

Chairman's Newsletter

EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE



Gen. Claudio Graziano

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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

Almost three years on from the launch of the EU Global Strategy (EU GS), we are currently outlining the way ahead for its further implementation.

In the preamble of the EU GS it is written that "The strategy nurtures the ambition of strategic autonomy for the European Union. Thus is necessary to promote the common interest of our citizens, as well as our principles and values. Yet we know that such priorities are best served when we are not alone. And they are best served in an international system based on rules and multilateralism."

Therefore, from its very foundation, the EU Global Strategy focused on the importance of the EU strategic autonomy whose purpose is not to isolate the EU but rather to allow the Union to show its potentiality as a credible and global actor which is continuously looking for cooperation. In this regard, the Council has repeatedly put emphasis on the importance of a more strategic approach to Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) Cooperation with Partner Countries and, as part of the implementation of the EU Global Strategy, the Union has recently made noteworthy efforts to engage with Partners in the field of CSDP.

As highlighted by the latest annual progress report on cooperation with partners in CSDP, the EU strategic context is currently set by a number of work-strands, relevant to the Union's efforts to engage with Partners. There have been relevant improvements in the means by which the EU cooperates with other International Organisations, Fora and Third Countries. The EU and the UN laid down their new priorities for cooperation for the period 2019-2021, and the implementation of the EU-NATO common set of proposals endorsed by the respective Councils as a follow-up to the EU-NATO Joint Declaration, stands out as another cornerstone. In this context, shared security challenges have also become a growing priority. As an example, a dedicated strategy for Western Balkans, including reinforcing engagement on security and migration, was decided upon in 2018 and this commitment is clearly reflected in the Sofia Priority Agenda agreed by MSs and Western Balkans Partners.

Asia is another security partner the EU is looking at with growing interest. Still in 2018, the Council adopted specific conclusions on Enhanced EU security cooperation in and with Asia, paving the way to a tailor-made cooperation on security related issues such as Counter Terrorism, maritime and cyber security, along with police training and peace keeping activities.

Notably, EU initiatives and efforts in CSDP Cooperation are warmly welcomed by our Partners who continue to provide significant contributions to the personnel and capabilities of EU missions and operations. Also on working procedures and public diplomacy a more inclusive approach has been pursued. In this regard, the EU Military Committee (EUMC) has invited countries contributing to EU's military training missions and EU NAVFOR ATALANTA, namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Republic of Korea, Serbia, to participate to EUMC meetings at Chief of Defence (CHOD) level. Furthermore, third states, including Jordan and Vietnam have expressed their intention to become partners and contribute to EU-led military missions and operations. Also they have been recently invited as guests to the EUMC meetings at CHODs level and, in this context, my active engagement, as Chairman of the EU Military Committee, has been instrumental and effective in establishing and pursuing high level military-to-military contacts.

In conclusion, the EU partnership on security and defence represents a key way to enable the sharing of responsibilities that the Global Strategy calls for. We already witnessed some of the positive outcomes that this strategic approach brings with it and we are confident that further beneficial effects for both partner countries and the EU, as well as for global security, will follow.

LATEST EVENTS



Brussels 1 Apr.: official opening of the SatCen Exhibition at the EEAS



Brussels 3 Apr.: EU Military Committee visit to the European Defence Agency (EDA)



Brussels, 23 Apr.: Study visit of Pakistani National Defence University

“Support to EU decision making by the Single Intelligence Analysis Capacity (SIAC)”

by Dr. Gerhard Conrad, Director of the EU Intelligence and Situation Centre (EU INTCEN)

Decision making in the EU, in CSDP but also beyond, needs proper, solid and timely situational awareness. Since 2001, EU Member States and their intelligence services have been engaged in supporting CSDP, CFSP and Security decision making with voluntary intelligence contributions and secondments of expert staff for intelligence analysis. According to Article 4 (2) TFEU, national security is the exclusive remit of EU Member States. Special intergovernmental formats had therefore to be created in order to organize intelligence support within the regulatory framework of the European Treaties.

For that purpose the EU Intelligence and Situation Centre (EU INTCEN) and the Intelligence Directorate of the European Military Staff (EUMS INT) have been established in 2001/2001 as the two intergovernmental functions providing intelligence analysis and situational awareness for EU-decision makers, within the functional framework of the Single Intelligence Analysis Capacity (SIAC).

