

Chairman's Newsletter

EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

@Kostarakos

Message from the Chairman



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Gen. Mikhail Kostarakos

The European Union Military Committee has met for its second time in the year in Chiefs of Defence (CHODs) format.

I am truly and profoundly grateful to the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, H.E. Federica Mogherini, for gracing this occasion by her presence.

A lot of hard work went into making the Committee go off so smoothly. I would like to thank the guest speakers, who made the meeting such an informative and valuable conference, and all who made it such a success.

The Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, General Petr Pavel, participated to the works as usual. Once again reinforcing the linkages between the EU and NATO.

CHODs had an update on EU Naval Operations Atalanta and Sophia and on the phase transition strategy and were provided with an overview of EU actions on Migration.

Further, a specific session was dedicated to Training and Advisory Missions. CHODs from Partner Nations (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, and Serbia), who are contributing to our CSDP missions, had an update made by the Mission Commanders and were invited to discuss with the 28 EU CHODs the evolution of the EU Training Missions and Advisory Missions. The Chief of Defence of the Malian Forces, Major General Didier Dacko, participated to the discussions.

US AFRICOM Commander, General Thomas D. Waldhauser also participated to the meeting and was a speaker at the Training and Advisory Missions' session.

The Commander in Chief of the Myanmar's Armed Forces, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, was the guest speaker of the following session dedicated to partnership where he explained to the Committee the defence landscape and the evolving democracy in his country.

I want also to take this opportunity to thank the Committee members and all the participants for their dedication and commitment to making the Committee a functional and collegial body.

LATEST EVENTS

High Sea 24/10: training of the Libyan Navy and Coast Guard.



Brussels 7-8/11: CHODs meeting.



New York 9/11: UNSC adopted Resolution 2316 (2016).



Brussels 25/11: mandate of operation Atalanta extended until 31 December 2018.



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 EU Military Staff Finance

Interview to Major Sebastian Puig (Spanish Army)- EUMS Administration & Support Branch

Many times, in the areas of life and work, finance is the last matter to care about. We tend to outline our mission in a striking, relevant statement, set appropriate goals and establish a very good detailed operation plan... until we realize that available funding may have an impact on implementation. The small, but experienced finance team of the EUMS, within the Logistic Directorate, perfectly understands



Photo, from left to right: Lt Col David Peter (Action Officer), Ms. Deborah Lassche (Bluebook Trainee) and Major Sebastian Puig (Action Officer)

First is the management of the EUMS operating budget. The EUMS financial resources are part of the External Action Service budget as a component of the Budget of the European Union. We manage, in coordination with the EEAS, the EUMS expenses for missions, meetings and representation.

“...our team takes part, as EEAS representatives, in the regular meetings of the Athena Special Committee.”

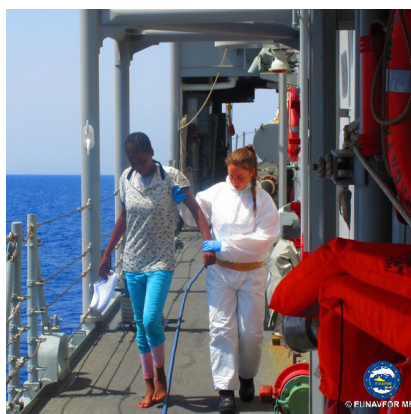
Second is the contribution to the strategic planning from the financial point of view, as well as the advice on the financial resources for mil-

itary operations and missions and exercises, managed by the Athena Mechanism. Athena administers the financing of common costs relating to EU military operations under the EU's common security and defence policy (CSDP), and our team takes part, as EEAS representatives, in the regular meetings of the Athena Special Committee. The current budget (2016) is 64.9 million euro, covering seven operations and annual exercises.

Finally, we closely follow and provide military expertise to EEAS MD Africa and DEVCO in Capacity Building projects of the African Union under the Africa Peace Facility instrument.

Q: CBSD is a relevant matter for CSDP. What is its current state of play?

The issue was raised in the December 2013 European Council on Security and Defence. After considering several options, the Commission, in collaboration with the EEAS, has submitted a legislative proposal amending an existing instrument (the IcSP, Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace) to specifically support military capacity building under exceptional circumstances. This proposal is now being discussed in the Coun-



oil and in the European Parliament. Once implemented, the instrument may cover some requirement gaps

that military operations and missions are currently facing in the field of training and equipment provided for partner countries.

Moreover, the proposal is in line with the provisions of the EU Global Strategy and Council conclusions on its Implementation Plan, on achieving more capable and flexible financial instruments to enhance coherent and effective EU action. A comprehensive revision



of the Athena mechanism is foreseen for the end of 2017. These are the key areas for the team to engage in the near future.

