

Chairman's Newsletter

EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

@Kostarakos

Message from the Chairman



Gen. Mikhail Kostarakos

In November the EU Chiefs of Defence (CHODs) convened in Brussels for our biannual meeting. These important meetings allow us to discuss the issues of the moment and for the Committee to take decisions and give direction. At a moment in time where the spotlight is falling firmly on Defence issues, it was a timely occasion for a meeting of the top Military personnel in Europe joined by special guests from Partner nations and also our NATO colleagues for specific topics.

In our discussions on our ongoing Missions and Operations the Director of the MPCC reported for the first time on behalf of the Mission Force Commanders, an important step forward towards our goal of allowing the Force Commanders maximise their time alongside their personnel.

The Implementation of the Global Strategy dominated discussions, in particular, the rapid rise of PESCO (Permanent Structured Cooperation) and CARD (Coordinated Annual Review on Defense) to the top of CHODs Agendas. There was widespread support for PESCO that will be launched by the European Council on 11 December. What was abundantly clear is the value that can be added through EUMC Military Advice on the evaluations of PESCO projects conducted by the EDA and the EUMS. There was also much support for progress on Military Mobility within European Union.

The deepening of EU/NATO cooperation at the military level was reflected by the presence of the highest leadership of NATO at our meeting. General Petr Pavel, my counterpart in NATO, the NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), General Curtis Scaparrotti, and the NATO Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SAC-T), General Denis Mercier, were all present and spoke during a dedicated session on our cooperation. In addition, Deputy Commander Operations US AFRICOM, Lieutenant General James Vechery, joined us for the first time. The NATO speakers pointed out possible areas for further cooperation with a sharp focus on training opportunities in the Cyber and Hybrid domains. The EU PACE exercise was considered a success and a model to be built upon.

In addition to our regular Partners that are contributing to our Operations and Missions, (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Moldova, Serbia, Georgia and the Republic of Korea) we had special guests from Jordan and Tunisia. The Tunisian CHOD and the Jordanian Deputy CHOD gave valuable insight on their approach to combating terrorism and the rise of violent extremism in their home countries and also confirmed their ongoing support to our endeavours. The EU CT Coordinator, Mr Gilles de Kerchove, gave an excellent presentation on EU efforts in this area.

Finally, the CHODs elected General Claudio Graziano, the current Italian Chief of Defence, to be my successor from 6 November 2018.

As we near the end of 2017 and my second year in office, the pace will not relent and our resolve to push Defence matters to the top of the EU Agenda will not weaken.

We deserve a stronger Europe.



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

LATEST EVENTS

Bruxelles 06-07/11: EU Chiefs of Defence Conference



Bruxelles 11/11: Armistice Day of Belgium Ceremony



Northwood 16/11: MILEX 2017 DV Day



Berlin 28-29/11: Berlin Security Conference



Civilian CSDP Missions: full delivery under changing circumstances

by Mr. Deane Kenneth, Director of CPCC / Civilian Operations Commander

The European Union currently deploys ten civilian and six military Missions and Operations to promote resilience and rule of law in our wider neighbourhood. As challenges evolve so do our responses. Civilian-military cooperation is one of the permanent, yet constantly evolving features of the 'integrated approach'. The recently launched civilian CSDP Mission to support Security Sector Reform in Iraq is another example of the EU's permanently developing crisis-management response.

The nexus between external and internal security has become evident: our home security depends on resilience beyond our borders. In order to ward off external threats, Europe cannot isolate itself: it needs to engage the world. Our CSDP Missions and Operations are tangible proof of the EU's commitment to address root causes of conflict and to promote human rights, rule of law and human security beyond our borders.

Civilian-military cooperation has come to stay

The situations we face in the field are characterised by great complexity. None of these fragile situations can be solved by a single actor alone. Our experiences in Afghanistan, Somalia and Mali have highlighted the protracted nature and multiple dimensions of modern conflicts. Deficits in rule of law, security, governance, economy, human rights and gender equality are intertwined in the field. To achieve structural improvements, our civilian Missions cooperate closely with a wide variety of partners on the ground.

In several theatres of operation the military are among our key partners. We have achieved a very good, multi-faceted civmil-cooperation on the ground. In Mali, EUCAP Sahel Mali, the civilian Mission works regularly with EUTM, the EU's military training Mission, as well as with the UN's military stabilisation Mission there, MINUSMA. Similarly, in Somalia, EUCAP Somalia, the civilian Mission with a mandate to strengthen national maritime security through strategic level advice and some training, works with the military Operation ATALANTA on some training and policy matters. EUCAP Somalia furthermore works with the UN assistance Mission in Somalia, UNSOM on matters of mutual concern. We also cooperate with military Missions of NATO, as previously in Afghanistan, and currently in Kosovo, with KFOR. Furthermore, in certain circumstances where national police services are unable to operate, our civilian Missions sometimes work with national militaries when they substitute for police services, in the performance of those civilian tasks. A current example is EUCAP Sahel Niger cooperating in the remote areas of northern Niger with the Nigerien armed forces, which performs law enforcement tasks in that region due to the security situation making it difficult for the police to operate there.

Civilians and military with previous experience know that "civmil" is not self-evident. It demands bringing two different organisational cultures, shaped by different approaches and histories, together to work jointly for a common goal. This means in practice getting to know each other,



overcoming prejudices, bridging differences and focusing on the bigger, common goal to ensure that mutual gains are not lost due to differing 'lingo'.

...and will permanently evolve

We have come a long way. Yes, there is still a lot to do, but we are constantly getting better. As conflicts evolve also our responses will develop. Thus also civilian-military cooperation will continue to be in a permanent flux and evolve continuously as part of the integrated crisis management approach. The recent creation of the Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) in Brussels provides us now with a direct interlocutor and possibilities to enhance cooperation between EU civilians and military.

The practical cooperation between the MPCC and the CPCC takes place in the Joint Support Coordination Cell (JSCC) through coordination and sharing of expertise with the aim to achieve civilian and military synergies.

Civilian Missions and military Missions and Operations are bound to implement their specific mandates. But there are skill sets, tasks and jobs common to both, for example in the arena of administration, legal advice,

procurement, finance, logistics and medical provision. To enable proper civ-mil cooperation in the field we need to plan this on the level of the strategic headquarters and in the preparatory planning phases before the actual launch of Missions or Operations. The JSCC will bring together civilian and military expertise at strategic level in key mission support areas, thus further strengthening civilian-military coordination and cooperation both in the operational planning as well as in the conduct of CSDP missions ensuring a better coherence on the ground.

A swift response to a partner's request: a new civilian Mission in Iraq

The Iraqi government's priority is the defeat of Da'esh and other terrorist groups. It's now a critical moment when Iraq and the international community are confronting new risks and threats in the aftermath of the current military setbacks for Da'esh. The reform of the security sector and building institutions that can work effectively to consolidate peace and stability under the rule of law is therefore a priority of the Iraqi government. To this end, it asked the support of the international community and in particular of the EU.

On 19 June 2017, the Council decided that the EU should examine the deployment of an EU Security Sector Reform Assist and Advisory Team in Baghdad in response to the request by the Iraqi authorities for support in the civilian SSR. Only one month later, the Council adopted on 4 July 2017 the Crisis Management Concept for a new civilian CSDP Mission in Iraq. The adoption of a crisis management concept is the first step to launch a new CSDP Mission. Then, the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) Directorate – the

Brussels-based operational Headquarters for all 10 civilian CSDP Missions – drafted an Operational Plan proposing a specific mandate and tasks for the Mission which CPCC provided to Member States on 1 August 2017. Member States responded positively, and the Foreign Affairs Council of the EU decided on 16 October 2017 to establish and launch the Mission. In anticipation of this, CPCC had been recruiting for the 36-person strong Mission in Member States, and organising logistics, security and accommodation on the ground, so that we are able to have boots on the ground on 17 November. This means that in only 4 months, we will have translated Member State wishes from concept to reality.