INTCEN is a directorate in the European External Action Service (EEAS) that is directly attached to the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission (HR/VP). Directors INTCEN and EUMS INT are principal advisors for the HR/VP on intelligence based situational awareness and on policy matters of intelligence support.

SIAC provides early warning, sit-

uational awareness, intelligence analysis and strategic forecast to the HR/VP, the EEAS and to EU decision-making in the fields of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), counter-terrorism and hybrid threat-analysis. The European Council with its working groups (TWP, COTER, CONOP, PSC, COSI), the Commission in its RELEX- and security dimensions as well as the Member States receive that support.

The products of SIAC are based on voluntary contributions provided by EU Member States' intelligence and security services, reports from EU Delegations, missions and operations, satellite imagery from the EU Satellite Centre (SATCEN) and open sources including social media products.

INTCEN and EUMS INT have their Intelligence Analysis Divisions (ANDIV), INTCEN's Open Source Research and Support (OSRS) Division supports both entities.

Both Analysis Divisions work with different patterns of burden sharing on regions of major CFSP/CSDP relevance and on terrorism, proliferation, migration, energy security, cyber- and hybrid threats. The Hybrid Fusion Cell, created in 2016 by Council-decision and based on joint terms of reference with the Commission, provides threat awareness to all EU actors. EU INTCEN and EUMS INT fuse intelligence from all three



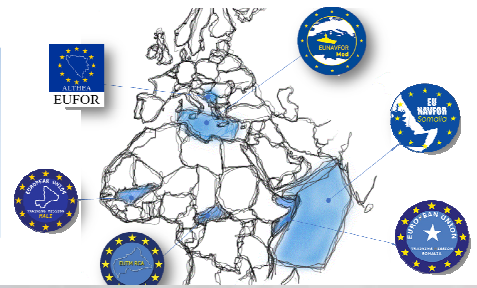
Dr. Gerhard Conrad
Director of the EU Intelligence and Situation Centre (EU INTCEN)

intelligence communities (security/internal, civilian external, and military external). More than 90% of their annual production (800 classified documents; 200 oral briefing) is made in that joint format.

The Open Source Research Division conducts in-depth research on the same topics using advanced tools and services, promoting methods for exploiting Social Media and cooperating with EU Member States' services in these fields. By that it significantly adds to the analytical basis for INTCEN's intelligence output.

With their wide range of timely products and situational advice INTCEN and EUMS INT are at the heart of EU decision-making processes inside the EU Institutions and with Member States.

News from our Operations & Missions



EUFOR ALTHEA

On the request of the Military Police of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the International Military Police Detachment (NCOs from Austria, Poland and Slovakia) conducted a tailored training programme for members of the Military Police of AF BiH, in preparation for their deployment to Afghanistan.

The exercises took place in Camp BUTMIR from 23rd to 25th April 2019 involving fourteen members of Military Police of AF BiH.

The participants remarked that the training was instructive and fruitful, and strengthened their ability to perform tasks during the mission in Afghanistan. Special interest was shown by participants for the classes on forensic techniques and the investigation of traffic accident sites.



EU NAVFOR ATALANTA

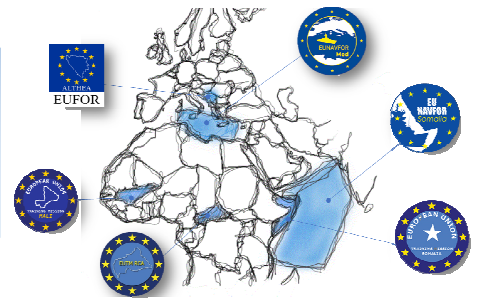
On 19th April, members of the Maritime Operational Planning Course of the Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) visited the ESPS Navarra in Victoria, Seychelles. During the visit, ESPS Navarra officers delivered a presentation to EASF members about EU NAVFOR operations and procedures. EASF expressed their deepest gratitude and said the information conveyed in the presentation was exactly what they needed. They also confirmed their interest in maintaining cooperation with EU NAVFOR in the future. Open communication and cooperation with our partners enables EU NAVFOR to carry out the most effective responses to maritime security requirements.



