

# Chairman's Newsletter

EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE



Gen. Claudio Graziano

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As part of the wider implementation of the EU Global Strategy in the field of Security and Defence, the EU has launched, over the last two years, key initiatives aiming at fostering European defence cooperation and reaching the level of ambition agreed by Council in November 2016.

The European Defence Fund (EDF) was proposed by the Commission, in June 2017, as a way to fund the MSs' industrial and scientific cooperation in defence research and development. A Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD) was established in the same year in order to assess the entire European capability landscape and identify potential future cooperation opportunities. Finally, at the end of 2017, the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) was launched in which, nowadays, 25 Member States actively participate.

Thanks to these different initiatives the European Union has progressively gained more potentialities to act as a global security provider. However, it is evident that ensuring their coherent implementation is a key priority in order to guarantee an appropriate level of efficiency.

In November 2018 the European Council, conscious of this sensitive issue, encouraged the High Representative/Vice-President of the Commission (HR/VP) together with the Member States, to consistently sustain synergies and coordination amongst all current EU defence initiatives. At the same time the Council invited the HR/VP to present, by mid-2019, a forward looking report on the interaction, linkages and coherence between EU Defence initiatives.

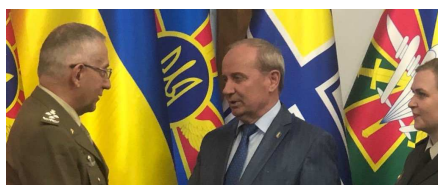
Issued end May, the Report shows good progress towards a more coordinated and efficient interaction amongst all defence initiatives in place. Additionally, the document underlines that capabilities developed within the EU can be effectively used also in different frameworks such as UN and NATO. With this aim, for instance, the coherence with the respective NATO processes, such as the NATO Defence Planning Process (NDPP), is continuously ensured whilst taking in consideration the different nature and respective responsibilities of the two organisations. Finally, the HR/VP Report underlines how coherence is key, and as such pursued, also to prevent any unnecessary duplication with activities taken forward in other frameworks.

In conclusion, many evidences show relevant progress in promoting interaction, linkages and coherence among EU defence initiatives. There is, however, scope for increased coherence among them, including by ensuring their full uptake in national defence planning and need to keep constant attention on this process. I am proud to say that the EU Military Committee is playing its important role also in this respect, as part of its key contribution in fulfilling the vision of the EU Global Strategy, and making Europe safer and stronger.



*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*

## LATEST EVENTS



CEUMC pays an Official Visit to UKRAINE (20-22 June)



CEUMC pays an Official Visit to SWEDEN (4-5 July)



CEUMC pays an Official Visit to SLOVAKIA (18-19 July)

### ***“EUFOR Operation ALTHEA in BiH”***

*by Major General Reinhard Trischak EUFOR Force Commander*

I took command of EUFOR's Operation ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) from Major General Martin Dorfer, on the 26 June. Lieutenant General Rittmann, the Operation Commander for Operation ALTHEA, presided over the change of command ceremony held at Camp Butmir, Sarajevo.

In my inaugural speech, I laid out my priorities: *“The mission of EUFOR and my vision for my time here is to continue: to help all the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina to live together in a stable, viable peaceful and multi ethnic nation; to contribute to the safe and secure environment by supporting the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina; and to be committed to assisting the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina with a successful path to European integration.”*

EUFOR operates in BiH under an executive mandate from the UN Security Council. I have soldiers from 20 countries under my operational control, including specialists in mine action, aircrew and a network of liaison and observation teams who are the eyes and ears on the ground, liaising with local communities to maintain situational awareness. Acknowledging the work of my predecessor *“I realise I have a high standard to live up to. I guarantee you that I*

*will do all in my power to meet expectations. It is my intention to bring the situation here closer to an acceptable end state, in close co-operation with BiH authorities”.*

Operation Commander Lieutenant General Olivier Rittmann stated, *“The raison d'être of Operation Althea is to prevent a return to an inter-ethnic conflict.”* He emphasised: *“We do not take sides, but see our role as honest brokers providing impartial support wherever and however it is needed, at the request of the Bosnian authorities. They have the primary responsibility for the security of the country. We are here to support if necessary.”*

