



# EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

*Chairman's E - Newsletter*  
Issue n. 24, February 2016



Interview at page 2: Hon. MEP FOTYGA (Chairperson EP - SEDE)

## Message from the Chairman

On 4 and 5 February, the EU Ministers of Defence have met in Amsterdam for their six-monthly informal meeting.



Chaired by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, the meeting addressed the European Security and Defence Policy.

The Defence Ministers met with their Foreign Affairs colleagues at a joint working lunch to discuss progress in the area of EU Foreign and Security Policy. 'This unique setup reflects the importance of effectively linking foreign and security policy,' said the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bert Koenders.

At the same meeting the so called security-development nexus was a key consideration of the representatives of the Member States convened in Amsterdam.

It is a fact that conditions for development cannot be created without security, at the same time as development in itself contributes to security.

In this respect, the concept for Capacity Building in support of Security and Development (CBSD) was adopted in mid-2015. Subsequently, an implementation plan was discussed in the Political and Security Committee on 9 December.

Further, the possibility of providing equipment to counterparts and to implement capacity building projects would greatly enhance the impact and effectiveness of EU operations and missions, in particular military training missions such as EUTM Mali and EUTM Somalia and EUMAM RCA.

The timing of this discussion is particularly relevant as the strategic reviews of almost all EU CSDP missions and operations are being discussed.

*General Mikhail Kostarakos*

## The European Union - African Union Partnership

The European Union made peace and security one of the main pillars of its Strategy for Africa (2005) and committed to further enhancing its support to Africa in this area.

In 2007, the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES) was adopted at the Lisbon Summit taking the Africa-EU Partnership to a new strategic level with a strengthened political dialogue and enhanced cooperation at all levels.

The Africa-EU Partnership is delivering solid results across a number of key areas namely peace and security; democracy, governance, and human rights; human development; sustainable and inclusive development.

In this respect, the partnership on peace and security pursues three specific objectives: enhancing the political dialogue on peace and security; operationalising the Africa Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and ensuring predictable funding for African-led peace support operations.



The key EU financial instrument to support the Peace and Security partnership is the African Peace Facility (APF).

Since 2004, the EU has committed more than € 1.2 billion through the APF for African-led peace support operations, the operationalisation of the APSA and support for the first stages of African actions aimed at the prevention, management or resolution of crises.

More concretely, Africa has often been adversely affected by severe political crises and violent conflicts and the EU has provided political backing as well as predictable resources to African Peace Support Operations (PSOs). In this respect, the EU has more recently supported the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA) and the African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA) as well as agreed to support the AU-led Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (RCI-LRA).

Most of the funding cover allowances for troops and officers, while military equipment, weapons or ammunitions are excluded.

Further, through the implementation of its Sahel and Horn of Africa strategies, the EU cooperates with African partners on security and political efforts which respond to the complex challenges in Mali, Somalia and beyond. We have supported training and capacity building of African forces, including police and civilian components. In addition, we have supported the African institutional capacity building, for instance in the area of crisis prevention, peace building and post-conflict reconstruction including by providing strategic advice.

A number of these programmes focus on the main APSA elements such as the operationalization of the African Standby Force and the setting up of the Continental Early Warning System. We have also paid special attention to the issue of maritime security including counterpiracy efforts, the fight against Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing within the framework of the African Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050 and the EU Integrated Maritime Policy.

The continent-to-continent partnership is so far an encouraging experience and concrete results have been achieved both at the political and operational levels.

