

Chairman's Newsletter

EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

@Kostarakos

Message from the Chairman



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Gen. Mikhail Kostarakos

As yet another exciting year comes to an end I should recall our most popular stories from the year which demonstrates the European Union's enduring contribution to security, peace and development.

Namely, in the Horn of Africa, thanks to Operation Atalanta, piracy at sea has fallen to its lowest level, and in the Mediterranean, Operation Sophia, has contributed to the disruption of smuggling and trafficking of human. Furthermore, Operation SOPHIA has contributed also to the training of the Libyan Coast guard and Navy as well as to the implementation of the UN arms embargo on the high seas off the coast of Libya.

In the Balkans, EUFOR Althea's sound support and contribution to ensure a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina is of paramount importance to the country's future.

Turning to the African continent, the high level of professionalism of men and women in our missions has allowed to progressively strengthening EU's international commitment to Capacity Building by providing training and advice to the Armed Forces of the Central African Republic, Mali and Somalia.

These operations are not only a structural component but also basic and valuable tools of the EU's Comprehensive Approach, which is turned into action in all these Common Security and Defence Policy Military Operations and Missions.

In a broader perspective, the European Council recently endorsed the Council conclusions on implementing the EU Global Strategy in the area of Security and Defence. In particular, the Council welcomed the Commission's proposals on the European Defence Action Plan, and urged swift action to follow up on the Council conclusions of 6 December 2016 on implementing the Joint Declaration signed in Warsaw by EU and NATO leaders.

I thank you all for the incredible support provided helping the EU Military Committee fulfill its mission and wish you all a wonderful Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year!

LATEST EVENTS

Florennes 30/11: Black Blade EDA Live helicopter exercise.



Gemona 01/12: "European Wind 2016" exercise: EU BG fully operational.



Brussels 12/12: CEUMC bid farewell to DK MilRep.



Brussels 14/12: EUTM Somalia extended.



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 document unless you really need to.

The Africa-EU partnership.

Col. Giovanni RAMUNNO (Italian Army Aviation)

The security landscape in Africa has changed dramatically in the last decade, with the emergence of terrorist



and insurgent groups in Somalia, Nigeria, and the Sahel-Sa-

hara region, and with peace enforcement and counter-terrorism operations becoming the rule rather than the exception in many areas. The problems of transnational extremism and unregulated migration are tied to weak governance and organized criminal networks. Fragile states and ungoverned spaces are increasing in number, leaving so many people affected by poverty, lawlessness, corruption and violence.

The EU has recognized the importance of investing more in conflict prevention, taking account of factors such as political and religious radicalisation, election-related violence, population displacements and climate change and the great role to play with its coordinated external actions that make use of diplomatic, security and development tools to restore confidence and tackle the challenges of wars, internal conflicts, insecurity, fragility and transition.

“Peace and security are necessary pre-conditions for development.”

Peace and security are necessary pre-conditions for development. The High Representative recently noted at the Forum in Dakar on Africa facing its security challenges, “There is no development without security, and there is no security without development. These two sentences, which you have often heard, have been a guide to the work of the European Union for several years and represent the very spirit of the sustainable development goals adopted in New York (at the United Nations).” Namely, Security Sector Reform and disarmament, demobilisation and re-integration of ex-combatants can be of importance in reaching stability and development goals.

The EU's potential, particularly through

its Comprehensive Approach covering civilian and military means, to help strengthen security in fragile and conflict-affected countries and to address the needs of our partners, in particular for military recipients, while reiterating that security is a precondition for development and democracy.

The EU has a distinctive contribution to make in PSOs with multidimensional actions. In this respect, the EU is providing technical and financial support to the African Union (AU) and the sub-regional organisations, in particular through the African Peace Facility, the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace and the European Develop-



ment Fund.

