



# EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

## *Chairman's E - Newsletter*

Issue n. 3, February 2014

### Message from the Chairman

Europe is a security provider. Today, we see clear results of our efforts in terms of geographic reach, capabilities and defence planning.

Within the framework of the Common Security and Defence Policy, four military missions and operations are on-going, mobilizing nearly 3,000 soldiers under the EU flag, and a new operation is about to be deployed in the Central African Republic.



They provide an effective contribution by the EU to international peace and security.

This is prominently true in the Balkans, the Sahel, in Somalia and off the Horn of Africa and soon in the Central African Republic.

Improvement of the security situation, development processes, and promotion of good governance need to be carried out in a coordinated manner in order to create sustainable stability.

This Comprehensive Approach therefore proposes a framework for the coordination of the EU's current and future engagement with the common objective of reinforcing security and development, thereby strengthening also the EU's own security.

The Approach is intended to encourage EU Member States and other partners with similar interests in a region to play an integrated part in restoring Peace and Stability.

*General Patrick de Rousiers*

### Preparations for the deployment of the EU military operation in the Central African Republic (EUFOR RCA)

In response to the violent security and humanitarian crisis that has erupted in the Central African Republic (CAR), the European Union is establishing a new military operation.

EU Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) has announced the EU's intention to launch a new operation with the aim of increasing its support to both the State and people of the CAR.

The EUFOR RCA military force will thereby contribute, within its area of operations, to international and regional efforts to protect the populations most at risk and will contribute to the free movement of civilians. The United Nations Security Council has welcomed the strong engagement of the EU, and unanimously adopted **Resolution 2134 (2014)**, which authorises the deployment of a European Union force to the Central African Republic.

The Council has assigned the EU Operational Headquarters (OHQ) in Larissa (Greece) and approved the appointment of French **Major-General Philippe Pontières** as commander of the EUFOR RCA operation and the designated Force Commander is French Brigadier General Thierry Lion. The Force Headquarters and the troops will be in Bangui (CAR).

At present operational planning continues on an accelerated basis in order to enable the operation to be deployed early March. Next steps before launching the mission will include preparation of the Operation Plan (OPLAN) and the assignment of the budget.



### EUROPEAN UNION TRAINING MISSION SOMALIA

On 10 April 2010, the European Union launched a **Military Training Mission in Somalia** (EUTM Somalia) in order to contribute to strengthening the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and the institutions of Somalia.

Its aim is to help stabilise the country and to respond to the priority needs of the Somali people.



### **Among the features in this issue:**

1. The cover story takes us to the new operation in Central African Republic.

2. The newsletter also presents one of our military missions focusing on EUTM SOMALIA.

3. The European Union Military Staff (EUMS) described in the light of the recent planning process for the EU response to the Central African crisis.

The Political and Security Committee (PSC) exercises political control and strategic direction of EUTM Somalia, under the responsibility of the Council of the European Union. For its part, the **European Union Military Committee** (EUMC) monitors the correct execution of the mission conducted under the responsibility of the Mission Commander.

Following the full relocation of the Main Headquarters to Mogadishu the mission is fully operational inside Somalia since the beginning of February. The Mission now has three locations, Mission HQ in Mogadishu, the Nairobi Liaison Office and the Brussels Support Cell. **Brigadier General Massimo Mingiardi (Italy)** has taken over as Mission Commander since 15 February 2014, succeeding Brigadier General Gerald Aherne (Ireland).





# COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY STRUCTURES: THE EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY STAFF

In this issue we will provide a full insight of the **European Union Military Staff** (EUMS) and interview its Director General, **Lieutenant General Wolfgang WOSOLSOBE**, with a specific insight in the planning process related to the newly established EU military operation in the Central African Republic EUFOR RCA.



The EUMS - working under the direction of the EU Military Committee (EUMC) and under the authority of the High Representative/Vice President (HR/VP) - is the source of collective (multi-disciplinary) military expertise within the European External Action Service (EEAS). As an integral component of the EEAS's Comprehensive Approach, the EUMS coordinates the military instrument, with particular focus on operations/missions and the creation of military capability. Enabling activity in support of this output includes: early warning (via the Single Intelligence Analysis Capacity - SIAC), situation assessment, strategic planning, Communications and Information Systems, concept development, training and education, and support of partnerships through military-military relationships. Lieutenant General Wolfgang WOSOLSOBE assumed the responsibilities of Director General of the EU Military Staff, Brussels, on Tuesday the 28 May 2013.

## What is the justification for this intervention?

The European Union (EU) is deeply concerned by the extreme insecurity and instability in the Central African Republic (CAR), which caused heavy civilian casualties, massive displacements of populations, several serious human rights violations and a dramatic worsening of the humanitarian situation. Therefore, the EU military force should contribute to international efforts to protect the populations most at risk and should contribute to freedom of movement, including of humanitarian aid. By taking responsibility of an area in Bangui the EU Force directly contributes to the effectiveness of other international actors.

## What is the mission?

The operation, within its area of operations, will provide temporary support, for a period of up to six months, to help to achieve a secure environment in the Bangui area, with a view to handing over to the **African Union (AU)**. This objective takes full account of **UN Security Council Resolution 2127 (2013)**, and in particular of the possibility of **International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (MISCA)** being transformed into a UN peacekeeping operation, and **UN Security Council Resolution 2134 (2014)**.

## What was the EU Military Staff contribution to the planning process?

The road to launching EUFOR RCA can be seen as a fine example of how we, in the EUMS, meet the EU Terms of Reference stating that "the EUMS operational mission is to perform early warning and situation assessment and to participate in strategic planning".

Since early 2013, with our EEAS colleagues from **Crisis Management and Planning Directorate (CMPD)**, Geographical desks and the EU Commission, my staff has monitored the Central African Republic (CAR) crisis and provided military assessments for the EEAS to consider.

The dramatic events of early December in Bangui triggered the next phase culminating in the decision by the December European Council to examine the use of relevant instruments to contribute towards the efforts under way to stabilise the country.

Based on the advance work, the Council, within two weeks, facilitated an expeditious delivery and processing of a Crisis Management Concept (a common effort of CMPD supported by the EUMS, Geographical desks and Commission). On the same day, 17 January, EUMS assisted the EUMC in presenting the Military Advice on the Crisis Management Concept (CMC) and then the Initiating Military Directive (IMD) for the future Operation Commander. All this was possible due to the commitment of all EUMS Directorates, teamwork within the EEAS, and the timely delivery of effective planning products through the EUMS activated "CAR Crisis Planning Team" (CPT), our core crisis planning tool in such circumstances.

Additionally, we have passed the staffing *baton* to the Operational Headquarters (OHQ); the continued engagement of EUMS Officers in Brussels, Larissa (Greece) and Bangui (CAR) in the delivery of the draft OPLAN and key logistic plans permitted the OpCdr to maintain momentum in creating appropriate conditions for EUFOR RCA.



General Wosolsobe and Pontiers

### Chairman EUMC Communication office

Captain (Navy) Anne de Mazieux - [anne.de-mazieux@ext.eeas.europa.eu](mailto:anne.de-mazieux@ext.eeas.europa.eu)  
Lieutenant Colonel Giovanni Ramunno - [giovanni.ramunno@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:giovanni.ramunno@eeas.europa.eu)

**The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the author and do not represent the official position of the European Union Military Committee or the single Member States' Chiefs of Defence.**

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