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On 6 November, I assumed the role of Chairman of EU Military Committee. I am very proud and honoured to have been elected by the 28 EU Chiefs of Defence.

I have started my mandate at a moment of relative change on the global stage and, specifically, in the Euro-Atlantic and Euro-Mediterranean regions. The EU Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy anticipated that "the years ahead would have been a time of predictable unpredictability" and, in fact, the world has definitely become "more complex, more conflictual and more unequal".

There is a clear need for a higher level of protection of Europe and, in this context, the institutional responsibility of the EUMC is becoming more and more important in the security and defense dimension. Therefore we will continue to commit with the aim to foster and enhance the role of the Committee, responsible for defining the EU military operational needs and providing detailed and useful military advice to the decision-makers.

Looking ahead, to further enhance effectiveness of EU missions and operations is a strategic goal. As an example, the three EU-led training missions deployed in Africa aim at setting the ground for a sustainable locally-owned security and stability, a prerequisite for development. By doing this, they expand the safe and secure environment and provide a "forward and proactive" defense, some thousands of kilometres away from European borders. In post conflict reconstruction scenarios, CSDP EU missions and operations play an important role, and the military capabilities are particularly effective in supporting the stabilization process.

Another very prominent subject is the review of the Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC). The aim is to further develop EU Command and Control capability in order to achieve a more coherent, uniform and effective operational planning and conduct, as part of the EU’s integrated approach.

Furthermore, since cross cutting issues like terrorism and violent extremism affect us all, the EU is working very closely with partner countries, sharing common goals and objectives in the field of security and defence.

The EU has been taking several important actions to better deliver on its operational commitment. The Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), first of all, for which a second set of projects in different capability and operational areas, has been adopted by the Council on November the 20th. We also witness the progress made, in the context of both current activities under the Preparatory Action on Defence Research (PADR) and the European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP) and of the future European Defence Fund, in order to foster the global competitiveness, efficiency and innovation capacity of the European defence technological and industrial base.

Military/Civilian cooperation is another field of high interest, where I aspire to achieve relevant improvements, along with the EU-NATO partnership which should continue, on various fronts, in a complementary and inclusive way, in full respect of decision-making autonomy and procedures of both organizations.

The solid EU Defence and Security package we have put in place together is moving forward in an ambitious and pragmatic way. As we continue on this journey, the European Union Military Committee and its Chairman will be devoted to enhance the defence aspects of the Global Strategy, and help the EU to cope with the new security challenges, according to the tasking we receive from our political leadership.
The civilian CSDP Missions have over 15 years proven their usefulness as a European crisis-management tool. The Member States have decided to further enhance the effectiveness of the current ten civilian CSDP missions. This process will be taken forward by the new Civilian Operations Commander, Lieutenant-General Vincenzo Coppola. "In an increasingly intertwined world security challenges and conflicts will spill over if they are not addressed properly", observes, the new Civilian Operations Commander Vincenzo Coppola. Previously, the Deputy Commander of the 120,000 strong Arma dei Carabinieri and commanding a professional experience of over 42 years in security assignments on the national, European and international levels, he reminds us that: "The civilian CSDP Missions are an essential feature of the EU’s foreign policy tool box. Through their work they also increase European security.” The EU Global Strategy defines civilian Missions as the "trademark of the CSDP". Most of the current ten civilian CSDP Missions (plus the Regional Coordination cell in Mali) transfer European know-how in policing and rule of law to partner countries in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. This transfer is tailored according to the national vision and the strategic needs of our partners, who retain their full sovereignty. Only one civilian Mission, the EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo – EULEX– has an executive mandate. The civilian Missions, employing at present around 2,000 staff, have proven their usefulness since the launch of the first Mission, the EU Police Mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina, 15 years ago (that CivOpsCom Coppola headed from 2006-2008). 22 civilian Missions have been deployed since then, making them the most common type of mission of the European Union.

Civilian Missions: a flexible crisis-management tool

When necessary, the mandates of the Missions, decided unanimously by the Member States, are adapted to changing security needs. When Niger and Mali found themselves unable to control human trafficking, the mandates of the two civilian capacity building Missions were adjusted to include training and advice on countering trafficking and smuggling. As a result, the movement of irregular migrants via Niger has decreased.

