2015 – A year where European Defence will matter even more

2015 will most certainly be of central importance for European security. Crises, risks and threats come closer to our borders. The most recent and worrying example is the confirmed presence of ‘Daesh’ in Libya. Violence in Eastern Ukraine could not be stopped yet and the potential for seeing it flare up again is real. Syria and Iraq remain areas of violent conflict with direct impact on European security.

The border between external and internal security is becoming blurred. Militant jihadism is the most illustrative example for the external-inner security nexus. It is also worrying points at non-State actors, growing empowerment and the ability to use methods of hybrid warfare. The Western world believed it was possible to conceive a common future with all our neighbours, based on a common and shared understanding of international rules. We were taught that this might not be true, not for all neighbours.

This outlook is challenging. It will put a particular emphasis on the efforts the European Union has to undertake in bringing its share to securing freedom and prosperity for our Member State’s populations. The European Union will remain a provider and sponsor for peaceful settlement worldwide, based on norms, rules and standards. It will continue to build its own future, mastering the political and economic challenges ahead and offering examples without teaching lessons.

More frequently these so far during the post-Cold War period, The European Union will also speak a language of political firmness, unity and solidarity. Such will be the context of the European Council on Security and Defence 2015. Working towards it and taking on the tasks derived from it will largely command the workload for this year and beyond. A broad and common effort of all European institutions having stakes in foreign relations, security and defence will be needed.

We, the EU Military Staff, are the source of military expertise within the European External Action Service (EEAS). We work under the direction of the EU Military Committee (EUMC) of the Member States Chiefs of Defence, who deliver the military assets and under the direct authority of the High Representative/Vice President, who leads the EEAS 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 proud and committed to be the military component of this team. We are the source of collective (multi-disciplinary) military expertise within the EEAS. As an integral component of the EEAS’s Comprehensive Approach, the EUMS coordinates the military instrument, with particular focus on operations/missions (both military and those requiring military support) and the creation of military capability.

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, stabilization and evacuation of civilians, to more complex military operations such as peace keeping and peace enforcement.

Enabling activity in support of output’s include: early warning (via the Single Intelligence Analysis Capacity - SIAC), situation assessment, strategic planning, Communications and Information Systems, concept development, training & education, and support of partnerships.

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 EEAS partners, we create the circumstances in which military can conduct their missions and operations 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 us a special responsibility.
European Union Military Staff

**Overview of the Operations and Missions of the European Union**

**March 2015**

- **10 ongoing military missions**
- **16 completed missions since 2003**
- **80,000 people deployed since 2003: soldiers, policemen and rule of law experts.**

**Objectives:**
- Keeping the peace, preventing conflicts through strengthening international security, supporting the rule of law and prevention of piracy.

**EUMAM (Military Advisory Mission) RCA**
- March 2015 – Mission Commander – Brigadier General Antonio MAGGI (IT)
- EUMAM RCA is part of the EU’s comprehensive approach in the Central Africa 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); to contribute to security in the capital Bangui.

**EU NAVFOR Atalanta**
- Operation 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 off the Somali coast.

**EU NAVFOR Operation in the Gulf of Aden**
- EUNAVFOR on patrol in the Gulf of Aden

**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 (SAFE); in parallel, conducts capacity building of the Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH) and contributes to the stability of the state. Now 10 years in operation.

**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. EUFOR Mali constitutes an important element of this EU Strategy.

**EU NAVFOR Operation in the Horn of Africa**
- EUNAVFOR MAHLUTA
- Protection of vulnerable vessels off the Somali coast; and the deterrence, prevention and repression of acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast.

**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.

**EUPOL**
- EUPOL is responsible for EU police presence in third countries. EUPOL’s activities include support to police forces in order to strengthen police capacity as well as police and judicial cooperation.

**EUCAP**
- EUCAP provides humanitarian support during crises.

**EUFOR RCA**
- Operation Commander – Major General Martin SMITH (UK)
- Plans EU-led military crisis management operations, including post-launch transition in the country. The mission is a follow-up to the CSDP military bridging operation in CAR (EUFOR RCA); to contribute to security in the capital Bangui.

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**HORN OF AFRICA (HoA)**
- The strategic framework for the Horn (November 2011) aims to assist in restoring the comprehensive EU voice, and project the effectiveness and relevance of EU action in the Horn of Africa through strategic representation of its missions/operations, delegations, policies and programmes. EU NAVFOR Atalanta and EUTM Somalia are part of this EU Comprehensive Approach.

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