

Chairman's Newsletter

EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

@Kostarakos



Gen. Mikhail Kostarakos

In this issue:

Message from the Chairman

p. 1

CSDP actors:

"Executive summary of 3 years as Chair of the CEUMC"

by General.

Mikhail Kostarakos

p. 2

CSDP in action:

New from our Operations and Missions

p. 3

News from the Committee

p. 4

Approaching the end of my tenure I have been honoured, this month, to chair the EU Military Committee at Chiefs of Defence (CHODs) level.

Once again, this unique forum at the top military level has paved the way to fruitful debates, and allowed us to take stock of the most relevant issues in the field of European Security and Defence.

The EU CHODs have been joined by the highest leadership of NATO and guests from Partner Nations, along with officials from relevant European Institutions and Agencies.

In her opening address, the High Representative, Federica Mogherini commended the latest achievements in the implementation of the Global Strategy which were due "...to the team work done in an excellent manner...", she emphasised that the progress made in the field of European Security and Defence in the last two years has impressed even the most sceptical commentators.

The presence of my NATO counterpart, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach, has underlined once again the successful cooperation at the military level between the two main International Organisations in Europe. The common recent advances in the field of Military Mobility, Hybrid and Cyber have been discussed in our dedicated session.

The respective Commanders of EU CSDP Operations have reported on the state of play and discussed strategic forward looking issues. The Director of the Military Planning Conduct Capability (MPCC) has outlined progress made by our Military Training Missions, along with force generation and financial challenges. Also the Deputy Commander of US AFRICOM has joined us, highlighting the importance of effective cooperation in the field.

Along with our regular Partners in CSDP Operations and Missions (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Georgia and the Republic of Korea), we have had the pleasure to welcome, as a special guest, the Vice Minister of National Defence of Vietnam, Senior Lieutenant General Nguyen Chi Vinh. In the framework of a dedicated panel, both EU CHODs and Partners have been updated on the EEAS Partnership Policy, and important exchanges of views have taken place, with particular reference to lessons learned from Partners on how to prepare for participation in CSDP.

A final panel has been dedicated to Capabilities. The Chief Executive EDA, Ambassador Domecq, has discussed with the EU CHODs the CARD trial run, along with phase II of PESCO project proposals. On this occasion, CHODs also received an in depth brief by the European Commission Director General Ms. Lowri Evans, on a particularly prominent topic, the European Defence Fund.

In an emotional moment, I concluded this Committee with the symbolic handover of the CEUMC Baton of the Office to General Claudio Graziano who will chair the EU Military Committee as of November the 6th.

At a moment in time when security issues dominate Europe and the global stage, I am very proud of what we have achieved over these last three years. The EU Military Committee has played a key role in materialising the vision of a stronger Europe, a Europe that protects, the Europe we all deserve. I remain confident that the current impetus will remain strong under the direction of my successor, General Graziano.

Finally, I would like to take advantage of this auspicious occasion to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to the EU CHODs and all the European authorities who supported and sustained me during my last three years as Chair of the EU Military Committee.



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

LATEST EVENTS



Camp Butmir, 3—4 oct.: Official visit to EUFOR ALTHEA



Washington D.C., 14—17 Oct.: Chiefs of Defence Annual Conference



Brussels, 25—25 Oct.: EU Military Committee at Chiefs of Defence level

Executive summary of 3 years as Chair of the CEUMC

by General Mikhail Kostarakos

I would now like to take a moment to reflect on the last three years as Chair of this Committee. In the past days I have asked myself the question, have I achieved what I wished to achieve when I came into this role, and the answer is an emphatic "yes". Of course there have been disappointments along the way but my main priority was to raise the profile of the military community here in Brussels and contribute, in a meaningful way, to any Policy or activity or idea that would effect the military forces in Europe. In this, I can say with confidence, I have been successful.

My timing was good. Perhaps I am one of those "lucky" Generals that Napoleon spoke of, in that my arrival coincided with that of the HR, Mme MOGHERINI, and the drafting of the EU Global Strategy that has done so much to focus Political minds on the Security and Defence domain.

We have used the momentum in our favour and the creation of the Military Planning and Conduct Capability, or MPCC, is concrete evidence of progress that was long overdue. Our discussions today fill me with confidence that the momentum will not be lost and more progress shall be made in

this area.

Equally, initiatives such as CARD, PESCO, the European Defence Fund and the European Peace Facility are leading the way towards positive change and benefits to the Armed Forces of Europe. We must never lose sight of the fact that it is us, the Military Experts and Leaders, that must set the requirements so that we have the right tools for the tasks set to us. We also need the right resources to further our work with Partners, to build mutual trust. The current obstacles to providing equipment to Partners or to launch development projects must be removed through the creation of financial instruments that are fit for purpose.

I have also worked hard on Partnership and Cooperation, with old friends and new and in particular with NATO. I only regret that we were unable to do more with NATO and I know Claudio will continue working to overcome the barriers to greater cooperation. I believe the successful initiative to place Military Advisors in some EU Delegations will also facilitate better cooperation and understanding.

As I come to the end of my military career I firmly believe that the future of the



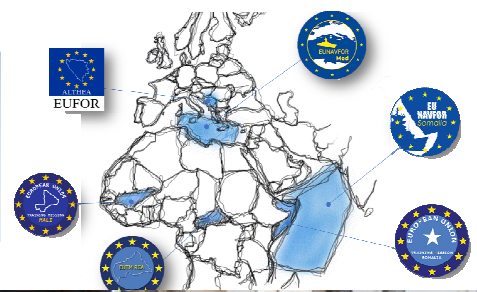
General Mikhail Kostarakos

military is in the capable hands of our young personnel and I have been very pleased with the progress we have made towards creating opportunities to deepen our common military culture in Europe and we have also been at the forefront of initiatives on gender mainstreaming and education.

