

First EDA-Egmont PhD Prize Awarded

Brussels, 12 March 2013. **The First EDA-Egmont PhD Prize in European Defence, Security and Strategy has been awarded to Dr Benjamin Pohl for his dissertation But We Have to Do Something – The Drivers behind European Crisis Management Operations.**

The EDA-Egmont PhD Prize in European defence, security and strategy is intended to encourage and stimulate European research in the context of European defence and security. The award targets the findings of research that have been carried out in the framework of a defended and approved doctoral thesis at a recognised academic institution in a Member State of the European Defence Agency.

The Prize is awarded by the EDA in partnership with the Egmont Institute. The aim is to introduce a new award that acknowledges academic excellence while putting it in a European context. The unique partnership enables Egmont to ensure academic substance while the European Defence Agency exposes the research to the heart of European policy making.

The jury of the EDA-Egmont Prize, composed of Claude-France Arnould, Chief Executive of the European Defence Agency (EDA), General Patrick de Rousiers, Chairman of the EU Military Committee (EUMC), Dr Antonio Missiroli, Director of the EU Institute of Security Studies (EUISS), Prof. Jolyon Howorth, University of Yale, Prof. Richard Whitman, University of Kent, Dr Hilmar Linnenkamp, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, and chaired by Prof. Sven Biscop, Egmont, had a difficult task assessing no less than ten PhD dissertations of high quality, but arrived at an unanimous decision.

The jury especially commends Dr Pohl's work for asking a "key question" about the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), and answering it in a very persuasive manner. His findings are presented with admirable control and academic objectivity, giving full weight to a range of theoretical approaches in order to test their validity. The result is a very convincing thesis about the "drivers" of the CSDP.

The dissertation was defended at the University of Leiden on 27 September 2012, under the supervision of Prof. Rob DE Wijk.



Presentation at the EDA Annual Conference

Dr Pohl will receive his Prize at the Annual Conference of the EDA in Brussels on 21 March, where he will present his work to the conference participants.

For the EDA and Egmont, the first edition of the PhD Prize is an encouragement to continue promoting research on European defence, security and strategy.

European Defence Agency

The European Defence Agency works to foster European defence cooperation, saving money and increasing capabilities, because Europe is stronger together. As an agency of the Council of the European Union, EDA combines ministerial-level political will with technical expertise and input from all stakeholders. EDA is currently working on a host of cooperative projects, from modular field hospitals to cyber-defence to air-to-air refuelling. In every case, the aim is to save money and increase capabilities, in support of Member States.

More information:

Eric Platteau
Head of Media & Communication
eric.platteau@eda.europa.eu
Tel +32 2 504 28 23
Mobile +32 476 985 557

Prof. Sven Biscop
Chairman of the Jury
Egmont Institute
s.biscop@egmontinstitute.be
Tel +32 2 223 41 16

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