

Chairman's Newsletter

EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

@Kostarakos

Message from the Chairman



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Gen. Mikhail Kostarakos

As global events take centre stage and the EU's voice needs to be heard, we are experiencing new trends in our Common Security and Defence Policy.

Instability in our neighbourhood and acts of terrorism across Europe have increased markedly, calling basic principles of the European security architecture into question. Concern for Europe's security is at the top of the political agenda.

Europe reacted to the events of course. And rightly so. But the need for a broader strategy was felt.

EU Institutions and Member States are striving to provide their citizens' with a renewed sense of security. To this end, a systematic consideration and inclusion of the defence dimension is part of the comprehensive array to conduct external action.

Now we have all settled down to provide a follow up to the EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy (EUGS) presented, by the High Representative in June this year.

In a degraded security environment, a commitment to strengthening CSDP is crucial as is the need to develop synergies between internal and external security policies.

Quoting Jean Cocteau I would say "When a work appears to be ahead of its time, it is only the time that is behind".

LATEST EVENTS

Bruxelles 27/08: CEUMC bid farewell to LU MilRep.



Brussels 02/09: CEUMC office call with BE CHOD.



Brussels 09/09: CEUMC office call with Myanmar Ambassador.



Brussels 13/09: CEUMC intervention at ESDC on migration.



The European Commission: Contribution to EU Defence Co-operation

by DG GROW Director General, Lowri Evans at European Commission

It often comes as a surprise that the Commission has a significant role to play in supporting European defence and that the role is likely to become greater. The active Commission role



began in 2009 with a new EU legislative framework designed to support the competitiveness of the defence industry and to strengthen the internal market. This is based on two Directives, on defence procurement and transfers of defence products. They are designed to help cross border industrial co-operation and provide governments with best value for money in their procurement. We are doing

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our best to ensure that the Directives are effective in meeting these objectives.

The Commission takes a close interest in this sector because it

is a vital component of Europe’s industrial landscape - a major industrial sector with a turnover of nearly €100 billion. Its cutting-edge research (around €10 billion a year) has created important spill-over effects in other sectors, such as electronics, space and civil aviation and provides growth and thousands of highly skilled jobs (around 400 000). It is, a sector that is essential to retain if Europe is to remain a world-leading centre for manufacturing and innovation.

The CSDP is about Europe co-operating to meet and overcome its security threats and the need for this is stronger than



ever with terrorism, threats to Europe’s borders and regional instability. The means to deal with these threats require state-of-the-art technology, and the use of highly mobile and well equipped professional forces. Our security depends on sustained investment in critical technologies and capabilities.

The EU is responding to these threats by establishing a new framework for its foreign and security policy with the Global Strategy. Its implementation will set the level of ambition for EU defence co-operation. It will

define the security challenges, the strategy priorities in EU response and the military levels of ambition and requirements and capability priorities.

The Commission is contributing to this framework with a European Defence Action Plan (EDAP).



It will be adopted later this year and will highlight how EU policies and instruments can support the development of the capabilities Europe needs to meet its future security challenges. It will promote support for a strong industrial base, able to deliver the strategic capability needs of Europe and identify where the EU can provide an added-value. By targeting EU capability priorities, the EDAP can support the whole sequence of capability development, from definition and planning through research and development to placing on the market.

The Commission is working in close consultation with Member States and our colleagues in other institutions including the European External Action Service, European Defence Agency and, of course, regularly briefing the Military Committee.

Insight on the EU Training Mission in Mali (EUTM Mali)

For this issue, we have met the Commander of the EU Training Mission (EUTM) in Mali, Brigadier General Eric Harvent (Belgium).



1. Sir, could you explain the role of EUTM Mali?

EUTM Mali is a non-executive Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) Mission, which delivers military education, advice and training to the Malian Armed Forces (MaAF) to support their reform and to strengthen their military capacity.

All our efforts aim at enabling our Malian partners to conduct military operations in order to restore the Malian territorial integrity, protect the Malian population and reduce the threat

posed by terrorist groups. Whilst the two first mandates were mostly dedicated to strategic advice and training of Battalion-sized units (GTIA – Groupement Tactique Interarmes), the third mandate, which started in May 2016, has a broader scope. The objectives of the mission are now fourfold: Improving the Malian Armed Forces' education capability and leadership qualities; organising their command and control and supply chains; enhancing their ability to provide effective units to a sustainable operational readiness cycle; improving the interoperability and cooperation abilities of the Malian Armed Forces and of the partners of the G5 Sahel. To achieve these objectives, the mission is based on two pillars: an Advisory Task Force and an Education and Training Task Force.

2. What drives you to achieve your objectives?

I would use two expressions to answer this question: Local Ownership and Comprehensive Approach.

Local Ownership, because our action's ultimate aim is the handing over of responsibilities to our Malian counterparts. This is being achieved by an increased focus on Train the Trainer programmes and courses, and by a sustained effort in helping the Malian Armed Forces in the development of their own doctrine and working methods, supported by modern tools and software. In addition, in order to better fit to the Malian needs, we are now providing advice and training not only in a centralised way, but we are also conducting activities in the military regions comprised in our area of operation, based on Malian requests. Comprehensive Approach, because the action of EUTM Mali fits within the overall action of the European Union in Mali, alongside our sister mission EUCAP Sahel Mali. Beyond this, EUTM Mali is also closely coordinating with the other international stakeholders in the country. In this respect,



I am happy to witness the interest of the EU Member States and partners in our mission. The presence of 28 different nationalities in the mission represents a real added-value.

3. What are your recent achievements?

Thanks to the professionalism and commitment of the staff of EUTM Mali, I am proud to say that, even before having reached our Full Operational Capability, EUTM Mali was able to conduct decentralised training and advising activities, including one larger scaled 'Combined Mobile Advisory and

Training Team' which took place in SEGOU (2nd military region of Mali) in June and July 2016. In addition, EUTM Mali organised – also in July – the first Course for Liaison officers from the G5 Sahel countries' armed forces, which was unanimously considered as a great success.

That being said, we will not rest on our laurels: with a particular focus on leadership, we will continue to train, educate and advise our Malian partners.

News from our Operations and Missions



EUFOR ALTHEA

On 6 September 2016 the Operational Commander of EUFOR Operation Althea, General Sir Adrian Bradshaw was welcomed by EUFOR Commander Major General Friedrich Schrötter. Upon arrival he was greeted by the EUFOR Branch Chiefs and an honour guard from the Multi-National Battalion (MNBN) consisting of Austrian and Turkish Soldiers.



EUNAVFORMED Sophia

On 23 August 2016, Admiral Credendino, Operation Commander, and Commodore Abdalh Toumia, Commander of Libyan Coastguard and Port Security, signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the training of the Libyan Coast Guard and Navy in the EUNAVFOR MED Headquarters in Rome.

EUTM Mali

The closing ceremony of two important courses conducted by EUTM Mali took place in the Koulikoro Training Camp. Both, the 5th Train the Trainers and the 2nd Echelon Tactique Interarmes courses ended the 2nd of September. The Commander of the Education Training Task Force, Colonel Koen Verdoodt, the Commander of Koulikoro Training Camp, Colonel Nouhoum Traore and the Colonel Keba Sangaré of Mali Staff presented the hard-earned diplomas.



EUNAVFOR Atalanta

Operation Atalanta's Dutch Force Commander, Commodore Luyckx, recently spent time aboard the Japanese warship JDS Suzutsuki. He received a warm welcome aboard from Captain Minami, Commander of Combined Task Force (CTF) 151's Escort Division 4 and the ship's Commanding Officer, Commander Nakayama.

EUTM RCA

EUTM RCA Mission Commander Major General Eric HAUTECLOQUE-RAYSZ has declared Full Operational Capability (FOC) on 20 September 2016.

EUTM RCA is providing strategic advice to CAR's Ministry of Defence and Military Staff, education to the FACA's commissioned and non-commissioned officers and specialists, and operational training to the FACA working towards the goal of modernised, effective and democratically accountable Central African Armed Forces (FACA).



EUTM Somalia

On 13th August 2016, a closing ceremony of four important courses conducted by EUTM Somalia took place in the GDTC Training Camp in Mogadishu. The EUTM-S Deputy Mission Commander, Colonel Bengt Sandström, together with all the EUTM representative members, all the military Somali authorities', AMISOM staff, awarded 108 certificates of attendance and successful completion of specific courses to members of the Somali National Army. Courses included Battalion Commander Course, Combat Engineers Course, Military Police Course and NCO Course.

News from the Committee

Introducing the new Finnish Military Representative

The EUMC is pleased to welcome Commodore Juha Vaouhkonen, who has been appointed Military Representative to the European Union as of 1 September 2016.

Prior to his appointment as Military Representative, Rear Admiral Vaouhkonen was appointed to a Special Assignment at Defence Command Finland since March 2016. His last assignment in the Navy was the Chief Of Staff Navy Command in 2013-2016. In this position he was responsible for the daily operations of the Navy Commander's staff and in this position he was essentially the second-in-command of the Finnish Navy.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Commodore Juha Vaouhkonen.



Introducing the new Luxembourg Military Representative

The EUMC is pleased to welcome Col. Marc Assel, who has been appointed Military representative to NATO and the European Union as of 1 September 2016.

Prior to his appointment as Military Representative, Colonel Assel was in charge of Strategic Planning to the Minister of defence. His responsibilities included defence planning and major procurement strategies and programs. He acted as Chief of transformation and National Armaments Director. He was also the representative of Luxembourg in the Alliance Ground Surveillance (AGS) Board of Directors.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Col. Carl Assel.



Introducing the new Swedish Military Representative

The EUMC is pleased to welcome Major General Thomas Nilsson, who has been appointed Military Representative to the European Union as of 1 September 2016.

Prior to his appointment as Military Representative, Major General Thomas Nilsson was a military Advisor at the Ministry of Defence.

In 2014, he was the Director of the C4ISR Department at the Swedish Defence Material Administration.

He served as Aide de Camp to H.M. The King Carl XVI Gustav.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Major General Thomas Nilsson.



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