

Chairman's Newsletter

EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

@Kostarakos

Message from the Chairman



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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.



Gen. Mikhail Kostarakos

Last 20 June 2016, EUNAVFOR MED operation Sophia was extended until 27 July 2017. On the occasion, the Council of the European Union also reinforced its mandate by adding two supporting tasks: training of the Libyan coastguards and navy and contributing to the implementation of the UN arms embargo on the high seas off the coast of Libya.

Further, on 16 July 2016, the Council launched the EU military training mission in the Central African Republic (EUTM RCA). The mission, broadens the mandate of the previous EU military advisory mission (EUMAM RCA), further contributing to EU's comprehensive approach and the country's security sector reform.

I consider both events a success; I would also say that as one of the most visible and rapidly evolving EU polices, the CSDP has acquired a major strategic orientation — and an operational capacity — in less than a decade.

In the wake of security developments and challenges in Europe's environment, and the acknowledged demand from Member States and citizens for an increasing role for the EU as a security provider, the CSDP is already evolving and is likely to evolve further, as specified in the Lisbon Treaty.

I wish you a very recreative summer break.

LATEST EVENTS

Bratislava 16/06: CEUMC visit to Slovak Republic.



Bamako 03/07: Ceremony of Change of Command.



Brussels 06/07: EUMC and PSC discussion on Sophia.



Bangui 16/07: New EU mission starts in Central African Republic.



High Representative Mogherini unveils blueprint for future of EU foreign and security policy

by Michael MANN
EEAS - STRATCOM Division Director

After a year of intense preparation and broad consultation with all interested parties, High Representative Federica Mogherini on 28th June presented her blueprint for the future



of EU foreign policy to European Union heads of state and government. The 'Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy' will allow the EU to think strategically, have a vision and act together. This is especially important given the number of ongoing crises in the world, not least in the EU's immediate neighbourhood, and the uncertainty which followed the British referendum, the High Representative said.

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Mogherini pledged that the EU will deliver on citizens' needs by engaging with the world and forging

partnerships to protect shared interests and values. She underlined that joining all EU cultures together to achieve shared goals and serve common interests is what makes the EU strong.

"As a Union, we talk to global partners as peers. This can't be done by EU countries alone. The EU Global Strategy is not for Member States, or Council, or Parliament ... It's for the European Union. We need to make it work. The Global Strategy now has to translate into action."

The Strategy aims to make full use of the full spectrum of EU foreign policy tools to help the EU plan ahead to prevent crises, or where this is impossible, to react quickly and effectively to prevent escalation.



The threats the European Union faces are much more complex than ever before – spanning from terrorist attacks to hybrid threats, from economic volatility to failing States around our borders, from climate change to energy insecurity. The very idea of security today goes well beyond defence and intelligence: it is "human security," as the Global Strategy states very clearly. At the same time, a truly sustainable development in our surrounding regions requires very often that we help our partners on security sector reforms and capacity building.

Hard and soft power are increasingly more connected. The old idea that "Europeans are from Venus" doesn't do justice to a changing reality. Our

Union is already more than a civilian power.

Against this background, the EU will seek strategic autonomy and take greater responsibility for its security and defence. A more credible Euro-



pean defence effort is also essential for the sake of a healthy transatlantic partnership.

Security and defence cooperation in our Union has to become the norm, not the exception. We still have not explored the full potential of our Treaties in this regard: for instance, the Strategy calls for addressing the obstacles which have so far prevented the deployment of the Battlegroups. Boosting CSDP capacities and capabilities will ensure a credible EU contribution to security and underpin efforts to address conflict, improve the resilience of the EU's neighbours and strengthen partnerships with third countries.

Initial reaction to the Global Strategy was universally positive. The High Representative will now work closely with all EU bodies over the coming months to put the vision set out by the Strategy into practice.



COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

Intelligence and Situation Centre (INTCEN)



For this issue, we have met the Director of the EU Intelligence and Situation Centre (EU INTCEN) of the European External Action Service (EEAS), Dr Gerhard Conrad, taking advantage of his broad experience, having served for a long time both in military and civilian intelligence.

1. How are you meeting the threats and challenges depicted in the new Global Strategy?

More than ever the EU and Member States are facing vital challenges for the security and prosperity of their citizens. EU is surrounded by crises with increasingly direct impact on our security and coherence which continue to underscore the need for the Union to adapt and increase its capacities as a security provider, with a strong focus on the close relationship between external and internal security.

