



**The Chairman of the European Union Military
Committee**



General Claudio GRAZIANO

CEUMC intervention at

**EU-UN Senior Officials Workshop on Humanitarian Civil-Military
Coordination (CMCoord), International Humanitarian Law (IHL)
and the Protection of Civilians (PoC) in Mali/Sahel**

Bruxelles, 01 Oct 2019

Dear Monique (*PARIAT, DG ECHO*)

Dear Pawel (*HERCZYNSKI, EEAS Managing Director for CSDP and
Crisis Response, on behalf of SERRANO, EEAS Deputy SG*)

Dear Dennis (*via VTC, Lieutenant General Dennis GYLLENSPORRE,
Force Commander of UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization
Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)*)

Dear Thomas (*THOMPSON, UN OCHA, Head of Civ-Mil Coop*)

Authorities, distinguished guest,

Good morning.

After your great introductions, I am left to focus on what I call "my
field", the military domain.

It is indeed a great pleasure for me, as Chairman of the EU Military
Committee and Military Advisor of the HR, to attend the opening of
this high-level event, with a truly interesting agenda.

Last week, the High Representative Mme Mogherini met with the UN
Secretary-General Guterres in New York and she confirmed that the

EU is determined to strengthen the partnership with the UN, looking for collective responses to global challenges.

Global challenges that the military component of the EU is facing with many ongoing and future projects.

But also with a re-energized approach to European Security, in the context of the Global Strategy.

Of course, we must keep in mind one mantra of the EU: nobody can tackle all these challenges alone.

Therefore, EU is strongly engaging with partners, and with the UN among the top priorities.

If I look at the topics covered today, they all have one characteristic in common: they evolve, continuously.

This is the true challenge: we all need to think dynamic, adapting our common strategies and procedures, military and civilian, day-by-day.

But still we need a strategic plan.

In particular, we need to ensure reciprocal asset and information sharing.

Coordination is not an option. It's a need.

And coordination must be very visible.

For all organizations receiving support (local authorities, population, armed forces), the understanding of our actions is an incredible multiplying factor for their effectiveness.

Still, many tend to ignore it, when they start planning.

Beforehand, I will tell you that some of my following considerations come from, *inter alia*, the outcomes of last CHODs Meeting at the UN, which I attended in July.

The meeting focused on military efforts to implement the SecGen's Actions for Peacekeeping initiatives and it was followed by the Women, Peace and Security CHODs Meeting.

First of all, let me talk to you about the EU Concept on Effective CIV-MIL Coordination in Support of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, on which this workshop is also based (*mentioned also by the previous speaker/s*)

The Concept was developed in close coordination with DG ECHO and agreed by the EUMC.

The paper re-emphasises the importance of effective CIV-MIL Coordination and adherence to humanitarian principles, building on years of lessons learned.

One point: CIV-MIL cooperation - on the military side - Is not and cannot be limited just to providing the security framework for the civilian component of the mission.

History teach us that military expertise plays vital roles in support of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response, by advising, leading or supporting initiatives for engineering, telecommunications, and environment protection, *inter alia*.

The dual use of the military tool is not easily replaceable by civilian actions. It's enough to think about the capacity and speed of deployment in any environment, even the most contested one.

Additionally, we know how soldiers have also been employed as "tactical diplomats", utilizing soft power.

In this context, let me get more specific about the cooperation of EU and UN.

With the security provided by EU NAVFOR, OPERATION ATALANTA, EU is strongly supporting the United Nations in the implementation of different projects aimed to enhance the capacities of fishing communities and protected ships of the world food programme.

Speaking of non-executive missions, EU Training Missions in Mali, Somalia and Central African Republic regularly engage in Humanitarian Civ-Mil Coordination on the ground and provide International Humanitarian Law (IHL) training and advice to local armed and security forces.

One of the common objectives of EU and UN is to ensure a better level of understanding of each other's mandates and language, and better planning processes.

As you all know, one of the objectives¹ of our military presence in Mali is to help the local Armed Forces to develop the capabilities to implement a military education and training system.

In this context, let me take this opportunity to confirm how men and women serving under EU flag are providing an excellent service to the international community, which is unanimously recognized.

Of course, more could be done, if we could count on an increased effort by member states to contribute with qualified personnel to fill all the posts.

The issue of shortfalls in force generation - in fact - represents a problem to which we are always striving to find solutions. You all know this very well.

¹ Additionally, the mission supports the G5 Sahel through the operationalization of its Joint Force (G5S JF).

In this subject, I want to recall the paramount contribute provided by women in uniform.

In the UN meeting I mentioned before we all agreed that more qualified women should be deployed in the field.

Interventions in different parts of the world, by different organizations, have brought a huge amount of lessons learned: female peacekeepers often act as role models.

Having said that, we keep on facing a general lack of women, when we generate forces.

Last point I'd like to touch is my personal experience, having served in different positions in international environment, where I had a possibility to observe CIV-MIL cooperation.

Dear all,

Let me once again thank you and wish you a very fruitful seminar, with common answers for common issues.

As John Ford said once:

"COMING TOGETHER IS A BEGINNING, STAYING TOGETHER IS PROGRESS, AND WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS."

Thank you.