

Chairman's Newsletter

EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE



Gen. Claudio Graziano

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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

The Foreign Affairs Council, held on February 18th, adopted new conclusions on Climate Diplomacy. On the occasion, the EU Ministers stated that climate change is a direct and existential threat which will spare no country. Moreover, Ministers reiterated their view that climate action is not only about reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but also about addressing the implications of climate change on peace and security.

Climate Change, in fact, is a threat multiplier which aggravates already existing trends and tensions causing instability and undermining states and regions that are already fragile and conflict prone. These risks are not just of a humanitarian nature; they also comprise political and security risks that directly affect European interests as the EU's neighbours include some of the regions most vulnerable to climate change, like North Africa and the Middle East. Actually, Africa is one of the most vulnerable continents in terms of its' capacity to adapt to the predicted effects of climate change. Ranging from the North to the South of the continent, increasing drought, water scarcity, sea level rising and salinization in agricultural areas will potentially lead to a dramatic loss of fertile land and, as a consequence, to food insecurity. Looking at other areas of the world, we also notice, for example, that the melting of the polar ice caps is opening new international trade routes, as well as increasing the accessibility of enormous hydrocarbon resources in the Arctic region. This is resulting in new geo-strategic dynamics with potential consequences for international stability and European security interests.

A complex picture is appearing in front of us affecting, at different levels, also the military domain. Among other issues, for instance, we can reflect on the need to reduce the military's environmental footprint and its vulnerability from the perspective of energy security. In this respect, important investments are ongoing in energy-saving activities and in the adoption of new sources of energy, aiming at reducing military's reliance on enormous amount of energy derived from fossil fuel sources. There is already a widespread acceptance that climate change will affect the military at the strategic, operational and tactical level. As a consequence, a modification of the doctrinal approaches, along with a rethink of policies, strategies and operational planning will be needed. Also new training patterns and more emphasis towards soldiers' physical fitness should be necessary.

All land, sea and air forces will be affected. In the maritime domain, for instance, sea level rise, flooding and inundations represent a risk for sensitive infrastructures, potentially resulting in reduced availability of overseas ports for refuelling and re-supply.

All these changes and connected challenges should be incorporated in equipment parameters and new infrastructures' characteristics. Finally, due to Climate Change, a greater role in humanitarian disaster response is evident even for Armed forces.

In conclusion, I want to underline that the impact of climate change on peace and security is not a problem of tomorrow but of today. The military is already addressing it, tackling new challenges, while reducing its environmental footprint. Following our leaders' political guidance, the EU Military Committee is providing its contribution in enhancing, also in this respect, the EU's increasing role as a global security provider.

LATEST EVENTS



Brussels, 4 Feb.: Meeting with the President of the European Commission



Brussels, 7 Feb.: Meeting with the EDA CEO



Munich, 21 Feb.: Munich Security Conference

“Close cooperation with security actors at the core of the PSC's work ”

by Amb. Sofie FROM-EMMESBERGER, PSC Permanent Chair

Six months ago I took up the position as Chair of EU's Political and Security Committee. With all 28 PSC Ambassadors we have had an intense work period as the Committee has dealt with a wide range of CSDP issues as well as geographic and thematic matters. Lot of focus has been on the Western Balkans, Yemen, Ukraine, Sahel and Venezuela just to mention a few.

It is good to recall that the PSC's mandate is very broad as the Committee monitors the international situation in the areas covered by the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), contributes to defining and shaping policies under the CFSP as well as follows their implementation. An important part of the PSC's mandate is to exercises political control and strategic direction over both civilian and military crisis management operations and missions.

The Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy for the European Union (EUGS) released in June 2016 provides the strategic framework for the Committee's work. Much of PSC's focus has since then been on putting into effect the goals set in the strategy especially in the security and defence field. Council conclusions adopted by the Foreign Affairs Council are a political tool often used to mark important steps and to set the goals for further work, like for example the Council Conclusions of November 2016 setting the level of ambition for CSDP.

Over the last two years work on military capability development with various initiatives like PESCO, CARD and the EDF have been launched and further developed. Although in first instance PESCO was discussed outside the regular framework as it was initiated by Member States, PSC does play an important role since its launch and has given political guidance in difficult discussions on for example the sequencing of the commitments and the exceptional participation of third states. This month the first annual report of the HR on the PESCO National Implementation Plans (NIPs) will be presented to and discussed by the PSC. This is a first important moment to see where Member States stand in living up to the agreed commitments.