A rapid response to events is essential. In this respect, timely intelligence is needed more than ever for proper decision making. The facilitation of an effective response is achieved in coordination with other EU response mechanisms and early warning systems. In this light, Intcen is in a constant process of adapting to new challenges to effectively counter threats, improving timely situational awareness based on information exchange and intelligence-sharing across sectors based on a close and reliable support of Member States' Services.

Intcen, together with EUMS, is providing intelligence analysis, early warning and situational awareness to the HR/VP and to the EEAS. It also offers its services to the various EU decision-making bodies in the fields of the CFSP and CSDP, including direct support to CSDP Operations and Missions with strategic intelligence and situational overviews. As the focus is on improving timely awareness, this capacity should be expanded to a viable 24/7 capability in managing classified information.

2. How is your relationship with the other EU institutions?

Very good. There is a strong interest of the EU Institutions in the regular supply of intelligence assessment on pertinent questions of foreign and security policy as well as security matters as such (CT, CP etc.). They are fully aware of the importance of facilitating a holistic approach also in situational awareness that will enable the EU and its Member States to counter threats by creating synergies between all relevant instruments and fostering close cooperation between all relevant actors.



3. How would you assess the cooperation between National Intelligence Services?

Increasingly, MS Services are sharing in multilateral *fora* timely operational information on their own initiative, based on common trust and a joint outlook; this is an on-going process.

4. Latest Achievements?

We have further improved the already close, trustful and efficient cooperation with the EU Military Staff (EUMS) together with whom we provide a comprehensive all sources intelligence picture covering political, military, economic, security, proliferation and CT issues, as well as migration and lately also hybrid threats.

Together with the EUMS we are the only civ-mil Single Intelligence Analysis Capacity (SIAC) of the EU.

On a different note, Intcen has become an integral part of the EU comprehensive response to the massive terrorist threat it is being confronted with. Intcen provides regular intelligence based high profile forward looking Terrorist Threat Assessments based on the support of MS services.

5. ...and new projects?

We have received the mandate to build up a EU Hybrid Fusion Cell which will receive, analyse and share classified and open source information specifically relating to indicators and warnings concerning hybrid threats from different stakeholders within the EEAS (including EU Delegations), the Commission (with EU Agencies), and Member States.

This Fusion Cell is one of the actionable proposals to help counter hybrid threats and contribute to the resilience of the EU and Member States, presented last April by the HR/VP with the Joint Framework on countering hybrid threats. It will analyse external aspects of hybrid threats, affecting the EU and its neighbourhood, in order to rapidly contextualize incidents and trends and to inform the EU's strategic decision-making processes, including by providing inputs to the security risk assessments carried out at EU level. The Fusion Cell's analytical output would be processed and handled in accordance with the European Union classified information and data protection rules.



EUFOR ALTHEA

Commander EUFOR, Major General Friedrich Schrötter, presented the European Union Common Security and Defence Policy Medal Althea to over 84 service personnel from 6 different nations and thanked them for their dedicated service in and for Bosnia and Herzegovina.



EUNAVFORMED Sophia

Rear Admiral Giuseppe Berutti Bergotto is the new 'Force Commander' of operation Sophia put up by the EU. He succeeds Rear Admiral Andrea Gueglio. The handover ceremony took place on 27 June, on board the aircraft carrier Garibaldi, docked at Mar Grande Naval Station in Taranto.

EUNAVFOR Atalanta

On 18 May 2016, the Political and Security Committee appointed Brigadier Robert Magowan CBE, a British Royal Marines Officer, as Operation Commander for the EU NAVFOR Operation Atalanta. Brigadier Magowan replaced Major General Martin Smith MBE taking up his duties on 3 June 2016.



EUTM Mali

Brigadier General Eric Harvent, a Belgian national, has been appointed as mission commander for the EU training mission in Mali (EUTM Mali). He took up his duties on 3 July 2016 taking over from Brigadier General Werner Aibl, who has held the post since December 2015.

EUTM RCA

The Mission Commander of the EU Military Training Mission in the Central African Republic (EUTM RCA), Major General Hauteclouque-Raysz, started the newly established mission to contribute to the country's defence sector reform. EUTM RCA replaces the previous EU military advisory mission (EUMAM RCA).



EUTM Somalia

Nearly 20 military officers from Somalia National Army HQ, concluded a three weeks staff seminar, conducted in Villa Gashandiga as part of their training to serve as Staff Officers in different branches. The seminar is part of the project for the development of an initial Operations Room capability that would ultimately conduct to the creation of a Somali National Army Operation Centre (SNAOC).

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