

Chairman's Newsletter

EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

@Kostarakos

Message from the Chairman



IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the Chairman. [p.1](#)

CSDP structures, actions: EU CSDP Military Logistics. [p.2](#)

CSDP actors: EU NAVFOR – SOMALIA, OPERATION ATALANTA. [p.3](#)

CSDP in action: News from our Operations and Missions. [p.4](#)

News from the Committee. [p.5](#)



Gen. Mikhail Kostarakos

January brings that fresh start that we usually all long for. This year it carries a special meaning as the EU celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome next spring.

Last year we witnessed an unprecedented consensus on the need of strengthened cooperation in the matters of security and defence.

In particular, we should recall the outcomes of the Council conclusions of 14 November and 17 October 2016 on implementing the EU Global Strategy in the area of Security and Defence.

The proposals submitted for consideration and decision at the European Council in December last year. The Council indicated the concrete action to enhance EU's credibility in security and defence and ensure a more responsive civilian and military CSDP.

Follow-up work on security and defence is expected to be taken forward by the EU Institutions, in close collaboration with and ensuring full ownership of Member States.

Namely, the High Representative will present *inter alia* proposals as regards the process of developing military capabilities taking into account Research and Technology (R&T) and industrial aspects, the establishment of a permanent operational planning and conduct capability at the strategic level, the strengthening of the relevance, usability and deployability of the EU's rapid response toolbox.

The path has been set. The destination has been decided. The only thing left is to traverse the chosen path keeping the pace with passion and determination!

LATEST EVENTS

Brussels 30/11: NATO military Committee.



Bamako 01/12: EUTM Mali Transfer of Authority.



Bangui 12/12: EUTM RCA Transfer of Authority.



Valletta 23/01: CEUMC visit to Malta.



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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The EU CSDP Military logistics

Brigadier General Dionigi Maria LORIA is the Head of Logistics Directorate at EU Military Staff, and is an experienced logistics manager having more than three decades of global experience in the sector. He gave me the absolute honor of interviewing him providing our readers with stimulating insights into a sensitive issue of CSDP.



The newly published EU Global Strategy (EUGS) highlights a more connected and increasingly complex world and future challenges. How is the EUMS overcoming the general unpredictability of logistics demands and improving its oversight of the entire supply chain?

EU-led military missions and operations are multinational in nature and in general terms nations employ their own Supply Chains to ensure that their forces are properly supplied. Contractor based logistics; the needs of specific equipment

“we seek through concept development to provide an environment that is coherent with the needs of Member States”

types and broader sustainability issues all add levels of complexity. The Supply Chain elements that are common across all areas remain those of simplicity, oversight and prioritisation. From a EUMS perspective, we seek through concept development to provide an environment that is coherent with the needs of Member States without introducing duplicate processes or additional Supply Chain pauses. In practical terms, this is achieved through ensuring that the OHQ and FHQ maintain strong liaison with national supply chains; transport modes are

effective; there is a commitment to standardised IS infrastructures and finally, contracting within the area of operations is coordinated in a coherent, responsible and holistic manner.

In what ways is the EUMS capitalising on new technologies to reduce its logistical footprint?

The emerging technologies that I have greatest focus on are those that complement the Green Supply Chain predominately those aimed at reducing energy consumption, within this sphere we are working closely with the EDA. In terms of Supply Chain benefits energy efficiency



would reduce the financial burden and the logistic footprint; minimise

the operational risk; enhance operational effectiveness; reduce dependency on vulnerable lines of communication and lastly, help to protect local environmental and public health.

What are the benefits to better integrating contractors into the supply chain?

Integrating contractors is an ongoing process during military operations and missions in the last decade. Not only NATO-led operation such as ISAF in Afghanistan but EU-led Operations and Missions especially in Africa have shown the increasing relevance of contractors. Today, contractor support is an integral component in both the deployability and sustainability of expeditionary operations. Contract support can be a force multiplier; conversely, there are a number of associated risks that need to be addressed in order to develop mitigation plans. Contracted support needs to be factored within Crisis Response Planning and coordinated with Troop Contributing Nations during the Force Generation Process. Experience has shown that once operations are launched it is simply too late to reverse engineer multinational logistic solutions, particularly contracting.

Therefore, planning of contractor support has to be a deliberate and integral part of the Logistic Planning Process. Additionally, contracted support may pose risks as well as opportunities for the local populace, therefore to mitigate these risks the impact of contractual support must be a consideration with the Comprehensive Approach.