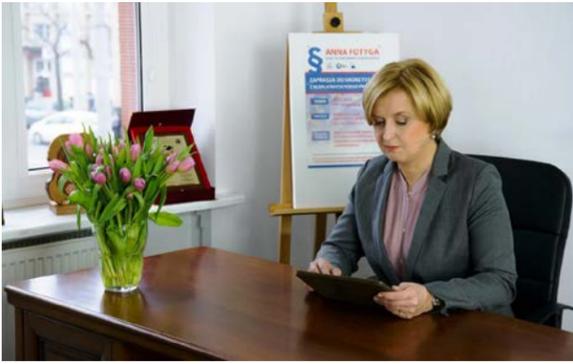
*Col Giovanni Ramunno*

### In this issue:

1. The cover story takes us to the EU-AU partnership.
2. The newsletter also presents the EP SEDE.



# COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY STRUCTURES: European Parliament - Subcommittee on Security and Defence



Hon. MEP Anna Elżbieta FOTYGA

In this issue we will provide an insight into the European Parliament - Subcommittee on Security and Defence - and we will interview its Chairperson, Hon. MEP Anna Elżbieta FOTYGA.

## Q. Could you explain to our readers the role of the SEDE?

The EU Parliament (EP) examines developments in the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) in terms of institutions, capabilities and operations and ensures that security and defence issues respond to concerns expressed by the EU's citizens. In this respect, military operations and civilian missions the EU is conducting all over the world are a tangible proof of the CSDP.

The naval Operation EUNAVFOR Atalanta, for example, is a successful operation which provided clear signs of change after certain stages of our engagement. It also highlighted how crucial factor is the contribution of civil society and business actors.

Further, in Central African Republic the role of the EU was challenging but received by all the interlocutors religious, political and the local population with enthusiasm. It was the best perceived actor on the scene due to the balanced approach towards the warring factions and the contribution it provided in bringing back law and order to the capital, Bangui.

Matters related to the CSDP are usually discussed in the Foreign Affairs Committee (AFET) and in its Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE). Synergies are in place with AFET and the Committee on Budget as well as other committees and the initiatives of the secretariat, which is very professional.

The field of CSDP is a very complex policy and because of this a difficult area to evaluate. It is important that the people who perform the democratic accountability are fully informed. The Committee is technical in many ways and MEPs, who guarantee the democratic accountability, are fully informed and capable to give sound advice.

Although decisions are made in Brussels, they are implemented nationally. This is to say that there is also another mechanism for democratic accountability which is the national Parliaments.

For that reason, the EP supports interparliamentary cooperation, based on the conviction that the European Parliament is the legitimate body, which should conduct parliamentary scrutiny, monitoring and control of the CSDP.

In this respect, Joint Committee Meetings (JCMs) are organised jointly by the European Parliament and the national Parliament of the country holding the rotating Council Presidency and Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the CSDP scrutinise foreign and security policy matters. Inter-Parliamentary Conferences and JCMs bring together MPs and MEPs from corresponding committees to discuss matters of common concern: my experience of joint committees is very positive indeed.



## Q. What drives you to achieve your objectives?

Changes with the Lisbon Treaty have improved the overseeing powers of the EP on the CSDP therefore I would defend the Lisbon Treaty as defending our interests. It's a good platform to defend our achievements in terms of CSDP.



The EP has taken the lead in scrutinizing the advancement of the CSDP and analyzing the policy's setbacks and has urged the Council and the Member States to improve the policy's effectiveness. We provided the impulse for discussion and action which led the Heads of State or Government and the EU Council in December 2013 who recognized the need to provide a strategic impetus. In the same framework lays the drafting by the High representative of an "EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy with a view to the EU Council of June 2016.

## Q. What are your recent achievements?

In these turbulent times, there are clearly challenges ahead but we are able to maintain public support for our global engagement. Although the situation on the eastern border is dearer to me, we had a balanced approach and an early engagement to all geopolitical hotspots. This was possible both through our field trips to our missions and operations and visiting our partners.

There is a good interaction and a fair debate and I limit my interventions not to influence the outcome of the latter: I am loyal to my country but also to the EU Institutions, hence I refrain from commenting and try to maintain a fair freedom of speech. On the other hand, I offer while chairing the SEDE the Polish tradition and experience I have inherited from my previous assignment as Foreign Minister.

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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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