carried out on a decentralised basis, mainly through **pilot studies** (3/5 years) and **short-term ad hoc projects** (12/18 months), which are nationally funded. Activities also include the organization of **topical workshops** and the co-sponsoring of **international conferences and seminars**.

Both NATO and Partner countries can make new proposals. The participation of NATO members and of Partner countries in CCMS activities is always on a voluntary basis.

Technical reports published in the framework of the CCMS are destined for wide circulation and are available free of charge.

Directors of pilot studies and short-term projects are encouraged to use the CCMS web site as a working tool and in the dissemination process.

With the help of a small yearly budget, the CCMS is able to provide financial assistance (to cover transportation and/or living expenses) to experts who have difficulty in obtaining the necessary funds to attend meetings of pilot studies, short term projects or workshops. The **CCMS Study Visit Programme** is open to experts from both NATO and Partner countries (eligible for support\*). Requests, which should be endorsed by the appropriate pilot study director and by the National CCMS Coordinator, are made to the CCMS Secretariat.

## TWELVE YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP

The main objective of the Committee is to tackle environmental security and societal problems already under study at the national level and, by combining the expertise and technology available in NATO and Partner countries, arrive fairly rapidly at valid conclusions and make recommendations for action to benefit all.

As a result of the successful implementation of the Partnership Programme, the number of experts from these countries actively involved in CCMS activities has increased significantly since 1991.

While it is true that some Partner countries benefit from their participation in these activities mainly through contact and involvement with nations that have greater R&D resources, it is evident that they also often bring much benefit to pilot studies and workshops through their own scientific experience.

The most significant events recently organized with Partners under the framework of CCMS are:

### DEFENCE-RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

- a) Environmental Management Systems (EMS) in the Military Sector  
*(Workshop held in Vyskov, Czech Republic, in October 2002)*
- b) Reuse and Cleaning of Former Military Sites  
*(Workshop held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, in May 2002)*

### NON-DEFENCE-RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

- a) Risk Assessment of the Chernobyl Accident Consequences  
*(Workshop held in Kiev, Ukraine, in April 2002)*
- b) Environmental Challenges in the Caspian Sea  
*(Workshop held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in May 2002)*
- c) Environmental Decision-Making for Sustainable Development in Central Asia  
*(Workshop held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in September 2002)*

\* **Partner countries eligible for support under the CCMS Study Visit Programme:** Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.



## ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

Since CCMS began, 67 pilot studies and 5 short term projects have been completed. The ongoing studies/projects deal with the following topics:

### A. Reducing the environmental impact of military activities

**Aim:** disseminating knowledge among military experts

- *Forms of Environmental Education in the Armed Forces and their Impact on Creation of Pro-Environmental Attitudes:* pilot study, launched in 2000 under the leadership of **Poland**
- *Sustainable Building for Military Infrastructure:* short-term project launched in March 1999 under the co-leadership of **Canada** and the **Netherlands**
- *Environmental Management Systems (EMS) in the Military Sector:* workshops organized every two years to review the implementation of EMS in both NATO and Partner countries

### B. Conducting regional studies including cross-border activities

**Aim:** helping conflict prevention by providing a regional framework for discussions

- *Environmental Decision-Making for Sustainable Development in Central Asia:* pilot study launched in 2000 under the leadership of the **United States**
- *Regional/Transboundary Transport of Air Pollution:* pilot study launched in 1998 under the leadership of **Greece**
- *Ecosystem Modelling of Coastal Lagoons for Sustainable Management(Phase II):* pilot study launched in 2001 and co-piloted by **Turkey** and the **United States**
- *Modeling Nutrient Loads and Response in River and Estuary Systems:* pilot study launched in 1999 and co-piloted by the **United States** and **Lithuania**
- *Management of Industrial and Toxic Wastes and Substances Research:* short-term project launched in March 2000 under the leadership of **Greece**
- *The Design of the Caspian Basin Observing System to Form the Basis for Environmental Forecasting:* pilot study launched in 2002 and co-piloted by **Turkey** and **Azerbaijan**
- *Improvement of Weather Forecasts Related to High-Impact Weather Over the Central and Eastern Mediterranean:* short-term project launched in 2002 under the leadership of **Greece**
- *Air Pollution Modelling and its Application (International Technical Meetings):* international conferences organized every two year

### C. Preventing conflicts in relation to scarcity of resources

**Aim:** pooling expert resources relating to a potentially serious concern in many regions of the world

- *Integrated Water Management:* pilot study launched in 2002 under the leadership of **Belgium**

### D. Addressing emerging risks to the environment and society

**Aim:** collective insight relative to environmental and societal issues

- *Advanced Cancer Risk Assessment Methods (Phase II):* pilot study launched in 1997 under the co-leadership of **Italy** and the **United States**
- *Clean Products and Processes(Phase II):* pilot study launched in 2002 under the leadership of the **United States**
- *Prevention and Remediation Issues in Selected Industrial Sectors:* pilot study launched in 2002 under the leadership of the **United States**
- *Assessment of Natural Hazards:* short-term project launched in 2001 under the leadership of **Canada**
- *Use of Landscape Science for Environmental Assessment:* pilot study launched in 2001 under the co-leadership of the **United States** and **Germany**

### E. Addressing non-traditional threats to security

**Aim:** long term thinking on security issues with a view to assessment, prevention or remediation on a collective basis

- *Effective Risk Response Strategies:* pilot study launched in 2002 under the co-leadership of the **United Kingdom** and the **United States**
- *Vulnerability of the Interconnected Society:* short-term project launched in 2001 under the leadership of **Norway**
- *The Future Trends of Concentration of Migratory Movements in Large Cities: Consequences for the Environment and Security:* pilot study launched in 1999 under the leadership of **Spain**

# CCMS

## PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITE

As a result of its pilot studies and short term projects, many technical reports have been published by the CCMS. A full list of available publications can be obtained upon request (a short list mentioning the most recent reports can also be consulted on the CCMS web site).

Since April 1995, the Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society has had its own web site (<http://www.nato.int/ccms>). This web site was developed to function as a “clearing house” for environmental affairs concerning the NATO community. It is a tool for the multiple CCMS pilot studies and participating nations to acquire, organize, retrieve and disseminate environmental information of common interest. It provides access to environmental data, reports and studies.

Information on recent CCMS activities and new publications appears regularly in the **NATO Science and Society Newsletter**. Subscription to this quarterly bulletin is free of charge and can be requested from the CCMS Secretariat. The newsletter can also be consulted on the web site <http://www.nato.int/science>



*Members of the CCMS on the occasion of the plenary meeting held in Vienna, Austria, in October 2002*

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