

Chairman's Newsletter

EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

@Kostarakos

Message from the Chairman



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Gen. Mikhail Kostarakos

I am sure all of us are ready to tackle the challenges of this last part of the year with regenerated energies and fresh inspiration.

The Global Strategy (GS) for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy yet remains a topic at the top of our agenda, it has effectively helped EU steering the course of its respective policy through difficult times, and we have needed it much more than we would have expected. One year after its presentation, we all can agree we have moved fast and united on its concrete implementation achieving, in particular in the field of security and defence, more than in the last ten years.

I have already mentioned, in my previous message, the establishment of the new Military Planning Conduct Capability (MPCC) for EU military non-executive missions. Furthermore, the European Union Ministers of Defense, meeting informally in Tallinn on 7 September, were in broad agreement on how to move ahead with another pillar, the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), echoed by the HR/VP Ms. Federica Mogherini's words "Today we have registered a broad consensus on the main lines of Permanent Structured Cooperation".

Thanks to the Global Strategy's push for a EU security and defense in complementarity with NATO, the European defense has also become, in recent times, the most reliable pillar for NATO as well as the strongest reassurance for the transatlantic alliance, anticipating the debate on military burden-sharing across the Atlantic. Yet Global Strategy is not only about keeping a straight bar in difficult circumstances, it is also about change. And we are definitely changing the way we approach conflicts and crises, giving more emphasis on preventing new conflicts, new humanitarian disasters and refugees crises. We are putting more emphasis on post-crisis reconstruction and have increased cooperation with our neighbours and partners in different areas, from the fight against terrorism to a better management of migration flows.

No doubts, also thanks to the implementation of the Global Strategy, the European Union is increasingly perceived as a strong and indispensable partner for peace, security and stability, and we are all convinced a stronger and safer European Union is possible, and we are making it happen.

LATEST EVENTS

Tallin 07/09: Informal Meeting of the EU Ministers of Defence



Madrid 20-23/09: CEUMC visit to Spain



Rome 26/09: 4th Forum of the European Chiefs of Staff Army



Budapest 27-29/09: CEUMC visit to Hungary



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.

Implementing the EU Global Strategy in the field of security and defence

by Ambassador Pedro Serrano, Deputy Secretary General for CSDP and crises response

The last 12 months have seen momentous developments in the area of security and defence. These stem mostly from the implementation of the Global Strategy presented by HRVP Mogherini in June 2016. The Strategy identified the security challenges the EU and its Member States are facing and led to the establishment of a new level of ambition for EU security and defence policy. It also acknowledged that response to these challenges requires coordinated mobilisation of EU external action tools - the integrated approach - and needs to take into account links between external and internal security. Finally, the Global Strategy called for renewed engagement with international partners, as no single player can successfully tackle today's security challenges on its own.

Work on all these fronts has been intense and will continue. Some key results have already been achieved and paths for further action charted. Main vectors are the following:

1) *Assisting Member States' cooperation in developing defence capabilities*

Member States need to cooperate in developing and maintaining key defence capabilities, as well as preserving a technological edge that will guarantee their long term security. This cooperation is key not only for interoperability, but also for industrial competitiveness, without which strategic autonomy would ultimately be threatened. Three main initiatives have been launched to promote this: the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD), the Perma-

nent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) and the European Defence Fund (EDF). These are all self-standing initiatives but most effective when appropriately coordinated. The voluntary review of respective national defence plans (CARD) will feed into the identification of cooperation projects to be pursued, as appropriate, through PESCO and/or financed through the EDF. While a CARD trial run will be launched already this autumn, it is expected that a notification for the establishment of PESCO will be sent by interested Member States before the end of the year and that the regulation underpinning the EDF will be finalised within a similar timeframe. The review of the Capability Development Plan by Spring 2018 will lead to the identification of defence capability priorities in accordance with the new level of ambition and feed all these initiatives.

2) *Development of EU crisis response mechanisms and structures*

The effectiveness of CSDP tools has also been improved. The recently created Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) within the EU Military Staff is already providing valuable support and direction to military non-executive missions in Mali, CAR and Somalia. Simultaneously, a joint civil-military support coordination cell has been established to enhance synergies and cooperation between civilian and military structures and missions/operations. In parallel, initiatives to enhance civilian crisis management responsiveness and to improve situational awareness are well advanced and efforts are underway to facilitate deploy-



ability of Battlegroups through increased common financing. Finally, the EEAS has developed a Crisis Response Mechanism that ensures its full mobilisation in case of serious incidents affecting security interests of the EU and its Member States, as well as coordination with other crisis response tools of the Commission (ARGUS) and the Council (IPCR).