Looking back on EUFOR's achievements during his tenure, outgoing COM EUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer said, *“In the last 15 months we made progress in the disposal of Ammunition, Weapons and Explosives. We put a significant effort on Humanitarian Demining. We started the registration and marking of weapons. We trained with the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina and we sup-*



*Major General Reinhard Trischak*

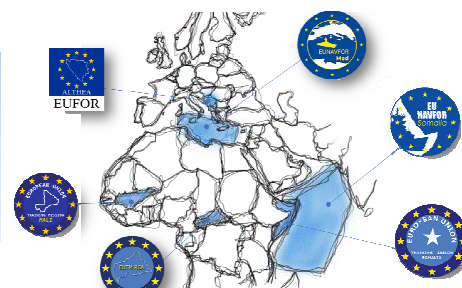
*ported the Law Enforcement Agencies. My dedication was to serve the people and support the safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina.”*

Operation ALTHEA is the military component of a comprehensive and coherent European Union commitment to Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition to the in-theatre forces, EUFOR retains quickly deployable reserve troops outside the country.

EUFOR's capability to call on these reserve troops is demonstrated annually during exercise 'Quick Response'.



# News from our Operations & Missions



## **EUFOR ALTHEA**

On 23rd July, the EUFOR Force Commander, Major General Reinhard Trischak, met with Presidency Member, Sefik Dzaferovic, during an office call at the Presidency building in Sarajevo. This was a precious occasion for Major General Trischak and Presidency Member Dzaferovic to discuss current challenges BiH faces and how EUFOR can help support the BiH authorities.



## **EU NAVFOR ATALANTA**

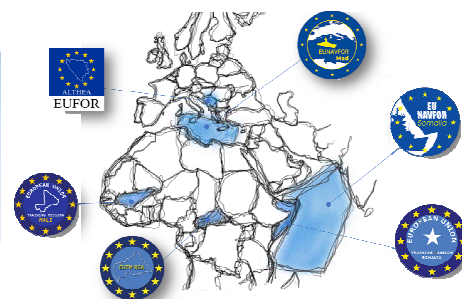
On 4th July, the European External Action Service (EEAS) Deputy Secretary General of Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) and Crisis Response, Mr. Pedro Serrano, visited EU NAVFOR Operation ATALANTA's Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa (MSCHOA). The visit, hosted by the Chief of the French Navy, Admiral Christophe Prazuck, was a great occasion for Mr. Serrano to see over the MSCHOA since its transfer from its previous location in Northwood. Mr. Serrano put the accent on the strong inter-operational ability between OHQ in Rota and MSCHOA in Brest, which is facilitated through highly developed communication systems.



## **EU NAVFORMED Sophia**

On 12th June, in the Italian Fleet Headquarters (CINCPNAV) in Rome, in the presence of the Operation Sophia Commander, Vice Admiral Enrico Credendino, the Force Commander Rear Admiral (LH) Stefano Turchetto, handed over the Command of EUNAVFOR Med Task Force to Rear Admiral (LH) Ettore Socci. *"For the past four years, operation Sophia has been successfully providing safety and security in the Central Mediterranean Sea. Today, the Operation still plays a crucial role to safeguard the southern European borders, acting as a maritime security provider, fighting illicit activities deriving from Libya, and supporting the Libyan Navy and Coast Guard personnel through training and monitoring. Sophia still remains one of the main pillars of the European comprehensive approach initiatives to contribute to the stabilization of Libya"* Vice Admiral Enrico Credendino stated in his intervention.

# News from our Operations & Missions



## EUTM Mali

On 13th June, in the presence of the Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) Director, Lieutenant General Esa Pulkkinen, Brigadier General Christian Habersatter officially took over command of EUTM Mali from Brigadier General Peter Mirow. In mid-May, the EU extended the mission until 18 May 2020 and changed its mandate. In addition to training Malian armed forces units, developing autonomous training capacities and providing advice on army reform, EUTM Mali will also provide advice and training support to the G5 Sahel Joint Force.



