

# Chairman's Newsletter

EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE



Gen. Claudio Graziano

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The EU Military Committee in the format of Chiefs of Defence (CHODs) met in November for its' second semi-annual meeting of 2019. Once again, I was honoured to chair the EU's highest level military forum which offers the EU CHODs the opportunity to have their military voice, needs and advice heard at the political level, and to provide their support to EU initiatives in the field of common security and defence.

The EU CHODs were joined by guests from Partner Nations and officials from relevant European Institutions and Agencies. In particular, the Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach, participated reinforcing once again the bond between NATO and the EU, especially talking about Military Mobility and Cyber domain.

The HR/VP, Ms Federica Mogherini, in her last official address to the EU CHODs, took stock of the achievements reached in the area of European security and defence over the last number of years, and warmly thanked the CHODs for their frank and constructive support.

The Operation Commanders and the Director of the Military Planning Conduct Capability (MPCC) reported, respectively, on the state of play of the CSDP Operations and the three EU Training Missions (EUTMs). The Director of MPCC, in particular, outlined the progress made and his concerns relating the EUTMs. Considering the worsening situation, especially in Somalia and in the Sahel, the CHODs acknowledged the need to conceptualise the evolution of the EUTMs for a more demanding role, in the near future. The Deputy Commander of USAFRICOM joined the discussion and gave his assessment of the achievements and the value added represented by U.S. effective coordination with EU Missions in the field.

As I outlined in my last message, military capability development was also discussed. In that context, the CHODs underlined the fundamental importance of the Headline Goal process in translating the EU's political level of ambition into military needs, as well as the importance of the High Impact Capability Goals in nurturing the Capability Development Plan. The CHODs reiterated their commitment to provide the necessary military inputs in the capability development domain.

Finally, the session with Third States, Partners and Guests (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Jordan, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Vietnam and Ukraine) was very fruitful as they actively contributed to the discussion, updating the CHODs on the current situation in their respective Countries, and a number of them confirming their continued commitment to EU CSDP Operations and Missions.

The biannual meetings at CHODs level are designed to define Strategic Priorities and work plans and as such, are crucial for the effectiveness of the EU Military Committee. The November meeting was a success, confirming the strong commitment of the EU Military Committee to move forward and enhance the defence aspect of the Global Strategy in an ambitious and pragmatic way. In this respect, I would like to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to the EU CHODs and our guests who shared with us two important days of work and reflection. I look forward to our next meeting scheduled for May 2020.



*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 Pakistan (5-8 November)



CEUMC at the Berlin Security Conference 2019 (25-27 November)



CEUMC at the EDA Annual Conference (28 November)

## *“Finland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union”*

*by Rear Admiral Juha Vauhkonen, Military Representative of Finland to the EU and NATO*

The end of the year 2019 marks the end of Finland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union. It has included some rather busy and interesting months. During the past six months, we have striven to both ensure the effective implementation of previously set goals, and to have discussions on the development of future capabilities and the enhancement of cooperation. We think that the EU has a key role in promoting a comprehensive approach to security in Europe. It is our common interest to work for it. We should not look back but prepare together for the potential threats of tomorrow.

There has been significant progress in the EU security and defence cooperation in the past few years. The launch of permanent structured cooperation (PESCO), the European Defence Fund and the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD) are important steps towards deeper security and defence cooperation. Establishment of the Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) greatly develops the EU's capability to better command and control its missions and operations. During the Council Presidency Finland has aimed to ensure efficient implementation of these goals and targets to deepen security and defence cooperation in the EU. We tried hard to find solution to the question on third states participation in PESCO. Unfortunately, our proposal was not agreeable.

In addition to the existing goals, we have promoted discussion on digitalisation and artificial intelligence in defence, EU-NATO cooperation on various themes, and

emphasized the importance of the transatlantic link. We also have worked to develop awareness of and resilience to hybrid threats in the EU. These questions have been discussed in cooperative and comprehensive manner in various events at various levels during our Presidency.

Digitalisation, artificial intelligence and rapid technological development are changing society widely and profoundly. New technologies challenge defence administrations across the world to reform their operations to meet the demands of the modern age. Digitalisation and artificial intelligence are transforming the defence sector, too, and creating both opportunities and threats. Next, we have to step from discussion to practical deliverables. No EU member state can manage this challenge alone; cooperation is a key. Cooperation is not only essential for success in the EU but also for collaboration with our partners. Finland looks forward to continuing the work in coming months and years together with other member states, institutions, and partner nations and organisations.