3) *Mobilising in a coherent manner all EU instruments in support of stabilisation and crisis management*

The Global Strategy highlights that, more than ever, the complexity of the crises that the EU is facing requires improved coordination in the deployment of its wide range of tools. It also places early warning and conflict prevention at the forefront and identifies resilience as a central security concept both internally and externally. This has led to an improved "integrated approach" as well as actions aimed at enhancing resilience, visible in EU stabilisation efforts pursued in a number of scenarios (e.g. Sahel, Somalia). The EEAS has also reviewed its approaches to early warning (3 to 5 years horizon) and is now finalising work on a new scoping tool that will help scan the more immediate future and detect impending crises. A legislative proposal on Capability Building for Security and Development (CBSD)

is also making headway and should be adopted by the end of the year, thus complementing effectively CSDP efforts in support of partner countries. A new EEAS division, PRISM (Prevention of Conflict, Rule of Law/Security Sector Reform, Integrated Approach, Stabilisation and Mediation) has been established to help focus attention on these various matters and serve as a hub that will facilitate the implementation of an integrated approach.

Links between external and internal security are also increasingly evident. Counter-terrorism action plans are being developed with key partners, notably in the MENA region and in the Balkans. Counter-terrorism and fight against organised crime have been integrated in the mandate of a number of CSDP missions and stronger cooperation is being sought with Justice and Home Affairs agencies, such as EUROPOL, FRONTEX and EUROJUST. In parallel, work on enhancing resilience and EU capacity to identify and respond to hybrid threats has continued to advance. Work on cyber has led to the development of a diplomatic response toolbox and a review of the cyber-security strategy, also referring to defence-related aspects, is being finalised.

4) Developing a more strategic deployment of CSDP missions and operations

All these structural and conceptual improvements are aimed at achieving greater operational effectiveness. A serious rethink of CSDP engagements is therefore currently underway. This concerns notably the South, bearing in mind direct threats to the EU from terrorism and organised crime and in particular CSDP actions in Libya and the belt from the Sahel region to Somalia. The two naval operations - operations SOPHIA and ATALAN-

TA retain their key strategic relevance. Efforts are equally pursued in Eastern Europe, where missions in Ukraine and Georgia signify clear EU security engagement, and in the Western Balkans. New CSDP action will also be undertaken shortly in Iraq, in addition to existing CSDP missions in Palestine.

5) Working with partners

CSDP engagement as such is intended to support EU partners in many regions, assisting them to enhance their own security and stability. But beyond those we support directly, the EU cooperates with a number of States and international organisations in contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security. Indeed, no single international player can face security challenges on its own. Many of the States and international organisations we cooperate with are in fact already strategic partners of the EU and regular exchanges with them contribute to carry forward this work. Let me take highlight on this occasion cooperation with at least three of them, notably NATO, the UN and the AU.

Cooperation with NATO has experienced in the last year unprecedented development. After the Joint Declaration of EU and NATO leaders in July 2016, 42 concrete actions were identified in the seven main agreed areas, covering inter alia operational aspects, development of defence capabilities and addressing hybrid and cyber threats. Implementation of these actions has advanced substantially. Cooperation is now the norm in EU-NATO relations. The upcoming first parallel and coordinated exercise is a clear sign of this shift in mind-set. A joint EU-NATO report in December may explore further paths for cooperation.

Work with the UN has also



advanced in the last months, both operationally in the field, where cooperation is a daily reality, as well as on the structural level. The forthcoming signature of a Framework Agreement for the Provision of Mutual Support in the context of missions and operations in the field will be another important milestone.

Finally, the EU-AU summit in November will highlight the strategic relevance of EU-AU partnership in crisis management, as manifested in Somalia, the Sahel and so many other places. It will also be an occasion to examine further support to African peacekeeping efforts even beyond the framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture to ensure it responds to present realities.

This is just a quick sketch of the most salient developments in what has been a hectic year for CSDP. Despite significant advances, there is no room for complacency. Many of these initiatives still require further work. Their worthiness will be put to the test and more efforts will be required to achieve practical results. Member States have to accept that only through reinforced cooperation will they be able to meet the security expectations of their citizens. The EU has to prove that it is the single most capable cooperation platform that will help its Member States achieve their security objectives in cooperation with others. More is expected from all of us dealing in these matters. We are already on it!