The need for ‘rapid response’ is an increasingly common requirement. How do you think logistics efficiency can be maximized to keep up with the pace of these operations?

The EU does not have any standing forces as such, however it can request the activation of the EU Battlegroups (EUBG), which are those troops placed on a roster by nations to readily deployable for EU operations. The preparation and stand-by phase of this force is a driver for in place logistic solutions like pre-mission contracts, framework agreements and integrated logistics services. This is in turn supported through linkages with strategic movement partners. The real challenge is for those smaller platoon, company and battalion ized movements that need to be made at short notice to meet a significant opera-



tional imperative. The EU does not have access to any military assets such as strategic airlift and, therefore, this has either to be gifted from nations or alternatively contracted for. This latter element adds a high degree of risk, expense and difficulty that perhaps, isn’t reflected within national operations where assets are both owned and controlled by national forces. The solution for EU missions remains close and open dialogue with capitals and the maintenance of good linkages with national Ministries of Defence and strategic lift partners.

COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY STRUCTURES

EU NAVFOR – SOMALIA, OPERATION ATALANTA

In this issue we provide an insight into EU NAVFOR Somalia, Operation ATALANTA and interviewed Major General Rob Magowan CBE, who is the Operation Commander.



Major General Rob Magowan
CBE

Can you explain the role of Operation ATALANTA?

Operation ATALANTA was launched on 8th December 2008 following a surge in pirate attacks in the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean. These incidents were having a significant impact, not only on international trade and maritime shipping. They were also raising real concerns about the safe delivery of humanitarian aid to the Somali people, who were suffering from severe food shortages and drought. So the UN, with Security Council Resolutions in place, requested assistance from the EU, and following a Council decision, Operation ATALANTA was launched 10 weeks later.

EU NAVFOR warships and maritime patrol aircraft conduct intelligence-led operations to patrol the sea areas where the greatest risk from piracy exists. We coordinate our efforts with other counter-piracy forces, as well as warships from independent navies, such as China and South Korea. Operation Atalanta's mandate was recently extended to December 2018, and whilst our focus is still very much on the protection of WFP vessels and the deterrence and repression of piracy off the Somali coast, we also contribute more widely to the EU's comprehensive approach that is helping to address the root causes of piracy. Specifically, Operation ATALANTA is able to provide, when requested to do so and within means and capabilities, additional logistical support and maritime expertise to EUCAP Somalia, EU training mission (EUTM) Somalia, MASE and CRIMARIO.

This year I will continue my briefings to the PSC and EU Member States about the security situation off the Somali coast, including updates on the maritime capabilities of regional and other forces in the area. I will also continue to work with the WFP, shipping industry, counter-piracy partners, international organisations and regional states to assess what type/level of security measures will be required post December 2018 to ensure that piracy does not return to Somali waters.

What drives you to achieve your objectives?

My absolute focus is to ensure that we continue to deny would-be pirate action groups the opportunity to get out to sea and attack merchant ships and dhows. We all remember the untold misery caused by pirates to hundreds of captured seafarers, not to mention the distress and financial burden placed on their families. These attacks also cost the international community billions of Euros in lost revenue and higher insurance premiums, so it is imperative that pirates are not given the opportunity to once again get out to sea. It is crucial that the international community does not become complacent to a possible piracy resurgence.



Operation Atalanta Warship ESPS Relampago Engagement
with PNS TARIQ

What are your biggest accomplishments?

I see the biggest accomplishment of Operation ATALANTA is our contribution to the significant drop in pirate attacks off the coast of Somalia over the past five years. I also see the successful cooperation between EU NAVFOR and the other EU missions working in the region as a real achievement. Operation ATALANTA men and women work tirelessly, both at sea and during port visits, to help train local maritime forces, and by working with our EU colleagues, we are helping regional states to hopefully one day police their own waters. It is sobering to think that in January 2011, 736 hostages and 32 ships were being held for ransom in pirate anchorages off the Somali coast. As I speak to you today no ships or their crews are being held. When I talk to seafarers they say how much they appreciate the efforts of EU NAVFOR to help keep them safe.

News from our Operations and Missions



EUFOR ALTHEA

On 12 January 2017 EUFOR military and civilian personnel gathered at Monument Park in Camp Butmir to commemorate the deaths of 11 servicemen from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia who were killed in a helicopter accident on the same day in 2008. The Charge d'Affaires from the FYROM Embassy, Mr Aleksandar Krstevski; Chief of Staff EUFOR, Brigadier General Albert Sáfár; and Commander NATO, Brigadier General Giselle Wilz attended this ceremony of remembrance.