Q: What do you like the most while working in the EUMS?

Finance is a very essential and horizontal element, and consequently a challenging and demanding task. However, at the same time, it gives us a lot of opportunities to interact with all the actors working on the CSDP arena, at all levels, both inside and outside the EUMS. Professionally and personally, I cannot think of a better job.

Operation SOPHIA: EUNAVFOR MED Operation Commander deals with the future challenges



EUNAVFOR MED operation Sophia is but one element of a broader EU comprehensive response to the migration issue, which seeks to address not only its physical component, but also its root causes as well including conflict, poverty, climate change and persecution.

The mission core mandate is to undertake systematic efforts to identify, capture and dispose of vessels and enabling assets used or suspected of being used by migrant smugglers or traffickers, in order to contribute to wider EU efforts to disrupt the business model of human smuggling and trafficking networks in the

Southern Central Mediterranean and prevent the further loss of life at sea. Last 20 June 2016, the Council extended until 27 July 2017 operation Sophia's mandate reinforcing it by adding two supporting tasks, the training of the Libyan Navy Coast Guard and the Libyan Navy, and the contribution to the implementation of the UN arms embargo on the high seas off the coast of Libya, in accordance with the UNSCR 2292 (2016). We asked some questions to Rear Admiral (UH) Enrico Credendino, operation Sophia Commander, on the ongoing activities.



How will be the training developed and what will be the main objectives of the training?

The main aspects of the training of the Libyan Navy Coast Guard and Libyan Navy were agreed on the 23rd of August, when I signed with Commodore Toumia, the head of the Libyan Navy Coast Guard and Port Security, the "Memorandum of Understanding". This contains all the technical agreements on how the activity will be carried out.

The training will be divided in three main packages, which aim is to enhance Libyan Coast Guard and Navy capability to disrupt smuggling and trafficking from and to the Libyan shores.

The training package one started on the 27th of October for the first 78 Libyan trainees on board the two operation SOPHIA amphibious ships, the Italian San Giorgio and the Dutch Rotterdam. These first 14 weeks will provide the trainees with the basic skills on any Coast Guard activity, plus a dedicated module on human rights, thanks as well to the cooperation on board our vessels of dedicated teams of FRONTEX and UNCHR. The second package, instead, will train up to 500 trainees ashore on a Member State training facility, whilst the third package will be issued on board the Libyan patrol vessels.

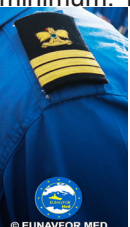
Q: There is an obvious issue on the Libyan lack of training. Are the Libyan authorities cooperative on letting EUNAVFOR MED train their Coast Guard and Navy?

I must say that the Libyan authorities gave the highest importance to this activity. The selection of the Libyan personnel was carried on by the head of the Libyan Navy Coast Guard and Libyan Navy, under the direct guidance of the Chief of Libyan Defence and the supervision of Prime Minister Al-Serraj himself. All of the first 78 trainees were selected and among the best seafarers they had at the moment. Indeed, I really appreciated the efforts made by the Libyan authorities so far.



Q: What are the criteria adopted regarding the selection of the Libyan trainees on board the training vessels?

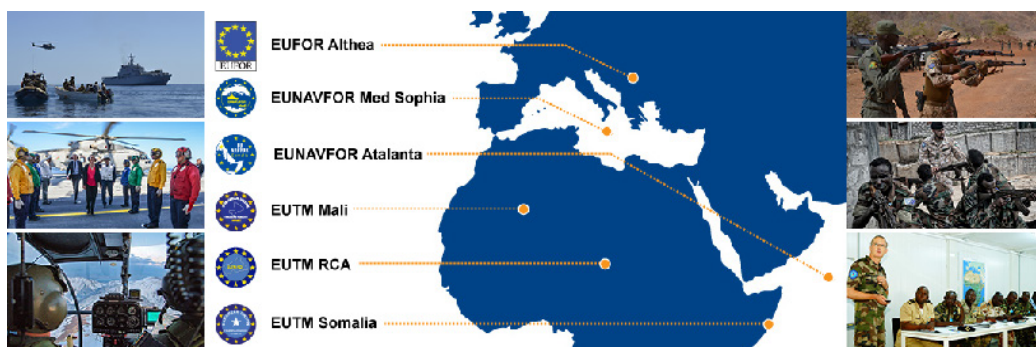
A: First and foremost, all 78 Libyan trainees belong to the Libyan Navy Coast Guard and Libyan Navy, under the control of the Government of National Accord (GNA) whom the Prime Minister is Fayeze al-Serraj, recognized by the United Nations. Libyan seafarers are in service since at least two years and will remain in service within the organization of the Libyan Navy Coast Guard and Libyan Navy for other two years as minimum. They all had to be in proper health condition to embark.