The EU member states and institutions continue to face multidimensional hybrid threats that are difficult to detect and attribute. It is important to strengthen the EU's and member states' capabilities in countering hybrid threats and building resilience. In hybrid

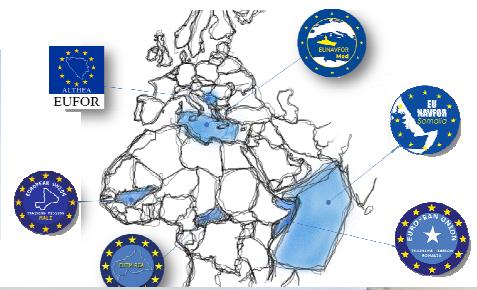


*Rear Admiral Juha Vauhkonen with General Claudio Graziano and General Timo Pekka Kivinen (Commander of the FI Defence Forces)*

threats and building resilience. In hybrid threats, the internal and external security are closely linked and effective response often requires horizontal collaboration across sectors in society – including the military. The European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats in Helsinki is a valuable tool in this regard. Finland's goal is that the work on addressing the hybrid questions will continue beyond our Presidency too.

On the threshold of a new year and the end of the Finnish Presidency, I would like to thank all the previous presidencies for your sincere support, and extend my gratitude to all the EU member states and institutions for your cooperation. I also wish the upcoming Council President, Croatia all the success during the following six months.

# News from our Operations & Missions



## **EUFOR ALTHEA**

Between the 05th and 06th November, EUFOR's International Military Police Detachment conducted training for 13 members of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina Military Police Battalion who are preparing for a deployment to Afghanistan.



## **EU NAVFOR Atalanta**

On 18th November and over the previous three weeks, in Seychelles, Operation ATALANTA flagship, the ITS Antonio Marceglia, the ESPS Canarias and the ESPS Victoria collaborated with Canadian and American forces in the Seychelles to carry out various exercises for Cutlass Express (C.E. 19.2).

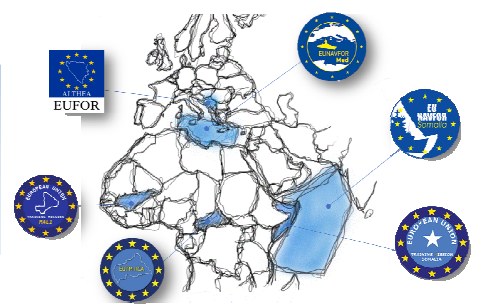
C.E. 19.2, which in its entirety lasted three weeks, is a multinational exercise designed to assess and improve combined maritime law enforcement capacity and promote national and regional security in east Africa.



## **EU NAVFORMED Sophia**

On 29th November, during a ceremony held at the EUNAVFOR MED (OHQ) headquarters in Rome, Rear Admiral Oliver Bodhuin (French Navy) surrendered the role of Deputy Operation Commander (DCOM) of the European Union naval force in the Mediterranean (EUNAVFOR MED) to Rear Admiral Jean-Michel Martinet (French Navy).

# News from our Operations & Missions



## EUTM Mali

In November, EUTM Mission Force Commander, BG Christian Habersatter, participated in the 'Instance de coordination militaire au Mali' (ICMM) together with representatives from MaAF, G5S JF, MINUSMA and BARKHANE.



## EUTM Somalia

On 27th November 2019, in Mogadishu, the Medal Parade of the European Union Training Mission Somalia (EUTM-S) took place at the Mission Headquarters in the International Campus within Mogadishu International Airport.

The awarding of the Common Security Defence Policy (CSDP) Medal for "Headquarters and Forces" by the Deputy Director of the EU Military Planning and Conduct Capability (DDMPCC), Major General Teodoro Erminio Maio, was given to the EUTM-S Mission Force Commander, Brigadier General Antonello De Sio. Then the CSDP Service Medal for "Planning and Support" has been awarded by the Mission Force Commander, Brigadier General Antonello De Sio, to the Italian National Support Element Commander, LTC Licio Dettori.

The two Generals have awarded other twenty-eight CSDP Medals to all the members of the Mission hailing from Italy, Finland, Great Britain, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.



## EUTM RCA

On 15th November, the Elementary Technical Administration Domain Course organised by the Central African Republic Forces (FACA) and supervised by the EUTM RCA, came to an end and delivered First Degree Certificates for the 13 FACA participants and 3 Gendarmerie National Guards.

# News from the Committee



**EU Military Committee in the format of Chiefs of Defence (CHODs) - Family photo**



## **Foreign Affairs Council (Defence)**

On 12th November, the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, General Claudio Graziano, attended the Foreign Affairs Council (Defence). The Council focused in particular on PESCO (Permanent Structured Cooperation) and adopted a decision launching thirteen new projects.

The coherence between PESCO and the other EU defence initiatives, including the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD) and the European Defence Fund was also discussed. Taking the floor, General Graziano commended the efforts made by EU Member States and empathised the great value of women and men, serving under the EU.

## **Office call with SACEUR**

On 15th November, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Claudio Graziano, met with General Tod D. Wolters and SHAPE Senior Leaders, for an Office Call and a Roundtable discussion.

This was a precious occasion to discuss with SACEUR and SHAPE Senior Management issues which the European Union (EU) and NATO cooperate on in the field of Security and defence, based on their shared strategic interests and the same challenges the two International Organisations face.

