



Kangaroo Group – 1st Lunch in Strasbourg in 2011  
European Parliament - Restaurant des Députés Louise Weiss

Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, 19 January at 13:00 hrs  
"Projects of the Kangaroo Group for 2011"  
"Security Situation in the Sahel Region"

Chaired by: Othmar Karas, MEP and President of the Kangaroo Group  
Karl von Wogau, Secretary General of the Kangaroo Group

Speaker: Arnaud Danjean, MEP and Chairperson of the European Parliament's  
Subcommittee on Security and Defence

## **1 Othmar Karas and Karl von Wogau**

Mr. Karas and Mr. von Wogau presented the main subjects of the Kangaroo Group and reported about the current activities: development of the home market, stability of the European currency, better spending in defence and security. Future events organised by the Kangaroo Group regarding the European Security Strategy were announced.

The introduction was followed by a short discussion about the situation in several member states of the European Union regarding solidarity within the European Union, security subjects and economic and financial problems. Various instruments of the European Union and possible solutions were mentioned and discussed like better technical standards of equipment, improvement of standardization, strengthening of external border security and the role of institutions like European Defence Agency.

Mr. von Wogau introduced the guest speaker, Arnaud Danjean, MEP and Chairperson of the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Security and Defence.

## **2 Arnaud Danjean**

M. Danjean gave an overview of the situation in the Sahel zone and informed the audience of the strategy of the European Union, foreseen to support the countries of this region. The Sahel zone faces great problems of poverty, terrorism, criminality and various forms of smuggling. The number of kidnapping cases is increasing. The European Union prepares a strategy covering various aspects like security, integrated policy and strengthening of the civil and military capabilities of the Sahel countries in order to stabilize the region. Lady Ashton was asked an oral question about the strategy she wants to apply in the Sahel zone.

Heidi Schlager  
Office Dr. Karl von Wogau

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