Your Excellency,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends,

Thank you for the invitation and the opportunity to address this distinguished audience. Some facts of life: Security and defence are difficult and costly to build, but very easy to lose. The latter we have witnessed happening. Security and defence never come cheap. Nevertheless, one should also think of the cost, of all the costs associated with an armed conflict, and rethink about it. Other distinguished speakers will talk about money. Commissioner Berezovska already did that, in full detail.

Today, the political momentum is right for the restoration and strengthening of the EU Member-States defence capabilities and this is clearly reflected on the European Commission's proposals for the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027. Two things need to be underlined: First, the decision to find practical ways for the European Union to fund defence-related activities, something that until recently was not a given. Second, the decision to allocate a considerable amount of money to assist and complement national efforts become more than that: become European efforts.

We, in the military, consider that the momentum is right to accomplish under the leadership of HR/VP, Madam Mogherini, what has not been accomplished the previous 60 years. For many years, the EU considered that
writing cheques to the various troublemakers was the best and easiest way to achieve deterrence and defence. That was until the terrorists and the jihadists appeared and our politicians discovered that there could not be business as usual any more. The new troublemakers did not accept money.

From a military perspective, we are in front of the greatest, if not the unique opportunity to reshape the security and defence environment in Europe. We have already begun but this reshape must include multiple domains.

- First of all, changing the prevailing mindset that until now, did not favor cooperation. Cooperation is the new norm and the only way forward. In order to provide certain capabilities in a timely manner and with an affordable cost. What we expect to have is a structured cooperation that will lead us to the desired end-state following a specific, progressive, agreed and detailed plan, providing certain capabilities in a timely manner and an affordable cost.

- Second, jointly building or adding defence capabilities, strategic or operational, for today and for tomorrow. I will quote Benjamin Franklin here, who said:

  "for want of a horse, the battle was lost;
  for want of the battle, the war was lost."

We do not want a war lost, if we are ever dragged into one. This is why we need to strengthen the capabilities of the national Armed Forces and enable them to form a credible, ample deterrent force. Please keep that in mind: every military deployment, executive or not, it always produces an embedded deterrent effect. The difference is whether deterrence is achieved through creating fear to a potential adversary or by providing hope to those in despair. In either case the objective is fulfilled. We should work on both.

This capability building will not take place with a view only on contemporary challenges and threats. We try to imagine what the battlefield of the next day will look like. What are the treads and what are the emerging challenges that will keep us awake 5, 10, 15 years from now.
Ladies and Gentlemen,

To turn the EU military Level of Ambition into reality, it is not an objective *per se*. It is the way to fulfil the end "*strengthen security and defence and to better protect European citizen*". The military has a central role in this process, defining and prioritising the defence capabilities that need to be developed. To identify these capabilities, we followed a certain methodology. The EU has agreed that it should be capable of undertaking 5 types of CSDP military operations outside the Union, a number of which may be executed concurrently. More specifically, they are:

- Joint Crisis Management operations,
- Joint Stabilization Operations,
- Military Rapid Response Operations,
- Air Security Operations,
- Maritime Security and Surveillance operations,
- Military Capacity Building through advisory, training mentoring, and monitoring/observation missions, and
- Provide assistance in the context of global response to natural disasters and pandemics.

The military Level of Ambition derives from them and is reflected in the 5 illustrative scenarios, including agreed concurrences. These scenarios are the following:

- Peace Enforcement,
- Stabilisation and support to capacity building,
- Conflict prevention,
- Rescue/Evacuation,
- Support to humanitarian assistance.

The concurrences are:

- Rescue and Evacuation plus Peace Enforcement,
➤ Rescue and Evacuation, plus Support to Humanitarian Assistance, plus Conflict Prevention plus Stabilisation and Support to Capacity Building in two different areas.

Each of the scenarios has undergone a detailed assessment supported by a capability requirements planning tool, resulting in a comprehensive mapping of the military capability requirements. I will offer you an example: It is assessed that the peace Enforcement scenario would need 9 maneuver brigades to cover the Initial Deployable Capability Requirements. This number rises to 18 maneuver brigades for the Total Capability Requirements.

We used these scenarios and created a catalogue of the capabilities we would need to execute them, taking also into consideration the agreed concurricendencies. We created the Requirements Catalogue and the Force Catalogue, which led us to the Progress Catalogue and to the identification of a number of High Impact Capability Goals (HICG) that need to be achieved. The latter have been divided into 2 categories:

➤ Those that need to be achieved in the short term (until 2026), and

➤ Those that can be achieved in the medium term (until 2032). These goals are seen as the most efficient way of pursuing the fulfilment of the Military Level of Ambition through a phased approach. The whole process is in close cooperation with the European Defence Agency (EDA), which has the lead for the capability related issues, and with the EUMS, which provides support for all military issues.

Being the end-users and the de facto most authoritative figures on this subject, our input needs to be taken into account. Therefore, our requirements are a starting point for developing the needed capability. Indeed, the High Impact Capability Goals were taken into account in the 2018 EU Capability Development Priorities which were agreed at the end of June as part of the 2018 Capability Development Plan review. Our, as the EU Military Committee, expectation is that the development of these capabilities will bring operational effect in the future CSDP operations and will increase EU's strategic autonomy.
And finally, focusing on the planning process we used, we consider that it needs to be updated, in order to better serve our needs. What we have proposed is a new, 4-year cycle that will be connected with the NDPP. Another and very important sign of the complementarity we seek to advance.

Thank you for your attention.

Edited by Captain (GRC/N) Vasileios Loukovitis