

# Chairman's Newsletter

EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

@Kostarakos

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## Message from the Chairman



Gen. Mikhail Kostarakos



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On the topic of the implementation of the EU Global Strategy (GS), the launch of the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) definitely deserves a particular mention.

The conclusions from the European Council in June have created a strong political momentum to take PESCO forward. PESCO will bring together all willing Member States in the area of defence, "whose military capabilities fulfil higher criteria" and which have made "more binding commitments with a view to the most demanding missions and operations". It thus provides Member States the option of advancing in the field of the EU Defence.

In other words, PESCO is open, on voluntary basis, to all Member States ready to take greater commitments in the European Integration and participate in specific projects. PESCO is Member States driven and the EEAS and the EDA are facilitating and supporting Member States in this respect.

A common notification to inform the Council and the High Representative/Vice President of the intention to establish PESCO has been prepared since this summer.

Member States intend PESCO to be launched before the end of the year. This can be done by qualified majority. The adoption of the initiative would then be formalised with a limited number of initial projects.

A first PESCO milestone has been reached with the signature of a common notification by 23 interested Member States, on 13 November.

### LATEST EVENTS

**Cairo 11-13/10: CEUMC visit to Egypt**



**Belgrade 18-20/10: CEUMC visit to Serbia**



**Washington DC 24/10: "Counter Violent Extremist Organizations" Conf. at CHODs level**



**Zagreb 26-27/10: CEUMC visit to Croatia**



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# EU defence cooperation: Council establishes a Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC)

by Lieutenant General Esa Pulkkinen, Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) Director

On 14 November 2016, the Council adopted conclusions on implementing the EU global strategy in the area of security and defence. These conclusions set out the level of ambition in the form of the main goals the EU and its member states will aim to achieve in the area of security and defence, with three strategic priorities: responding to external conflicts and crises, building the capacities of partners, and protecting the European Union and its citizens. On 15 December 2016, the European Council reaffirmed the need to improve EU's capacity to react in a faster, more effective and more seamless manner, as part of an EU comprehensive approach.

On 6 March 2017, the Council adopted conclusions on progress in implementing the EU Global Strategy in the area of security and defence, endorsing a concept note for the operational planning and conduct of CSDP missions and operations. In its conclusions of 18 May 2017, the Council decided to establish the MPCC, pending a formal legal decision. This formal legal decision has been adopted by the Council.

On 8 June 2017, the Council adopted the decision for the MPCC to be included within the EU Military Staff (EUMS). The terms of reference of the EUMS, which is part of the EEAS, have also been amended and approved.

The High Representative Federica Mogherini said: "The establishment of the MPCC is a very important operational decision to strengthen European defence. It will contribute to make the non-executive European missions more effective

and to improve the training of soldiers of partner countries, to guarantee peace and security. This is important not just for our partners, but also for the European Union's security."

The MPCC has assumed command of EU non-executive military missions, currently: EU Training Mission (EUTM) Somalia, EUTM République Centraire Africaine (RCA) and EUTM Mali. The MPCC is the static, out-of-area command and control structure at the military strategic level. It is responsible for the operational planning and conduct of non-executive missions, including the building up, launching, sustaining and recovery of European Union forces. This will allow the mission staff in the field to concentrate on the specific activities of their mission, with better support provided from Brussels.

The MPCC improves the crisis management structures of the EU. It will work under the political control and strategic guidance of the Political and Security Committee (PSC), which is composed of EU member states' ambassadors and is based in Brussels.

The MPCC is composed initially of up to 25 staff but will also benefit from the support of other departments of the EUMS. I as the Director General of the EU Military Staff am also the Director of the MPCC. I exercise command and control over the current three training missions and other possible future non-executive military missions. I will also exercise the responsibilities related to deployment and recovery of the missions as well as overall budgeting, auditing and re-



