

Chairman's Newsletter

EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

@Kostarakos

Message from the Chairman



IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the Chairman. **p.1**

CSDP structures, actions: the EU Multilayer Exercises. **p.2**

CSDP actors:
Major General Eric Haute-
cloque-Rayss, Com-
mander of EUTM RCA.
p.3

CSDP in action:
News from our Operations
and Missions. **p.4**

News from the Commit-
tee. **p.5**

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.



Gen. Mikhail Kostarakos

A guiding principle of Lisbon Treaty provisions is the desire to achieve an adequate EU action during external emergencies, which requires *ad hoc* decision making.

Ensuring a coherent response to crises is part of the EU's wider efforts in its external relations, in close cooperation with the Member States, to turn the 'comprehensive approach' into comprehensive action.

I recently went to the CSDP Operations Headquarter activated in Postdam, for the 3rd comprehensive Multi-Layer Crisis Management Exercise, also known as ML16.

ML16 exercised the different layers of EU crisis response and management, from the political-strategic level to the operational level.

The increasingly complex challenges that the EU is called to face through its CSDP interventions require an enhanced integration between military and civilian components, which was the case during the exercise involving the EEAS, including an EU Delegation, the European Commission, the relevant Council instances.

Further, as the UN remains the primary provider of international legitimacy to crisis management efforts, the relationship the EU fosters with the UN constitutes a critical political enabler for action. In this light, ML16 actively involved the United Nations to interact with EU planners during the conduct phase of the simulation.

LATEST EVENTS

Manjaca, BiH 01/10: Exercise Quick Response 2016.



Mogadishu 17/10: 2nd Staff Officers Seminar.



Strasbourg 20/10: Visit to the German Battlegroup



Bamako 22/10: Slovenian Minister visits EUTM Mali.



Insight on the EU Training Mission in Central African Republic (EUTM RCA)



For this issue, we have met the Commander of the EU Training Mission (EUTM) in Central African Republic, Major General Eric HAUTECLOQUE-RAYSZ (France).

Sir, could you explain to our readers the role of the EUTM-RCA?

EUTM-RCA has been invited by the newly elected government of CAR to conduct the reform and the rebuilding of its National Army, which was wiped out during the political-military crisis of 2013. With

the support of the international community, led by the MINUSCA, CAR organised democratic elections and Mr. TOUADERA was elected President in February 2016. However, the recovery is still threatened by armed groups and in CAR like everywhere else, there can be no development without security.

Hence, EUTM-RCA is part of the EU's comprehensive approach, which combines security and development. EUTM builds upon the success of the CSDP missions EUFOR, which contributed to the stabilization of Bangui, and EUMAM, which started the reform of the Army. EUTM works hand-in-hand with the EU Delegation, and fully fits into the frame of the international community in CAR.

EUTM works towards a modernised, effective, ethnically balanced and democratically accountable National Army. It supports CAR government in the undertaking of the Defence sector reform (DSR), within the frame of the security sector reform (SSR). For that purpose, EUTM simultaneously works on three pillars. Of course, it provides education to NCOs and officers, and operational training to the units, with the aim of two to three battalions trained within the two years of its initial mandate. But EUTM also provides strategic advice to CAR's political and military authorities (Presidency, Ministry of Defence and General Staff) to set up efficient chains of command and control, new management and adapted support.

What drives you to achieve your objectives?

My team and I arrived in CAR with no predetermined technical objectives; we made a state of play and adapted to CAR's culture and reality. We work for the benefit of the soldiers, to give them back their dignity and their pride to serve their country and their people. They show great motivation, even if it is a huge task.

The government and the population need their army back. It is the backbone of the institutions, alongside the interior security forces and other law enforcement agents, and the judicial system. Each in its specific role must accompany the restoration of the State on the territory.



What are your recent achievements?

EUTM raises strong expectations and is very popular among our partners, at political, military and population grounds.

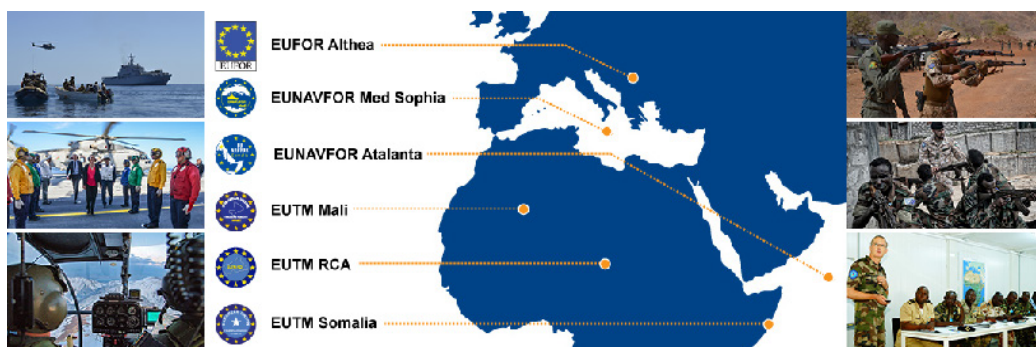
At a strategic level, the Minister of Defence adopted a roadmap to conduct reforms in the fields of force employment, human resources, budget, training, logistic, CIS, etc., implemented by joint working groups. We also helped the MoD to prepare the Brussels donors conference for CAR planned on 17th November.

