



EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

Chairman's E - Newsletter

Issue n. 8, July/August 2014



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Message from the Chairman

After these very busy months, the summer will soon be in full swing. I therefore wanted to send out a short summer greeting to the Newsletter readers before that happens.

But before that I would like to refer back once again to the task from the last Council debate on Common Security and Defence Policy which has been deftly carried forward by the Greek Presidency.



A first deliverable has recently been released: the European Union Maritime Security Strategy.

The Italian presidency is taking affirmative action to ensure the implementation of the Action plan.

This achievement is a further step for enabling the EU to assume increased responsibilities as a security provider, at the international level and in particular in its neighbourhood, thereby also enhancing its own security and its role as a strategic global actor.

General Patrick de Rousiers

The external action work-strand shall guarantee a more effective EU role as global maritime security provider. Along the whole set of policies and tools the EU and its MS have recognized the strategic relevance of the military instrument: the Maritimes Forces, as defined in the Maritime Security Operations Concept, through a sustained presence, can easily and effectively contribute, "at the sea and from the sea" to deterring, preventing and countering unlawful activities.

In this regard the EU should be able to act autonomously with international partners.

A second important work-strand is the Maritime Situational Awareness and the information sharing where many results have been already achieved by the Commission, the EEAS and MS. Nevertheless it has been unanimously recognized that a more synergic effort is necessary and that a Common Information Sharing Environment based on validated data is a key enabler for an effective implementation of the Strategy.

A third strategic work-strand is dedicated to Capability Development where the pooling and sharing concept and a successful cooperation in the dual use technologies, standardisation and certification will be a key factor for a cost-effective evolution of EU and MS maritime capacities.

The remaining two work-strands dedicated to the protection of critical maritime infrastructures, the security research and innovation and the education and training areas rightly complement and foster a balanced set of actions.

The seminar on board of the Italian Aircraft Carrier CAVOUR at the beginning of July, formally launched the second part of this challenging journey towards the implementation of the EUMSS. Fair winds and following seas

Rear Admiral (LH) Nicola de Felice

Italian Defence General Staff - Centre for Defence Innovation
Director

The European Union Maritime Security Strategy: the Italian Presidency looking forward its implementation

On 24 June the General Affairs Council adopted, under the Greek Presidency, the **European Union Maritime Security Strategy** (EUMSS). The document, considered the first deliverable after the European Council on Defence held in December 2013, represents a good example of best practice of a fruitful and constructive cooperation among different stakeholders.

Indeed Member States, with the relevant participation and support of Commission and EEAS, have been able to define together interests, risks and threats in the maritime environment looking from different perspectives and bringing together their own unique knowledge.

The Strategy covers both the internal and external aspects of the Union's maritime security. It serves as comprehensive political and strategic framework, in accordance with the European Security Strategy, while ensuring coherence with the relevant EU policies.



The EUMSS is the answer to the European citizens that expect effective and cost-efficient responses to the protection of the maritime domain. Through an improved cross-sectoral cooperation within, between and across civilian and military authorities and actors, the EU and its Member States can

achieve more, act more quickly and save resources, thus enhancing the EU's response to risks and threats in the maritime domain.

The next challenging phase is now the elaboration of the Action Plan expected during the Italian Presidency. Five main areas of implementation

In this issue:

1. The cover story takes us to Maritime Security Strategy.
2. The newsletter also presents the European Union Operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina EUFOR ALTHEA.



COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY STRUCTURES: EUFOR ALTHEA



In this issue we provide an insight into the European Union Operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, EUFOR ALTHEA, and interviewed COMEUFOR Major General Dieter Heidecker, who is the Force Commander; the Operations Commander being General Adrian Bradshaw (DSACEUR).

Q: Could you explain the role of EUFOR ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina?

The main objectives of EUFOR ALTHEA are threefold: to provide capacity-building and training support to the Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH), to support BiH efforts to maintain the safe and secure environment in the country, and to provide support to the overall EU comprehensive strategy for BiH. We do this with the support of 17 EU member states, and 5 partner nations. We are in Camp Butmir, just outside Sarajevo. Some troops are permanently stationed here, but we also have a number of reserve companies, based in their home countries, who are our 'over-the-horizon' troops.

Q: What drives you to achieve your objectives and what are your biggest accomplishments?

Most recently, I have taken great pride in watching the EUFOR troops under my command work side by side with AFBiH to assist the BiH population after the severe flooding. The floods had a devastating effect on a huge number of people and I was pleased to be in a position to help with our aircraft, land assets and troops. This activity was a



good example of how Armed Forces can have a double use, not just a traditional military but also by providing humanitarian support at home when local authorities need assistance.

Q: What was the contribution to the recent crisis?

EUFOR had its intermediate reserve companies in BiH at the time of the flooding, coincidentally for an exercise which had been planned many months before the floods. These additional troops reinforcing the EUFOR Multi-National Battalion were re-tasked and assisted AF BiH in conducting flood-related disaster relief. This activity was called JOINT EFFORT.

The initial activity included hundreds of evacuation flights using EUFOR helicopters, and the provision of emergency medical treatment. Later on, the reserve companies performed a huge number of tasks in the north of the country, including road reconstruction, transportation of aid, disinfection of schools and other buildings, and removal of a huge amount of waste and debris.

Q: How would you describe the job of EUFOR ALTHEA in practical terms?

Practically, our main effort is the capacity building and training of the AFBiH. Our Mobile Training Teams (MTT) provide courses in area such as, communications, ammunition management and engineering, in addition to mine-risk education. Additionally, Embedded Advisory Teams (EAT) advise the AFBiH from Brigade up to Joint Staff level.

Training for peace support operations on platoon and company level are conducted monthly with the EUFOR Multinational Battalion, while every year an operation rehearsal (OPREH) is executed at Battalion level including the EUFOR intermediate reserve companies. To maintain the situational awareness, 17 Liaison Observation Teams (LOT) throughout BiH are EUFOR's eyes and ears on the ground. Beyond that the teams conduct mine awareness trainings (MAT) for the safety of the population. Through its presence in the country and its support to the BiH authorities, EUFOR remains an important and visible contribution to the EU's efforts in assisting BiH on its path towards the European Union.

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 of the European Union Military Committee or the single Member States' Chiefs of Defence.



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