



EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

Chairman's E - Newsletter

Issue n. 2, January 2014

Message from the Chairman

For the first time since the entry into force of the **Lisbon Treaty** on 1 December 2009, the European Council held a thematic debate on defence keeping the topic on the political agenda.

As the year drew to a close, the leaders of all countries of the European Union met to discuss security and defence at the



European Council which conclusions have laid the basis for action in the current year and beyond.

Overall, the development of the EU's crisis-management capabilities and policies, bears witness both to significant achievements in EU Foreign and Security Policy collective endeavour, and to the importance of a culture of solidarity that is built on co-operation, shared views and political objectives.

The new year brings a reinforced message for the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) to continue to develop, to further adapt and respond to new challenges in full complementarity with NATO.

As key drivers in the further development of a culture of coordination, Member States have an essential role in the further elaboration of CSDP, making changes outlined in the Treaty happen, thus increasing the potential for coherence in close support to the EU bodies and institutions.

General Patrick de Rousiers

multinational stabilization force (EUFOR ALTHEA) has the main peace stabilization role under the military aspects of the Peace Agreement (S/2004/916; S/2004/915). It successfully focused on capacity-building and training while also retaining the capability to contribute to the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities' deterrence capacity if the situation so requires. Following the EU's readiness, as confirmed in the conclusions of EU Foreign Ministers on 21 October 2013, to continue at this stage an executive military role to support Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities to maintain the safe and secure environment, under a renewed UN mandate, the Security Council adopted **Resolution 2123** (2013). The EU's Political and Security Committee exercises the political control and strategic direction of the operation, under the responsibility of the Council of the EU.

GREEK PRESIDENCY 2014

Greece has officially opened its six-month **presidency** of the European Union in Athens, after formally assuming the position on 1 January 2014.

The **Treaty on European Union (TEU)** and the **Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)** contain a number of provisions dealing with the role of the Council Presidency and the conditions in which it is exercised.

More in detail, the Presidency chairs for a six-month period all **configurations of the Council**, with the exception of the Foreign Affairs configuration.

Thus, the **CSDP-related preparatory bodies** (Military Committee (EUMC), Military Committee Working Group (EUMCWG), Politico-Military Working Party (PMG), Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CIVCOM) and Working Party on European Arms Policy) are chaired by a representative of the High Representative.



The **programme** of the **Hellenic Presidency** has already been published. Regarding the Common Security and Defence Policy it fully endorses the relevant December 2013 **European Council Conclusions**.

More specifically, it is clearly stated the intention to actively contribute to the elaboration of an **EU Maritime Security Strategy**, to be adopted by June 2014, on the basis of elements provided by a Joint Communication from the European Commission and the High Representative. It also reiterates the commitment to cyberdefence and military training and education.

EUROPEAN UNION MULTINATIONAL STABILIZATION FORCE (EUFOR ALTHEA)



In the context of the European Union's overall commitment in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and the reinforced EU presence, as expressed in Council Conclusions in March 2011, **Operation ALTHEA** remains an important part of the EU's comprehensive efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in order to support a forward in the EU integration process. The security remain stable, European Union

