



EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

Chairman's E - Newsletter
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Don't miss our interview at page 2: Mr Nick Westcott (EEAS- Director Africa)

Message from the Chairman

2015 is a special year for development.

It is the year in which the world agreed to reach the Millennium Development Goals, back in 2000. It is also the year in which the international community will agree on the future global framework for poverty eradication and sustainable development.



In this light it is the first ever European Year to deal with the European Union's external action and Europe's role in the world.

Security Sector Reform is an integral part of EU Country and Regional strategies, and CSDP military missions are often involved in supporting the early stages of EU actions in crisis or post-crisis situations.

As a matter of fact, short to medium term engagement on building capacity to maintain peace and to guarantee the strategic security interests of the country, can kick-start and complement long term EU instruments for governance reform policy and strategy of the public sector.

These projects which are carried out by CSDP training and advisory missions address core requirements of a well functioning security institutions while ensuring that any development of professional defence forces leads them to be both accountable to the civil authorities and capable of carrying out the operational tasks assigned to them.

General Patrick de Rousiers

But there are also some recent bilateral initiatives encouraging deeper coordination between defence and civilian space programmes, pursuing in particular the synergies in the domain of security and making otherwise expensive space capabilities available at a cost that taxpayers can afford.

One of these is the **Athena-Fidus** communications satellite with Ka- and extremely high frequency - band payloads for military and civil-government communications recognizing that space technologies are often common between civilian and defence applications.

Also the Council, in its "European Space Policy: "ESDP and Space"", affirmed that the EU civil space programmes, Galileo and GMES, had the potential to contribute also to military crisis management. The Council made an explicit parallel between civil-military synergies in the field of crisis management and those in the use of space assets.

New security challenges continue to emerge and Europe's internal and external security dimensions are increasingly interlinked.

The space sector is a strategic asset that can contribute to the independence and security of Europe.

Col Giovanni Ramunno

Developing EU Space Policy

On 27 March Galileo, the EU's satellite navigation programme, has placed into orbit two more satellites of the European Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS).

The following week, on 30 March 2015, the European Commission announced that **Elżbieta Bieńkowska**, European Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, has set up a High Level Group to advise on how the EU can support research related to the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

Galileo together with **Copernicus** are EU flagship programmes; they will respectively provide a Global navigation system and a timely and reliable access to earth observation data in order to understand the dynamics of our planet's environment and climate and to obtain critical information in the event of emergencies relating to natural disasters or humanitarian crises.

High resolution satellite data (HRSD) and HRSD-based applications have become an indispensable tool for environment monitoring, urban planning, agriculture, natural resources management and disaster and emergency management, but are important for security and defence, too.



In 2009, when the latest EU treaties entered into force, Member States conferred to the EU a stronger role in space matters. The Treaty of Lisbon, more specifically at article 189, introduced for the first time a specific space competence for the European Union, enshrining **space policy** as an **EU policy** in its own right opening up new perspectives for developing an EU space strategy.

Therefore, Governments have recognized that the implementation of the strategies along cooperative lines and through multilateral institutions will be more successful than each entity following its own strategies in isolation or unilaterally.

Two major dual projects are already underway as mentioned before: Galileo (satellite navigation system) and GMES (global monitoring system).

The development and implementation of foreign and security policies remain largely the purview of each member state. Strictly, military capability effectively remains to a large extent within the remit of Member States, such that several different satellite programmes exist.

In this issue:

1. The cover story takes us to the the EU space policy.
2. The newsletter also presents the EEAS Directorate Africa.



COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY STRUCTURES: European External Action Service - Africa Directorate

In this issue we provide an insight into the EEAS Africa Directorate and interviewed Mr. Nick Westcott, who is the Managing Director.



Mr Nick Westcott

Mr. Westcott, could you explain the role of your Directorate to our readers?

Most of the daily work at the EEAS's headquarters is overseen by its Corporate Board. Reporting to this board are five large directorates that cover different areas of the world – Asia-Pacific, Africa, Europe and Central Asia, the Greater Middle East and the Americas. The directorates include departments specialising on regions and countries within those areas.

Our role is particularly focused on the definition of our strategic objectives which are then implemented through our delegations with support from Brussels.

Following the Treaty of Lisbon, in fact, the European External Action Service is responsible for the running of about 140 EU Delegations and Offices operating around the world, representing the EU and its citizens globally.

In this respect, I was impressed with the dedication and the hard work of our staff who are working in Africa for our delegations, sometimes in very difficult conditions and tough environments.

We also coordinate the intervention in Africa of all the EU bodies and institutions ensuring coherence between the different actors, working very closely with the Commission, where many of my staff originally came from.

Finally, we provide political advice and information for our leaders.

What drives you to achieve your objectives?

Our objectives are driven by the fact that the EU and Africa are close neighbours and there is a constant exchange of people between the two continents.

Europe is also Africa's biggest donor and trading partner.

Last year witnessed the fourth EU-Africa summit that proved a fruitful meeting and confirmed the fact that relations are based on mutual respect and equal partnership.

In particular, the EU has been the first in line to provide support when Africa needed help, and has played a critical role in resolving crises such as the Ebola epidemic.

We have also supported the efforts to enhance African capacities in the field of peace and security through the full range of means at our disposal, within the framework of the EU's comprehensive approach to tackling conflict and its causes.

In terms of stabilising conflict areas, the EU is the biggest donor to Somalia having committed over 1 billion Euros since 2008 through a comprehensive approach including security support, development assistance and humanitarian aid.

We also support the African Union peace building operation to Somalia (AMISOM) with an overall commitment of up to €800 million since the start of the mission in 2007 through the African Peace Facility (APF).

Three CSDP missions EUTM, EUNAVFOR Operation Atalanta, and EUCAP Nestor are part of the EU's engagement to Somalia, helping clean up piracy and enable the Somalis to defend themselves.

On the other side of the continent the EU Sahel Strategy provides stability in the region through state building, improved governance and regional coordination. More specifically in Mali, a long-term partnership and post-crisis assistance is being provided while the country is coming out of a major institutional crisis; in this respect, the EU is committed to helping it achieve lasting peace on its territory and to leading it towards a path of inclusive development.

Three CSDP missions EUTM, EUCAP Sahel Mali, and EUCAP Sahel Niger are part of the EU's engagement to the region. There were many other cases where the role of the EU has been less publicized by the media but where it has with no doubt made the difference.

I would cite two examples related to Nigeria: firstly, the political elections which were supported in financial terms (34 million euros) and with the provision of an Election Observation Mission (EOM) to observe the Presidential, Parliamentary and then Gubernatorial and State Assembly elections in Nigeria which complemented the European Union's support to the Nigerian election authorities and civil society.

A delegation of the European Parliament and Nigeria-based EU diplomats reinforced the mission on election days.

Secondly, the EU is supporting the fight against the Nigerian terrorist sect, Boko Haram, including through potential support to the Multinational Force set up to fight the terrorist group. We also assist the internally displaced persons in the country with humanitarian needs.

What are your biggest accomplishments?

I have a vivid memory of a trip to Somali in August 2012, when I was travelling to Mogadishu accompanying the then High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Cathy Ashton, the same day that the new Lower House of the post-transition government in Somalia had just democratically elected the speaker for the country.

The political situation was tense and we were travelling with armored cars downtown the capital to meet the President of the General Assembly.

The sentiment he expressed was of true gratitude for the EU's commitment to contributing to better governance, development and security in the country.



In Mogadishu with Mr. Alex Rondos, EU Special Representative for the Horn of Africa and AMISOM troops

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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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