News from our Operations and Missions



EUFOR Althea

On September the 7th, EUFOR Chief Of Staff, Brigadier General Szpisják, visited the 2 Bn/ 5 Bde of the Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH) in Kiseljak, where they were conducting a training package in coordination with EUFORs Multination battalion (MNBN). The military training focused on urbanized terrain preparation. The one week training involved one platoon from 2 Bn operating with one Austrian platoon from the MNBN.



EUNAVFORMED Sophia

On August the 31st, on board of the Italian ship San Giusto moored in Taranto harbor, the Force Commander, Rear Admiral (LH) Andrea Romani (Italian Navy), handed over the Command of Op. Sophia Task Force to Rear Admiral (LH) (Spanish Navy) Javier Moreno. In the meantime, the Italian Landing Platform Dock ITS San Giusto has completed her employment as Flagship of EUNAVFOR MED - Operation Sophia and the Spanish ship Cantabria has joined the Task Force, taking over her role.

EUTM Mali

From July the 24th to September the 08th, several platoons of the 3rd Military Region from Kati underwent advanced military training at the Koulikoro Training Centre. The training affected different areas, including lessons in IHL and medical training. All of the students who participated in the course were unanimous in their praise about the course, the fellow trainees and the EUTM trainers. All objectives were reached the mortar and artillery live fire shoots on the range of Kalifabougou being a particular highlight.



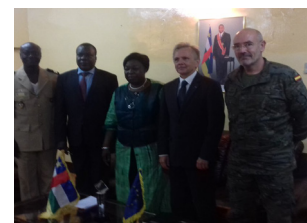
EUNAVFOR Atalanta

For the second time, this year, European Naval Force personnel, have been assisting staff from EUCAP Somalia, to train members of the Somali maritime police unit at sea off the coast of Mogadishu.

The training included how to plan effective patrols at sea and boarding a vessel that is suspected of being involved in piracy and other illegal activity. Maritime training with regional partners is an extremely important aspect of the European Union's efforts to help develop the capabilities of local maritime forces and to deter piracy off the coast of Somalia.

EUTM RCA

On September the 7th, the Mission Force Commander, Major General Fernando García Blázquez, had his first official meeting with Mme Marie-Noelle KOYARA, newly appointed as Minister of Defense in CAR.



EUTM Somalia

The Commander Defence Forces, General Ahmed Jumale Gedi, attended the closing ceremony of the training course for the 1st Infantry Coy "Flame" of the Somali National Army (SNA).

The course begun on February the 25th and has led to the formation of one Company eligible to be employed by the Somali Army.

The intensive training phase involved 17 European Union Training Mission Somalia (EUTM) instructors from seven different European countries, coached by AMISOM (African Mission in Somalia) and SNA.

News from the Committee



Farewell to the French Milrep

On September the 8th, the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, General Mikhail Kostarakos, bid farewell to the outgoing French Military Representative to the EUMC, Vice Admiral Charles-Édouard de Coriolis, and thanked him for his exemplary and outstanding service, during his tenure.



Informal Meeting of the EU Ministers of Defence

From the 6th to the 8th of September, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC) took part in the Informal Meeting of the EU Ministers of Defence, organised under the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. In the context of the event, a table top exercise, the “EU CYBRID 2017”, offered the occasion to further test and develop EU policies in the field, while raising awareness, and a subsequent working session focussed on the EU’s response, through CSDP missions, to the security challenges in the Sahel and Horn of Africa regions and on how to enhance the EU’s engagement in these key strategic area. Both the NATO Secretary-General, Jens Stoltenberg and the UN under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix have been welcomed to the event.



CEUMC official visit to SPAIN

From the 20th to the 22nd of September, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC) paid an official visit to Spain. During his visit, the high-ranking EU military official had the honor to be received by HM the King Felipe VI of Spain. In addition, he had the opportunity to meet the Minister of Defence, Mrs Maria Dolores de Cospedal, and share views on issues of mutual interest. Further, he had a meaningful and comprehensive discussion, with the Chief of the Defence Staff, General Fernando Alejandro Martinez, on their common strategic goals and actions. At the end of his visit, General Kostarakos went to the Operations Command (MOPS) where he had a video teleconference with the members of the Spanish Armed Forces who are currently serving in EU military missions and operations.



CEUMC official visit to HUNGARY

From the 27th to 28th of September, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC) paid an official visit to Hungary, on the invitation by the Chief of the Defence Dr. General Tibor Benkő. During his visit, the high-ranking EU military official had the honor to be received by H. E. Mr. János Áder, President of the Republic of Hungary. In addition, he had the opportunity to meet the Minister of Defence, Dr. István Simicskó, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr. Péter Szijjártó, and share with them views on issues of mutual interest.

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