EUROPEAN UNION
MILITARY COMMITTEE

Chairman’s E-Newsletter
Issue n. 14, February 2015

Message from the Chairman

In times of rising euroscepticism European publics have become inward-looking, sceptical of CSDP and suspicious of European projects.

Nevertheless, seemingly distant problems have an impact on all Member States, they are therefore a common strategic interest.

As a matter of fact, pressure of events in the EU's Southern and Eastern neighbourhoods are a challenge not only to bordering countries but to the European Union as a whole.

Recently, Member States and EU institutions have been motivated to reinforce their common approach to external affairs and a European unity of effort has surfaced. We have observed not only civilian and military crisis management initiatives, but also the EU employment of its broad array of instruments strategically and coherently to enhance overall effectiveness and sustainability.

The process of reflecting strategically and collectively on EU foreign policy is crucially important to define how we want to act in the world. This is why the European Council has kept alive the debate on European strategic solidarity and the related progress review is due next June 2015.

In the same framework of radically transformed global and regional circumstances we live in, a joint process of strategic reflection has been launched by the High Representative that could eventually pave the way to a new European Security Strategy.

General Patrick de Rousiers

CSDP CONTRIBUTION TO CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACEBUILDING

The EU has proven its ability to make successful contributions in conflict or post conflict situations responding to crises and addressing some longer-term security threats around the world.

As a matter of fact the EU is fit to play this role, having shown that it was not only able to provide critical mass in terms of financial support (the EU is one of the main donors with respect to Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding) but also offering different types of value-added that differentiate it from other actors.

The EU has showed unique response ability, in many cases acting as an entry point and a catalyst to enable a broad range of EU responses to conflict prevention and crisis response that combine to form the EU’s strategic and comprehensive approach.

This is mainly due to the fact that the EU has at its disposal a wide range of both financial and non-financial instruments to intervene in conflict affected countries. These range from “classic” long-term geographical assistance, to specific short-term instruments and a wide range of non-financial instruments including programming, political dialogue, policy dialogue, public diplomacy, mediation, and CSDP missions and operations.

The latest have benefited from the Treaty of Lisbon which has explicitly listed a broader range of tasks in addition to the traditional crisis management tasks, including joint military advice and assistance tasks.

In this respect the EU military engagement in the Horn of Africa or in the Sahel region both show how the EU has aligned its instruments and has played a key role in mitigating the impact of root causes.

Further, drawing from its long-term thematic experience in sectors potentially impacting Peacebuilding, at different stages the EU deployed in the Horn of Africa a military training mission (EUTM Somalia), an anti piracy operation at sea (EUNAVFOR Atalanta) and a civilian Regional Maritime Security Capacity Building Mission in the Horn of Africa and the Western Indian Ocean (EUCAP Nestor). All three components are the expression of an integrated approach, with activities aimed at building the capacities at different levels and enhancing complementarities.

Later on in early 2013, the EU responded to the crisis in Mali again in a comprehensive way. Firstly, with the Instrument for Stability (IFS) and pledged a 20 million euros. The package of assistance was meant to provide support mainly in the areas of security and justice, assistance for reestablishing the presence of the Malian State in the north of the country and towards the first stages of the electoral process.

This assistance was complementary to the support provided by other EU instruments, in particular the two CSDP missions – the EU military Training Mission (EUTM Mali) for the Malian Army and the civilian mission EUCAP Sahel.

All three purely Security Sector Reform (SSR) missions take place in Africa as the EU has tended to be coherent in its security cooperation with the AU and other African regional organisations, of the African security architecture. This is because the EU endorses the principle of African ownership of solutions to the continent’s problems.

Therefore, rather than expanding its military presence there, the Union seeks to empower local and regional actors to cope with the challenges Africa faces assisting political and organizational bodies and institutions through establishing a clear framework and effective coordination.

Security Sector Reform is a cornerstone of this endeavor.

Col Giovanni Ramunno

In this issue:
1. The cover story takes us to the EU contribution to Peacebuilding.
2. The newsletter also presents the CPCC.
COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY STRUCTURES: Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability

In this issue we provide an insight into the Civilian Operations Commander and of the Civilian Conduct and Planning Capability (CPCC) and interviewed Mr Deane, who is the Director of the CPCC.

Mr Deane, could you explain the role of the Civilian Operations Commander and of the Civilian Conduct and Planning Capability (CPCC)

In my role as the EU Civilian Operations Commander and Director of the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) in the European External Action Service (EEAS), I am supported by the CPCC as the Operation Headquarter (OHQ). I exercise command and control at the strategic level for the operational planning and conduct of all civilian CSDP missions, further being responsible for their duty of care. As Civilian Operations Commander, I am under the political control and strategic direction of the Political and Security Committee (PSC) and under the overall authority of the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Ms Federica Mogherini. The Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) and its three divisions, is mandated to plan and conduct civilian CSDP missions and supporting the Civilian Operations Commander in the execution of his functions. The composition and structure of CPCC reflects any operational and military headquarters by comprising an adequate balance of administrative (human resource, logistics, finance, procurement, legal), operational planning and operational conduct competences and capabilities. There are currently ten civilian CSDP missions deployed, supervised and supported by CPCC covering a large spectrum of tasks including training, advising, mentoring and monitoring in the field of Police, Rule of Law and wider Security Sector Reform. The missions being deployed on three continents with around 4,000 international and local staff in the field are as follows; EUPOL COPPS and EUBAM Rafah in the Palestinian Territories, EUBAM LIBYA, EUPOL AFGHANISTAN, EULEX Kosovo, EUAM Ukraine, EUMM Georgia, EUCAP NESTOR (Horn of Africa and Western Indian Ocean), EUCAP SAHEL Niger and EUCAP SAHEL Mali.

What drives you to achieve your objectives?

Having extensive experience in domestic policing within Northern Ireland and within CSDP at command level both at HQ and in the field as Deputy Head of Mission and then as Head of Mission, I strive towards providing the missions with the necessary support and guidance to enable the implementation of their respective mandates and to ensure that Member States receive the information needed in order to make decisions on the mandate and focus of the missions. In order to enable and ensure effective operational mandate delivery, CPCC and mission’s need “the Right person, the Right skillset, in the Right time, at the Right place”. One of my objectives is to ensure that this happens. I strongly believe in CSDP that it can and should make a difference and represent an important tool in the comprehensive toolbox that Europe can provide.

What are your recent achievements?

In 2014 the Member States, with the assistance of CPCC and EEAS services, launched two new missions namely; EUAM Ukraine and EUCAP Sahel Mali. We have simultaneously continued to exercise command and control and providing support to the additional missions already deployed. CPCC has identified a number of recurring lines of operations many of our missions’ encounter that will form horizontal work strands which CPCC will address during 2015. This in order to further strengthen the support to our missions and develop clear, cohesive and coherent guidelines/strategies for the implementation of these matters by the missions.

What does success look like?

Success looks like a family in the furtherest village away from the Capital in a Host Country experiencing a positive change in policing and wider rule of law institutions.