Q: What is the role of NATO in the Libyan issue and what is the relationship with operation SOPHIA?

As you all know, NATO will launch operation Sea Guardian before the end of the year. This means we will have an important actor deployed with whom we can work very closely with. Cooperation does not mean competition, we will have different fields with different competence, but we will cooperate in the same area.

News from our Operations and Missions



EUFOR ALTHEA

On Tuesday 8 November 2016 the Central European Defence Co-operation (CEDC), consisting of nations from; Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria, Slovenia and Croatia were welcomed by Commander EUFOR (COMUEFOR), Major General Friedrich Schrötter.



EUNAVFORMED Sophia

On 6 October 2016, started the training of the Libyan Navy Coast Guard and Libyan Navy. The training is taking place on board of two EUNAVFOR MED assets on the high seas for 78 embarked trainees and their mentors. The initial training package comprises various models, ranging from basic seamanship to more advanced specialist skills and includes a substantial focus on human rights and international law.

EUTM Mali

On the 15th of November EUTM Mali Mission Commander, Brigadier General Harvent, went to Kati to observe the training currently being carried out of the Combined Mobile and Advisory Training Team (CMATT) trainees. He attended several courses (Infantry, Cavalry, First Aid, Snipers and Command Post) which are currently being run by the EUTM Mali instructors to the 3rd Military Region soldiers. The General said he was very impressed with the progress of the Malian trainees.



EUNAVFOR Atalanta

On Wednesday 9 November, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2316 (2016) reauthorizing Somalia anti-piracy measures. The Council followed the recommendations made by the SG in his report of 7 October on the situation with respect to piracy and armed robbery at sea off the Somali coast. There was consensus among Council members on the significant progress made by Somalia and the international community in fighting piracy, in particular the milestones achieved in deterring attacks against large commercial vessels.

EUTM RCA

The European Union and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) are working together for the benefit of CAR. General Division Eric Hauteclouque-Raysz invited the Congo Chargé d'Affaires Mr Jean Roger NDINGA, Chargé d'affaires of Equatorial Guinea Mr Maximiliano Miko ESONO NCHAMA, ECCAS Ambassador Adolphe NAHAYO, Ambassador of Cameroon Mr. Nicolas NZYOUUM and Consul General of Angola Mr Da Rocha. This meeting provided an opportunity to present the EUTM and discuss the participation of some countries in the subregion in the training and equipping of the National Army.



EUTM Somalia

On the 3rd November 2016, the two Deputy Commander Defence Forces and the J Heads of the General Staff of the Somali National Army has accepted the invitation of the EUTM-S Mission Commander – Brigadier General Maurizio Morena – to a working lunch with all the EUTM-S Staff in Mogadishu. In this occasion, General Ali Bashe, the acting Commander of Defence Forces of the SNA, has confirmed the full sharing of objectives with EUTM-Somalia and also assured the full support (temporary distribution of weapons and ammunition) for the training of the Pilot Light Infantry Coy (PLIC), a joint project of integrated unit training.

News from the Committee



Wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

On 11 November, the Chairman of the EU Military Committee (CEUMC), General Mikhail Kostarakos, attended the annual memorial service held at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Brussels, in commemoration of the victims of both World Wars and all soldiers fallen during peace and humanitarian operations since 1945. In the context of the events, the CEUMC, ahead of a representation of EUMC Military Representatives, laid a wreath. The ceremony has been graced by the presence of His Majesty the King of the Belgians, Philippe. November 11, 1918 marked the end of the First World War. It is a day of remembrance for all those soldiers who contributed to ensuring our freedom. We honor them today.



CEUMC official visit to PORTUGAL



From 17 to 20 of November, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee, General Mikhail Kostarakos, paid an official visit to Portugal on the invitation by the Chief of the General Staff of the Portuguese Armed Forces, General Artur Pina Monteiro.

General Kostarakos met also with the Secretary of State of National Defence, Mr Marcos Perestrelo; during the visit, they shared their views on issues of mutual interest.

In addition, the Chairman had the opportunity to visit the Army School in Mafra and also gave a speech to the members of the Military University Institute in Pedrouços, on the way ahead of Security and Defence in the EU's Global Strategy.



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