

Chairman's Newsletter

EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

@Kostarakos



Gen. Mikhail Kostarakos

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This new semester welcomes the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. I am very happy to congratulate Austria and the Presidency team and wish them an excellent and fruitful Presidency!

In the "CSDP Actors" section of this newsletter, the Austrian Presidency team comments on the ambitious working programme in the Domain of Security and Defence. It includes a number of important issues ranging from the Implementation Plan for Security and Defence (in particular PESCO, CARD, MPCC) to the European Defence Action Plan & European Defence Fund.

These are all key, desirable goals to further deliver upon the EU Global Strategy's commitments and uphold, in a credible way, "A Europe that protects", as the motto of the Austrian presidency.

I guarantee to the Austrian Presidency full support from the EUMC with the aim of fulfilling all CSDP related priorities and commitments.

I want also to take this occasion to touch upon another topic which, in recent times, is becoming more and more prominent: Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Conflict related Sexual violence.

Promoting a systematic integration of gender perspective within CSDP operations and missions is one of the EU's key priorities. In addition, our training missions, together with the positive examples set by EU personnel in the field, serve as an opportunity to share the EU values of gender equality, human rights and respect, while ensuring we are practicing what we preach.

The EU Military Committee keeps this topic in the highest consideration and regular exchanges are in place with Ambassador Mara Marinaki, the EEAS Principal Advisor on Gender. In this respect, I am glad to announce that an enlightening article by Ambassador Marinaki will be published in the next issue of our newsletter.

As our High Representative, Ms Federica Mogherini said, commenting on the Global Strategy implementation, "So, the work continues: ambition and pragmatism, step by step, vision and action", as "We deserve a stronger Europe".



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



Brussels, 6 July: Meeting with the newly appointed UK Chief of the Defence Staff



Paris, 14 July: French National Day



Brussels, 21 July: National Day of the Kingdom of Belgium

“A Europe that protects”

By Colonel Camillo Nemeč, Mag.phil., Austrian Military Representation

Austria has taken over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the second half of 2018. After 1998 and 2006 this is the third time.

Our Presidency of the Council takes place at a time of controversial debates on Migration as well as intensive negotiations on BREXIT and the Multinational Financial Framework post 2020. It is also the last full presidency of the Council before the elections to the European Parliament next May.

The motto of the Austrian presidency is “A Europe that protects”.

The Austrian Presidency will prioritize the role of the European Union with regard to the motto “A Europe that protects”, which offers stability, peace and security to the citizen of the European Union.

We want a strong Europe trusted by our citizens.

Austria views its role during the presidency as that of an honest broker and will use its best efforts to find common solutions.

Further implementation of the EU Global Strategy will be a major subject for the Austrian Ministry of Defence working presidency role. We understand 2018

to be the year of delivering tangible results.

Austria therefore will actively support further progress on the work ahead:

- within the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), the sequencing of the fulfilment of the more binding commitments, the rules for third party involvement and the 2nd wave of PESCO projects have to be pursued;
- the review of the Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) will be conducted in order to optimize EU’s crisis management structures;
- the definition of the military requirements for Military Mobility have to be finalized and first implementation steps should be taken;
- the correlation between existing tools of security and defence, including the ATHENA Mechanism, and the newly proposed European Peace Facility needs to be detailed;
- the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD) which

will build the basis for future implementation;



Lieutenant General Franz Leitgeb
Austrian MILREP

Besides these working Presidency topics, the Austrian Ministry of Defence has defined three defence policy priorities for the Austrian Presidency:

Enhancing synergies:

Military assistance to civilian institutions with special emphasis on EU border protection. The aim should be to define risks and future threats and to identify strategic fields of action for civil-military cooperation to guarantee the efficient protection of the EU’s external border.

Strengthening resilience in South-East Europe:

2018 is the year to confirm

European perspective of our Partners in South East Europe. To enhance their resilience against various threats, to continue the stabilisation and association process and to strengthen the political engagement will be a strategic investment in peace and security in Europe.

The Defence Research:

The European Defence Fund (EDF) will promote cooperation and cost savings among Member States to produce state-of-the-art defence technology and equipment, by enhancing collaborative defence research, development and procurement. The European Defence Fund will contribute to a European Union that defends and protects its citizens. The Austrian Ministry of Defence will preside over a Friend of the Presidency Group in order to reach a Council's General Approach for the regulation



regarding the European Defence Fund.

There is no doubt that a presidency can only be successful by counting on the unity and support of the EU and its member states.

Ultimately, we should reach a greater unity and consistency of our external action, a better coordination of our efforts in the internal and external dimension and a more effective im-

pact on further implementing the EU Global Strategy in the area of security and defence.

To that effect the Austrian Presidency will prioritize the role of the European Union as a Europe that protects its citizen.

We want a strong Europe trusted by our citizens.

“A Europe that protects”



News from our Operations & Missions



EUFOR ALTHEA

On July the 18th, COMEUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer, visited a demining site at Delilovac in the municipality of Travnik. The site is run by the NGO Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), and COMEUFOR was welcomed by the NGO's Regional Director for Southeast Europe, Mr Sven Jonas Zachrisson. Major General Dorfer was updated on activities including de-mining and land release, as well as NPA's holistic approach to the community (which includes mine risk education and regular information flow to the local people on progress made).