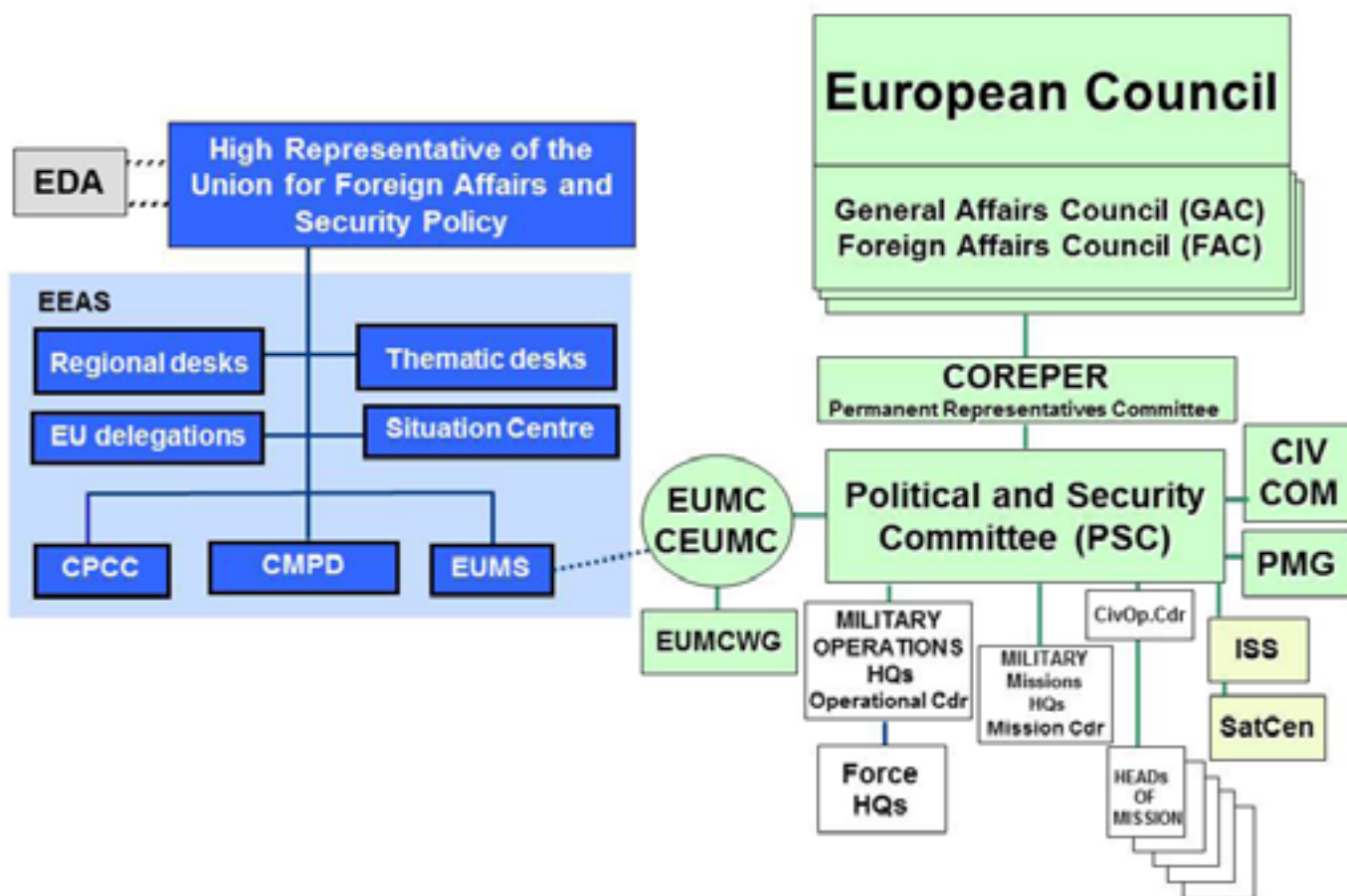
Among the features in this issue:

1. The cover story takes us to the EU Council Presidency for the semester starting from Jan 1st.
2. The newsletter also presents one of our military missions focusing on EUFOR ALTHEA.
3. The Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) structures at the political level are described.



COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY STRUCTURES

CSDP Structures



In the previous issue the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) actors at the strategic and operational level have been highlighted together with a specific insight of the military strategic planning process at all levels.

In this issue we will focus more on Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) structures interacting in the planning process at the political-strategic level.

While the single actors at this level will be described in the issue of the newsletter that will be published in the coming months.

The slide summarizes how the European Council (on the right – shown in green) together with

the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy – shown in blue - ensures the unity, consistency of the Union's external action particularly the CSDP.

EU crisis management structures have evolved and further developed over time and have had their current posture defined by the Lisbon Treaty.

The Treaty acted broad changes outlining the current procedural mechanisms for planning, launching and reviewing CSDP operations and missions. Lisbon's consolidation of Europe's civil-military crisis management infrastructure provides an important basis on which the EU can expand its unique capabilities in that area.

Further, the Treaty allowed for the creation of the European External Action Service (EEAS) under the authority of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission (HR/VP), Lady Catherine Ashton. The two distinct functions of the newly created post give the HR/VP the possibility of bringing all the necessary EU assets together and to apply a "comprehensive approach" to EU crisis management.

In fact, the political-strategic initiation of the crisis response planning cycle at the political-strategic level – the Crisis Management Concept (CMC) - is a jointly drafted 'civ-mil' document. Subsequently, civilian as well as military options can be developed accordingly.

Nevertheless, it remains true that the crisis management system is a deliberate concerted policy, finalized at the political-strategic level of the Brussels institutions.

In this light, the main body preparing Council decisions that are adopted in General affairs Councils, is the Political and Security Committee (PSC).

The PSC is therefore the forum for the Member States to exercise their political control of the CSDP operations and missions as well as the planning process.

Finally, the HR/VP not only represents the Union externally, but also holds key roles within both the Council (President of the Foreign Affairs Council), the Commission (acting Vice President), and of the European Defence Agency (EDA) (President), providing improved consistency in the EU's Foreign and Security Policy.

Chairman EUMC Communication office

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The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the author and do not represent the official position the European Union Military Committee or the single Member States' Chiefs of Defence.

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