The team will focus on assisting the Iraqi authorities in the implementation of the civilian aspects of the Iraqi security strategy. Our experts will provide strategic advice in priority work areas such as security sector reform planning, institutional capacity and reform within the Iraqi Ministry of Interior and the Office of the National Security Adviser, counter-terrorism and combating organised crime including protection of cultural heritage. The Mission will furthermore assist in the coordination of EU and Member States actions in this sector and also assess the potential further EU engagement in the longer-term civilian Security Sector Reform (SSR) of Iraq in close cooperation with other key international partners (UN, US, NATO)

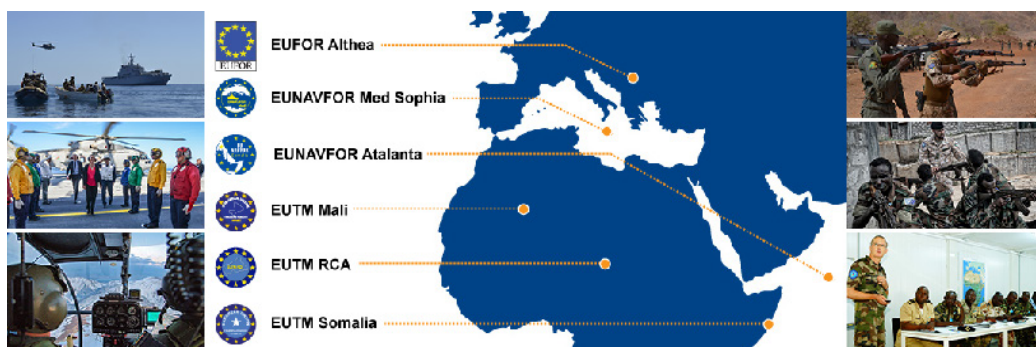
Our work has sometimes been compared to a competing athlete who is forced to change the shirt while still running in the race: this demands extra effort - and will not always be very graceful to watch - but the goal will be reached. This dedication to full delivery under permanently changing circumstances is one of the characteristics of the CSDP Missions and



“Civilian EU Missions are an essential part of the integrated EU effort to build state and societal resilience wherever deployed. EUPOL COPPS assists the Palestinian Authority in building its institutions, namely in the areas of policing and the wider criminal justice.”

Operations - civilian and military alike.

News from our Operations and Missions



EUFOR Althea

On November the 30th, Lieutenant General Luciano Portolano, the head of the European Union Command Element accompanied Commander EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner, and EUFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General József Szpisják, as honoured guests at the 12th anniversary celebration of Armed Forces in BiH. They joined representatives from NATO, Embassies and the Government of BiH at a parade and military display to acknowledge the progress that Armed Forces of BiH have made.



EUNAVFORMED Sophia

On the 23rd and 24th November 2017 the 5th edition of Shared Awareness and De-confliction for the Mediterranean Sea (SHADE MED) was held in Rome at the Francesco Baracca airbase. SHADE MED is a forum where representatives from nations and organizations interested in or impacted by the migratory phenomenon in the Southern Central Mediterranean can meet to discuss and share knowledge and de-conflict to coordinate their activities.

EUTM Mali

On the 17th November, the Operational Search Course was concluded at Koulikoro Training Centre (KTC). The six-week course was designed to allow a platoon of the 26th Engineer Battalion, stationed in SEGOU, to improve its shooting and contact-reaction techniques as well as first aid, Counter-Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED) and radio procedures. In parallel, as always, the development of the training capabilities of the Malian Armed Forces (MaAF) was the main focus.



EUNAVFOR Atalanta

On the 27th November, EU NAVFOR's Spanish Warship ESPS Patiño met up with CTF151 Pakistan Warship PNS Tariq to conduct counter-piracy exercises at sea off the Somali Coast.

Personnel from each vessel transferred between warships to understand each other's capabilities and focus on the major aspects of counter-piracy deterrence and prevention. Cooperation at this tactical level is essential in continued combined operations and building on the successes of both missions to date.

EUTM RCA

European Union Training Mission in Central African Republic (EUTM-RCA) is cooperating with Central African Armed Forces (FACA) and MINUSCA in order to reintegrate ex members of armed groups in the Central African society. After the 2012-2013 conflict, several armed groups in Central African Republic took control over the territory, challenging and replacing in some locations the legitimate power of the Government. The aim of this project is to develop and execute small scale initiatives to allow the different actors to appreciate the results before taking bigger actions.