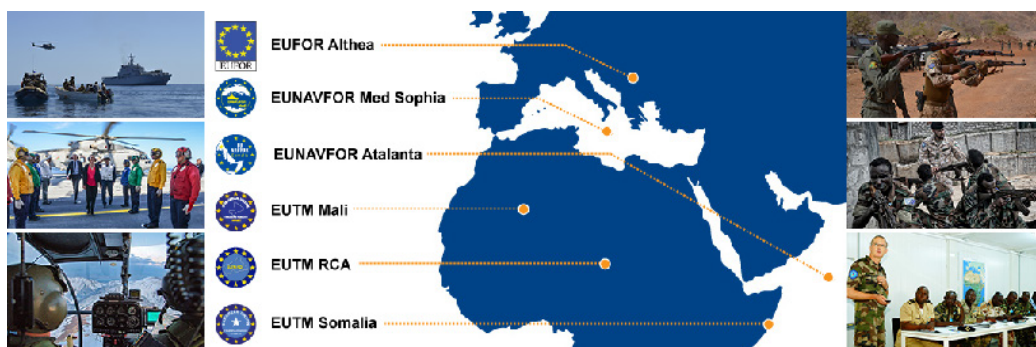
porting.

The MPCC works closely with its existing civilian counterpart, the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) through a Joint Support Coordination Cell (JSCC). This cell will be able to share expertise, knowledge and best practices on issues relevant to both military and civilian missions, as well as capabilities when civilian and military missions are simultaneously deployed in the same area, including medical support or protective measures. The decision has been published in the Official Journal of 9th June 2017.

is also making headway and should be adopted by the end of the year, thus complementing effectively CSDP efforts in support of partner countries.



## News from our Operations and Missions



### EUFOR Althea

On 20th October 2017 Commander EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner, along with Brigadier General Ilić, Commander 6th Brigade, AFBiH, presided over the closing ceremony of a combined training package that was designed to increase interoperability between EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AF-BiH). The combined training has taken place in the area of Pazaric and has not only tested the soldier's tactics and skills on the ground but also exercised their ability to operate with helicopters.

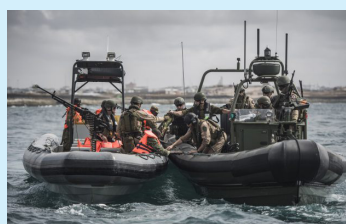


### EUNAVFORMED Sophia

Last October 16, Irish Ship "LÉ Niamh" arrived in Augusta and joined Operation SOPHIA. LÉ NIAMH was commissioned in 2001 and is the last ship in the "RÓISÍN Class" of Off-shore Patrol Vessel operated by the Irish Naval Service. In 2015, she deployed to the Mediterranean as part of OP PONTUS, a unilateral humanitarian mission conducted under a bilateral agreement between Ireland and Italy. During this deployment, LE NIAMH rescued over 2,000 people. Four representatives of SOPHIA headquarters in Rome were detached to Augusta harbor for training the crew of the new unit, being focused on human rights and legal areas.

### EUTM Mali

In accordance with its mandate and based on request of the Malian Armed Forces, the European Union Training Mission in Mali has conducted a staff course training, focused on the interoperability of the JF Command Post of G5 Sahel (PCIAT). Twenty-five officers from the five member states of the G5 Sahel (Mali, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad) participated. The course was planned in coordination with the Malian Armed Forces and with international partners, in particular EUCAP Sahel Mali, Operation Barkhane and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).



### EUNAVFOR Atalanta

Following the 14th of October terrorist attack, EU Naval Force personnel have been deployed to Mogadishu, Somalia in order to support the victims affected by the recent bombings. HNLMS Rotterdam is the second of EU NAVFOR's ships which offered help to the region, after ESPS Rayo delivered medical stores and medical equipment shortly after the incident. The Rotterdam provided the UN hospital in Mogadishu with urgently needed medical specialists and equipment in order to care for victims of the attack. Medical personnel and equipment were brought to the hospital with the help of AMISOM Forces.

### EUTM RCA

The Spanish contingent of the European training mission in the republic of Central African Republic made a donation to the school "progress" in Bangui. Benches, tables and chairs for three classrooms and for the children's dining room were donated and, additionally, Spanish soldiers collected and purchased a few products to improve children's food.



### EUTM Somalia

The EUTM-Somalia Force Commander, Brigadier General Pietro Addis, visited on 24th October, the Somali Defense Forces Headquarters in Mogadishu, and met the new Commander, General Abdiweli Jama Hussein. During the meeting, Brigadier General Addis, congratulated with General Hussein for his prestigious appointment, illustrated the mandate of EUTM-S and explained him current activities the Mission is performing. Furthermore, Gen. Addis highlighted the excellent collaboration and commitment that distinguishes the work done together by the personnel of the Mission with the Somali Defense Forces units, crucial to achieve stability, prosperity and security in the Country.