EUNAVFOR ATALANTA

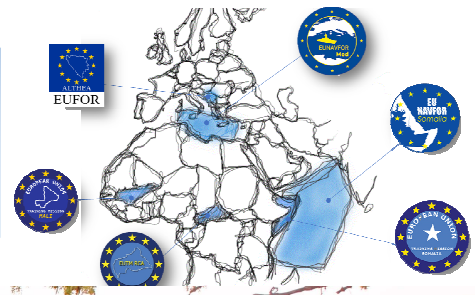
On July the 16th, Rear Admiral Alfonso Pérez de Nanclares (Spanish Navy) handed over the role of Deputy Operation Commander (DCOM) of the European Union's counter-piracy operation off the coast of Somalia to Rear Admiral Giuseppe Rapese (Italian Navy). The handover took place at the Operational Headquarters (OHQ) in Northwood, London.



EU NAVFORMED Sophia

Since July the 5th, a Crime Information Cell is active on board EUNAVFOR Med operation Sophia Task Force, operating in the Central Mediterranean Sea. Following the EU Council decision adopted on May the 14th, five specialised personnel from EU Agencies Europol, Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, and EUNAVFOR Med have been embarked on board of the Flagship of EUNAVFOR Med operation Sophia, Italian Navy Ship San Giusto, moored in Augusta. The establishment of the Crime Information Cell opens a new chapter in operational cooperation between Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) actors, which will strengthen the overall operation's effectiveness and operational impact.

News from our Operations & Missions



EUTM Mali

In accordance with the EUTM Mali and MaAF (Malian Armed Forces) planning, a combined Mobile Advisory and Training Team (CMATT) was conducted from June the 4th to July the 6th. The training was meant to improve the ability of the MaAF personnel to plan, execute and conduct military operations, and improve the leadership skills of cadets from Malian NCOs School. 405 trainees from MaAF, including 115 NCO cadets, were successfully trained by EUTM Mali personnel.



EUTM Somalia

On July the 16th, the European Union Training Mission Somalia (EUTM-S) Mission Force Commander, Brigadier General Pietro Addis, handed over the Command of EUTM-S to his successor, Brigadier General Matteo Spreafico.

The ceremony took place at the EUTM-S Headquarters in Mogadishu, and was honoured by the presence of Somali and International authorities.

In the framework of the ceremony, Brigadier General Addis was awarded with the “CSDP Medal for Extraordinary Meritorious Service”, and “CSDP Service Medal for Headquarters and Forces”.



EUTM RCA

On July the 7th, the Ceremony of the end of mission of the 4th contingent of EUTM-RCA took place in Camp Moana / Ucatex, Bangui. The Minister of Defence of CAR, the Ambassador, the Head of the Delegation of the European Union, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and head of MINUSCA, as well as various diplomatic representations accredited in CAR, honoured the Ceremony with their presence.

News from the Committee



Joint Political and Security Committee (PSC) and European Union Military Committee (EUMC) visit to EUNAVFORMED OHQ

On July the 2nd, in Rome, EUNAVFOR Med operation Sophia Headquarters (OHQ) hosted representatives of the Political and Security Committee (PSC), headed by its Chairman Walter Stevens, and the EU Military Committee, headed by its Chairman General Michail Kostarakos, together with the HRVP, Ms Federica Mogherini, the Italian Minister of Defence, Ms Elisabetta Trenta, the Italian Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr Manlio Di Stefano and the Italian Chief of Defence, General Claudio Graziano.



Visit to EUROCONTROL

On July the 6th, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Mikhail Kostarakos with EU Military Representatives, visited the EUROCONTROL's Headquarters in Brussels. EUROCONTROL is an intergovernmental organisation with 41 Member and 2 Comprehensive Agreement States. The organisation is committed to building, together with its partners, a Single European Sky that will deliver the air traffic management (ATM) performance required for the twenty-first century and beyond.



Workshop "Threat Perceptions and Scenarios for EU Security and Defense"

On July the 10th, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Michail Kostarakos, participated in the workshop "Threat Perceptions and Scenarios for EU Security and Defense", organised in the framework of the Mercator European Dialogue, a network of 150 Members of Parliaments (MPs) from EU Member States. The event was a great opportunity to discuss threat perceptions among societies and political leadership in Europe, with the aim to create a closer mutual understanding of the issues, views and approaches among MPs from EU countries.

News from the Committee



Farewell to the Spanish and Lithuanian Milrep

On July the 18th and 25th, in the occasion of the EUMC meeting, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Mikhail Kostarakos, bid farewell to Vice Admiral José Luis Urcelay Verdugo and Brigadier General Gintautas ZENKEVICIUS, respectively Spanish and Lithuanian outgoing Milreps. In the occasion, General Kostarakos thanked them for their outstanding service.



EU - NATO Military Committee

On July the 18th, in the occasion of the EU – NATO Military Committee joint meeting, the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, General Mikhail Kostarakos, welcomed Air Chief Marshal, Sir Stuart Peach, newly appointed Chairman of the NATO Military Committee.

This was a great opportunity to further enhance EU - NATO cooperation in the field of Security & Defence.



Farewell to the Chairman of the EUMC Working Group / Headline Goal Task Force, the Head of the Strategic OPS Cell and the Military Assistant for the PSC

On July the 25th, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Michail Kostarakos, bid farewell to Colonel Jean-Louis Nurenberg, outgoing Chairman of the EUMC Working Group/ Headline Goal Task Force (EUMCWG/HTF), Colonel Carlos Bernardo Anaya, outgoing Head of the Strategic OPS Cell, and Cap (N) Fabrizio Bondi, outgoing Military Assistant for the Political and Security Committee (PSC).

General Kostarakos priced their outstanding service, and wished them all success and luck for their future commitments.