EU Military Staff: 15 years of challenges and opportunities – and more to come

I am happy to meet our readers again. This time, I will give more room to the previous than to the coming months, as these, from 27 May will be in the hands of my successor, Lieutenant General Esa PULKKINEN (Finnish Army). More importantly than my own tenure of nearly three years so far, there is an anniversary we can celebrate: 15 years since the creation of the EUMS.

To start with the latter, the development of what has started as the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) and has been transformed since into Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) deserves to be looked at in more detail. The space of these few lines is far too small to capture an evolution which is not only significant for the field of security policy, but for the EU as a whole. For the sake of brevity, what is clear is that the EUMS was ever since its beginning, the essential objective was to provide political, legal and operational frameworks for EU-Member States military contributions to the European Union’s Security Policy actions. Throughout this period of 15 years, EUMS has provided expertise, advice planning and support to strengthen the “D” in CSDP.

During this period it became increasingly clear that both on the levels of the EU and of individual Member States, all available instruments, defence, diplomacy, development and others needed to be brought to converge towards common effects in the security field. On the level of the EU this process was accelerated and supported by the Treaty of Lisbon, following a method which is broadly known as the comprehensive approach.

The Treaty of Lisbon brought real change to the EUMS. Its responsibility to inform the capability development processes remained unchanged, the role in planning, supporting and reviewing missions and operations has steadily increased and the provision of expertise to the EEAS and an increasing number of Commission bodies continue to grow rapidly. This broad outreach from the military to all institutional actors remains essential to improve the understanding of the military function and how it can be best inserted into the broad picture. There can be generic concepts about comprehensiveness, but in practice, each individual situation, country or region needs to be dealt with specifically. In the past years, the EUMS and our contributing Member States were able to learn valuable lessons and experience from a broad range of missions and operations. This compendium of knowledge needs to be further built and shared, to increase the added value, the EU can bring as a provider of security and stability in the future. I am particularly heartened by our Delegation’s steadily growing interest in the comprehensive approach.

The development from the European Security Strategy of 2003 to the project of an EU Global Strategy to be delivered this summer, clearly shows that the environment of the European Union has become more complex, more contested and more connected. The military dimension of the EU’s action in general, and probably not only external action will be more and more present. Whatever the future shape and organisation of CSDP, whatever its scope and relationship with ‘European Defence’, one thing is clear from the outset, even before the adoption of a new strategy: Europe as a whole will have to take on a larger share of its security, in the broad sense. It is not difficult to predict that the year 2016 will bring many challenges but also opportunities. At the time of writing, fragile signs of progress appear as a fruit of tireless efforts to address the crisis in Libya and the war in Syria. The EU had a role in this and is most probably called to take on even more of the effort. Our steady cooperation with the African continent to support all efforts to improve stability will continue. And there are many more areas where the military can and will play a role. I am entirely confident that the EUMS will bring its share to this common effort.

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This is the right place and moment to thank all those who have contributed to developing the military part of CSDP; we are stronger when joining our energies.

Lt Gen Wolfgang Wosolosbe
Director General
EU Military Staff
March 2016
Concepts and Capabilities Directorate
Brigadier General Herco KRIEG (AT)
Is responsible for EUMS concepts, doctrine, force planning and capability development, including crisis management exercises; responsible for training, analysis and lessons learned, and for cooperation with the European Defence Agency, vis-à-vis EUMS planning, ensures coherence between the EU military concepts and the crisis management procedures.

Intelligence Directorate
Rear Admiral Georgi ALAFUZOFF (BG)
Provides intelligence input to early warning and situation assessment; contributes to the EUMS planning through the provision of intelligence and intelligence planning expertise, and provides the intelligence input to crisis response planning and assessment for operations and exercises.

Operations Directorate
Brigadier General Daniel GRAMMATICO (FR)
Plans EU-led military crisis management operations, including post-launch strategic crisis response planning, develops strategic advice and crisis response planning, including early military assessment and planning in support of informed decision making; monitors all CSDP operations and generates the capacity to plan and run an autonomous operation.

Logistics Directorate
Brigadier General Dario LORIA (IT)
Serves as a focal point for all matters in the functional areas of logistics; contributes to EUMS planning through the provision of logistics planning expertise; is responsible for logistic concepts and doctrine, provides the logistics element to the strategic and operational level assessment for operations and exercises; and provides administrative support to the EUMS.

Communications & Information Systems
Rear Admiral Santiago BARBER LOPEZ (ES)
Develops EUMS policies and guidance for implementation; is responsible for the operation and maintenance of CIS, in support of CSDP activities; contributes to EUMS planning through the provision of CIS planning expertise at the strategic and operational level, provides the CIS element of crisis response planning and assessment for operations and exercises.

