

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

This month, I had the honour to chair the first EU Chiefs of Defence (CHODs) Conference for 2019, this also being the first one, as Chairman of the EU Military Committee.

The Conference, a forum to debate, at the top military level, the most relevant issues in the field of the European Security, was opened with a dedicated session on EU/NATO Cooperation highlighting, once again, the strengthening bond between EU and NATO. This session was a great opportunity to update EU CHODs on recent advances in EU/NATO cooperation, including the implementation of the common set of proposals and on the Military Mobility Initiative. Work, in this respect, was facilitated by the active participation of the Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach, the NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), General Tod Walters, the NATO Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT), Gen. Andre Lanata, the Deputy Secretary of the Commission, Ms Ilze Juhansone, and the EEAS Director for Security and Defence Policy, Mr Pawel Herczynski.

We also focussed on EU CSDP Operations. The three Operation Commanders, Lt. Gen. Oliver Rittmann, Vice Adm. Antonio Martorell recently appointed, OP ALTHEA and OP ATALANTA Commanders respectively, followed by Vice Adm. Enrico Credendino, presented the EU CHODs with key forward looking issues, and their vision for the future of their Operations.

A specific session was dedicated for EU Training Missions. The Committee was briefed by the Director Military Planning Conduct Capability (MPCC) and Director General EUMS, Lieutenant General Esa Pulkkinen, on key concerns and on the way ahead for the three EU Training Missions.

Chiefs of Defence and Military Representatives from Partner Countries, including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Republic of Korea, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Vietnam, as well as the Commander of the G5 Sahel Joint Force were present in pertinent sessions and participated in the discussion providing their own, enriching view on the topics. In a dedicated working session, the Director General EUROCONTROL, Mr. Eamonn Brennan, together with the Chief Executive of the EDA, Ambassador Jorge Domecq and the Military Advisory to the Wise Persons Group, Maj Gen. Vincent Cousin, provided the EU CHODs with a broad overview of the Single European Sky initiative.

Finally, in the framework of a specific session dedicated to Capabilities and Financial Instruments, the Chief Executive of the EDA, Ambassador Jorge Domecq and the Director General EUMS, Lieutenant General Esa Pulkkinen updated the EU CHODs on the different Defence Initiatives in the Capability Domain, namely PESCO, in the framework of the annual review and CARD, with specific reference to the key findings in the trial run Lesson Learned process. Following that, the Deputy Director General of DG GROW, Mr Pierre Delsaux and the EEAS Director for Security and Defence Policy, Mr Pawel Herczynski, briefed the EU CHODs on capability related financial instruments, respectively with a focus on European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP) and European Peace Facility (EPF). This was also a precious occasion for the EU CHODs to provide their military viewpoint.

In a moment in time where defence issues dominate the European and global stage, we proudly witnessed the EU Military Committee's role in fulfilling the vision of the EU Global Strategy in a bid to make Europe safer and stronger.

In this respect, and also with reference to our successful conference, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the EU CHODs, and my gratitude to all the authoritative guests who honoured and enlightened us with their presence.

LATEST EVENTS



SHAPE, 3 May: Change of Command for NATO Allied Command Operations (SACEUR)



Brussels 7 May.: EU Military Committee Mini Away Day



Brunssum (NL), 31 May: HoTo Ceremony Force Commander NATO Allied Joint Force Command

“The bundle of sticks: a stronger European defence to face global challenges”

by Amb. Pedro Serrano, EEAS Deputy Secretary-General for CSDP and Crisis Response

“... then, handing the bundle to each of his sons in turn, he told them to try to break it. But although each one tried his best, none was able to do so. The father then untied the bundle and gave the sticks to his sons to break one by one. This they did very easily” (Aesop).

The past three years have seen significant developments in the field of European security and defence. Mostly, they have been pursued in the framework of the implementation of the Global Strategy presented by the High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission (HRVP), Federica Mogherini, in June 2016. The main aim is to improve the EU's capacity to promote its interests and values in an increasingly challenging international environment.

Terrorism, irregular migration, cyber-attacks and foreign interference, including disinformation, figure among the most pressing security concerns of European citizens and societies. Some of these issues are having a significant impact on Europe's national political landscapes. But to tackle them properly it is key to have a clear and common understanding of their causes.

