



# EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

## *Chairman's E - Newsletter*

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### Message from the Chairman

The recent fact that the EU military operation in the Central African Republic has officially reached its full operational capability provides me the opportunity to comment on EU's civilian and military crisis management capacities.

The launch of EUFOR RCA has been crucial to effectively delivering EU contribution to address the most pressing threats posed by the actions of armed groups to the population, and to support the return to a normal constitutional order and process.

The rapidly deteriorating political, security and humanitarian crisis in CAR, and the risk of spill-over into the wider region through continued refugee flows have been a major concern for all of us.

In this light, the EU Council established the EU military operation in the Central African Republic on 10 February and in April the IOC was achieved.

I would like to highlight these achievements recalling, as an example, the delayed start of the operation EUFOR Chad/RCA which achieved the full operational capability (FOC) six months after the initial one.

Indeed we can argue that the politico-military dynamics of European Crisis Response Operations, which span from intergovernmental political decision-making to integrated military planning, have progressed five years after the end of the Mandate of EUFOR Chad/RCA.

*General Patrick de Rousiers*

explore with the European Commission possible synergies in funding technologies related to Air Traffic Insertion and security aspects.

The integration of RPAS in European airspace is a complex task and requires close cooperation between civil and military actors. In recent years the European Defence Agency (EDA) has been joined by the **European Commission** (EC), the **European Space Agency** (ESA), **European Aviation Safety Agency** (EASA), and **EUROCONTROL** both through bilateral agreements and through the "European Framework Cooperation". They have prepared the roadmap for the integration of civil RPAS into the European Aviation System, addressing in particular regulatory aspects.

The aim is to operate RPAS in a similar way to today's manned aviation in all classes of airspace in accordance with the regulations applied to state manned aircraft. While underlining the role of national military airworthiness authorities in this domain, there are benefits in harmonizing airworthiness standards to the maximum extent possible.

These measures would help enhance security achieving the safe integration of RPAS into the non-segregated Air Traffic Management (ATM) environment as well as establish a clear framework for insurance and liability issues.

Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) offer the potential for a genuine cooperative European approach, which is to ensure the progressive integration of RPAS into the European Aviation System by 2016.

*LtC Giovanni Ramunno*

### Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems to EU-led Military Operations

More and more Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) are believed to be an essential element to be employed over the full range of EU-led Crisis Management Operations (CMO) in both civilian missions and military operations.

RPAS have proven to be operationally efficient in the military domain, providing force protection and risk reduction for soldiers and influencing the course of CMO maintaining a high level of persistency, effectiveness along with a reduction in costs, logistics and the environmental footprint.

In the past, EU forces have already felt the need for airborne assets like RPAS as a force multiplier providing a permanent and all weather coverage with high quality sensors such as in **EUFOR Chad and Congo**.

Today, military RPAS mostly operate in an Area of Operations (AOO) outside of European air space. But they could be employed from a location outside the AOO and would have to use common airspace in order to reach it. They may also have to take off and land from or to the EU airspace and civilian regulations are not directly applicable to military RPAS since they are considered state aircraft, being operated as Operational Air Traffic (OAT). However, when military RPAS need to operate in an integrated manner with General Air Traffic, either compliance with civil aviation regulations or an equivalent level of safety will have to be demonstrated.

At present there are considerable limitations to the operation of RPAS in non-segregated airspace.

In this light, the **European Council** in December 2013 welcomed the establishment of close synergies with the European Commission on regulation as well as, inter alia, the signing of Project Arrangement for the Joint Investment Programme on RPAS and in this context invited the **European Defence Agency** (EDA) to



### In this issue:

1. The cover story takes us to Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems.
2. The newsletter also presents the European Security and Defence College .



# COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY STRUCTURES: EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE COLLEGE



In this issue we provide an insight into the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) and interview Mr Hans Bernhard WEISSERTH, Head of the College.

## **Q: Mr Weisserth, how would you describe the job of the European Security and Defence College?**

When the European Security and Defence College was established in 2005, the main goal was to provide EU Member States, EU institutions and EU agencies with knowledgeable personnel able to work more efficiently in the field of CSDP and to facilitate the development of a European security culture.

Over time, and owing to the big success of the College, our spectrum of activities has been broadened significantly. In the meantime we have supported the deepening of the European security culture. We still train officials from the above mentioned groups, but we are now requested to share our activities in CSDP with interested partners of the EU and to support training in the field of conflict prevention and civilian crisis management.

Therefore, most of our courses are open for the participation of partner countries and organisations, such as the United Nations, the African Union and the Arab League. A few training activities with sensitive content such as the 'Strategic Mission Leader's Course' and the 'Cybersecurity' course remain 'EU only'.

## **Q: How does the ESDC work in practice?**

The European Security and Defence College was created on the initiative of EU Member States. From the beginning, the Member States took the lead for all ESDC structures and activities. This has not changed to date.

- The Member States provide political guidance and direction in the Steering Committee;
- highly qualified training institutes and think tanks from almost all Member States meet in the Executive Academic Board and ensure the smooth running of the training events – in some cases in close cooperation with and supported by international recognised partners such as the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and
- a relatively small permanent structure with a Head and a Secretariat ensures the continuity and running of the College. However, the ESDC is embedded in the European External Action Service and can rely 100 % on the support of the relevant EU institutions (knowledge, infrastructure, logistics, etc.). This makes the college and its secretariat quite strong and it highlights the fact that the ESDC is a joint effort of the Member States together with relevant EU institutions.



## **Q: What were the most challenging technical obstacles to be overcome?**

The ESDC evolved in a continuous development process. The first legal act in 2005 gave the College its structure: no permanent bodies, no budget, all costs had to be borne by the Member States. The first revision in 2008 brought some improvements including the establishment of a Head of the ESDC, but the big step was taken in 2013 with the latest Council Decision. With this legal act, the College became a separate entity with its own legal capacity and received a budget to co-finance its staff and training activities.

With these changes, the College has some comparative advantages vis-à-vis other training actors:

- The ESDC provides first-class training reflecting real-time training needs due to the input from the EEAS desks, the CSDP missions and operations, the European Commission as well as the Member States.
- The ESDC delivers certificates which are
  - signed by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and
  - recognised by all EU Member States and EU institutions.

Additionally, we are very proud that we are the only training provider in the European Union which has implemented the comprehensive approach, both in terms of our training and our audience. All courses are open to police, diplomats, military and civilian experts, respecting gender and geographical diversity.

## **Q: How well has the ESDC developed since 2005?**

All in all, the European Security and Defence College is considered to be a success story. In 2005, the College provided just two kinds of training: an 'ESDP Orientation Course' and a 'ESDP High Level Course'. Both courses are still flagship courses, but additionally the College runs around 30 other training activities for leadership, horizontal issues such as comprehensive approach and peacebuilding, geographical domains and partners such as the training programmes for the Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership countries, and it supports exchange programmes for the Member States during the initial phase of European young officers training.

Over the years, the College training record boasts around 7000 alumni, of whom roughly 800 come from partner countries and organisations. We provide support with our eLearning tools for all ESDC courses and also for the preparation of EU exercises. The latest development is the support for CSDP missions and operations in the area of pre-deployment training.

For the future, I see the College at the centre of all CFSP and CSDP training activities; and with our new structures, we can not only plan and execute, but also support, facilitate and manage various training activities in a comprehensive manner.

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**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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