



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **HEADQUARTERS EUTM SOMALIA**

#### **COMMANDER OF EUTM SOMALIA ATTENDS THE EUROPEAN UNION INFORMAL DEFENCE MINISTERS MEETING**

On 21<sup>th</sup> February, the EUTM SOMALIA Mission Commander Brigadier General Massimo MINGIARDI (ITA), attended the European Union Informal Defence Ministers Meeting that took place in Athens. In his speech, Brigadier General MINGIARDI expressed his gratitude to his predecessor Brigadier General Gerald Aherne (IRL) for the excellent job done and the redeployment from Uganda to Mogadishu.

Furthermore, he highlighted that EUTM SOMALIA is an excellent instrument for the EUs engagement in the Horn of Africa, and other than carrying out its training functions, it is also providing strategic level advice to key leaders of the Somali strategic structure through the three Advisory/Mentoring Teams, the Strategic Advisory Team (SAT), the Defence Strategic Training Team (DSTT), and the Defence Support Advisory Team (DSAT), which operate at the strategic level with the Somali Defence Minister, Permanent Secretary, Somali Chief of Defence and Somali General Staff. They operate embedded in the Somali Defence Institutions, and also provide human resources, recruitment, payroll and logistic advisory support. In addition, EUTM SOMALIA also provides mentoring at both the tactical and strategic levels in the MOD, General Staff and in Training Camp management.

Besides, General MINGIARDI said that he shall soon provide some additional views on how an increase of Security Support Element personnel and means will contribute to allow the mission to successfully carry out its mandate in 2014.

He added that since the launch of the Mission in April 2010, EUTM SOMALIA has trained 3,600 members of the Somali army and has already planned the training of an additional 1850 SNAF personnel in Mogadishu.