

General Patrick de Rousiers
at the
Berlin Security Conference - 03 December 2014
"The EU as a security provider - hand in hand with partners".

Excellencies, Generals and Admirals, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first thank Brigadier General (ret.) Scherz for his kind introduction and let me congratulate the "Behoerderspiegel" for organizing this conference and selecting a very up to date topic.

Today, it is the third time I am speaking at the Berlin Security Conference in my position as Chairman of the EU Military Committee and Military Advisor to the new EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs, Mrs Mogherini.

It's a pleasure to come to Berlin again as this city is the very best example that security challenges can be overcome. Less than four weeks ago Berlin celebrated the 25th anniversary of the peaceful fall of the Berlin Wall in a very impressive way. For Europe and large parts of the world, the 08th of November 1989 marked the beginning of the end of the bipolar order which was the division into East and West.

I would very much hope that the peaceful developments of 1989 could be transferred to other regions in our neighbourhood and beyond.

But let me now focus on the topic of my intervention **"The EU as a security provider - hand in hand with partners"**.

I will split my intervention into two parts:

Firstly, I am going to provide a quick overview on EU's engagement in supporting international efforts to provide security.

In the second part I will speak about EU's military cooperation with partners.

Let me start with the "EU's engagement as a security provider".

Europe's security environment is evolving significantly. Ongoing conflicts and instability in our **immediate and wider neighbourhood** remain a particular cause for great concern.

Just recently, the EU High Representative, Mrs MOGHERINI, stated "that the **risks in the SOUTH and in the EAST have equal priority** and must be tackled simultaneously".

Three weeks ago the EU Defence Minister Council **reiterated** in Brussels that the **EU has to assume increased responsibilities** as a **security provider**. But where do we stand today? Let me provide **five examples of activity of ongoing efforts**:

1. Firstly, the EU engages through diplomatic efforts:

The EU has been involved in negotiations for various peace settlements. Let me take the example of the Balkans where the EU has **taken the lead** for the **Dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo**.

In April last year, Serbia and Kosovo reached an agreement on principles governing the normalisation of their relations.

This has led to a number of irreversible changes on the ground. **It helped to significantly calm down the tensions in that region.**

2. Secondly, the EU engages through imposing pressure on those who are responsible for conflicts:

Based on **Council decisions**, the EU launched sanctions to **target Russia's economy** and **also Russia individuals and Ukrainian separatists** after the Russian seizure of the Crimea and Sebastopol and later on following instability in Eastern Ukraine. One has to emphasize that these decisions were taken in a **carefully calibrated way by the 28 Member States**.

3. Thirdly, the EU fosters economic growth and good governance in those countries which require support:

This applies to various countries in Africa, in the Balkans and also in the EAST like Ukraine. The **European Commission** is engaged through various programmes to enhance development, provide humanitarian aid- or strengthen good governance.

Just some figures on Somalia: This year the EU provided **humanitarian aid** representing a value of **50 Mio Euro**. Within the **next 6 years** the EU will provide **Development Aid of 286 Mio Euro**. Not to forget overall payments of 600 Mio Euro to AMISOM so far.

4. Fourthly, the EU undertakes tremendous efforts in **providing advice and training to build national capacities in the areas of Rule of Law, Border Monitoring or Coast Guards** and also conducts situation monitoring:

These EU efforts are primarily implemented through 10 **civilian missions**. As an example, on Monday this week, the EU has started its new **civilian Advisory Mission for Civilian Security Sector Reform in Kiev**.

5. The fifth area of EU activities is the use of military capabilities to stabilize countries or to train and assist military forces:

Today, the EU is engaged in **5 military operations and missions** with about **3.700 military forces in the Balkans and in Africa**.

In the Balkans, the EU Operation ALTHEA, comprising **900 troops**, has been maintaining a safe and secure environment for 10 years and is training and advising Bosnian forces and the Ministry of Defence.

But let's now shift to the Southern Neighbourhood, to Africa.

This continent is facing many and multifaceted **security challenges**

- + through fragile states in the NORTH like Libya,
- + through AL-Qaeda terrorist activities in Mali and Niger,
- + through Boko Haram terrorist activities in Nigeria and Cameroon
- + through AL Shabab in Somalia,
- + through ethnic and religious rivalries in Central African Republic,
- + through piracy in the Horn of Africa and Gulf of Guinea.

Last but **not least to mention Ebola as humanitarian challenge**.

In Africa, about **2800 EU troops** are engaged in **four EU military operations** and training missions:

The **EU Naval Operation Atalanta** has been **extremely successful** in **reducing piracy activity in the region since 2009**.

In **Somalia**, the EU is **providing military training and advice** to the Somali Ministry of Defence in Mogadishu. **Needless to say that the mission is working in a challenging security environment** which we try to balance through **force protection** integrated as part of the mission.

The **third EU military mission in Africa is located in MALI**.

This mission comprises more than 500 soldiers and has significantly enhanced Malian capabilities to fight against AL Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb.

At this time, **Germany is the main contributor** to this mission through providing the Role 2 facilities, conducting river crossing training and support to other training activities.

Last but not least to mention the **EU's engagement in the Central African Republic, in the capital Bangui**.

This operation with about 800 troops started in April this year and **is conducting a one year bridging operation** in order to achieve a safe and secure environment in the Bangui area until the UN mission MINUSCA is able to take on full responsibility.

Worth noting the fact that preparatory work for a follow on EU advisory mission has started and Council decisions are planned to be taken mid of December.

All these EU operations and missions in Africa are **not standalone operations as they are only part** of the implementation **of the various European Union regional strategies**.

Let me conclude this first part. As of today, approximately **6.500 civilian and military EU personnel are engaged in 15 EU operations and missions** where they do a great job, sometimes in severe conditions and also risking their lives.

But now, let me turn to my second part "working hand in hand with partners".

Military cooperation with EU's neighbouring countries is crucial. The EU Heads of State and EU Foreign Ministers in their Council conclusions of Nov and Dec 2013 mentioned two main avenues of approach for **cooperation with partners**:

1. They explicitly called for **cooperation with partner organisations** such as the United Nations, NATO, OSCE and the African Union.

2. But they also called for **cooperation with strategic partner countries** – such as the U.S. and China - **and partner countries in the Neighbourhood**.

As NATO is a key partner of the European Union let me start with the **EU – NATO cooperation**:

Very often, the EU - NATO relationship is criticized **as being poorly developed** and **not sufficient enough**.

You and I know the reasons why we still have limitations in that relationship; reasons, **which are of political nature**.

However, I would like to emphasize today, that **EU-NATO cooperation has been improving over the years**. Let me provide five examples:

1. High Level Meetings are taking place regularly

The new EU High Representative, Mrs Mogherini, met NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg on her second day in office. During the meeting, both agreed to work **together very closely in the future on security and defence issues**.

I regularly meet with my counterpart of NATO, General Bartels in order to exchange views on the crisis both in the SOUTH and in the EAST. Our exchanges, of course, include the situation in and around Ukraine. We also participate in EU and NATO Military Committee meetings at CHOD level.

2. In the EU Military Committee, which I chair, 22 Military Representatives of the 28 EU Member States are members in **both organisations**.

In our meetings my experience is that **all of these 22 representatives are pushing very hard to further enhance the relation with NATO** and putting emphasis on cooperation where ever they can. **This is coherent with what we hear from Foreign and Defence Ministers.**

Therefore, when drafting **EU military documents**, the **EU Military Staff is taking into account the issue of NATO-EU cooperation very carefully** and tries to avoid duplication or reinvent the wheel.

3. All levels in NATO and in the EU, even down to the desk level, do their utmost to cooperate closely.

For example, **on Friday this week**, a regular meeting will take place of the **Directors of the EU and NATO Military Staffs** in order to discuss issues of common concern.

4. EU-NATO cooperation is taking place in our operations:

NATO and the EU are working together through the EU operation ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the EU is taking recourse to NATO Command Structure – based on the **so-called Berlin Plus agreement**.

NATO and the EU **cooperate in the Horn of Africa** in the fight against piracy through **EU Operation Atalanta and NATO Operation Ocean Shield**.

5. Talks and even cooperation are ongoing in the specific areas of capability development:

Quite significant progress has been achieved in the area of **harmonizing the capability development processes and work continues on this issue.**

Consultations are taking place on EU's and NATO's assessment of the European endeavour to establish a **Single European Sky for European air traffic**.

Implications on the military use of the air space and required equipment concern both NATO and the EU. This topic calls for close cooperation.

Last but not least, **EU has invited NATO** to exchange information on their work on **future development of Remote Piloted Aerial Systems (RPAS)**.

Let me conclude on EU-NATO cooperation by saying that relations have intensified and improved over the years on all levels.

The glass is at least half full and we **will do our best to further foster this relationship** within the agreed framework.

As my speaking time is limited, I can't go into detail on EU's relationship with African Union and OSCE.

I just want to highlight **that the United Nations are another key partner of the EU** and that exchange of views with the UN is taking place on a daily basis between Brussels and New York. We also **cooperate closely on the ground** like in Somalia, Mali and Central African Republic.

I would also like to mention the **very well developing military EU-US relations** through the interaction between EUMS and US AFRICOM.

Let's now have a look at cooperation with partner countries:

Cooperation with partner countries is and will be of mutual benefit.

On the one hand, the EU may **use partner's capacities for its missions and operations.**

On the other hand, partner countries may also **gain experience from the way the EU is conducting its CSDP operations in the framework** of the Comprehensive Approach.

Currently, **nine partner countries** are **formally and fully integrated** in EU military operations. We welcome military contributions of **Albania, Chile, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey.**

Just recently also **Ukraine** and **New Zealand** provided crucial capabilities to the Antipiracy Operation Atalanta.

But there are other examples like **Georgia**, which is providing infantry forces to the EU Operation in the Central African Republic, or **Turkey**, being the **second largest troop contributor** to the EU operation ALTHEA in the Balkans.

Other partner countries are not participating but supporting our operations. The **United States** transported EU - trained SOMALI soldiers from Uganda to Somalia. This US contribution was crucial to our training endeavour for Somalia.

Also to mention **China**, who supported the Atalanta Operation by providing seven escorts to World Food Programme Shipping.

I'd like to emphasize that through its successful Operations and Missions **many partners consider the EU as a reliable, professional security provider.**

The **EU Military Committee** is taking cooperation with partners **seriously**. Three weeks ago the committee agreed upon a document with several strands to enhance partnership:

We have already started to invite **CHODs of partner countries to join the EU Military Committee**. So far, the Serbian Chief of Defence had the opportunity to present his views and discuss at the EU Military Committee at CHOD level. Invitations to other CHODs from the neighbourhood will follow.

Two other examples for further cooperation with partners are "**lessons learned**" or **partner's contribution to EU's work on "the train and equip programme"**.

The EU's train and Equip initiative, just mentioned, is another crucial step to foster partnership. **Germany** has played an important role in triggering this process through its "Enable and Enhance Initiative" (E2I). The European External Action Service has started working on this issue. Many issues have to be tackled, but the provision of **equipment** will be crucial and **requires solutions to coordination, financing, local buy-in and risk management**.

Let me summarize by providing **five key messages**:

1. The EU is not a military organisation, the **EU is tackling crisis comprehensively through a wide range of tools** with the military just **being one of them, but a credible one**.

2. The **November Defence Minister Council** has **reiterated the urgent need** to enable the **EU to assume increased responsibilities to act as a security provider**.

The EU and its European External Action Service (EEAS) which **includes the EU Military staff**, is **capable** and **very much willing to pursue this issue**. However, at the end, it's the Member States which provide the forces and capabilities to act and take on responsibility.

3. **Five ongoing EU military operations and missions** with approximately **3.700 personnel** are **contributing to security on the Balkans and in various regions in Africa**.

With the EU Military Staff in Brussels, comprising only 200 personnel, the **standing EU military organisation** can be considered as very **slim and effective**.

4. **EU – NATO cooperation** and cooperation with partner countries of our neighbourhood **is very high on our agenda**. Progress in the cooperation has been achieved over recent years in various areas. But we will continue to further improve **cooperation**.

5. **The EU has evolved as an attractive partner** for many nations.

More and more partners from around the world are seeking to join the EU in its operations. I consider this to **be serious proof that the EU military operations and missions** are delivering excellent results and are conducted in an effective and professional way.

Let me conclude:

Today we cannot hope that the number of conflicts will decrease. Thus, we definitively must be prepared to operate in a wide range of complex environments.

However this complexity more than ever also requires a wide range of tools.

As a consequence, all security providers have to work together closely.

As Mrs Mogherini stressed recently: *"we have to be consistent and to have a **common attitude** to the challenges around us"*.

Thank you very much for your attention and I wish you continued lively discussions during the conference.