Message from the Chairman

The EU CSDP is currently engaged with the defence sector and militaries of third countries and organisations. Namely, EUTMs Mali and Somalia and EUMAM RCA are contributing to have better governance thus improving human security in the Country and in the wider Region.

This in turn is intended to have positive impacts on medium-term economic and social development and contribute to more peaceful societies, including the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 of the UN Agenda 2030 mentioned above.

In a number of cases, the effectiveness and sustainability of CSDP military training is undermined by the lack of equipment to complement the training.

The initiative (‘capacity building in support of security and development in third countries’) takes place in the context of an increasing involvement of the EU, both in political and financial terms, to help partner countries and regional organisations build capacities in support of security and development, and in particular to enhance their ability to manage crises by themselves.

The Union already finances a multitude of actions in the field of capacity building in support of security and development. Yet today’s challenges show that additional efforts are needed to better link development cooperation with peace and security interventions complementing the provision of training and reform of CSDP missions with short- and longer-term financing and provision of non-lethal equipment.

The EU should be able to fully tackle the nexus between peace, security and development.

General Mikhail Kostarakos

For planning purposes five ‘illustrative scenarios’ were defined: separation of parties by force, stabilisation, reconstruction and military advice to 3rd countries, conflict prevention, evacuation operation in a non-permissive environment, and assistance to humanitarian operations. Strategic planning assumptions have been defined, like reaction time, distance, rotations, and concurrencies. The current Requirements Catalogue was agreed in 2005 (RC 05).

‘What we have’

The Member States are regularly asked what capabilities they could potentially make available by default for CSDP military operations and missions. These contributions are voluntary and non-binding and cannot be used for force generation processes. The Member States contributions are laid down in the so called Force Catalogue. The latest update was recently agreed by the EU Military Committee (FC 15).

‘What we still miss’

Unfortunately there are still differences between the required capabilities and the provided capabilities. The list of the prioritized capability shortfalls are laid down in the so called Progress Catalogue. The latest update was agreed in 2014 (PC 14).

Col. Jean-Louis NURENBERG (LU A), Chairman EUMCWG/HTF
COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY STRUCTURES:
European Security and Defence College (ESDC)

In this issue we will provide an insight into the European Security and Defence College – and we will interview its Head, Mr Dirk DUBOIS.

1. Director, how has your training offer evolved over the last two years?

It has increased both in terms of types of courses and number of training activities. More specifically, we are offering new courses on cybersecurity, hybrid warfare and maritime security capacity building to our training audiences. We are now also offering pre-deployment courses (10 per year), allowing everybody who is designated for a mission or operation to receive proper training between the time he is designated and the time he is deployed, even if his or her own MS does not offer a course in that specific period. The added value of this activity, which is a responsibility of Member States (MS), is to respond to the need for a common understanding and procedures of EU CSDP missions and operation in an EU perspective and further implementing the general concept of the Comprehensive Approach. The course was initially designed to meet the requirements of civilian personnel but we realized that the military personnel designated as augmentees also profited from it.

Referring to the increase of the number of activities, I would like to underline that we have tripled our offer in four years.

2. How is your effort perceived by your stakeholders?

MS are willing to increase our activities despite the effect that they are bearing most of the costs. Further, speaking in terms of "customer satisfaction", I can refer to the evaluation reports of the courses, that are submitted to the Steering Committee, and tell you that the average satisfaction score is five out of six for all our training activities.

3. How is your endeavour perceived by partner organisations and countries?

The College’s activity in support of the EU Partners is steadily increasing, triggered both by the EEAS regional desks and by Strategic Partners and Third Countries. Currently, we organize about 10 major training events per year in specific support of EU Partnership. Just to give you an idea, we recently have organized some activities with Eastern Partners in Minsk, with China in Beijing, and will organise an activity with the League of the Arab States later this year. At the same time, we work more than ever closely together with EU agencies, such as CEPOL, FRONTEX and EUROPOL to strengthen the ties between CSDP and JHA.

4. Could you give us your vision on the way ahead?

I am optimistic about the ongoing process of matching our resources to the priorities and tasks given by MS. MS have agreed at the Steering Committee to revise and review the current legal bases for the college by the end of 2016 and we are currently in the process of identifying what changes are required. Building on the proven strengths of our organization, namely the network structure, the cost effectiveness and responsiveness of the College, we are bringing in line the resources with the requirements from the MS to better ensure the sustainability of the College.

CSDP orientation courses are held 'in the region, for the region'.
In the picture the opening of the ESDC training activity in Chisinau, June 2015. Copyright: ESDC 2015