ACOS Synchronisation
Colonel Didier LIGOT (BE)
Assists the Chief of Staff in the coordination and synchronisation of the EUMS internal processes and information flows; facilitates and canalises support which the EUMS provides to the Chairman of the EUMC, and supports the Chairman in the preparation and management of meetings.

ACOS External Relations
Colonel Paolo BRESSAN (IT)
Develops policy for, and maintains the military dimension of all EUMS’ external relations in close cooperation with EAS External Relations Directorates and the Crisis Management Planning Department. This involves coordinating military-to-military cooperation with International Organisations, Strategic Partners and Third States. The office is also responsible for all Public Relations and Public Information issues in close collaboration with the EAS External Communications Division.

EHUMS STRUCTURE

Who we are & What we do

We, the EU Military Staff, are the source of military expertise within the European External Action Service (EEAS). The EUMS role is to provide early warning, situation assessment, strategic planning, Communications and Information Systems, concept development, training & education, and support of partnerships.

We work under the direct authority of the High Representative / Vice President, (HRVP) Federica Mogherini, who leads the EEA and chairs the Foreign Affairs Council and Defence. The EEAS coordinates the external actions of the EU. As the EU’s diplomatic service, it is also responsible for the development and execution of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

We are the military component of this team.

The Military can be used across the full spectrum of crisis prevention, response and management; ranging from support to Humanitarian Assistance, Civil Protection, Security Sector Reform, stabilisation and evacuation of civilians, to more complex military operations such as peace keeping and peace enforcement. We strengthen the diplomatic leverage of the EU, because together with Member States we ensure that the EU can act militarily.

In concert with the EU Military Committee and EAS partners, we create the circumstances in which military can conduct their Operations and Missions together with their civilian partners in the field. If security reasons deny others the ability to operate, the military will stand and act as necessary, accepting the related risks.

This gives the Military a special responsibility.

THE BALKANS
The EU continues to play an important role in defining the future path for the Balkans. EUFOR ALTHEA is one element of this strategy.

EUFOR ALTHEA - Operational Commander - General Sir Adrian BRADSHAW (UK)
Conducts the EU-led Operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), under the political control and strategic direction of the Council and in line with the mandate; supports BiH efforts to maintain a Safe and Secure Environment (SASE), in parallel, conducts capacity building of the Armed Forces of BH (AFBiH) and contributes to the stability of the state. Now 11 years in operation.

HORN OF AFRICA (HoA)
The Strategic Framework for the HoA (November 2011) aims to assert a stronger comprehensive EU voice, and project the effectiveness of EU’s policy in the region, through strategic representation of its Missions/Operations, Delegations, policies and programmes. EUNAVFOR Atalanta and EUTM Somalia are part of this EU Comprehensive Approach.

EUNAVFOR ATALANTA - Operational Commander - Major General Martin SMITH (UK)
Protection of vessels of the World Food Programme (WFP) delivering food aid to displaced persons in Somalia, protection of vessels of AMISOM, protection of vulnerable vessels off the Somali coast; and the deterrence, prevention and repression of acts of piracy and armed robbery.

EUTM Somalia - Mission Commander - Brigadier General Antonio MAgGI (IT)
In order to contribute to the building up and strengthening of the Somali National Armed Forces (SNAF) who are accountable to the Somali National Government and consistent with Somali needs and priorities. EUTM Somalia will provide political and strategic level advice to Somali authorities (Ministry of Defence and General Staff), support and advice on Sector Security Development as well as specific mentoring advice and capacity building in the training domain.

EUMAM RCA - Mission Commander - Brigadier General LAUgEL (FR)
EUMAM Military Advisory Mission (RCA) is part of the EU’s comprehensive approach in the Central African Republic. This approach aims to contribute to the African and International efforts to restore stability and support the political transition in the country. The mission is a follow up to the CSDP military bridging Operation in CAR (EUFOR RCA).

EUMAM RCA will advise the CAR military authorities on the management of their current resources, on the preparation of the future systemic reform of the CAR armed forces (FACA) and on the set up of conditions for a proper training programme for their forces. It will provide the EU Delegation in Bangui with military, security and Rule of Law expertise and assist the UN.

THE SAHEL REGION
The EU addresses the multifaceted challenges in the Sahel region through its comprehensive Strategy for Security and Development adopted by the Council in March 2011. EUTM Mali constitutes an important element of this EU Strategy.

EUTM Mali - Mission Commander - Brigadier General Werner ALBII (DE)
EUTM Mali will be responsible for providing military advice and training to the Malian Armed Forces, under civilian authority, in order to enable them to restore the country’s territorial integrity.

EUNAVFOR MED Operation Sophia - June 2015 - Operational Commander - Rear Admiral Enrico CREDENDINO (IT)
EUNAVFOR MED contributes to the wider EU comprehensive approach to disrupt the business model of human trafficking and smuggling. EUNAVFOR MED plans to identify and capture vessels and assets used, or suspected of being used, by smugglers and traffickers in the southern central Mediterranean.

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