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Relations Between the EU and NATO in 2nd Generation Peace Support Operations

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Oral Presentation O4.2

**RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EU AND NATO IN 2ND GENERATION
PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS**

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Fifteen years ago the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization were very different organizations with different purposes. The EU focused on economic and social development while NATO was a military alliance. Given their divergent origins and structures many skeptics and politicians believed cooperation between the two organizations in order to address emerging problems of regional and human security would be impossible. However, today both organizations have transformed themselves to build capacity for modern peace support operations. Drawing on interviews with officials from both organizations this paper explains the convergence. Insider perspectives reveal an encouraging picture of informal coordination for operation planning and multi-level communication between the two. The largely unofficial and ad-hoc nature of the relationship will allow both sides to play to their strengths, with experienced professionals making decisions rather than the lawyers and politicians. This amicable relationship will be crucial to handling the complex crises of the 21st Century.