EUNAVFORMED Sophia

On 5 January the Libyan Navy Coast Guard Commander, Commodore Abdalh Toumia, paid a visit to Operation SOPHIA HQ in Rome.

The visit has been a perfect occasion for an update on the ongoing training activities included in the Package 1 and to forecast the coming events for Package 2.

EUTM Mali

On Friday, 6 January, Brigadier General DEVOGELAERE received General Dacko, Chief of Staff of the Malian Armed Forces (FAMa) in the EUTM HQ.

The two generals highlighted the excellent collaboration between the FAMa and the EUTM Mali. Brigadier General Devogelaere also reaffirmed the EUTM's intention to deliver its training mission by responding as much as possible to the needs expressed by the FAMa.



EUNAVFOR Atalanta

On Sunday 1st January 2017, Spanish warship, ESPS Relámpago, which is currently deployed with the European Union Naval Force, met in the Gulf of Aden with Task Force 151 Pakistan Navy Ship, PNS Tariq. On board Relampago, Spanish and Pakistani Navy boarding teams carried out a joint boarding exercise, sharing knowledge and procedures. Later, both ships conducted communications and navigation manoeuvres, before finishing with a fast roping exercise from Relámpago's SH60B SeaHawk helicopter.

EUTM RCA

On 14 January 2017, Brigadier General Belgian Herman Ruys took the lead of the European TRAINING Mission (Eutm-RCA) from the hand of FRENCH Major General French Eric Hauteclouque-Raysz in the presence of the president of the Military Ccommittee of the European Union General Mikhail Kostarakos and the minister of the Central African Defence Mr Josef Yakete.



EUTM Somalia

On the 14th January, at the General Dhagabadan Training Center (GDTC) in Mogadishu, took place the closing ceremony of the courses provided by the EUTM-S trainers to the Somali National Army (SNA). After four-months of intense training, 150 somali soldier belonging to the Pilot Light Infantry Coy (PLIC) are now combat ready. During the ceremony, General Ali Bashe, the acting Commander of Defence Forces of the SNA, has congratulated with General Morena for the outstanding contribution of EUTM to the SNA development. The EUTM-S Commander, together with Lt. General Soubagleh (AMISOM Force Commander), have confirmed that the integrated Light Infantry Coy project will now see an important synergy between EUTM-S and AMISOM which will allow the simultaneous and coordinated training of 300 SNA soldiers in 2 separate Light Infantry Coys.

News from the Committee



EUTM Mali ceremony of Change of Command

On Monday 19 December 2016, the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, visited Bamako, in Mali, to attend a ceremony marking the handover of command at the EU Training Mission (EUTM).

Together with the Chairman, the ceremony was also attended by the Belgian Chief of Defence, General Marc Compernel and other EU Military Officials.

During the event, outgoing Belgian Army Brigadier General Eric Harvent handed over command to Belgian Army Brigadier General Peter Devogelaere, as the new Mission Commander.



CEUMC in Central African Republic

From 14 to 16 January 2017, the Chairman of the EU Military Committee visited Bangui, in Central African Republic (CAR), to attend a ceremony marking the handover of command at the EU Training Mission (EUTM).

The ceremony was also attended by the Central African Republic Minister of Defence Mr Josef Yakete and other EU Military Officials.

During the event, outgoing Major General (French Army) Eric Hautecloque-Raysz transferred authority to Brigadier General (Belgian Army) Herman Ruys, as the new Mission Commander. General Kostarakos to mark the occasion, praised General Hautecloque's leadership emphasizing the role of the EU Training Mission in the reconstruction of effective and accountable CAR's armed forces capable of restoring the country's territorial integrity.

During his stay in the Central African Republic, he met with the Minister of Defence, Mr Josef Yakete who both shared their views on the current situation. In the same occasion, General Kostarakos confirmed EU's commitment to play an active role in helping the rebuilding of state institutions, security sector reform, in the framework of a comprehensive state- and peacebuilding agenda.



January intensive start: a very busy but meaningful week.

Gen Mikhail Kostarakos has met with the Chief of the Defence Staff of Canadian Armed Forces, General Jonathan Vance, the Commander of Latvia's National Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Raimonds Graube, the Chief of Defence



Force of New Zealand, Lieutenant General

Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Beom Rim Lee, General Vladimer Chachiba-Staff of the Georgian



Timothy Keating, the Republic of Korea (JCS) Land, Vice and Brigadier General, Chief of General Armed Forces.



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