In addition to consolidate the achieve-

ments there is still work ahead. The Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) has during the first years of its existence in many ways proved its value. As agreed last year, the MPCC will now further develop to be able to 'plan and conduct' non-executive training missions and a modest executive military operation and thus take more responsibility for the EU in crisis management and. At the same time, with the creation of a Joint Support and Coordination Cell, civ-mil synergies should be promoted and cooperation and coordination between the newly established MPCC and the already existing CPCC should be strengthened.

It is important to highlight that the PSC has also played a major role in taking the next steps in promoting civilian capability development.

A Civilian Compact has been established. The PSC will do its share in ensuring that the Civilian Compact will be implemented. This was e.g. the focus when PSC met with the Standing Committee in charge of Internal Security (COSI) in February and discussed how to ensure a

close cooperation with external and internal security actors. In addition PSC also sees its role in stimulating civ-mil synergies in the framework of the Compact. After all, the integrated approach is EU's key strength.

As HRVP Mogherini said at the Munich Security Conference in February this year "I believe we feel the need for a sort of 'creative mix' of tools that can – and sometimes does and sometimes has to - include the military one, but always requires also much more: economic support, protection and promotion of human rights, empowerment of young people and women, reconciliation, climate action and here again the list continues." For me It is important that PSC discusses military missions and operations in an integrated manner and as part of a broader context of the political and security situation in a given area (Sahel, Horn of Africa, Western Balkans, Libya/Mediterranean).

PSC could in this regard be a catalyst to bring the different EU foreign policy and security actors and tools together



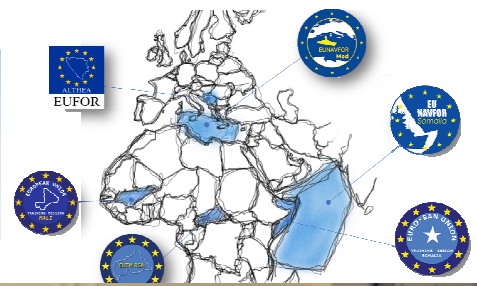
Amb. Sofie FROM-EMMESBERGER
PSC Permanent Chair

and to ensure coherence between EU activities.

PSC's interaction with partners within the EU family and beyond is central i.a. for the effectiveness of our work and to build sustainable security and peace. For the EU it is important to cooperate and coordinate closely with international actors like UN, NATO, the OSCE and Council of Europe, the AU as well as the League of Arab States. Meetings with all these international organisations have increased over the last few years. In the beginning of this year PSC has e.g. met with the G5 Joint Force Commander and the Minister of Social Cohesion, Peace and National Cohesion of Mali. In addition to PSC's field visits like to the Central African Republic one year ago all this contribute to better understanding and closer cooperation, also in the field.

Let me conclude by stressing the importance of close cooperation between PSC and the EUMC. The military advices, be it on military missions and operations, or on conceptual (capability-related) items are important for the debates we have in PSC and are a very valuable contribution to the decision-making on these items. I attach great importance to bringing the work of the PSC and EUMC even closer together and making sure that the military input in the political debate is well taken into account and it will be my mission to work on this during my mandate, in close cooperation with the Chairman of the EUMC.

News from our Operations & Missions



EUFOR ALTHEA

On 14th February, EUFOR hosted the heads of 21 EU missions to Bosnia and Herzegovina at Camp Butmir. COMEUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer, and EUFOR staff, briefed the Ambassadors on the current security situation in the country, demining, and the Masterplan for management, storage and disposal of Ammunition, Weapons, and Explosives of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



EUNAVFOR ATALANTA

On February the 19th, EU NAVFOR donated 50 First Aid kits to the AAMIN Ambulance Service. Somalia's AAMIN was established to provide free ambulance services after it was observed that no functioning public ambulance services existed. It responds to calls ranging from minor injuries and illnesses to terrorist attacks.

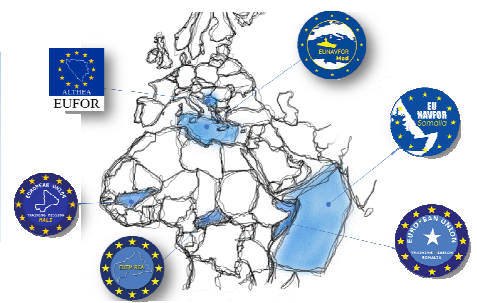
Donating the kits, the EU NAVFOR Liaison Officer in Somalia, Commander Steve Gilmore Royal Navy, stressed: "I have been very impressed with the professionalism and dedication of the AAMIN ambulance staff; they truly are life savers in very difficult conditions and a humbling example to us all. I hope this donation of first aid kits from EU NAVFOR goes some way to help their great work in helping the people they rescue on a daily basis."



EU NAVFORMED Sophia

On February the 14th, the ship FS JACOBET re-joined EUNAVFOR MED. Sophia is the European Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) operation established in order to disrupt the business model of migrant smugglers and human traffickers, ensure the effective training of Libyan Coastguard and Navy, contribute to the implementation of the UN arms embargo and collect information related to oil smuggling, tasks that have become increasingly relevant in the European Union's comprehensive efforts to stabilize Libya and its return to stability and security. Welcome back to FS JACOBET, fair winds and following seas!

News from our Operations & Missions



EUTM Mali

On 15th February, the Combined Mobile Advisory Training Time (CMATT) organised by EU Training Mission in Mali, was concluded with success. About 200 Malian soldiers received their graduation certificates during a ceremony held in the Parade Square, in Kati. Brigadier General Abdulrahman Baby, Malian Chief of the Army, attended the ceremony and stressed the importance of EUTM training, as well as that trainees must keep their skills up, after returning to their units. Brigadier General Mirow, Mission Force Commander of the EUTM Mali, also congratulated the Malian soldiers for their high commitment.



EUTM Somalia

On February the 7th, the closing ceremony of the 4th EUTM-S Combat Engineering Course was held at the General Dhagabadan Training Camp (GDTC), in Mogadishu.

The project planning and development of the military combat engineering course package began in 2017, and the first course was successfully delivered to Somali National Army (SNA) trainees in January 2018. This success continues, and today EUTM-S has overseen the graduation of the fourth course. During the combat engineering training, EUTM-S delivers instruction and practical skills to SNA trainees on preparing functional defensive positions, building protected check-points, and anticipating the Improvised Explosive Device (IED) threat, including how to react to any IED incidents with the correct procedures to save lives.



EUTM RCA

On February the 4th, an end of training course ceremony took place in the camp of military training camp, in Kassai. At the end of a two weeks training course, the trainees received their diploma as "instructor specialized in International Humanitarian Law" course. EUTM-RCA instructors in cooperation with partners from various international organizations, delivered classes on International Humanitarian Law, Prevention of Gender-Based Violence, and Pedagogy.

The purpose of this internship was to train instructors from different factions of the FACA so that they can in turn dispense these different notions within their unit.

News from the Committee



Meeting with the EEAS Managing Director for Asia and the Pacific

On February the 5th, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Claudio Graziano, met the EEAS Managing Director for Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Gunnar Wiegand.

This was a good occasion to take stock of and exchange views on the most relevant issues relating to Asia and the Pacific, and to discuss *"how to take forward the ambition to enhance the EU's security engagement in and with Asia"*, General Graziano stressed after the meeting.

Meeting with members of the Sub Committee on Security and Defence (SEDE)

On February the 19th, by invitation of the Chair, Ms Anna FOTYGA, the Chairman of the EU Military Committee (EUMC), General Claudio Graziano, had an exchange of views with members of the Sub Committee on Security and Defence (SEDE), at the European Parliament. General Graziano briefed them on the role of the European Union Military Committee in the current evolution of the Common Security and Defence Policy. He focused on the state of play of the on-going military CSDP missions and operations, in particular the critical shortfalls with regard to manning and the lack of adequate financing tools. The Chairman also covered the EU Global Strategy and its main deliverables, reflected on EU Strategic Autonomy and its complementarity with NATO and shared a few thoughts on the challenges for the coming year.



Meeting with the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

On February the 21st, the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, General Claudio Graziano, met in Brussels with the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Dr. Ashraf Ghani. On the occasion, General Graziano had an exchange of view with President Ghani on the EU's relationship with Afghanistan which, guided by the EU Strategy for Afghanistan adopted in 2017, aims at providing the basis for developing a mutually beneficial relationship in key areas such as rule of law, health, rural development, education, science and technology, and the fights against terrorism, organized crime and narcotics.

Meeting with the French Chef d'État-Major de l'Armée de l'Air

On 27th February, the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, General Claudio Graziano met, in Brussels, the French Chef d'État-Major de l'Armée de l'Air, Général d'Armée Aérienne Philippe LAVIGNE. The two high ranking Officers had fruitful exchanges on the development of the European cooperation in the air domain.

