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Press Release:

For the First Time: NATO Competence Centre will support the Munich Security Conference by providing maritime expertise

Kiel. The Munich Security Conference (MSC), already supported by a large number of renowned institutions, authorities, and organisations, will also rely on NATO maritime experts from Kiel. The Centre of Excellence for Operations in Confined and Shallow Waters (COE CSW) and the MSC signed an agreement for future cooperation on July, 3rd 2017.

First Common Projects

The COE CSW will be responsible for conducting a side event during the 54th Security Conference in Munich in February 2018. The expert panel will focus on the increasing significance of maritime safety and security and will address current challenges.

Furthermore, the COE CSW will support the MSC in continuing the series of expert discussions on the topic area of "arctic security". The next Arctic Security Roundtable will take place in the run-up to the renowned Arctic Circle Conference in Reykjavik, Iceland, in October 2017. The COE CSW will provide professional advice and contribute experts from its own network.

"Maritime gearwheel in the clock of MSC"

Rear Admiral Jan C. Kaack (54), Director COE CSW, is very much looking forward to the cooperation. *"I'm particularly pleased that now aspects of maritime security will be addressed at the MSC. All the more, since many of our current challenges in the field of security policy confront us at sea, especially in confined and shallow waters! Highly proficient and vested with a unique international network, the COE CSW as a maritime think tank of NATO and a quasi-maritime gearwheel in the clock of the MSC, can make an active contribution to addressing current maritime challenges in foreign and security policy while providing the best possible platform for discussions."*

The Chairman of the Munich Security Conference, Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger, is likewise convinced of the added value of the partnership. *“Conflict potential in the Arctic and the South Chinese Sea or the streams of refugees crossing the Mediterranean demonstrate the increasing politico-strategic significance of maritime safety and security. I appreciate that we have gained the COE CSW as a partner whose maritime expertise will enhance and enlarge our range of topics. I look forward to our cooperation“*

COE CSW Background

The Centre of Excellence for Operations in Confined and Shallow Waters is a think tank of NATO which develops novel principles for maritime operations in close association with academia, research and development organisations, and industry. It is the core mission of the COE CSW to generate new operational approaches, to adjust existing concepts in a quick and flexible manner, and to provide stimuli for new technologies and systems. In addition to organising a series of international conferences and meetings on maritime safety and security, the COE CSW has gained an excellent reputation.

The German Navy has special capabilities and extensive experience with regard to the operating in coastal waters. Such competences can be found in particular in Flotilla 1 co-located in Kiel with the COE CSW for synergetic reasons.

On the NATO level, there are 24 such competence centres, three of which focus on the maritime domain. 38 military and civilian personnel are currently stationed at the COE CSW, including officers from Denmark, Greece, Finland, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Turkey, and the United States. Other nations, for instance Baltic littoral states such as Lithuania, are in the process of joining or seeking participation.

On MSC (www.securityconference.de)

Over the last five decades, the MSC has evolved into the central international platform for debating security policy issues. Each year in February more than 450 high-ranking decision makers from all over the world meet for discussions on current and future areas of conflict and challenges related to security policy. Attendees include heads of states and governments, ministers, top-level officials from international and non-governmental organisations, as well as high-ranking representatives from industry, media, and academia.

The conference in Munich is regularly accompanied by other high-level events on selected topics or regions; the results of which are published in the annual Munich Security Report. All activities are aimed at providing the best possible platform for an open exchange of opinions and ideas.

In 2017, the MSC was named the world's best "Think Tank Conference" as a result of a comprehensive study conducted by the University of Pennsylvania.

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