

Chairman's Newsletter

EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

@Kostarakos

Message from the Chairman



Gen. Mikhail Kostarakos

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The Integrated Approach is one of the main priorities of the European Union External action, as outlined by the EU Global Strategy and recalled in the Council Conclusions on the Integrated Approach to external Conflicts and Crises adopted on 22 January 2018. Through the Integrated Approach, the EU engages in external crises in a practical and principled way, making full use of its wide array of tools and seeking cooperation and coordination with other national, regional and international actors.

The European Union CSDP civilian and military Operations and Missions stand out as a significant example of EU Integrated Approach in the effort to set the ground for sustainable local-owned security, a prerequisite for development.

The EU military contribution in this context is crucial, aiming at establishing linkages with other security providers and jointly enhance safety and security, improving stability and living conditions.

EU efforts to support G5 Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger) initiatives in the field of security and development constitute a testbed for this new Integrated Approach concept. All EU instruments are mobilised to support the establishment of the G5 Sahel Joint Force, a military force that will increase regional counter-terrorism cooperation.

Three CSDP missions (EUTM Mali, EUCAP Sahel Mali and EUCAP Sahel Niger) provide training to the security forces. In addition to the ongoing humanitarian assistance and development aid the EU will finance up to 100 million euros for the G5 Sahel Joint force and is expected to take the lead in mobilising and coordinating the international contribution. For this purpose, constructive discussions are ongoing on the establishment of an EU Integrated Coordination Hub for the G5 Sahel Joint Force, able to provide a recognised picture of the needs of the Joint Force and match them with the potential offers of military support from EU Member States and other potential donors. On 23 February 2018, the European Commission hosted the International High Level Conference on the Sahel in Brussels, with the African Union, the United Nations and the G5 Sahel group of countries, to strengthen international support for the G5 Sahel regions providing 414 million euros pledge for the G5 Sahel joint Force.

These are all concrete and determined steps forward which make us more and more aware of our potentialities and reaffirm the EU as a reliable, effective and responsible security and defence actor on the global stage.

LATEST EVENTS



EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE GENERAL MIKHAIL KOSTARAKOS CALLED ON PRESIDENT OF THE AWAM-E-SADR, ISLAMABAD ON FEBRUARY 09, 2018.

Islamabad 8—9 February: CEUMC official visit to Pakistan



Bruges 13 February: CEUMC visits the College of Europe



Munich 16-17 February: CEUMC participating in the 54th edition of the Munich Security Conference



Brussels 20 February: CEUMC awarded by the Imp. Group for "European Initiative for the exchange of young officers inspired by Erasmus"

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



Delivering on Security and Defence

by Dr Gustav Lindstrom

European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) Director

The EU made significant strides in the area of security and defence in 2017. Frequently cited examples include the creation of a military planning and conduct capability (MPCC) for non-executive military missions in June 2017 and the establishment of Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) in December 2017. While some may argue that through these and related developments the EU delivered on security and defence, such thinking seems premature. To fully leverage this enhanced toolbox requires a sustained emphasis on implementation, coordination, and use. With this in mind, at least four considerations stand out.

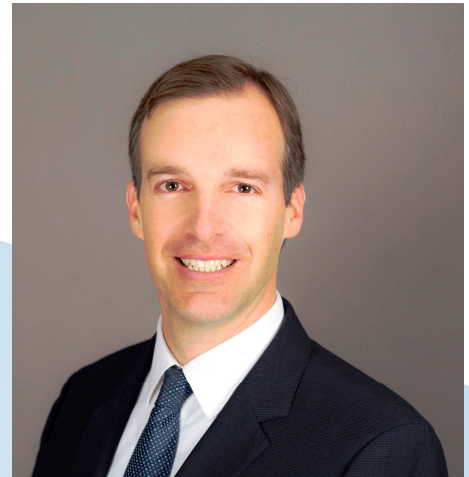
First, it should be recognised that these new tools and instruments can positively reinforce each other when properly synchronised. We can take the example of the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD) as an illustration. At the strategic level, the CARD process will help EU Member States to gradually synchronise and mutually adapt their national defence planning cycles and capability development practices. Once implemented, CARD could also serve to bolster processes such as PESCO – especially concerning the identification of future collaborative projects. Further ahead, the gradual roll-out of the European Defence Fund can also play a mutually reinforcing role vis-à-vis PESCO and CARD.