Deploy personnel and materiel faster

One of the Global Strategy’s ambitions is also to deploy also civilian Missions faster than before. Steps already taken are the creation of the "Core Responsiveness Capacity", which consists of a reinforced Mission Support Platform at the Operational Headquarters of civilian Missions, the CPCC in Brussels, as well as pre-identified per-
CSDP Actors

Personnel resources placed in existing Missions. This Core Responsiveness Capacity can be complemented through rapidly deployable assets and planning elements from Member States, and, where agreed, specialised teams and multinational formations such as the European Gendarmerie Force (EGF).

The Warehouse for civilian CSDP Missions was established this summer in Southern Sweden through cooperation between the European Commission and the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency. This hub of material, services and expertise brings the logistics of civilian CSDP Missions into this century. With a three year budget of over €52M, over 600 soft skin vehicles, up to 1600 laptop computers, transport services equivalent to over 800 shipping containers, and many other essential assets such as medical or personal protective equipment can be speedily made available to civilian CSDP Missions, EU Special Representatives and other operational actors foreseen by article 28 of the TEU.

Civilian-military cooperation takes new forms

CivMil continues to evolve with the changing demands. The launch of the Joint Support Coordination Cell (JSCC) at headquarters in Brussels last year has enhanced the practical cooperation between the MPCC and the CPCC. The tasks of the JSCC are the coordination and sharing of expertise with the aim to achieve civilian and military synergies.

Another innovative framework for civ-mil cooperation in the theatre is the G5 Sahel Regional Coordination Cell. Neither a military nor a civilian Mission, but a CSDP action launched in the summer of 2017, it currently consists of 15 dedicated experts that are embedded within the civilian Mission EU-CAP Sahel Mali, EU Delegations in Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Niger, Mali and Chad. The task is to enhance internal security and defence cooperation of the 5 G5 Sahel countries by mapping needs and planning cooperation. A first version of the "Gaps Analysis and Needs assessment" was produced in April 2018 and is used as a baseline document for the development of a Regional Implementation Plan, which is currently under discussion and evaluation by the Member States.

The Compact Will Set the Way Ahead

The way ahead is set in the so-called Compact, concluded by the Member States on 19 November 2018. In essence it is a commitment by Member States and the Services to strengthen civilian CSDP in the years to come.

It will be followed by an Action Plan and an Implementing Plan that will work out how to make the commitments effective. As set out in the Council conclusions, the Compact defines the measures necessary to live up to the Level of Ambition derived from the EU Global Strategy.

The civilian-military character of CSDP is necessary for the EU to be a relevant and coherent security actor. The scale and interaction of all civilian and military instruments of the EU within the framework of the integrated approach make our Union a unique actor on the global theatre.

A degradation of Europe’s inner and external security environment has taken place. It is foreseeable that these challenges will remain and may get worse unless they are actively managed by the international community. In the face of current and future security risks, the EU must enhance its capacity to launch civilian missions. It is thus safe to assume that the European military will work more often and closer, side by side with civilian CSDP experts both in theatre and at headquarters.
News from our Operations & Missions

EUFOR ALTHEA
On 14th November, a flag raising ceremony took place in Camp Butmir to celebrate the return of France as a troop contributing nation to EUFOR ALTHEA. In attendance there were the Ambassador of France, His Excellency Mr. Guillaume Rousson, COMEUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer, Commander NATO, Brigadier General Marti J. Bissell, and Colonel Jean-François Caparos, French Police Attaché. COMEUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer, addressed the ceremony and welcomed France back into EUFOR ALTHEA.

EUNAVFOR ATALANTA
On November the 16th, EU NAVFOR Italian Warship Federico Martinengo visited the Port of Mombasa where her crew conducted the second combined exercise together with our Kenyan Navy counterparts. During the exercise, the ship’s crew demonstrated techniques in firefighting, basic first aid and anti-flooding procedures to members of the Kenyan Navy. This follows up on the visit by Martinengo to Mombasa on the 18th of September 2018, where the focus was also on firefighting and first aid, but additionally looked at Counter Improvised Explosive Device drills. Building and developing regional maritime capability is one of the key aims of EU NAVFOR; by sharing our expertise, we promote lasting regional solutions, which will help to deter and prevent acts of piracy throughout the region.

EU NAVFORMED Sophia
On 12th November, a new training module managed by operation Sophia and focused on “Ship’s Divers Basic Course” was launched in the Croatian Navy Training Centre in Split (Croatia).
The trainees, selected by Libyan authorities, underwent a thorough vetting process carried out in different phases by EUNAVFOR Med, security agencies of EU Member States participating in the Operation, and international organizations. The course, hosted by the Croatian Navy, will last 5 weeks, and will provide knowledge and training in diving procedures, specifically related techniques and lessons focused on Human Rights, Basic First Aid and Gender Policy.
EUTM Mali
On 12th November, in Bamako, in the presence of Major General Daniel GRAMMATICO on behalf of the Director of the Military Planning and Conduction Capability (MPCC), Brigadier General MILLAN handed over the command of EUTM MALI to Brigadier General MIROW. The ceremony was honoured by the Malian authorities, the German Minister of Defence, Ms. Ursula VON DE LEYEN, the France Minister of Defence, Ms. Florence PARLY and the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee, General Claudio GRAZIANO.

EUTM Somalia
On 20th November, the EUTM Somalia Mission force Commander, Brigadier General Matteo SPREAFICO, and his staff in the Mogadishu Headquarters, officially welcomed the Finnish State Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Samuli VIRTANEN, and his delegation. EUTM’s main tasks and the activities, along with the organizational structure of the mission were presented, and the achievements and challenges for the new mandate were discussed during the visit. The State Secretary expressed his gratefulness and high consideration for the EUTM’s commitment in support to the Somali Armed Forces, and reaffirmed his conviction of the EUTM’s SOMALIA key role for the future of the country.

EUTM RCA
On 29th November, after a 3 month training with the EUTM-RCA, the RCA Amphibious Battalion, with 330 soldiers strength, ran a final exercise taking all the achievements from these last weeks. At the end of the exercise, at the presence of the EUTM’s Mission Force Commander, Brigadier-General Herminio Maio, an offensive operation was simulated for training purposes.
News from the Committee

General Claudio Graziano chairs his first EU Military Committee

On 8th November, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee, General Claudio Graziano met with the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the Commission, Federica Mogherini. The meeting, right at the beginning of the Chairman’s mandate, was an occasion to discuss the current and most sensitive issues in the field of European security and defense.

On 7th November, for the first time in his capacity as Chairman, General Claudio Graziano presided over the EU Military Committee.

The Military Committee is responsible for providing the PSC with military advice and recommendations on all military matters within the EU, and exercises military direction of all military activities within the EU framework.

Courtesy Visit to the PSC Chair Sofie From-Emmesberger

On 7th November, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee, General Claudio Graziano, met with the Political Security Committee (PSC) Chair Sofie From-Emmesberger. The meeting was a valuable occasion for important discussions on issues of mutual interest, paving the way for fruitful collaboration.

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Courtesy Visit to the High Representative/Vice President, Federica Mogherini

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News from the Committee

**Courtesy Visit to the EEAS Secretary General, Helga Schmid**

On 14th November, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee, General Claudio Graziano met with the European External Action Service (EEAS) Secretary General, Helga Schmid. “Happy to welcome the new Chairman of the EU Military Committee, General Claudio Graziano. His strong military expertise is a key asset in taking forward EU’s broader security and defence agenda together with our Member States” Ms. Schmid stated.

**Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) Defence**

On 20th November, General Claudio Graziano, for the first time in his capacity as Chairman of the EU Military Committee, participated in the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) Defence. On the relevant topic of CARD, the Chairman stated: “The EU Military Committee recognises that the Coordinated annual review on Defence Trial Run Report is a collective document, which has benefitted from the contributions from all involved actors”.

**Courtesy visit to the President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani**

On 20th November, the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, General Claudio Graziano, met with the President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani. In the occasion of the visit, both the Chairman and the President put emphasis on how an active cooperation among EU Institutions plays a pivotal role in shaping a Europe that protects.