More specifically, Peace Support Operations help create stable, secure and more prosperous environments for the longer term. Further, good governance, justice, greater respect for the rule of law, protection of civilians, respect for human rights and security are the essential preconditions for this, and successful reconciliation, reconstruction and economic development programmes will help deliver self-sustaining peace and prosperity. On the same note, peace has been recognised as crucial for development in the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.

For all these reasons, all local and international actors have highlighted the need for close coordination between security and development policy; therefore, crises in Africa call for a coherent global response which goes beyond



the purely security aspects.

In this light, and taking into account that the stability of the African and Eu-



ropean neighbourhood would greatly benefit all our countries, a long-term perspective has been envisaged in the general framework of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy adopted at the Lisbon summit in 2007. Growing cooperation between the EU and the AU in the security domain has allowed for a stronger relationship between European and African states.

The EU is intervening in Africa to contribute to the stabilisation of countries facing crises.

The primary mechanism for European cooperation with the AU is the African Peace Facility.

In the defence dimension the EU is conducting counselling and training actions in the framework of its CSDP missions, contributing to the reinforcement of African capacities in crisis management and through the CSDP missions, both civilian and military, in supporting reforms of the security sector and con-



tributing to the international crisis management strategy through the provision of training, advice, equipment and resources.

In an increasingly complex security environment, UN and AU missions are in need of a comprehensive approach under which, in addition to deploying military, diplomatic and development instruments, other essential factors are a thorough knowledge of the security environment, exchanges of intelligence and information and modern technologies, knowledge of how to undertake counterterrorism and fight crime, the provision of humanitarian aid, all of which European countries and collectively the EU can help to provide.

The Changing Security Environment & EU Military Staff (EUMS)

by Lt Gen Esa PULKKINEN, Director General EUMS

The security environment we live in is constantly changing. This naturally has implications to the EU and the work we do as part of the European External Action Service (EEAS). It can be predicted that this demanding and fast-changing security environment will provide us with new tasks and demands. This will have to be balanced with possible changes in the European Union as a whole, but also here in Brussels.

When I started my job as the Director General of the European Union Military Staff (EUMS) in late May this year we didn't have BREXIT and we didn't have the EU Global Strategy. Things have moved very quickly since, and there is no sign of a slowdown in the near future. Even in this constantly changing environment the EUMS has continued to deliver and improve the high quality and professional military advice demanded by Member States (MS) and the EEAS structures. However, at the same time we have to make sure we are ready to meet the future.

We have just started what seems to be a very busy period within the military structures of the European Union and EEAS, and I can see three main focus areas for the work of the EUMS in the coming months, namely:

1. Implementation of the Global Strategy; 2. Ensuring the role of the military within the EEAS structures; 3. Support to ongoing and possible new operations and missions.

It's not difficult to see that all three of these areas are closely connected to each other and it would probably be helpful to add a little more detail on each of them:

Implementation of the Global Strategy

I see the implementation of the Global Strategy as the biggest single area that will affect our work in the near future. During the end of the summer, throughout autumn and now into the winter, we have seen steady development of these ideas; indeed we have participated on many levels in its development and in the associated decision making and planning processes.

The EUMS will continue to actively contribute to the development of the HR's Strategic Implementation Plan to transfer the EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy from vision into action. We will provide military expertise to the EEAS as well as to the member States through the Military Committee. We are all well aware of the complexity of this process. And it is crucial that the HR's expectations and the political will of our nations are properly synchronised. That is our responsibility.

The Global Strategy identifies three strategic priorities; responding to external crisis, building the capacities of partner nations, and protecting European citizens and territory. These priorities define the EU Political Level of Ambition. As you can imagine, this will require a full spectrum of defence capabilities to be realised. One important part of the implementation process is to characterise the required military capabilities to meet this level of ambition. The role of the EUMS in this process is already central.

We also have to make sure that we offer relevant and realistic military options to our decision makers, by thinking innovatively and without limiting ourselves to current solutions, and even more importantly, anticipating the possible limitations in the political decision making process. This political reality means that we will need to remain flexible.