Second, we need to remind ourselves that these tools are a

means to an end. This observation is particularly relevant when security and defence policy goes through a “growth” spurt. At such times, and we are in one of those now, there may be a tendency to focus extensively on the instruments themselves – shifting away some of the emphasis on how they can be practically implemented or applied to forward EU strategic objectives. A more general takeaway from this line of thinking is that security and defence policy remains a “work in progress” – continually evolving to provide EU policy makers with a wide range of options for action.

Third, the transition towards an EU integrated approach to crises impacts the delivery of security and defence, specifically through CSDP. The goal of addressing all dimensions and stages of a conflict – from early action and prevention – puts a premium on CSDP to engage seamlessly with other external action instruments across time and space. While this is easier said than done, the EU has made good progress in this area, in particular through the introduction of strategies for specific regions (e.g. the Sahel). On the other hand, with a host of challenging post-crisis reconstruction scenarios looming in countries such as Syria, continued adaptation is needed for the successful implementation of the integrated approach.

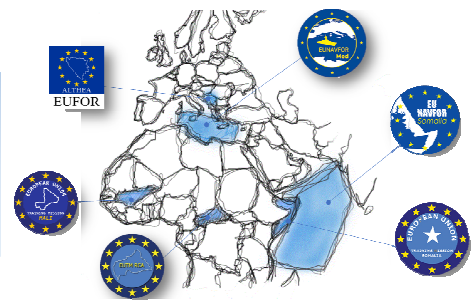
Lastly, delivering on security and defence over time requires careful examination of evolving



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trends. Looking ahead, it is likely that conflict locations will shift, among others, due to demographic changes (e.g. urbanisation) and climate change (impacting health, water, and food security). Equally important, technological breakthroughs in areas such as artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, and additive manufacturing are likely to change the future face of conflict. EU policymakers will need to continue to take these and other developments into consideration as early as possible to enable adaptation over the long-run.

News from our Operations and Missions



EUFOR ALTHEA

On February the 16th, Personnel from every EUFOR nation joined EUFOR Chief of Staff and dignitaries from the Slovak Republic for the solemn repatriation ceremony of Major Peter Pavlovský at Sarajevo International Airport.

Major Peter Pavlovský, who worked as a personnel and finance staff officer, was suddenly taken ill at Camp Butmir. Despite the efforts of EUFOR medical specialists and local hospital staff, he passed away that same afternoon.

EUNAVFOR ATALANTA

From January the 29th to February the 2nd, EU NAVFOR and Combined Task Force-151 (CTF-151) brought their warships, helicopters, aircraft and military personnel together to conducted focused counter-piracy operations around the Somali Coast, in the Socotra Gap and across the Gulf of Aden.

The operation made use of combined resources from both maritime counter-piracy missions as they monitored merchant shipping's adherence to Best Management Practices (BMP4), skiff movements in the area of interest and to identify patterns of life in this vast yet vital part of the world.



EU NAVFORMED Sophia

On February the 1st, after more than 50 days of deployment in EUNAVFOR MED operation Sophia, the Italian ship Etna is now leaving the operation.

Since her arrival in the area of operations, she has provided a significant support to Sophia, contributing to the core mission of fighting human trafficking and smuggling networks, acting as the Flagship.

ITS San Giusto has replaced ITS Etna, acting as the new EUNAVFOR MED Flagship, operating in the EU task Force for the second time.

EUTM Mali

On February the 13th, the Closing Ceremony of the Leadership Course for the cadets of the Inter Armies Military School (EMIA) has taken place.

173 cadets from the three years of EMIA and the special cycle, successfully completed the three weeks course as a centralized training activity.

The subjects given were focused on leadership, International Humanitarian Law, Pedagogy, Methodology, C-IED and first aid.



EUTM Somalia

On February the 17th, the closing ceremony of the 1st EUTM-S Military Engineering Course was held at the General Dhagabadan Training Camp in Mogadishu (GDTC).

All the 24 Somali National Army (SNA) attendees, belonging to the 32nd Engineering Battalion, successfully completed this four-week course. They got the basic knowledge and skills on setting up defensive positions, constructing obstacles for tactical manoeuvres, understanding Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and counter IED procedures.

EUTM RCA

On February the 18th, the closing ceremony of the 1st course of Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Repatriation (DDRR) pilot project took place at the Kassai Training Center (CFK). The ceremony was held under the authority of HE Faustin-Archangel Touadéra President of the RCA, at the presence of the Prime Minister, the 1st Vice-President of the National Assembly, members of the Government, the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Nations -United States, representatives of International Organizations, Ambassador Samuela Isopi, Head of the EU Delegation to the Central African Republic, General Ngaïfeï, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces and General Hermínio Maio, Commander EUTM-CAR.



News from the Committee



Farewell to the EUTM MALI Force Commander

On February the 14th, in the occasion of the EUMC meeting, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Mikhail Kostarakos, bid farewell to Brigadier General Bart Laurent, outgoing EUTM MALI Force Commander, and thanked him for his excellent leadership during his tenure.



Farewell to the EUTM RCA Force Commander

On February the 14th, in the occasion of the EUMC meeting, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Mikhail Kostarakos, bid farewell to Major General Fernando Garcia Blazquez, outgoing EUTM RCA Force Commander, and thanked him for his excellent leadership during his mandate.



Munich Security Conference

On February the 16th and 17th, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Mikhail Kostarakos has participated in the 54th edition of the Munich Security Conference (MSC).

Over the past five decades, the MSC has become a major global forum for the discussion on foreign and security policy, bringing together senior decision-makers from around the world, including heads-of-state and government, ministers, leading personalities of international and non-governmental organizations, as well as high ranking representatives from the private sector, media, academia, and civil society.



Meeting with the Italian ChOD

On February the 20th, in Brussels, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Mikhail Kostarakos met the Italian Chief of Defence, Gen. Claudio Graziano, recently elected as the next Chairman of the European Union Military Committee. This was a precious occasion for a fruitful exchange of views on EU CSDP related topics.

EU CSDP activities in support of G5 Sahel

EU Capacity Building Mission Sahel (EUCAP) MALI

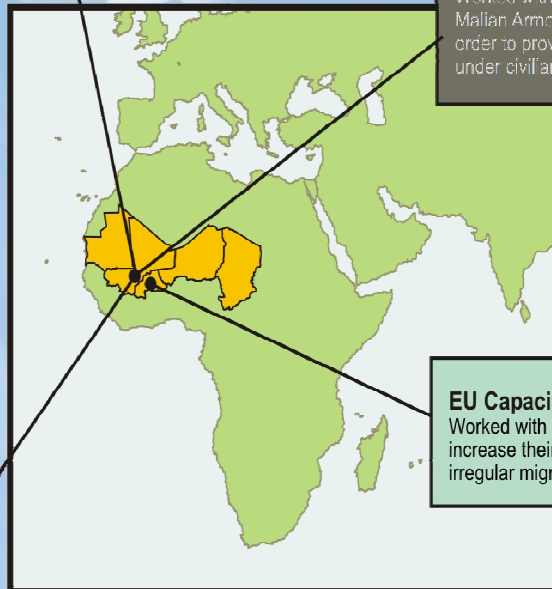
Worked with 128 staff on human resources management, the fight against terrorism and organised crime and border management through training and strategic level advice.

Since 2014

EU Training Mission EUTM MALI

Worked with 581 staff on the training and advice of the Malian Armed Forces on improving its military capacity in order to provide for the restoration of full territorial integrity under civilian authority

Since 2013



EU Capacity Building Mission Sahel (EUCAP) NIGER

Worked with 134 staff supporting the Nigerian security institutions to increase their capacity on anti-terrorism, organised crime, and irregular migration, delivered through advice and training.

Since 2012

Regional Coordination Cell Sahel MALI - NIGER - CHAD - BURKINA FASO - MAURITANIA

Established in July 2017, the regional coordination cell has 15 staff and represents a new and innovative initiative to compliment and make CSDP action in the Sahel more efficient. It is designed to reinforce EU support for the security and defence structures of the Sahel countries, focusing in particular on the G5 Sahel.

Since July 2017