## EUTM Somalia

On 8th August, the EUTM Somalia Mission Force Commander, Brigadier General Matteo Spreafico, handed over the Command of the mission to his successor Brigadier General Antonello De Sio. The transfer of authority ceremony took place at the EUTM-S Headquarters in Mogadishu, in the presence of the European Union Military Staff Deputy Director, Maj. Gen. Giovanni Manione.

A number of dignitaries joined EUTM-S Mission Force Commander Brigadier General Spreafico for the ceremony, including the Ambassador of USA in Somalia, Donald D. Yamamoto, the Deputy ambassador of IT in Somalia, Fabio Ballerini, the Deputy ambassador of UK in Somalia, Matthew Roland, and all the Commanders and their representatives of the Missions operating in Somali territory.



## EUTM RCA

On 24th June, as a new step in rebuilding the Central African army, EUTM-RCA participated for the first time since the launch of the mission (July 2016), in the Formation Élémentaire Toutes Armes (FETTA) in KASSAI and BOUAR training camps, where more than 1000 recruits from the Central African Armed Forces commenced their military training.

Formerly trained, advised and supported by the EUTM-RCA, FACA instructors are responsible for training Central African "soldiers of tomorrow". Upon completion of the initial training, the young recruits will join the operational units of the Armed Forces and thus contribute directly to the stabilization of the country.

With the start of the FETTA, the FACA is undergoing a transformation that calls for further development of its capacities to contribute to the stabilisation of the country.

# News from the Committee



## Foreign Affairs Council (Defence)

On 17th June, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Claudio Graziano, attended the Foreign Affairs Council (Defence) in Luxembourg.

With specific reference to Security and Defence, the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)'s effectiveness was a central topic of discussion. In particular, Ministers reflected on practical ideas for enhancing the effectiveness of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), strengthening unity and effectiveness and further increasing coherence and consistency. *"An important step forward, the adoption by the Council of the conclusions on Security and Defence in the context of the EU Global Strategy"*, General Graziano commented at the margins of the Council.



## EDA's 15th Anniversary

On 25th June, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Claudio Graziano, attended the European Defence Agency (EDA) 15th Anniversary ceremony.

In her commemoration speech, Ms. Federica Mogherini, the Head of the Agency, recalled the tremendous progress made in European defence cooperation over recent years whereas General Graziano underlined, in his commemoration statement, that *"The EDA is a key actor in capability development in support of Member States for the improvement of European defence capabilities"*.



## Third UN Chiefs of Defence Conference

Upon invitation by the Secretariat of the United Nations (UN), the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Claudio Graziano, attended the Third UN Chiefs of Defence Conference, held at the UN Headquarters in New York (USA), from 10th to 12th July 2019.

The Conference's theme was "Generating Capabilities to Meet High Performance Requirements" and the event focused on military efforts to implement the Secretary General's Actions for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiatives, in order to promote Member States continued engagement in the implementation of the A4P initiative through concrete actions.

# News from the Committee



## Farewell to the MT, BG, DE, NL, BE, LV and PT MILREPs

In June and July, the Chairman, General Claudio Graziano, bid farewell in front of the EU Military Committee to Colonel Neville Galea Roberts, Vice Admiral Georgi Fidanov, Lieutenant General Hans-Werner Wiermann, Vice Admiral Ben Bekkering, Major General Xavier Watteuw, Major General Juris Zeibārts and Vice Admiral Aberto Correia, respectively outgoing MT, BG, DE, NL, BE, LV and PT MILREPs. On behalf of the EU Military Committee, General Graziano thanked all of them for their outstanding commitment and excellent leadership, during their mandate.



## Meeting with the President of the European Parliament

On 23rd July, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Claudio Graziano, met with the newly elected President of the European Parliament, Mr. David Sassoli.

As General Graziano said, the meeting was a precious occasion for *“Meaningful discussion on the latest developments of the EU in the field of Security and Defence, and on the opportunities that they can bear, as well as on the need to continue on the path towards a deeper integration”*