

# Chairman's Newsletter

EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

@Kostarakos

## Message from the Chairman



### IN THIS ISSUE

**Message from the Chairman.**

**p. 1**

**CSDP structures, actions:  
A new momentum for the  
EU's security and defence.**

**p. 2**

**CSDP actors:  
Operation ALTHEA.**

**p. 3**

**CSDP in action:  
News from our Operations  
and Missions.**

**p. 4**

**News from the Committee.**

**p. 5**



Gen. Mikhail Kostarakos

Since the European Union Global Strategy has been launched, in June 2016, considerable progress has been made in fulfilling the EU's level of ambition in the area of Security and Defence, thus enhancing the Union's ability to act more and more as a security provider and strengthening its strategic role on global scale.

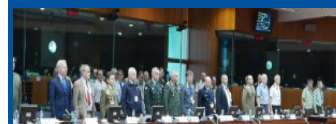
In this context, the recent agreement reached by the Council of the European Union to establish, as a short term objective, a Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) at the strategic level represents a decisive step forward in order to improve the Union's capacity to react in a faster, more effective and seamless manner. The MPCC, responsible at the strategic level for the operational planning and conduct of non-executive military missions, under the political control and strategic guidance of the Political and Security Committee (PSC), will work in parallel and in a coordinated way with the Civilian Planning and Conducting Capability (CPCC). This will allow to further strengthen and enable effective civilian and military coordination and cooperation, contributing to the full implementation of the EU's Comprehensive Approach.

In addition, enriching and constructive discussions continue on how to make the best and full use of European strengths and capabilities. In this respect, the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) and the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD) deserve, among others, particular attention in the near future.

The new phase the world has recently entered, places upon our shoulders the responsibility to wisely navigate through times when uncertainty and volatility tend to prevail. I am convinced that together we can fulfill this responsibility and the challenge of providing a safer, more secure and prosperous Europe!

## LATEST EVENTS

**Brussels 22/03: the EUMC pays tribute to the victims of the Brussels Attacks.**



**SOPHIA 22/03: on board ESPS Canarias, Emanuel was born.**



**Brussels 20/03: CEUMC address to the HCSC students.**



**Bucarest 03/03: CEUMC visit to Romania.**



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.

Think green, do not print this document unless you really need to.

# A new momentum for the EU's security and defence

by Mrs Helga Maria Schmid, Secretary General of the European External Action Service

This month we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the signature of the Treaty of Rome. The European Union has grown from 6 countries in 1957 to 28 in 2017 and from 168 million people to 508 million. In these 60 years, the EU has preserved peace and stability and contributing to expand its neighbourhood, through successive waves of enlargement as well as its foreign and security policy. In particular, the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) has significantly contributed to it through its missions and operations, going back to the first one in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 2003 to the most recent one in Central African Republic in 2016.

Geopolitical shifts and growing security threats are compelling the EU to become stronger and more effective as a security and defence actor. No single Member State has the capacity to deal with today's security threats and challenges alone. The EU is well equipped to meet these daunting and often complex challenges, with its unique array of diplomatic, security and economic instruments.



It brings together diplomacy, security and development actors in the capacity building of partners, for example, and is linking up its internal and external security ef-

forts as well, for instance in the Mediterranean.

At a time of uncertainty, security and defence is and will continue to be a major political priority on the European agenda. The EU needs to take more responsibility for its own security, as Heads of State and Government underlined in December 2016. To this end, they endorsed a new level of ambition, derived from the EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy, and a comprehensive set of actions to fulfil it. The European Council just received a first progress report and will revert again to security and defence in June.

With 15 civilian and military missions and operations currently deployed in the international stage, the EU is a major security provider. It is not only building military and civilian capacities in the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, the Middle East and the Western Balkans, but also providing a safe and secure environment in Bosnia-Herzegovina or Georgia as well as improving maritime security off the coast of Somalia and in the South Central Mediterranean. I would like to pay tribute to the 6,000 women and men currently at work under the EU flag to help our partners and improve theirs and our own security at the same time. I express also my gratitude to the Member States for making this possible through their contributions.

The EU is also increasingly mobilising its instruments to support Member States in the longer-term effort to further deepen European defence cooperation. To retain our ability to develop,



produce and operate state-of-the-art military capabilities, we need to work closely together as Europeans and make use of economies of scale. The EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy has provided the strategic direction, while the European Defence Action Plan of the Commission is providing new measures to incentivise and support such closer defence cooperation. Complementarity with NATO will be built-in as well through implementation of the ambitious EU-NATO declaration signed in 2016.

