



# EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

*Chairman's E - Newsletter*  
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Don't miss our interview at page 2

## Message from the Chairman

The EU Military Committee in Chiefs of Defence format had a successful two-days meeting identifying the future military priorities in CSDP Missions and Operations, Partnerships and Capabilities, setting the basis for the work for the June 2015 European Council



on Defence deliverables.

The Military Committee was honoured by the presence of Ms Mogherini, High Representative, who at the early beginning of her mandate, shared her views on EU Common Security and Defence Policy.

The Chiefs of Defence emphasized the importance of partnership to the European Union and discussed the Military opportunities and challenges presented by the Single European Sky package and its implementation in the coming years.

Concluding with a dedicated session on capabilities, they focused attention on the deliverables for the next European Council of June 2015 and on key projects, led by the European Defence Agency, which have been identified such as RPAS, the next generation of Governmental Satellite Communication, the European Air Refuelling Training and the EU Cyber defence policy framework.

*General Patrick de Rousiers*

Over the years, the European Union has provided operational, financial and political support to peacekeeping efforts of the UN. The launch of about twenty CSDP operations, military and civil, on several continents, bears testimony to such continued support. EU-UN co-operation in crisis management was formalized in 2003 in a Joint Declaration, following operation Artemis. It was then complemented and reinforced by a further Joint Statement in June 2007.

The EU works with all UN bodies, agencies and programmes across virtually the entire range of UN activities, from development policy and peacebuilding to humanitarian assistance, environment, human rights, and culture. Clearly defined mandates, adequate resources and reliable command and control structures are crucial for successful peacekeeping. They are also crucial for a successful transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding.

The **EU remains a loyal partner** in this endeavour, not only by supporting UN Peacekeeping operations, but also by deploying our own missions within the framework of our Common Security and Defence Policy. Let me mention the example of EUFOR RCA, in the Central African Republic, a EU bridging military operation currently preparing the transfer of military authority to the UN. Following a request by the UN Secretariat and CAR's interim president, Catherine Samba-Panza, we have extended the EU mission until MINUSCA is fully operational.

Further, under CSDP, the **EU operates civilian and military missions worldwide**. These missions carry out a variety of tasks and complementing the specific military task take into account confrontational politics, complex development security sector functionality. Through its political, practical and economic support, the EU has played a crucial role in building peace in the Western Balkans.

The EU focuses on policy frameworks, continental and regional structures, tools and mechanisms to anticipate, prevent, manage, and resolve crises - which is in line with EU's own comprehensive approach to crisis situations. Transitions - be it from AU to UN as in the case of Mali or CAR.

*Col Giovanni Ramunno*

## EU - UN cooperation in crisis management

"The Union shall seek to develop relations and build partnerships with third countries, and international, regional or global organisations .... It shall promote multilateral solutions to common problems, in particular in the framework of the United Nations.

This quote from Article 21 of the Lisbon Treaty sets the scene for the EU's co-operation with partner countries and international organisation in crisis management, conferring a constitutional status on the Union's relationship with international organizations as of 1 December 2009.

The engagement of the EU in peacekeeping efforts is demonstrated by the development of its **Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)**, of which Africa remains a centre of gravity with 10 missions and operations deployed on the continent.

Further, the EU and its Member States, as a force for global security and a major contributor to international peace and Peacekeeping operations, consider International co-operation as a necessity. They pursue their objectives both through multilateral co-operation in international organisations and through partnerships with key actors.

On the other hand, the United Nations consider Peacekeeping the flagship activity and a crucial tool paving the way for longer-term stability and development of countries emerging from a crisis.

The **EU cooperation with the UN** on peacekeeping has developed steadily since the Brahimi report, with the aim to improve the efficiency of peacekeeping operations around the world. The EU cooperates very closely with the UN at the strategic level, including through joint consultative mechanisms. Its aim is to enhance practical support to UN peacekeeping.



### In this issue:

1. The cover story takes us to EU UN Partnership.
2. The newsletter also presents the European Operation EUFOR RCA.



# COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY STRUCTURES: EU MILITARY OPERATION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (EUFOR RCA)

In this issue we provide an insight into the **European Union Force in Central African Republic**, and interviewed Major General Philippe Ponties, who is the Operation Commander.



## Could you explain the role of EUFOR RCA?

The EUFOR RCA military operation aims to establish a Safe And Secure Environment (SASE) in Bangui the capital of the Central African Republic (CAR) and its airport, to allow internally displaced persons to return home, as well as to facilitate the provision of humanitarian aid and development projects from International Organizations (IOs) and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Designed as a bridging operation EUFOR RCA also focusses on setting the requirements for a successful handover of the Area of Operations (AOO) to the Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), in order to avoid any security gap.

## What drives you to achieve your objectives?

The Operational and Force Headquarters and their personnel are highly motivated by the support of the International Community (IC), together with the excellent cooperation of the local stakeholders. This is reinforced by the positive reaction of the CAR population when EUFOR RCA troops assist them in various aspects of their everyday life, from simply patrolling in the streets or providing security and medical aid, to donating equipment and provisions, or the completion of public construction projects.



## What are your biggest accomplishments?

EUFOR RCA has succeeded in convincing the population that we are indeed an impartial and neutral force, increasing the security and self-confidence of the IDPs to start returning to their homes in the 3rd and 5th district. As a result of this policy, the number of IDPs from M'Poko has decreased from 100.000 in February to 18.000, the markets some fuel stations and banks have reopened, public transportation and taxis is resumed and the Police station in the 5th District has initiated services.

## What was the contribution of EUFOR RCA to the recent crisis?

Despite the recent rise in clashes, EUFOR RCA continues to gain acceptance by the majority of the population; this results in the marginalization of local radicals and criminal elements. The International Forces of EUFOR RCA, MINUSCA and SANGARIS, through their close cooperation, are becoming a single actor operating across the Country in a cooperative approach, focusing on the fight against impunity.

## Why was the mandate of EUFOR RCA extended?

After a formal request by CAR Government and UN, officially approval by EU Council on Nov 7th; it is now essential to fulfil the bridging nature of the mandate by consolidating already achieved level of security, facilitating a strong hand-over to MINUSCA towards its Full Operational Capability in the area of Bangui, supporting a carefully planned and well executed transfer of authority, insuring the acceptance of the new IF by the population and facilitating a peaceful transition process to a stable future.

## What does the future hold for CAR after EUFOR RCA leaves?

Following the EUFOR RCA redeployment, MINUSCA will take over the former EUFOR RCA Area of Operations, protecting the civilians in the same manner, enabling the resumption of everyday life and ensure that IC, IOs and NGOs will carry on in a safe environment, providing humanitarian aid and executing development projects. In addition the format of a possible follow-on EU mission is in discussion among Member States, in order to contribute to the reconstruction of CAR armed forces.

### Chairman EUMC Communication office

Captain (Navy) Anne de Mazieux - [anne.de-mazieux@ext.eeas.europa.eu](mailto:anne.de-mazieux@ext.eeas.europa.eu)  
Colonel Giovanni Ramunno - [giovanni.ramunno@eeas.europa.eu](mailto: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.**



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