The Arab Spring revolutions of 2011, and resulting conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya, as well as destabilisation in the Sahel, have unsettled regional balances and provided space for a new wave of terrorism. Instability and refugees fleeing from conflict have contributed to opening new routes for irregular migration. Organised crime has found a fertile ground in which to spawn, strengthening links to terrorist groups and promoting migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings. To the East, the 2014 annexation of Crimea and the conflict in Ukraine has brought back into Europe pressing threats to sovereignty and territorial integrity. Hybrid methods of aggression have shown the need to respond in a more complex manner and to enhance societal resilience. A return to global strategic competition further interferes with regional crises and adds new transnational dimensions to challenges and threats.

The EU and its Member States are directly affected and concerned. The level of threat at their doorstep has increased exponentially in the past decade. And they are inevitably part of the broader strategic competi-



Amb. Pedro Serrano

tion. During the past few years they have been actively developing security and defence instruments and capabilities, they have enhanced their engagement with their partners, notably with NATO, and they have continued to pursue a multilateral track to reinforce international peace and security.

Cooperation on development of defence capabilities has, no doubt, been one of the areas of greater expansion, notably through the establishment of Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) and work on a European Defence Fund (EDF). But the EU is also increasing its crisis-management effectiveness with initiatives such as the Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC), the Civilian Compact and the proposal for a European Peace Facility (EPF). The EU is looking more strategically at its deployments to maximise

the impact of its efforts, be it in the Sahel or on the high seas, or in other regions, including the Middle East. Conscious of the complex nature of the challenges, it is also developing instruments to face hybrid threats and enhance awareness, including improved cyber security and defence capabilities. The protection of strategic sectors and infrastructure has become a priority.

While enhancing its capacity to act, including autonomously if required, the EU is convinced of the need to cooperate with its partners in addressing security challenges.

The Transatlantic relationship remains crucial to Europe's security. Ties with NATO have been strengthened considerably through Joint Declarations in 2016 and 2018, co-signed by Secretary General Stoltenberg, President of the European Council Tusk and President of the European Commission Juncker. In fact, much of what the EU has developed recently in the field of defence will support NATO directly, notably as regards capabilities and military mobility. It will also contribute to an improved burden-sharing, particularly as regards hybrid threats and challenges coming from the

South.

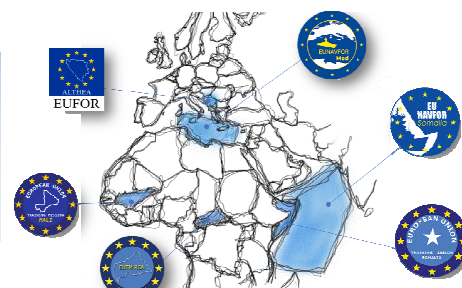
And a new and strong relationship in the field of security and defence will need to be built with the UK after the latter's departure from the EU. Challenges and interests will remain common. Most of the EU's security and defence instruments, including those developed more recently, foresee openings for cooperation with third States. It is to be hoped and expected that the UK will wish to avail itself of such possibilities.

Finally, the EU has continued pursuing a multilateral approach to international peace and security, seeking to strengthen common understandings of the challenges within the international community and develop common approaches to contain proliferation, promote disarmament and prevent an arms race, including in outer-space and in the use of artificial intelligence.

The EU offers its Member States an unparalleled platform for cooperation on all these matters. The breadth of its scope for action and variety of tools allow it to develop integrated approaches covering the complex nature of today's challenges and linking the internal and external dimensions

of security. Jointly, the EU and its Member States are among the world's most powerful actors. They can project a capacity that dwarfs most others. But having such a capacity is not enough. Tyrtaeus, a Spartan poet, sung that it is not the athletic, artistic or intellectual qualities of a soldier that will bring victory, but his fortitude when faced with the terrible sights of war and his courage in fighting the enemy. The success of the EU will ultimately depend on its Member States' commitment to promote and defend their common interests and on their determination in this collective engagement. The EU and its Member States are reaching a watershed moment. It is important that this be clearly understood and acted upon.

News from our Operations & Missions



EUFOR ALTHEA

On 14th May, in a Transfer of Authority ceremony held at Camp Butmir, Sarajevo, Brigadier General Gábor Horváth relinquished his position of EUFOR Chief of Staff (COS) to his successor, Brigadier General László Szabó.