What will be the end result of this implementation process? No one knows. But I am sure there will be changes that will involve the EUMS. They could be structural and/or procedural. Whatever the changes will be, I am convinced that we will have an EUMS that will be even more prepared to meet future security challenges.

Ensuring the role of the military within the EEAS

In our daily work, we have seen that there is a growing appetite for military expertise within the European structures here in Brussels. This of course is, generally speaking, a positive development and something that we have to address.

However, as the DG EUMS I firmly believe that also in the future it is important that the EUMS remains the sole source of military expertise within the EEAS. This does not mean that there couldn't be military personnel working outside the EUMS. The objective however would be that the military personnel are attached to the EUMS and that the guidance on the substance and administrative issues would come from within EUMS. This I feel, would ensure a coordinated military expertise within the EU structures. I also believe that this is an important quality guarantee. Possible development and changes in this area are closely connected with the implementation of the Global Strategy.

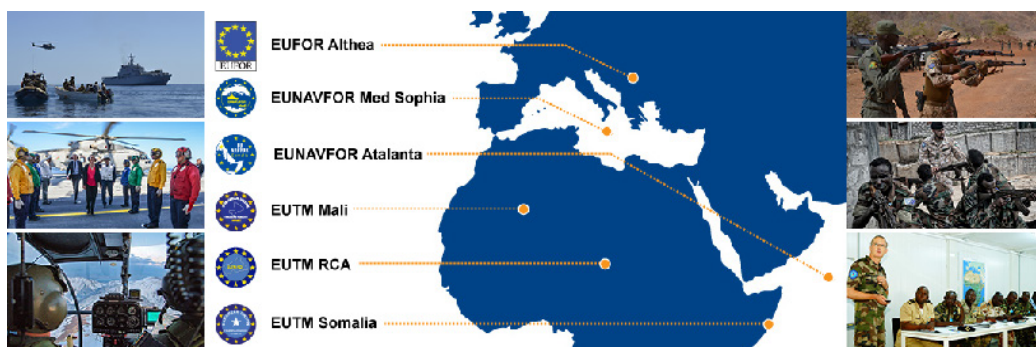
The EUMS support to ongoing and possible new operations and missions

Support to the operations and missions is, and will be, one of the most important standing tasks of the EUMS. Our soldiers, currently deployed to six military operations / missions are the key players when EU transforms our Common Security and Defence Policy into action. We are constantly following the development of the security situation in crisis areas and hot spots across the world to ensure we maintain readiness to provide the planning and support for the execution of any new missions and operations, should the requirement arise.

However, I feel there is one specific area we should closely explore in order to ensure that we can even better support our commanders in the field. I feel that the time is right to look at whether the EUMS could play a more active role when it comes to the direct support of the non-executive EU missions. This way we could better and more effectively support our commanders and their staff in their routines and allow them to use more of their time on their actual tasks in their area of operations. If realised, this could also be seen as a first phase of the development of the command and control structure. In the future, as the implementation of the global strategy proceeds, we could look deeper for even more cohesion and synergy. A permanent civilian-military planning and conduct capability could have further impact on the role of the EUMS in command and control. We should prepare ourselves for this and I know we are doing it as we speak. It is called prudent planning. But we have to remember; all this is dependent on how the implementation of the Global Strategy actually proceeds.



News from our Operations and Missions



EUFOR ALTHEA

The Austrian Chief of Defence, General Othmar Commenda, visited HQ EUFOR Camp Butmir from the 6th to the 7th of December.



EUNAVFORMED Sophia

On 11 December 2016, the Luxembourgish Maritime Patrol Aircraft Merlin III spotted two rubber boats. After reporting this information to the Force Headquarters on board the mission flagship, ITS Garibaldi, as directed by the Italian Maritime Rescue Coordination Center (IMRCC), the Force Commander ordered the German vessel Mecklenburg-Vorpommern towards the two rubber boats. The rescue operation was successfully completed and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern saved 140 migrants. Among them, 18 women and 4 children.