EU NAVFORMED Sophia

EUNAVFOR MED is fully involved in the training of the Libyan Navy and Libyan Navy Coast Guard from October 2016; EU Member States and organizations/agencies such as FRONTEX, UNHCR and IOM also contributed with training. Up to now 355 Libyan military trainees (222 LCG and 133LN) have been trained by SOPHIA operation. The aim of the training is to improve security of the Libyan territorial waters and the Libyan Coastguard and Navy ability to perform the duties, including search and rescue activities to save lives. As a consequence, the training packages will enhance Libyan Navy Coast Guard and Navy capability to disrupt smuggling and trafficking from/to Libyan shores. The training puts a particular emphasis on human rights and international law.

News from our Operations & Missions



EUTM Mali

On 13th April, a team of men and women from the Malian Armed Forces Union Sportive des Forces Armées et de Sécurité (USFAS) met personnel from EUTM Mali. The meaningful event showed how “Friendship through sport” is not only the motto of the Conseil international du sport militaire (CISM) but also a way to live on the Malian handball fields.



EUTM Somalia

On 7th April, the 3rd Light Infantry Company course closing ceremony took place at General Daghadaban Training Centre (GDTC). The Somali National Army (SNA) Light Infantry Company was trained for 17 weeks by EUTM-S Training Team personnel, assisted by Somali instructors, who EUTM-S had previously trained on the recent 5th Train-the-Trainer Course. The use of Somali trainers is an important step towards realization of EUTM-S strategic goals, which seek to encourage and enable the SNA to conduct its own training independently. Throughout the course the Swedish, Spanish, Italian, Finnish and Somali trainers, and also the SNA trainees, cooperated closely and worked together to achieve a successful result.



EUTM RCA

On 19th April, the operational training completion ceremony of the 4th Territorial Infantry Battalion took place in the military training camp, in Kassai. The ceremony, chaired by his Excellency, President Faustin-Archange TOUADÉRA, Head of State and Chief of the Armed Forces, in the presence of General MAIO and senior civil and military authorities, concluded several weeks of training.

During the training, 332 soldiers from the Armed Forces attended the training and learned the fundamentals of military occupation and tactical and technical skills as well as ethical training. The battalion completed the operational training with a final assessment exercise, followed by a graduation by the EUTM-RCA instructors.

News from the Committee



Meeting of EU Military Bishops

On 8th April the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (COMECE) organised the first meeting of Military Bishops from across the European Union with EU military officials to enhance the cooperation towards a shared strategic culture across Europe. They met in the context of the EU paying increased attention to the security concerns of European citizens.

The Chairman of the EU Military Committee, General Claudio Graziano in his address to the meeting stressed the need for pursuing an integrated approach by better coordinating military measures with civilian peace-building instruments, thus promoting human, socio-economic and ecological development. Religious actors can provide an important contribution in this regard, as they form part of worldwide networks deeply rooted in local realities.



Informal Meeting of the Military Committee (EUMC)

The European Union Military Committee (EUMC) had an Informal Meeting organized under the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union from 10th to 12th April in Bucharest.

The meeting paved the way for fruitful discussions with a special focus on the strategic value of the EU-NATO cooperation and the crucial role of the EU Military Staff (EUMS) in that regard.



"Military Mobility and Supporting Infrastructure. A New Challenge to EU and NATO" Conference

On 10th April, on the fringes of the Informal Meeting of the EU Military Committee (EUMC), the New Strategy Center and German Marshall Fund Romania in partnership with the Ministry of Defence of Romania organized the "Military Mobility and Supporting Infrastructure. A New Challenge to EU and NATO" Conference. Speakers from the EU, the U.S., Germany, Poland, the Netherlands and Romania, discussed the challenges of the Eastern Flank of NATO and the important issue of military mobility. The event benefited from the presence of the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, Gen. Claudio Graziano; the former Commander of U.S. Army Europe Lt. Gen. (ret.) Benjamin Hodges; Head of Romanian Defense General Nicolae Ciucă; Germany's Military Representative to the EU and NATO Lt. Gen. Hans Wiermann and the Head of the Dutch Army Logistics Department Bg. Gen. Hans Damen. An enlightening debate took place, contributed to by diplomatic, academic, institutional and business representatives.