I am very proud of what we have achieved over the past 3 years. Europe is a credible security partner and provider that shall continue to go from strength to strength. And the Military has strengthened its voice and position at the heart of decision making on military matters. We are the hammer in the EU Toolbox.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is your task now to carry on this work as my time comes to a close, so I would like to pass on the Chairman's Baton of office as well as the burden of responsibility, to my successor, Gen Claudio Graziano.

News from our Operations & Missions



EUFOR ALTHEA

From October the 24th to October the 26th, soldiers from the EUFOR's International Military Police (IMP) Detachment in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo, conducted a specific training for Armed Forces BiH (AFBiH) Military Police soldiers, in preparation to their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan. The training conducted by instructors from Austria, Poland and the Slovakian Military Police, included comprehensive theoretical and practical sessions.



EUNAVFOR ATALANTA

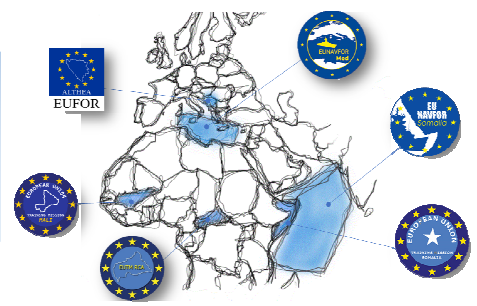
EU NAVFOR's Italian warship Federico Martinengo has been on counter-piracy operations for two months. Over this time, some significant milestones and achievements have occurred building ground-breaking new relationships. Since 11th August, significant acts of international cooperation have taken place, proving that EU assets in the area can make a substantial difference to the livelihoods and security of the countries around the Horn of Africa. Cooperation with Seychellois Military Forces occurred when ITS Martinengo conducted air operations and training with local agencies. This combined approach has proved beneficial to EU NAVFOR assets and the Seychellois military, which operate together in the high-risk areas of the Western Indian Ocean.



EU NAVFORMED Sophia

In the wide framework of Libyan Coastguard and Navy training carried out by EU NAVFORMED SOPHIA operation, a new module in favor of 69 trainees was launched in the Italian Navy Training Centre in LA MADDALENA (Italy) on October the 8th. The course, hosted by the Italian Navy, will last 8 weeks, and it will provide knowledge and training in relation to the general activity on board an off shore patrol vessel and lessons focused on Human Rights, Basic First Aid, Gender Policy and Basic English language.

News from our Operations & Missions



EUTM Mali

On October the 16th, a ceremony was held by EUTM Mali and the FAMa at the Banankoro NCO School. The aim was to officially hand over a building that had been renovated and equipped by EUTM. This new facility has two rooms, one of which will serve as a computer room for the education of non-commissioned officers and the other as a nursery for the children of Banankoro. The renovation work lasted 4 months and the project was funded by Luxembourg.



EUTM Somalia

On October the 15th, the European Union Training Mission Somalia Mission Force Commander Brigadier General Matteo SPREAFICO, and the Head of the Mission of European Union Capacity Building Mission in Somalia, Maria Cristina STEPANESCU, signed a "mutual support and coordination agreement", aiming at enhancing their mutual cooperation and coordination and facilitating the implementation of their respective mandates in Somalia.

The agreement relates to different fields, like medical, security, administrative, and info sharing, and is the formal outcome of a long-existing cooperation between the two European Union Missions.



EUTM RCA

On October the 21st the EUTM-RCA organised and held the "*Cérémonie des couleurs*". In the occasion of the meaningful event, a number of soldiers participating in the Mission were decorated.

News from the Committee



The High Level Conference "the European Defence Fund-Driving Factor for Defence"

On October the 2nd, the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, General Mikhail Kostarakos, delivered a speech during the High Level Conference on: "The European Defence Fund-Driving Factor for Defence Research & Innovation" organized, in Vienna, by the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and coordinated with the EU Commission and the European Defence Agency (EDA).



Meeting with the Chief of the New Zeland Defence Forces

On October the 5th, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee, General Mikhail Kostarakos met, in Brussels, the Chief of the New Zeland Defence Forces, Air Marshal Kevin Short. The meeting was a precious occasion for fruitful discussion on issues of mutual interest.



Meeting with the United States Ambassador to the European Union

On October the 5th, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee, General Mikhail Kostarakos met, in Brussels, H.E. Gordon Sondland, US Ambassador to EU. This was a excellent occasion to discuss on how to further enhance EU-US relationship.

News from the Committee



Informal EU Military Committee

On October the 11th, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee, General Mikhail Kostarakos chaired, in Vienna, an informal EU Military Committee meeting hosted by the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The meeting paved the way to fruitful discussions on the latest developments in the field of EU Common Security and Defence.



Farewell to the Italian Military Representative

On October the 22nd, in the framework of the EU Military Committee, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee, General Mikhail Kostarakos, bid farewell to Vice Admiral Stefano Dotti, outgoing Italian Military Representative to the EU and NATO, and thanked him for his exemplary representation.



Heads of Civilian CSDP Missions Seminar

On October the 23rd, the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, General Mikhail Kostarakos, participated in fruitful discussions in the framework of the Heads of civilian CSDP Missions Seminar and delivered a speech on: "How to further enhance Civilian-Military cooperation for CSDP Missions/Operations".