High Representative Federica Mogherini is determined to keep the momentum this semester. Among the first deliverables will be the establishment of a permanent Military Planning and Conduct Capability within the EU Military Staff for the operational planning and conduct of non-executive EU military missions. This should reinforce the effectiveness of our engagement and help to reinforce civil/military synergies not only in Brussels but also in the field.

As we continue on this journey, the European External Action Service will continue to be devoted to enhancing our security and defence policy for the benefit of our citizens as well as our neighbours and partners.



# COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY STRUCTURES

## EU Stabilisation Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR ALTHEA)

In this issue we provide an insight into the EU Operation ALTHEA and interviewed the Operation Commander, Major General Schrötter.



### Can you explain the role of Operation ALTHEA?

On the basis of its executive mandate under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, EUFOR is responsible for the implementation of the military Annexes of the Dayton Peace Agreement. The main task of the Force is to contribute to the maintenance and stability of a Safe and Secure Environment and help to promote a climate in which the peace process can continue. Furthermore, based on a decision of the EU Foreign Ministers, EUFOR, since 2010, additionally focusses on 'Capacity Building & Training', a program aiming to increase the capabilities and skills of the Armed Forces of BiH in order to reach international standards.

### What are your proudest accomplishments?

At the top of my list is the highly successful OPREH Level 2 Exercise QUICK RESPONSE where EUFOR's multi-national force, in close cooperation with the local authorities, demonstrated their ability to enact our contingency plans and bring into play a significant military force capable of making a real difference should the situation require it.

I also want to highlight the close cooperation which has been developed between EUFOR and other international organizations in BiH leading to closer collaboration in committees such as the Strategic Board which deals with development of the weapons, ammunition and explosives Master Plan and on projects such as 'EXPLODE +' and 'SAFE-UP' which are dealing with the security and disposal of surplus weapons and ammunition.

During my time on the mission over 20,000 children and at-risk adults have received Mine Risk Education classes from EUFOR personnel; a significant number of people who now have the knowledge to protect themselves against the real threat of mines and unexploded ordnance in a country which offers little in the way of formal education itself.

We have supported the Capacity Building and Training of the Armed Forces of BiH in order to grow their capabilities towards European and NATO standards to enable them to participate in EU and NATO-led operations. Through this training eleven units of the Armed Forces of BiH were declared operationally ready and one unit has achieved the level necessary to participate in EU military operations.



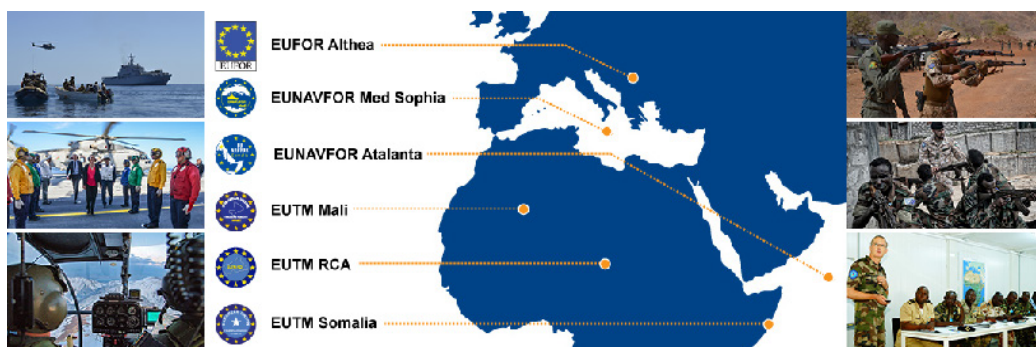
### What do you see for the future of this mission?

I see EUFOR continuing to be a serious actor in the security environment and support in maintaining a safe and secure environment in the country and the region.

We will continue to be a credible actor in supporting demining operations and the disposal of surplus ammunition and weapons as well as continuing to deliver the greatly important mine risk education to those who most need it.

In the framework of the European Comprehensive Approach, EUFOR will support the development of the country and its society until the country's administration can ensure independent sustainable progress on a path towards EU-integration and a Euro-Atlantic approach.

## News from our Operations and Missions



### EUFOR ALTHEA

On March 28th, in Sarajevo, the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, Gen. Mikhail Kostarakos, attended the EUFOR ALTHEA Change of Command Ceremony which took place in Butrim Camp. During the event, the outgoing COM EUFOR Major Gen. SCHRÖTTER transferred authority to Major Gen. WALDNER, the new Force Commander and the outgoing Operation Commander and DSACEUR Gen. BRADSHAW transferred the authority to Gen. EVERARD, the new Operation Commander.



### EUNAVFORMED Sophia

On March the 9th, EUNAVFOR MED Sophia Operation Commander, Rear Admiral Enrico Credendino, welcomed the EUNAVFOR ATALANTA Operation Commander, Maj Gen Rob Magowan. This was an important update on the Sophia Operation, generously hosted by Rear Admiral Credendino and Maj Gen Fantuzzi, at the EUNAVFORMED Operational Headquarter in Rome.

### EUTM Mali

On the occasion of the closing ceremony of the Combined Mobile Advisory Training Team (CMATT), on March the 11th, Malian trainees were awarded their official diplomas. The ceremony took place in the presence of the Head of the European Delegation, HE Ambassador Holleville, the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, General Dacko, the Commander of Barkhane, Major General De Woillemont and the Commander of EUTM Mali, Brigadier General Devogelaere.



### EUNAVFOR Atalanta

On March the 2nd, EUNAVFOR ATALANTA Force Commander, Rear Admiral Rafael Fernández-Pintado Muñoz-Rojas, and his Force HQ staff were welcomed onboard by the Commanding Officer of Republic of Korea warship, Choi Young, Kim Kyung Ryul. The Choi Young will partner EU NAVFOR warships to prevent acts of piracy in the waters off the coast of Somalia.

### EUTM RCA

On March the 6th, in the presence of the Minister of Defence, Mr. Joseph Yakété, the Head of the Delegation of the European Union in the Central African Republic, HE Ambassador Jean-Pierre Reymondet-Commoy, the CAR's Armed Forces Chief of Staff, General Ludovic Ngaïfé, and the EUTM RCA Commander, General Herman Ruys, a seminar on the theme: "the FACA: point of situation and reorganization in progress" was held in Bangui, in order to inform local authorities, civil society and the international community on the model of army that will be put in place in the RCA.



### EUTM Somalia

On March the 22nd, the ceremony for the delivery of 125 wooden weapons (blue guns) to the Somali National Army trainees has been held in the General Dhagabadan Training Center (GDTC) in Mogadishu. The training weapons have been donated by the Netherlands, one of the Troops Contributing Nations of the European Union Training Mission in Somalia. In the presence of the EUTM-S Commander, Brigadier General Maurizio Morena, the Dutch Contingent Senior, Lt. Colonel Los, has symbolically handed the first blue gun to Colonel Buney, Course Director for the SNA at the GDTC, and immediately after the remaining blue guns have been handed to the soldiers of the Flame Infantry Coy, who will use them in their activities with the European trainers.

# News from the Committee



## CEUMC official visit to ROMANIA

From the 1th to the 3rd of March, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee, General Mikhail Kostarakos, paid an official visit to Romania on the invitation by the Chief of General Staff of the Romanian Armed Forces, General Nicolae Ciucă. On the occasion, General Kostarakos met with the Minister of Defense Mr. Leș, the Presidential Counsellor Mr. Orban and the State Counsellor Mr. Huluban and shared with them views on issues of mutual interest. The

Chairman of the European Union Military also visited the National Defense University “Carol I” and delivered a speech to its members on “Military Contribution to Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) “.



## Farewell to Romanian and Slovak Milreps

On March the 8th, the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, General Mikhail Kostarakos, bid farewell to the outgoing Romanian Military Representative to the EUMC, Gen. Cheorghe Savu, and Slovak Republic Military Representative to the EUMC, M. Gen. Mi-

roslav Kocian and thanked them for their exemplary and outstanding service, during their tenure.



## Address to the students of the UK Higher Command and Staff Course (HCSC)

On March the 20th, in Brussels, the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, General Mikhail Kostarakos, delivered a speech on “European Defence: Adapting for the future” to the students of the UK Higher Command and Staff Course (HCSC), a course which prepares some of the UKs officers for one star Command and Staff appointments.



## Farewell to the Representative of the Council Legal Service to the EUMC

On March the 29th, the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, General Mikhail Kostarakos, bid farewell to the outgoing Representative of the Council Legal Service to the EUMC, Mr. Frederic Naert, and thanked him for his exemplary service over the past seven years.

## Chairman EUMC Communication Team

Colonel Nikolaos Cholevas: [nikolaos.cholevas@ext.eeas.europa.eu](mailto:nikolaos.cholevas@ext.eeas.europa.eu)

Lieutenant Colonel Marcelvito DANISI: [marcelvito.danisi@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:marcelvito.danisi@eeas.europa.eu)



Think green, do not print this document unless you really need to

Follow us on:

