

Abstract

Anchoring Foresight in Government Strategic Security Planning **Stephan De Spiegeleire, Director, Defence Transformation, The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies, Netherlands**

One of the major challenges with foresight is that the direct link with the actual strategic planning process is often quite tenuous. Even the new 'capabilities-based' security planning methods (as practiced in countries such as the Australia, Canada, the UK or the US) have not come to a fully satisfying solution to this problem. In April 2007, the Dutch government approved its first National Security Strategy which contains a novel national security planning method – much more akin to modern business strategies than to other national security strategies – that moves from (meta-) foresight via a systematic national security risk assessment (NRA) to capabilities-based planning. The yearly NRA – the first version of which was presented in June 2008 – provides the Dutch cabinet with an overview of the relative probabilities and consequences of various risks affecting the security of the Netherlands. The entire strategic planning methodology, which is all-hazards, whole-of-government and deals with internal AND international risks and opportunities, is also anchored in the government's yearly budgetting cycle.

This presentation will present the new planning methodo used, with a special focus on the (meta-) foresight work performed this last year and the way in which it feeds into national risk assessment.