On field, the operational training was officially launched by the President in the camp of Kassai, in Bangui. The soldiers of the first battalion started to train with weapons, which were previously forbidden by the embargo. With the support of international donors, we also started concrete development projects for the benefit of the Army, such as agro-pastoral units and craft workshops, which will ensure its autonomy while allowing volunteers to convert to civil life, thus facilitating the cleansing of the troops.

We have a wide range of action, but we must be realistic: it will take at least a decade before the army is fully operational.

The achievements of EUTM, whose mode of operation sums up in military cooperation for the Defence sector, depend on the acceptance and appropriation of the CAR counterparts.

News from our Operations and Missions



EUFOR ALTHEA

EUFOR troops, from the Multinational Battalion consisting of Austrian and Turkish soldiers, Armed Forces BiH, Intermediate Reserve Soldiers from the United Kingdom and the Tactical Manoeuvre Battalion from KFOR with Hungarian and Portuguese soldiers, conducted Exercise Quick Response 2016, an intense military training at Brigade level from 1 to 5 October at a large exercise ground located in the hilly area of Manjaca, BiH.



EUNAVFORMED Sophia

On 6 October 2016, UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2312 (2016) deciding that, for a further period of twelve months, to renew the authorizations as set out in resolution 2240 (2015).

EUTM Mali

Slovenian Minister of Defense Andreja Katič, accompanied by the Slovenian Chief of the General Staff, Major General Andrej Osterman, visited EUTM Mali on the 20th of October. After a fruitful exchange of ideas with Mission Commander, Brigadier General Eric Harvent, they spent some time with Slovenian soldiers deployed in Mali.



EUNAVFOR Atalanta

On Thursday 6th October 2016, Atalanta's Operation Commander, Major General Rob Magowan, visited the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Kitack Lim, at the IMO headquarters in London. Meeting to discuss the current maritime security situation off the Horn of Africa, the two leaders agreed that Somali-based piracy continues to represent a threat to international shipping. Mr Lim welcomed the intended extension of Operation Atalanta counter-piracy mandate to the end of 2018.

EUTM RCA

Mr Fidele Gouandjika, Ministre Special Advisor to the President of the Republic at EUTM RCA Headquarters.



EUTM Somalia

On 17th October 2016, a closing ceremony of the 2nd Staff Officers Seminar, conducted by EUTM Somalia, took place in Villa Gashandiga in Mogadishu. The EUTM-S Mission Commander, Brigadier General Maurizio Morena, together with the Deputy Commander Colonel Bengt Sandström and the EUTM-S staff, awarded the new Staff Officers of the Somali National Army. The Seminar included different matters on the core subjects such as staff organization, military decision making progress, troop leading process

News from the Committee

Introducing the new Cypriot Military Representative

The EUMC is pleased to welcome Lieutenant Colonel Neophytos PACHOULIDES, who has been appointed Military Representative to the European Union as of 1 October 2016.

Prior to his appointment as Military Representative, Lieutenant Colonel Neophytos PACHOULIDES has served as a tank Platoon and Company Commander from 1990 to 1999 and as a tank Battalion Training- Operations Officer and Deputy Commander.

He also served as a tank Battalion Commander from 2007 to 2011. Between 2011-2016 he served in Staff positions at the Strategic and Operational levels. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Lieutenant Colonel Neophytos PACHOULIDES.



Official visit to Finland

From 28 to 30 of September, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC) General Mikhail Kostarakos, paid an official visit to Finland on the invitation by the Commander of the Finnish Defence Forces, General Jarmo Lindberg.

The high-ranking EU military official met with HE the President of the Republic Mr Sauli

Niinistö, the Minister of Defence Dr Jussi Niinistö and the Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Timo Soini, and shared their views on issues of mutual interest.

During the visit, the Chairman also gave a speech to the National Defence



EUMC Away Days

The EUMC Informal Meeting took place in Bratislava on the October 2016.

CEUMC opening; Introductory address by SK CHOD; presentation by SK MoD State Secretary; presentation by SK 1st Deputy CHOD LTG Macko: SK Armed Forces involvement in CSDP Missions and Ops.

At the CBRN Training and Testing Centre (TTC) in Zemianske Kostol'any, EUMC



representatives attended static and dynamic presentations of CBRN Centre and CBRN Bn Rožňava provided by the CBRN TTC Commander, LtCol Csaszar, the Bn Rožňava Commander, LtCol Toderiška and the Chief of Strategic Planning Division - BG Pach.



Chairman EUMC Communication Team

Colonel Nikolaos Cholevas: nikolaos.cholevas@ext.eeas.europa.eu

Colonel Giovanni Ramunno: giovanni.ramunno@eeas.europa.eu



Think green, do not print this document unless you really need to

Follow us on:

