

**Chairman EU Military Committee**  
**General Patrick de Rousiers**  
**at**  
**29<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Round Table in Kuala Lumpur**  
**02 June 2015**

**"The European Union's Security Architecture and its  
role to strengthen Peace and Security"**

Excellency's, Distinguished Guests

**It's an honour and a pleasure to speak at this 29<sup>th</sup> edition of  
the Asia Pacific Round Table.**

I am attending this conference for the first time and I am quite  
impressed by its long tradition and its excellent reputation.

I would like to express my thanks for the kind invitation but also  
would like to thank the ASEAN Institute of Strategic and  
International Studies and ISIS Malaysia for organizing this  
conference with a wide range of up to date topics.

But why I am here from the European Union, providing the Lunch Address? Why is the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of 28 EU countries here?

The EU is a longstanding partner of ASEAN and the EU participates in the **ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)**.

As you know, the **EU High Representative** has attended the **ARF Ministerial Meeting every year since 2012**. At officials' level, the EU has been more active than ever before, **co-chairing ARF meetings** and contributing to the implementation of ARF work plan.

As for me, within the last two years **I have travelled extensively** in the region meeting my counterparts, Chiefs of Defence of Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, South Korea and now Malaysia. I have met many defence officials from Asia in their countries, in Brussels and at Shangri La Dialogue.

**This is because, you and I, we share many concerns** about international security, ranging from human trafficking, to risks posed by failed states, Maritime Security, war fighting and terrorist attacks in the world.

**And, you and I,** we seek solutions to tackle the wide range of challenges.

As the EU High Representative, Mrs Mogherini said at Shangri-La Dialogue last Sunday, "please don't look at us, the EU, just as a big free trade area: the European Union is also a foreign policy community, a security and defence provider. For our own people and with our global partners – Asia included."

**In my intervention I will briefly address three topics:**

**Firstly,** I will elaborate on the **EU's general values, principles and aims.**

**Secondly** I am going to focus on **the EU's security architecture.**

And **thirdly** I will talk about the EU's engagement through civilian and military operations and missions.

**1. Let me start by drawing a picture of the EU's values, policy principles and aims of foreign policy:**

The European Union was set up with the aim of ending the frequent and bloody wars between neighbors, which culminated in the Second World War. Just to recall: 18 Million people died in World War I and 60 Million died in World War II.

The Union is founded on the values of

- **respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, and equality,**
- **respect for the rule of law**
- **respect for human rights,**
- **and respect for the rights of persons belonging to minorities.**

28 Member States, which means more than 500 million people, have subscribed to these principles.

The Union promotes coordination among the Member States by defining **common policies and actions**

- **to preserve peace,**
- **to prevent conflicts,**
- **and to assist countries and regions which are facing natural or man-made disasters;**

Of course, the solution to a crisis will always be **political**. However, **establishing a functional state with a security sector and with a perspective on stable development** requires the provision of training and advice to a wide range of personnel: administration experts, judges, policemen, border control and military. This is a long-term and resource-intensive effort.

For this, the EU draws on its full range of instruments in the area of **diplomacy, finances, trade, development and humanitarian aid, and military and civilian security tools.**

Based on existing EU strategies for various regions like the **Sahel** or the **Horn of Africa**, the EU is using all these tools in a **strategically coherent**, efficient manner. So the use of **military tools** is part of a much broader toolbox. This is the so-called **comprehensive approach**. **The combined use of all** available tools is one of the **greatest strengths of the EU.**

In addition, over recent years the EU has received more and more support from **its partners and has interacted with partners through intense Strategic Dialogue** – I will come back to this later.

## **2. Lets now have a look at the EU's Security Architecture**

The Common Foreign and Security Policy is defined and implemented by the meetings of the **28 European Heads of State** and the **European Foreign Ministers.**

The Council decisions on the EU's policy are **put into effect** by **the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Madame Mogherini** and by the Member States.

The High Representative chairs the monthly meetings of the Council of Foreign Ministers and the meetings of the Defence Ministers.

In some ways, Mrs Mogherini is the European Union's Minister of Foreign Affairs but also the Minister of Defence, in some aspects.

Her working body is the EU's **External Action Service with about 3.600 personnel**. You may consider it as EU Ministry of Foreign Affairs with responsibilities also in the area of civilian and military crisis management.

**One of the key elements of the EU's security architecture is consensus (unanimity).** It is the general rule for all decisions concerning EU's Foreign and security policy, **with each EU Member State having equal vote**.

Consensus is the strength of the EU: when we commit in Foreign Policy actions, we commit at 28.

**The European Union Military Committee (EUMC)**, which I chair, is the highest **military body** set up within the European Union. It is composed of the Chiefs of Defence of the 28 Member States. This committee provides **military advice** to the **political** side.

In my **role as Military Advisor to the High Representative** I also provide to Madame Mogherini a personal analysis of ongoing situations and particularly problems, based on my professional experience.

You may all imagine that it is not always easy or quick to reach a decision in consensus among 28 member states. There are of course regional differences in assessments of security threats in Europe from the South to the North and from the West to the East.

**So, flexibility and concessions** are required, however at the end we come to sustainable decisions.

**The EU maintains diplomatic relations** with nearly all countries in the world. Crucial element for information exchange and negotiations are the approximately **140 EU Delegations or embassies**. Here in Kuala Lumpur it is Ambassador Luc Vandeboom who heads the EU Delegation.

Another important element of EU's security architecture is **partnerships with countries and organisations, including the Asian region**.

Cooperation with the UN, ASEAN, African Union, OSCE and NATO, although well established, are in **constant evolution and development**. Cooperation with ASEAN and other Asian regional fora is growing.





**3. This leads me to the third part of my speech in which I am going to focus on “the EU’s practical role to strengthen peace and security”.**

Since 2003 the EU is operational in the field and has **launched 32 military and civilian missions** and operations in Europe, Africa, Middle East and even Asia. For Asia you may remember the EU’s monitoring mission in Banda Aceh, which was launched in 2005 and terminated mid 2012.

As of today the **EU employs approx. 7.000 civilian and military personnel in 11 civilian and 5 military operations.**

**For Africa, the EU is an important security provider. We run 9 civilian and military operations and missions** to train and strengthen the African security capabilities in different countries and to help protect sea lines of communication against pirates. **More than 8.000 African military personnel and hundreds of civilian government personnel have been trained within the last 5 years.**

As of today, approximately **3.500 military troops** are serving in **5 EU military operations in Africa and in the Balkans.**

At the same time the EU is running 11 **civilian** missions which **provide support to Security Sector Reform in various countries** as well as **monitoring capabilities** as the EU does in its civilian missions in Georgia or in Ukraine.

**As you know, the EU Naval Operation Atalanta** is tackling piracy off the coast of Somalia and in the Indian Ocean since 2008. This operation is quite a success story as there has been no successful pirate attack since 2012.

**On land, in Mogadishu, in Somalia,** the EU Training Mission is helping to build up new Somali Armed Forces. Over the past years the EU has **trained approximately 4.000 Somali** military personnel.

Around the Horn of Africa, the EU is helping to **build local maritime capacity** through the civilian **EUCAP Nestor mission**, which trains Coast Guards of various countries.

The EU's comprehensive engagement **includes a financial contribution to the African Union mission AMISOM in Somalia of more than 700 Million euro.**

**Additional money is provided through the EU's Development and Humanitarian Assistance funds.**

More than **one billion EURO** has been spent in the region over recent years.

Similarly, in **Mali** there is **both an EU military operation** (EUTM Mali) and an **EU civilian mission** (EUCAP Sahel Mali). These missions help to strengthen the armed forces and security forces of the country.

In the **Central African Republic** the EU launched a military stabilizing operation upon request from the United Nations at the beginning of April 2014. This was a crucial **one-year bridging operation for the UN**.

It was recently followed by the **EU Military advisory mission** which supports the Central African authorities in preparing a reform of the security sector of their armed forces.

Last, but most certainly not least, let me mention the EU's engagement in Europe, in the Balkans, in **Bosnia Herzegovina** where about 900 troops have guaranteed a safe and secure environment for the population for more than 10 years.

More recently, it is the dreadful situation in which migrants are put into in the Mediterranean Sea is of great concern for the European Union. Therefore, two weeks ago, the Council decided to reinforce our capacity to save lives at sea (FRONTEX) and also to establish a military operation **to contribute to disrupt the business model of human trafficking**.

The planning for a military operation has started in order to prepare the launch of that operation EUNAVFOR Med in the Mediterranean Sea in the coming weeks.

The EU operations enjoy a **high reputation** as more and more partners are contributing personnel and capabilities. So far there are **18 partner countries who have been contributing to the EU's military operations** and the number is growing.

I have just returned from **South Korea** which has signed a **Framework Participation Agreement with the EU**.

**South Korea** is going to provide naval forces alongside our **Anti-Piracy Operation** in the Horn of Africa. That mission is a good example of how we work with a broad array of partners like China, Japan, New Zealand and others. Even South American countries are going to commit.

But interacting with partners is also about "Strategic Dialogue" as we are facing very similar threats and challenges and can only benefit from exchanges of views on the matter.

### **Let me conclude**

The EU's external action to promote security **follows 5 C's**

- 1.it's the **Capabilities**, which are wide-ranging,
- 2.it's the **Comprehensiveness** of its actions,
3. it's the **Consensus** in its decision-making,
- 4.it's the **Cooperation** with **partner organisations** and partner countries, and

5. it is the EU's **Credibility** as a partner to organize its missions well and promote democracy and human rights.

Let me conclude by quoting Madame Mogherini,

“That is why we are here attending seminars in Asia. Not for an attempt to change geography and pretend we are part of the region - we limit our ambitions to the reasonable ones! - but because we know that we need each other, in today's world.

We need to interact and dialogue as we are facing many challenges in what is a more connected, contested and complex world.

So, count on us. Count on Europe. As we count on you. We want to be engaged IN Asia; we want to partner WITH Asia; and I know that together we can work FOR Asia, for Europe and for a world more stable, prosperous and peaceful.”

This is why I am here at the 29th Asia-Pacific-Round Table - so many thanks to ASEAN ISIS and to ISIS Malaysia for inviting me and many thanks to all of you for your attention.

Thank you very much.