



EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

Chairman's E - Newsletter

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Message from the Chairman

We usually associate summer with a slow down of our activities. This has not been the case given events in the Middle East and in the European region.



The European Union Military Committee was convened to provide all its members an update on the events discussed

at the extraordinary Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) held on 15 August.

In particular information was provided on the situation in Ukraine, Iraq/Syria, Gaza, Libya and Ebola crisis.

Meanwhile, our soldiers, sailors and airmen in CSDP missions and operations worked relentlessly to accomplish their tasks.

The way ahead is still challenging and there will be no let up in our commitment to address them.

We shall do this alongside our partners and the refreshed EU family.

General Patrick de Rousiers

The European Union Comprehensive Approach

Fragility and conflict can hamper sustainable development and poverty reduction.

We have also observed how recent events have aggravated humanitarian crisis, provided a fertile breeding ground for instability and triggered consistent migratory flows in our neighbourhood.

Conflict or crises, as multifaceted problems, require a strategically coherent use of the EU's different instruments and policies to effectively address their root causes. They require a so called "comprehensive approach", to enable a rapid and effective EU response.



The European comprehensive approach is both a general working method and a set of concrete measures and

processes to improve how the EU can deliver more coherent and more effective policies, and actions, drawing on its wide array of existing tools and instruments.

The regional strategies developed to date for the Horn of Africa and the Sahel have been valuable in framing the EU's comprehensive response to new political developments and challenges.

Further, the EU institutions have been adapted by the **Lisbon Treaty** (2009) to facilitate the implementation of an increasingly comprehensive approach in its external relations policies and action.

By doing so coherence in policy has also proven highly beneficial to the sustainability of EU engagement transitioning from CSDP missions and operations to other forms of commitment.

Furthermore, the EU is also reinforcing its cooperation with others and coordinates its comprehensive approach with key international partners such as the UN, NATO, OSCE, AU, other regional organisations, with a view to increase operational effectiveness, with due respect to the institutional framework and decision-making autonomy of the EU.

As a result, the EU is now able to more systematically link up its political engagement, its CSDP missions and operations, and its development cooperation and assistance.

On a closing note and recalling the **Conclusions** from the European Council of December 2013, the EU is ensuring the greatest possible coherence between the Union's and Member States' actions to support partner countries and regional organisations, including in the context of security sector reform, through providing training, advice, equipment and resources where appropriate.

Col Giovanni Ramunno

In this issue:

1. The cover story takes us to EU Comprehensive Approach.
2. The newsletter also presents the European Union Training Mission in Mali.



COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY STRUCTURES: EUROPEAN UNION TRAINING MISSION MALI



In this issue we provide an insight into the **European Union Training Mission in Mali**, and interviewed Brigadier General Marc Rudkiewicz, who is the Mission Commander.

Could you explain the role of EUTM Mali?

EUTM Mali is a non-executive mission with two main pillars - training and advising, which are an important element of the support programme undertaken by the international community and the European Union to assist the Malian government with its reform agenda. The objectives for EUTM Mali are two fold; in the field of advising, the main aim is to assist in the restructuring of the Malian Armed Forces (MaAF) into an affordable and sustainable force. For training, which is organized at both levels – individual and collective - with the main effort on the last, the objective is to train 8 Groupements Tactiques InterArmes (GTIA) by May 2016, 5 have already been delivered to the MaAF. The desired military endstate is for the MaAF to be

able to deploy at least 3 GTIAs on operations on a permanent basis, supported by reorganized logistics, human resources and training systems, under effective organic and operational command and control structures.

How does EUTM Mali work, in practical terms?

The return to law and order and reform of the MaAF through reconciliation represents the cornerstone of the process which aims to shape a favorable environment to enable the durability of trained units. EUTM Mali is well organized and equipped to fulfil its main tasks: to train GTIAs through a programme designed to prepare them to be deployed to carry out security missions together with MaAF executive partners, MINUSMA and BARKHANE, and to accompany and assist the Malian military authorities in the design and conduct of reforming their defense structures. Understanding and compliance with international humanitarian law is a key component of the mission.

The training of a GTIA lasts for 12 weeks and is broken in to 5 main phases; a leadership component for commander of all levels, a basic skills package focused on the soldiers, a specialization phase for the different elements, an integration phase for company groups before culminating in a GTIA level exercise. Training is focused on 4 tactical actions: area control, reconnaissance, neutralizing of an isolated threat and blocking action. The different specialties within the GTIA are: infantry, light-armour, snipers, reconnaissance, artillery, engineers (including EOD), TACP, combat casualty care, communications and logistics. Besides the military training, moral guidance is also emphasized focusing on cohesion, discipline and ethics. The know-how and behavior elements of the training process are held together by the power of trust and exemplary conduct displayed by both trainers and trainees. At the same time as the training of GTIAs, a training course for Malian trainers (Train The Trainers - TTT) is conducted. These trainers will, in turn, become instructors in their specialties, which allows the development of an autonomous training capability over time.

The counseling and advice pillar is carried out by a multidisciplinary team of twenty military advisers, who support their Malian counterparts in the following areas: human resources management, intelligence, conduct of operations, information systems, operational logistics, readiness, finance and planning.

What drives you to achieve your objectives? What are your biggest accomplishments?

EUTM Mali embodies the spirit of defense and security measures conducted by the European Union to support the empowerment of the Malian Armed Forces. Today 25 European nations, amongst which Switzerland, Moldavia and Montenegro have around 600 members deployed within EUTM Mali and we can say that the European dimension represents one of the main assets of our mission. Starting in February 2013, five GTIAs have been trained by EUTM Mali, and importantly, over this time we have disseminated a common military culture across the Malian military community. A long term efficiency, the nesting of EUTM into the Security Sector Reform and wider Malian national restructuring process and the maintenance of trust and confidence with all stakeholders are seen as our criteria for success.



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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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