



EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

Chairman's E - Newsletter
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Interview at page 2: Mr P. Legai (Director SATELLITE CENTRE)

Message from the Chairman

The beginning of a new year is a time for both high expectations and a renewed sense of commitment.



The challenges we face vary both geographically and in their nature, be they climate change, cyber security, scarcity of natural resources, hybrid wars, ethnic and religious conflicts or migration.

This new year, in particular, has an added sense of promise and opportunity with ongoing review of the European Security Strategy of 2003.

The process, that has been called for by the EU leaders, has started.

The European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, has been asked to prepare an EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy to guide the European Union's global actions in the future.

The Global Strategy, which will be presented to EU Heads of State and Government by June 2016, will be developed in close cooperation with Member States, as well as with EU Institutions and the broader foreign policy community.

On the same note, the Netherlands, which holds the Six Month Presidency of the Council of the European Union, supports this development as clearly stated in the opening remarks of their Presidency.

In this respect, the Dutch Presidency emphasised the security challenges that Europeans are facing and he recalled that the EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security policy will help to define political ambitions, objectives and instruments to achieve those ambitions.

Best wishes for a happy, peaceful and successful new year.

General Mikhail Kostarakos

In this vein, the CA was translated to crisis management with the establishment of the crisis platform which provides strategic guidance for further action and planning and facilitates the information-sharing amongst the EEAS, the Commission and the Council General Secretariat and all relevant stakeholders. Concurrently, the CMPD allowed the integration of civilian and military strategic mission capability.

Further the Lisbon Treaty as a consequence of the enlargement of the discourse on the CA in scope and the relative definition of the content, it has also led to the elaboration of strategies with a regional dimension that involve the entire array of stakeholders and instruments at the EU's disposal.

Policy strategies such those for the Horn of Africa and the Sahel show that efforts to update the EU's model of engagement are bearing their fruits allowing the definition of a single conceptual framework for external actions and the consolidation of a shared vision among different Institutions.

In this respect, the coordination of the actors involved in the planning process of the CSDP missions and operations related to the above mentioned policies were facilitated as belonging all to the EEAS. The geographical desk dealing with the crisis and the crisis management structures belonged to the same institution.

Conceptual clarity and unity of intent, although difficult to achieve, are the basics for the implementation of a comprehensive approach at institutional and operational levels.

Lt Col Simone Coccia

The EU's Comprehensive Approach

In December 2013, the High Representative (HR) and the European Commission presented a Joint Communication on the EU Comprehensive Approach.

The basic ideas presented are straightforward – the comprehensive approach is about working better together, and enhancing the coherence, effectiveness and impact of the EU's policy and action, in particular in relation to conflict prevention and crisis resolution.

Following discussions with EU Member States and following consultations with a broad spectrum of stakeholders from the political, military, development and humanitarian domains, the May 2014 Council gave full support to this concept and agreed a set of ambitious Council conclusions, including on the way forward.

Stressing the need for these principles and priorities to be taken from theory to action, the Council invited the HR/VP and the Commission to prepare an Action Plan.

Building on the principles and proposals set out in the Joint Communication and the Council conclusions, the Action Plan was circulated on the 14th April 2015, setting out a priority set of concrete and practical actions for implementation both by the EEAS and Commission services and, at national level, by EU Member States.

The EU's Comprehensive Approach (CA) envisages the concerted use of the wide array of policies, tools and instruments at the disposal of the EU, spanning the diplomatic, security, defence, financial, trade, development cooperation and humanitarian aid fields.

Looking at security comprehensively and tackling crises through co-ordinated civ/mil responses is not only positive in itself, but indeed necessary. All these tools have to be applied in a strategically coherent and efficient manner, accordingly to the framework set by the Lisbon Treaty.

If we assess the degree of convergence by different actors and policies toward the implementation of the CA, important progress has been made namely in the fields of institution-building, the development of early warning indicators and the facilitation of information-gathering and information-flows.

In this respect, the decision to explicitly link CSDP to CFSP (ratified by the Lisbon Treaty) allowed institutional advances, such as the creation of the EU Crisis Platform and the Crisis Management Planning Directorate (CMPD).



In this issue:

1. The cover story takes us to the EU Comprehensive Approach.
2. The newsletter also presents the EU Satellite Centre.



COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY STRUCTURES: European Union Satellite Centre



Director Pascal Legai

In this issue we will provide an insight of the European Union Satellite Centre and we will interview its Director, Mr Pascal Legai.

Q: Could you explain to our readers the role of the SatCen?

SatCen is a unique EU operational asset in the field of CFSP/CSDP. It delivers Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT) and imagery intelligence (IMINT) based on Earth Observation and collateral data, combined and analysed by its own specialists.

It also delivers proper training for imagery analysts, users and decision makers as well as customized tools and methodologies in support of GEOINT.

Under the political control of the Political and Security Committee (PSC) and the operational direction of the High Representative, the EU SatCen serves a variety of users including EU's high-level decision makers, crisis management and situational awareness structures of the EEAS, personnel on the ground involved in civilian missions and military operations, and Member States.

Main beneficiaries are the EEAS, EU Member States, EU missions and operations and the Commission. Moreover, subject to the approval of political actors concerned, Third States and International Organisations such as the UN, NATO, OPCW and OSCE can have access to SatCen services.

Relying on data from both governmental and commercial space assets, SatCen products and services support tasks ranging from policy-making, crisis monitoring and management, humanitarian support to operations, non-proliferation and environmental monitoring and control.

Jointly with other agencies such as EDA, FRONTEX, ESA and the Commission, the Centre also participates in various study projects and programmes in domains such as Border and Maritime Surveillance and Disaster Management.

Additionally, under the guidance of its Board, the Centre contributes to the development of a European Space Surveillance and Tracking (SST) Capability.

2. What drives you to achieve your objectives?

Our action is driven by our values: team spirit, commitment, proactivity and excellence.

In a context of information overload and distortion, SatCen staff are proud to work at an agency that provides relevant, timely and reliable information to its users.

It is also motivating and inspiring for the Centre to be involved in cooperation activities aimed at maximising synergies and increasing its own capabilities and the ones of the EU.



3. What are your recent achievements?

Continuously engaging its stakeholders at strategic and operational level, SatCen is a vivid and concrete example of pooling and sharing of resources, know-how, tools and services. In fact, Member States, contributing to a fraction of the SatCen budget, receive 100% of the output, this benefits all parties in terms of operational work, common information for decision making, financial optimisation and savings.

The cooperation with the Commission, within the Seventh Framework Programme and H2020, gives SatCen users access to additional services. Following a preliminary development phase, the SatCen is now called to coordinate Copernicus Security Services/ Support to External Action, an agreement with the Commission will formalize such appointment.

Over the past years, the Centre has acquired a real operational capacity with a 24/7 availability and near real time support, increasing the production twofold and the dissemination twelvefold. This significant evolution was made possible also by fostering direct and permanent contact with end users to understand and even anticipate their needs.

More information on www.satcen.europa.eu .

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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.



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