



EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

Chairman's E - Newsletter

Issue n. 5, April 2014



@patderous

Message from the Chairman

The Summit of the European Council in December has been dedicated to Security and Defence as it was a crucial year for the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

The discussions on the future of the CSDP addressing the future security challenges in a "spirit of solidarity" have

shown that the European Council, all Member States, endorsed defence co-operation



All the EU stakeholders (HR of the Union, Commission, Council, PSC, EUMC, EEAS, CMPD, EUMS, CPCC) are working closely, not only for defining the conditions for activating the specific provisions outlined at the EU Council, but also on how to better coordinate their practices in a harmonised and cost-efficient manner.

In response to the European Council conclusions of December 2013, important work is being undertaken to meet the stated objectives.

The decisions taken today largely decide our future options ten years from now and beyond.

General Patrick de Rousiers

In this context the EU bodies could play mainly a facilitating role in assisting the cooperation among Member States, given that some of them cannot acquire specific capabilities unilaterally, due to ongoing budget cuts.

Alternatively, structured cooperation within the Union framework could ensure in the long term that critical or expensive capabilities will not be lost. Defence capabilities are complex and multi-faceted, and are not confined to military forces alone. They reach into the supply chain and the industrial base and they need long-term investment to be sustained. This sustainment starts with specialist world-class military products needed for future operations.

Starved of focused investment, the industrial base will ultimately fade away, and with it the autonomy to act. For this reason the issue of combining, even merging national efforts, resources and forces is on the agenda more than ever.

The European Union can serve as facilitator. But the EU Member States must be willing to act, to try new ways and to overcome old paths. We need flexibility and we need to compromise. Time has simply come to work together more efficiently.

Lt.C. Giovanni Ramunno

MILITARY CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

EU Defence Ministers in their recent meetings sent a strong signal by adopting a set of Conclusions on military capabilities and engaging all the relevant stakeholders who are involved in the domain of capabilities and the defence sector.

The delivery of **military capabilities** through the CSDP is essential to underpin the EU's credibility as a security provider in the world and the process has started speeding up recently, after the continued instability that Europe faces on its Southern and Eastern flanks.

Further, it is clear that in the long run it would simply be impossible for each of our countries to sustain the full spectrum of capabilities that we are striving at.

The **European Defence Agency's** Annual Conference "European Defence Matters" on 27 March in Brussels, outlined the importance of implementing the tasks given at the European Council in December 2013. It has been an opportunity to further reflect on how to ensure the implementation of the political will expressed at the **December Council**.

The effective development of military capabilities remains a national decision. This military element remains sovereign and even if, Member States commit their capabilities to the Union on a voluntary basis, they are, however, institutionally bound "...to undertake progressively to improve their military capabilities" (**Article 42.3, TEU**).



Among the features in this issue:

1. The cover story takes us to the military capability development.
2. The newsletter also presents the European Defence Agency (EDA).



COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY STRUCTURES: THE EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY

In this issue we provide an insight into the European Defence Agency (EDA) and interview its Chief Executive Claude-France Arnould.

EDA was created following the European Council in Thessaloniki in 2003, which called for the creation of an agency in the field of defence capabilities development, research, acquisition and armaments. The agency was officially established in 2004 and was recognised in the Lisbon Treaty, where its role was further defined. This was clarified in 2011 when the Council adopted a Decision defining the statute, seat, and operational rules of EDA. Heade by the High Representative, Lady Ashton, EDA has four functions: developing defence capabilities; promoting Defence Research and Technology (R&T); promoting armaments co-operation; creating a competitive European Defence Equipment Market and strengthening the European Defence, Technological and Industrial Base.



Claude-France Arnould, how would you describe the job of the European Defence Agency?

EDA is designed to support the Council and the Member States in their effort to improve the European Union's defence capabilities for the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). This means running and supporting cooperative European defence projects; supporting research and technology development; boosting the European defence technological and industrial base; and providing a forum for European Ministries of Defence.

How does EDA work in practice?

EDA's work combines a bottom-up expert led approach with top-down political guidance provided by our Steering Board - the only EU Agency Steering Board to meet at Ministerial Level. This approach helps ensure that our priorities reflect the needs and ambitions of the Member States.

EDA provides an "à la carte" approach for Member States. They decide when, where, and to what extent they want to participate in our work. Projects can involve as few as two countries up to those including all our Member States. This approach allows countries to join based on their operational requirements.

EDA is relatively small in size, fewer than 130 staff, but we are composed of leading experts in capability development, research and technology, armament cooperation, as well industrial matters. We work in an integrated way within the Agency and work closely with experts in Member States and other EU and multinational structures, to ensure we have the necessary expertise and avoid duplication of work.

What are the most challenging technical obstacles that you have overcome?

One major technical obstacle we face is in the harmonisation of planning calendars for purchases of defence capabilities. This is a major issue as if these are not coordinated it greatly restricts the possibilities for joint action. Where we can successfully harmonise these it provides a host of new opportunities for synergies, both in terms of pooled acquisitions but also in terms of savings for the whole life cycle of the capability.

How successful has EDA been?

EDA has proved a powerful tool to help Member States develop their military capabilities cooperatively. There are a range of examples – from helicopter training courses to the Counter-IED Lab in Afghanistan – that show how we are helping Member States develop the capacities they need. This was recognised at the European Council in December, which gave us responsibility for four key capability areas: Air-to-Air Refuelling (AAR), Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), Governmental Satellite Communication (GOVSATCOM) and Cyber Defence. It showed that the political recognition is there from the highest level that increased European cooperation on defence capabilities is the only way forward.

We are already seeing concrete results in these areas. Take for example AAR, where in terms of optimising existing capacity the EDA, Italy, and the Movement Coordination Centre Europe (MCCE) jointly organised the first collective European AAR clearance trial in September 2013, with a second one planned for September this year. The first European Air-to-Air Refuelling Training was completed in Eindhoven in April, with more countries already looking to join next year.

This is just one example but it highlights EDA's role as a catalyst for European defence cooperation, helping Member States to maintain and develop the capabilities they need to fulfill their responsibilities and ambitions in a challenging world.



Chairman EUMC Communication office

Captain (Navy) Anne de Mazieux - anne.de-mazieux@ext.eeas.europa.eu
Lieutenant Colonel Giovanni Ramunno - giovanni.ramunno@eeas.europa.eu

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.



Think green, do not print this mail unless you really have to

Follow us on:

