



EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

Chairman's E - Newsletter

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Interview at page 2: Brig. Gen. Juan ORTI (Chairman EUMC Working Group)

Message from the Chairman



Another year in the life of the European Bodies and Institution is ending and I am delighted to say it gives us an opportunity to revel in the results of the past 12 months as well as look forward with great excitement and expectation to 2016.

I would like to offer my thanks for all the contributions that everyone has made to our successes this year. None of this would have happened without the tireless efforts of our 28 Chiefs of Defence.

Neither would it have happened without the drive and ambition of the High Representative for Foreign Policy, Ms Federica Mogherini, and all of her determination to put CSDP at the top of her agenda.

In addition to the important formal duty of chairing the Committee meetings I have already had the pleasure of travelling to the many difficult places where our operations and missions are deployed.

I have also had the honour of communicating the gratitude of the EU Military Committee to many current and former service personnel, who put their lives in danger, and who do such valuable work with pride and commitment.

Even as an experienced soldier with almost 40 years' service, it still amazes me to see at first hand the vast number of ways our men and women, who are serving in our operations and missions under the EU flag, assist and enhance people's lives each and every day.

I wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and happy New Year!

General Mikhail Kostarakos

the ESS). Further, they both emphasize the importance of conflict prevention, refer to the conditional enlargement of their organizations to like-minded states, mention each other (In NATO's case, the EU is a 'unique and essential partner') and it is recognized that they share a majority of members but also 'share common values' (NSC, 2010: Para. 32).

Additionally, the organisations have demonstrated their capacity to work together effectively at an operational level. The agreement, known as «Berlin Plus», entered into force in March 2003 and is still the framework governing EU-NATO relations today. It has been used twice since its adoption, in 2003 during operation Concordia in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and in 2004 in Bosnia and Herzegovina for EUFOR Althea.

EU-NATO communication does take place on a broad level. There are significant institutional links; namely the North Atlantic Council (NAC) and Political Security Committee (PSC) meet three times a semester; the Military Committees have regular contact. The High Representative/Vice President Federica Mogherini at the press point with Secretary General of NATO Jens Stoltenberg on 1 December 2015, in the margins of the NATO Ministers of Foreign Affairs Meeting, emphasized the special place partnership between European Union and NATO has.

The challenge facing policymakers on both sides of the Atlantic is therefore to find the best way to combine the strengths of NATO and the wide range of tools that the EU has at his disposal which enables the EU to adopt a multi-faceted approach to a way NATO cannot.

Col Giovanni Ramunno

EU - NATO PARTNERSHIP

The Common Security and defence Policy (CSDP) is an intergovernmental policy that covers the EU's missions and operations in third countries, as well as efforts to coordinate and improve Member States' defence capabilities.

Conceivably prompted by the deteriorating security context just beyond Europe's borders, the call for the debate on the state of defence in Europe re-ignited to some extent in 2013.

More CSDP comes amid a wider reassessment of European defence cooperation and the European security strategy initiated by the European Council in December 2013 and in June 2015.

Namely, the December 2013 European Council held its first meeting in years dedicated to the topic and mandated a series of actions to deepen defence cooperation, in support of a 'credible and effective CSDP' and in 'full complementarity with NATO'.

This endeavour is also about ensuring efficient crisis management and working together in order to identify the best possible response to a crisis.

For this same purpose, the EU and NATO in the framework of a successful partnership agreed on mutual crisis consultation arrangements that are geared towards an efficient and rapid decision-making in each organisation in the presence of a crisis. Such EU-NATO consultations involve the EU's Political and Security Committee and NATO's North Atlantic Council, the EU and NATO Military Committees as well as the Secretary General/High Representative and NATO Secretary General.

The Transatlantic relationship, as expressed through NATO, continues to provide the most desirable framework for ensuring the security of Europe and of equal importance, the principle forum for Transatlantic security relations.

Since both organisations share so many key security challenges (stemming from their shared membership) it is unsurprising that CSDP objectives significantly overlap with NATO's strategic concept. Both organisations have made commitments to meet challenges on a global scale, particularly with respect to conflict prevention, crisis management, terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction proliferation (NATO 1999, European Council 2003).

Both the EU and NATO have adopted their own security strategies. NATO adopted a Strategic Concept in 1999 and this was updated in 2010. The EU adopted a European Security Strategy (ESS) in 2003 and its update five years later (European Council, 2008). A new EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy is expected to be adopted before mid 2016.