EUTM Somalia

On the 16th of November the 2nd "Train the Trainers" Course Closing Ceremony was held in "General Dhagabadan Training Camp" in Mogadishu. All twelve Somali National Army (SNA) trainees finished the twelve-week Course with success.

During the comprehensive activity EUTM-S personnel taught military subjects, among others leadership, motivation, human rights and law of armed conflict. The SNA trainees carried out activities in the fields of counter IED (Improvised Explosive Device) and FIB-UA (Fighting in Built Up Areas) and, finally, learnt the most important and difficult skill to accomplish: how to train soldiers.

News from the Committee



EU Military Committee at Chiefs of Defence level

On November the 6th and 7th, the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, General Mikhail Kostarakos, chaired the second EU Chiefs of Defence Military Committee meeting of the year 2017. The biannual meetings at CHODs level are crucial to discuss all future issues for the Military Committee, design strategic priorities, share the working plan for the following six months. The EU ChODs have elected Gen Claudio Graziano, the current Italian Chief of Defence, as the next Chairman of the EU Military Committee.



MILEX 2017 DV Day

On November the 16th, the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, General Mikhail Kostarakos, visited the EUOHQ in Northwood for the MILEX 2017 DV Day. In the occasion, General Kostarakos was warmly welcomed by Major Gen Charlie Stickland, the newly appointed EUNAVFOR Operational Commander.



Berlin Security Conference 2017

From the 28th to the 29th of November, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Mikhail Kostarakos, participated in the Berlin Security Conference 2017. In the occasion, General Kostarakos delivered a keynote speech on: "The implementation of the EUGS – new common capabilities as a major goal".

picture from: Behoerden Spiegel/Dombrowsky



G5 Sahel CHODs at the EUMC

On the 29th of November, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC) General Mikhail Kostarakos, welcomed the G5 Sahel CHODs at the EUMC meeting, in Brussels. This was a precious occasion to discuss on the latest developments referring to the security situation in the Sahel region.

Highlights from the Committee

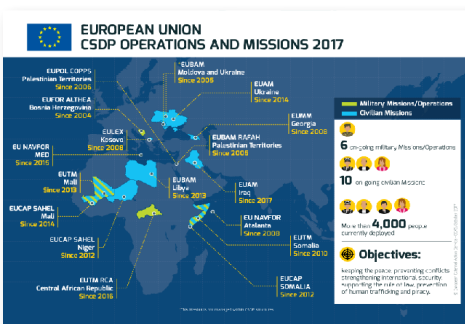


Advanced Modular Training for military and civilian personnel (AMT)

On the initiative of the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Mikhail Kostarakos, and the EUMC approval, a non-mandatory Advanced Military Training (AMT) has been established. The training is designed to provide senior Officers and civilian personnel posted in the EU institutions or directly involved in CSDP

with the right knowledge, skills and competences to perform their duties in the CSDP area. From March to June 2017, Training Requirement Analysis was conducted by the EUMS in cooperation with MSs with the aim to identify the requirements, map the existing training opportunities, find training gaps and deficiencies and to propose the appropriate measures, as well as to identify the Training Audience. The Pilot course is ongoing, structured in:

- E-learning module (divided into 3 distinct sessions at the beginning of each module);
- Module 1 - CSDP Orientation Course co-organised by ESDC and EUMS;
- Module 2 - Comprehensive Crisis Management Course on Fragility, Security and Development in the changing world;
- Module 3 - CSDP Operations Planning Course, divided into three separate sessions, hosted by volunteer MSs (SE, FR, EL).



Communications campaign on Security & Defence

Following the guidance of the HR/VP, Ms. Federica Mogherini, a communication campaign on Security and Defence has recently been coordinated and launched in order to increase awareness of key target audiences of the EU's actions in Security and Defence cooperation and the rapid advance over the past year. The campaign is also meant to increase recognition by EU citizens of the relevance of CSDP to our collective security.

The contents of the campaign can be found at : https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-home-page/35285/eu-strengthens-cooperation-security-and-defence_en (available in all EU languages + Russian).

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