Addressing the parade, Brigadier General Gábor Horváth said that "It has been a fantastic tour of exploration, a huge amount of experience, a great deal of work, and a lot of friendship, camaraderie and joy at the same time to me". From his side, Brigadier General László Szabó underlined: "I am looking forward to working with all of you in this multinational environment and the continued success of Operation ALTHEA. I strongly believe that we are able to fulfil our tasks successfully with collective co-operation".



EU NAVFOR ATALANTA

On 23rd May, High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP), Ms. Federica Mogherini, paid a visit to the Horn of Africa. After stopping in Mogadishu and meeting with Somali Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khaire, the HR/VP visited Kenya and Djibouti where she visited Operation Atalanta forces on board the ITS Carlo Margottini.

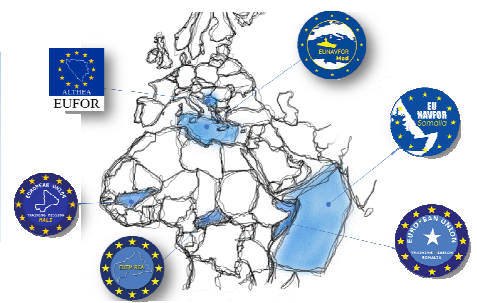
In her address, Madame Mogherini acknowledged the challenges that Djibouti currently faces including the war in Yemen in the North, the persistence of the Al-Shabab threat in the South and consistent maritime insecurity offshore.



EU NAVFORMED Sophia

On 4th May, in Brussels, EUNAVFOR MED OP SOPHIA participated in the EU Open Day, with a stand in EEAS capital building. OP SOPHIA personnel welcomed a huge number of people and multi-ethnic families interested in the EU Maritime operation in the Med and provided all the detailed information concerning the first four years of the Operation, focused on disrupting the business model of migrant smugglers and human traffickers and contributing to EU efforts for the return of stability and security in Libya and the Central Mediterranean region. The event succeeded in capturing children's curiosity through dedicated initiatives involving their parents as well. All visitors showed a deep interest in receiving news and appreciated the chance to get in touch with some qualified EUNAVFOR Med staff.

News from our Operations & Missions



EUTM Mali

On 27th May, in the occasion of the "Wounded In Action Memorial Day", the Mission Force Commander, Brigadier General Peter Mirow, awarded four Spanish EUTM Mali members with the European Union Meritorious Service Medal of CSDP (Common Security and Defence Policy). "Those brave Spanish Infantrymen and EOD specialists protected all of us at the risk of their own lives during the complex attack on Koulikoro Training Centre (KTC) on 24 February", Brigadier Peter Mirow stated during the Medal Parade.



EUTM Somalia

On 22nd May, at the General Dhagabadan Training Center (GDTC), the closing ceremony of the 1st Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) course was held. The course lasted fourteen days involving ten SNA soldiers from the 62nd Battalion Medical Xooga Hospital. EUTM-S Medical Advisor provided both theoretic and practical sessions with the main objective being that of generating military medics to employ as first responders during operations. The SNA soldiers were trained to manage the first aid, in critical situations.



EUTM RCA

The 31st May marked the end of training for 8 FACA trainees in their first aid tutoring, held at Kassaï training camp from 13th to 31st May. The purpose of this training was to increase the number of first aid combat instructors in Central African Army and thus strengthen their expertise capacity in this field.

News from the Committee



EU Chiefs of Defence (CHODs) Conference May 2019 — family photo



NATO Military Committee in Chiefs of Defence Session

In the wake of the ongoing successful EU/NATO cooperation, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Claudio Graziano, attended the 181st NATO Military Committee in Chiefs of Defence Session. This important meeting, held on 22nd May in the NATO Headquarters in Brussels, focussed on NATO's Deterrence and Defence Posture, as well as the enablement of SACEUR's Area of Responsibility. General Graziano was invited to join the discussion and provided contribution in maintaining a coherent approach to common challenges and avoid duplication of initiatives.



Foreign Affairs Council (Defence)

On 14th May, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Claudio Graziano, attended the Foreign Affairs Council (Defence). During the Council, the situation in the Sahel was discussed and the strategic importance of the Region for the EU was reaffirmed. Also the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), after its first full year of implementation, was addressed. The progress made, including the implementation of the 34 projects agreed within this framework, was reviewed and the Council adopted a specific recommendation. Finally, EU-NATO cooperation was discussed with NATO Deputy Secretary General with a particular focus on ways to counter hybrid threats.