# News from the Committee

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## Meeting with the French Chief of Defence Staff

On October the 10th, the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, General Mikhail Kostarakos, met in Paris the French Chief of Defence Staff, General François Lecointre, and discussed issues of common interest.



## “Counter Violent Extremist Organizations” Conference

On October the 23rd and the 24th, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Mikhail Kostarakos, attended, in Washington DC, the “Counter Violent Extremist Organizations” Conference at the Chiefs of Defence level, on the invitation by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Joseph F. Dunford US Marine Corps. In the context of the event, the high-ranking EU military officials had also the opportunity to meet and discuss with the Head of the EU Delegation to United States of America, Ambassador David O’Sullivan.



## Farewell to the Hungarian Milrep

On October the 25th, the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, General Mikhail Kostarakos, bid farewell to the outgoing Hungarian Military Representative to the EUMC, Major General László Domján and thanked him for his exemplary and outstanding service during his tenure.



## EU-NATO informal Military Committee

On October the 30th, in Brussels, the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, General Mikhail Kostarakos, co-chaired the EU-NATO informal Military Committee, further enhancing the EU-NATO relations.

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by Lieutenant General Esa Pulkkinen, Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) Director

is also making headway and should be adopted by the end of the year, thus complementing effectively CSDP efforts in support of partner countries. A new EEAS division, PRISM (Prevention of Conflict, Rule of Law/Security Sector Reform, Integrated Approach, Stabilisation and Mediation) has been established to help focus attention on these various matters and serve as a hub that will facilitate the implementation of an integrated approach.

Links between external and internal security are also increasingly evident. Counter-terrorism action plans are being developed with key partners, notably in the MENA region and in the Balkans. Counter-terrorism and fight against organised crime have been integrated in the mandate of a number of CSDP missions and stronger cooperation is being sought with Justice and Home Affairs agencies, such as EUROPOL, FRONTEX and EUROJUST. In parallel, work on enhancing resilience and EU capacity to identify and respond to hybrid threats has continued to advance. Work on cyber has led to the development of a diplomatic response toolbox and a review of the cyber-security strategy, also referring to defence-related aspects, is being finalised.

## 4) Developing a more strategic deployment of CSDP missions and operations

All these structural and conceptual improvements are aimed at achieving greater operational effectiveness. A serious rethink of CSDP engagements is therefore

currently underway. This concerns notably the South, bearing in mind direct threats to the EU from terrorism and organised crime and in particular CSDP actions in Libya and the belt from the Sahel region to Somalia. The two naval operations - operations SOPHIA and ATALANTA retain their key strategic relevance. Efforts are equally pursued in Eastern Europe, where missions in Ukraine and Georgia signify clear EU security engagement, and in the Western Balkans. New CSDP action will also be undertaken shortly in Iraq, in addition to existing CSDP missions in Palestine.

## 5) Working with partners

CSDP engagement as such is intended to support EU partners in many regions, assisting them to enhance their own security and stability. But beyond those we support directly, the EU cooperates with a number of States and international organisations in contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security. Indeed, no single international player can face security challenges on its own. Many of the States and international organisations we cooperate with are in fact already strategic partners of the EU and regular exchanges with them contribute to carry forward this work. Let me take highlight on this occasion cooperation with at least three of them, notably NATO, the UN and the AU.

Cooperation with NATO has experienced in the last year unprecedented development. After the Joint Declaration of EU and NATO leaders in July 2016, 42 concrete actions



were identified in the seven main agreed areas, covering inter alia operational aspects, development of defence capabilities and addressing hybrid and cyber threats. Implementation of these actions has advanced substantially. Cooperation is now the norm in EU-NATO relations. The upcoming first parallel and coordinated exercise is a clear sign of this shift in mindset. A joint EU-NATO report in December may explore further paths for cooperation.

Work with the UN has also advanced in the last months, both operationally in the field, where cooperation is a daily reality, as well as on the structural level. The forthcoming signature of a Framework Agreement for the Provision of Mutual Support in the context of missions and operations in the field will be another important milestone.

Finally, the EU-AU summit in November will highlight the strategic relevance of EU-AU partnership in crisis management, as manifested in Somalia, the Sahel and so many other places. It will also be an occasion to examine further support to African peace-keeping efforts even beyond the framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture to ensure it responds to