EUTM Mali

On 5 December started a course for the benefit of liaison officers of the armed forces from the countries of the G5 Sahel. 20 officers attended this training until 16 December in Bamako on the initiative of Malian armed forces.

Major General, Didier Dacko, chief of staff general of the armies and Brigadier General Eric Harvent, Commander of EUTM Mali have both insisted on the need for a cross-border collaboration in order to meet the security challenges in the Sahel region.



EUNAVFOR Atalanta

On Tuesday 6 December 2016 Spanish sailors from EU NAVFOR warship, ESPS Relampago, rescued two men at sea after they become stranded on two upturned skiffs twenty four miles north of the island of Socotra in the Gulf of Aden. The men had been sighted at first light by the aircrew of a Japanese Maritime Patrol Aircraft. Shortly afterwards Operation Atalanta's Spanish Maritime Patrol Aircraft arrived at the scene and kept a close eye on the situation until ESPS Relampago, could reach them to provide lifesaving assistance.

EUTM RCA

The General Hauteclouque-Raysz and mission EUTM RCA congratulate the Central African Republic for the 58 anniversary of the proclamation of the Central African Republic. The Journal of troops by the President of the Republic followed by the military and civilian parade have shown the unity of the population of Bangui and unifying spirit of belonging to the RCA. Reconciliation, reconstruction and peace are at hand.



EUTM Somalia

On the 7th December 2016, a Somali National Security Office (NSO) delegation with representatives of the National Integration Commission (NIC) and Advisors from the US State Department paid a visit to the EUTM-S HQ in Mogadishu. The EUTM-S Mission Commander briefed the delegation on the results achieved and the ongoing training activities delivered by the mission to the Somali National Army (SNA). In particular, during the visit to General Dhagabadan training Camp (GDTC), there was the opportunity for the NSO and NIC to meet informally some soldiers of the Pilot Light Infantry Coy (PLIC), an integrated unit that is undertaking the training with EUTM-S. At the end of the visit the leaders of the delegation described the PLIC as a model to follow in the development of an efficient Somali National Army.

News from the Committee



Live Exercise BLACK BLADE

Exercise BLACK BLADE ended its major training exercises on 30 November 2016 with a live demonstration which was attended by High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini, the Chairman of the EUMC and the Chief Executive of the EDA.

Since the 14th of November an average of 400 personnel have taken part in the 10th EDA Helicopter Training Exercise which was hosted by Belgium at Florennes Airbase.

A total of 14 air assets from 4 Member States (13 helicopters from Belgium, Slovenia and Austria and one Falcon aircraft from the UK) have been deployed. Over a three week period, the combined air assets flew in excess of 300 mission hours across a combined 175 aircraft sorties.



Exercise EUROPEAN WIND 2016

The joint multinational exercise EUROPEAN WIND 2016 has certified the achievement of the full operational capability of the EU Battlegroup.

The Italian Chief of Defence Staff, General Claudio Graziano, attended the Live Fire Exercise together with the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, Gen. Mikhail Kostarakos and the four Chiefs of Defence of the contributing Nations (Austria, Croatia,

Hungary, Slovenia).

General Kostarakos, underlined “we are here today with soldiers from Italy, Slovenia, Austria, Croatia and Hungary participating to this endeavour and who are sending a message of unity and capacity to conduct, under a multi-national flag, European or NATO, any operation in crisis areas “.



Chiefs of Transformation Conference 2016

Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, hosted the 2016 edition of the Chiefs of Transformation Conference (COTC) from Tuesday December 13 to Thursday December 15, 2016 in Norfolk, Virginia.

Transformation is essential for bridging the gaps between now and 2030 while enabling a strategic vision of adaptation and

sustainable innovation.

COTC 16 focused on how NATO and Partners can leverage innovation to shape future capabilities to meet the ambitions of the Warsaw Summit outcomes now while preparing for an increasingly unstable, uncertain, challenging and dangerous world environment in 2030 and beyond.



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