The generalities of the 2003 ESS and the 2010 New Strategic Concept (NSC), on the EU and NATO sides respectively, provide ample room for overlap in normative terms, referring to common challenges emanating from the security environment, similar threats (the proliferation of nuclear weapons and terrorism feature prominently in both and others, like cyber security were added in the 2008 revisions to



In this issue:

1. The cover story takes us to the EU - NATO Partnership.
2. The newsletter also presents the EUMC Working Group.



COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY STRUCTURES: European Union Military Committee - Working Group



In this issue we will provide an insight of the European Union Military Committee Working Group (EUMCWG) and we will interview its Chairman, Brigadier General Juan ORTI from Spain. The Council Decision setting up the Military Committee of the European Union (22 January 2001) provided for a military support structure in the form of the EU Military Staff (EUMS) and the EUMCWG, to support the European Union Military Committee (EUMC) as appropriate. The EUMCWG is therefore part of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) permanent political and military structures.

Q: General, could you explain to our readers the role of the EUMCWG?

The EUMCWG's mandate encompasses a wide range of tasks, aimed at carrying out preparatory work for the EUMC.

In this respect, the WG is a platform for discussion of national positions, where liaison among the Member States is ensured on a regular basis. The WG facilitates the EUMC's work on the military aspects of the EU's CSDP. We could be seen as the "engine room" of the EUMC, always striving to produce sound military documents and reaching consensus among Member States.

Within this remit, our work is closely related to military strategic planning, since we finalise and reach consensus on military guidance documents - in the form of Military Advice - or on planning products, inter alia Initiating Military Directives and Rules of Engagement.

I should also like to underline our work on Concepts drafted by the EUMS, since the EU Concepts translate EU policies into the practical employment of military capability. Concept development has been an increasing focus during 2015.

Q: General, could you tell us what is your most important role as Chair of the EUMCWG?

I think that my mandate is very straightforward: to reach consensus. Achieving agreement always requires intensive exchanges of views on national positions among the representatives of the 28 Member States. To be successful, I have to ensure that everybody is on board and, by definition, be neutral and impartial and take due account of the merits of all the positions expressed.

As the moderator of their discussions, I take action when there is a stalemate and I try to make suggestions to reconcile the different positions involved. It is clear for me that Member States are always at the heart of the EU's capacity to decide.

How does the EUMCWG work in practice?

If the aim is to provide a Military Advice, firstly the EUMC discusses the topic and agrees on timelines, then EUMS drafts and releases a draft Military Advice for Member States' written comments. Upon receipt of those comments, the EUMS issues a revised draft Military Advice, which is discussed - paragraph by paragraph and word by word - in one or several EUMCWG meetings until consensus is achieved.

The final draft Military Advice is then put under a silence procedure for final agreement by EUMC and forwarded to PSC.

If consensus is not reached, a "Chairman's Memorandum" will be used by the EUMC Chair to report to the PSC on the outcome of discussions and highlight the different points of view of Delegations.

On the other hand, to produce a new EU Concept or to revise an existing one we work on the basis of the Concept Development Implementation Programme (CDIP). This document is prepared by the EUMS annually, to allow the EUMC to decide on concepts to be reviewed or to be produced. In the context of the CDIP our proceedings are quite similar to those used to produce Military Advice.

In this regard, I should like to say that this more connected, contested and complex world requires an open mind and intellectual flexibility in order to produce sound concepts, useful enough to promote the role of the military within the EU's comprehensive approach.

The EUMCWG meets regularly, as directed by the EUMC, normally twice a week (Mondays and Thursdays), but can also convene for extraordinary meetings at short notice, as dictated by current events.

Q: You have been in office for four months. Could you describe your experience so far?

Firstly, I should like to say that the WG is a very interesting melting pot, as it is composed of very talented delegates, coming from the Military Representations in Brussels and supported by colleagues back in their respective capitals.

For me, to interact intellectually with people of different ages, whose first language is not the same as yours, and to get acquainted with military experts who do not come from your service or military branch, is a great experience and an opportunity to grow.

In this regard I should like to express my sincere gratitude to the EUMS and



to the General Secretariat of the Council; I could not accomplish my duties without their close and continuous support.

Q: Did your previous professional assignments help you to carry out your duties as EUMCWG Chair?

My academic titles include a Master's degree in Security and Defence and the ESDP Orientation Course, so I had the opportunity to get acquainted with the EU environment.

Also, my experience in the Spanish Defence Military High Education School Centre, where I taught and guided officers in teamwork processes, allowed me to develop the particular skills required of the Chair of the EUMCWG.

Q: To what extent has the EUMCWG succeeded?

As I said, if you can't bring different opinions together and foster consensus, nothing can happen. This is sometimes laborious and time consuming. However, I sense a willingness around the table to come to an agreement, to compromise and to find a common position, and our progress has been good.

As a consequence, I'm proud to say that in these four months the WG has helped the EUMC to provide sound Military Advice on EU operations such as Althea or Sophia; to agree on Rules of Engagement Authorisations for Sophia and EUTM Somalia, and to produce or to revise EU Concepts such as Force Generation or Framework Nation.

Therefore, I see a future where increasing recourse will be made to the WG, as people realise how beneficial and effective we can be.

Chairman EUMC Communication office

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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.



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