

Chairman's Newsletter

EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

@Kostarakos

Message from the Chairman



IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the Chairman.

p. 1

CSDP structures actions: CSDP organisational learning and new "key lessons".

p. 2

CSDP actors: Operation ALTHEA.

p. 3

CSDP in action: News from our Operations and Missions.

p. 4

News from the Committee.

p. 5

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Gen. Mikhail Kostarakos

The new level of ambition derived from the EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy, has encouraged the EU to review the approach to training for EU's Common Security and Defence Policy. In 2003-2004, Member States adopted the first EU Training Policy in European Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). Since then, major institutional and conceptual changes have caused the scope and range of the EU's missions and operations to evolve. The experience in the field has clearly shown how CSDP presents particular training challenges given the ever evolving Global security situation, this challenge is exacerbated by the steady turnover of Member State personnel dedicated to EU endeavours. In order to effectively perform its different tasks, CSDP must be sustainable and adaptable. This depends on various factors, however, the ability to have the right people with the right skill sets in the right place at the right time is crucial to the effectiveness of CSDP. Training for CSDP is also a way to promote EU principles and pursue the objectives. In other words, training is fundamental and the culture of learning underpins the preparation of personnel for CSDP Missions and Operations. As a concrete step, we have identified the requirement and agreed to develop an Advanced Modular Training (AMT) for military and civilian personnel. Built on modules, AMT is designed to provide senior officers and their civilian counterparts with the right skills and knowledge to perform their duties in the military or civilian CSDP area. This is, indeed, a positive step forward to fulfil the level of ambition set by the EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy and we are proud to see EU as a stronger and more effective security and defence actor.

LATEST EVENTS

Zaragoza 08/06: European Tactical Airlift Centre (ETAC) Opening Ceremony



Brussels 21/06: EUISS Annual Conference 2017



Vila do Campo 22/06: funeral of the Portuguese NCO deceased in the terrorist attack in Bamako, Mali



Brussels 29/06: ESDC pre-deployment training for CSDP missions and operations



CSDP organisational learning and new “key lessons”

by Mr. Giovanni Cremonini, Chair of the CSDP Lessons Working Group

Can the EU learn lessons? Can it build on past experience and improve the effectiveness of its CSDP missions and operations? That is the aim of the CSDP Lessons Management Group, composed both by EEAS and by European Commission services, and chaired by EEAS Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Serrano. The Lessons Management Group also includes the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, and is assisted by a Lessons Working Group at expert level.

Every year, the CSDP Lessons Management Group produces a report that describes the progress made in implementing lessons already identified. In addition, the report lists up to five new, particularly important lessons, or “key lessons”, agreed among all services involved. “Key lessons” typically involve more than one service, and cannot be addressed effectively by one service alone (for instance, improving secure communications between Brussels Headquarters and military missions requires the involvement not only of the EU military bodies but also of the EEAS IT department).

The latest Annual CSDP Lessons Report draws on the experience accumulated in 2016. It indicates that steady progress was made in 2016 with the implementation of key lessons and recommendations identified in previous years. In particular, during the year the EEAS issued guidelines on how to draft a Political Framework for Crisis Approach, an analysis and options paper that should serve as a foundation for discussion of possible EU action in case of a crisis. The EEAS also is-

sued Best Practice Guidelines to smoothen coordination and cooperation on the ground between CSDP missions/operations, EU Delegations and EU Special Representatives, with good feedback on initial implementation. These two sets of guidelines should translate into increased effectiveness of the EU both in Brussels and on the ground. At the same time, the report notes that much more work is needed on certain key lessons including a common foundation of pre-deployment training for staff taking part in CSDP missions. A new EU Training Policy on CSDP was adopted in April 2017 and made such training compulsory, but this policy must now be implemented. Pre-deployment training concerns both civilian and military staff. In addition, secure communications and intelligence dissemination require continued attention and significant improvement. As for equipment and infrastructure projects, the recommendations of the previous report were fulfilled, but legislative work that would allow funding of these projects is still underway in the European Parliament (Capacity-Building for Security and Development initiative). The report identified only three new key lessons:

1. Development of an information strategy at the outset of a crisis.
2. Alignment of mission budget cycles with mission mandates.
3. Establishing a gender focal point system to improve gender mainstreaming.

The first and third lesson also concern military missions and operations. The first calls for clear messages to be de-



fined at the beginning of a crisis and to be followed by all those concerned. It also calls for new information guidelines based on the idea of two-way communication at a time of social media. The third is based on the successful experience of certain civilian missions with a structured system of trained gender focal points, which is relevant also to military missions and operations.

The report was submitted to the EU Member States who gave their detailed advice, invited the EEAS to make further progress on the outstanding issues and supported the new key lessons. The CSDP Lessons Working Group has already taken steps to implement the new key lessons. It will further promote and monitor the implementation of the remaining key lessons, and will seek to identify new ones, in a spirit of continuous improvement.

COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY STRUCTURES

EUFOR ALTHEA

In this issue we asked some questions to Major General Anton Waldner, Operation Althea Force Commander, on the ongoing activities.



Can you explain the role of Operation ALTHEA?

Since 2004, EUFOR has been responsible for the implementation of the military annexes of the Dayton Peace Agreement. This is carried out on the basis of its executive mandate of the UN Charter. The mission is contributing to the maintenance and stability of a Safe and Secure Environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina and helping to promote a climate in which the peace process can continue. Since 2010 EUFOR has focused on 'Capacity Building & Training' for the Armed Forces Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The responsibility for the execution of many tasks has been handed over to the local authorities according to the principle of "local ownership" and in line with Bosnia and Herzegovina's path towards European Union membership. Nevertheless, EUFOR retains full responsibility and authority to re-take control, if the situation so requires.

What does Capacity Building & Training for the Armed Forces Bosnia and Herzegovina involve and what role does EUFOR play?

Capacity building and training is one of EUFOR's main efforts. This programme provides the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities with military expertise and technical support, with the aim of being self-sustaining in due course.

The programme is delivered in close coordination with NATO by training, mentoring, monitoring and advising the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina throughout their command structure. Capacity building and training is accomplished through Embedded Advisory Teams (EATs), Mobile Training Teams (MTTs) and Mobile Monitoring and Mentoring Teams (MMTs).

Can you explain the role that EUFOR plays in Physical Security and Stockpile Management within the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina?

EUFOR has the leading role in physical Security and Stockpile Management of weapons and ammunition within Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the primary focus being on ammunition. The "Ammunition, Weapons and Explosives Masterplan" developed by EUFOR and the International Community and signed by the Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Defence delivers the structure to enable this. EUFOR provides essential expertise, support and monitoring not only for the storage sites infrastructure but also for the establishment of an efficient ammunition life cycle management scheme.

In terms of Demining in Bosnia and Herzegovina what support does EUFOR provide to both the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities and the population?

EUFOR fully supports the demining battalion of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina by monitoring, advising and assisting their humanitarian demining operations in order to increase their operational and logistical effectiveness. However, the responsibility for physical mine clearance remains with the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities.

Conservative estimates that the number of communities affected by mines in Bosnia and Herzegovina stands at around 1,417 and there are still 1,141.1km² of suspected hazardous areas for mines throughout the country. EUFOR provides Mine Risk Education all over the country to vulnerable and at risk groups such as farmers, forestry companies and in particular children of all ages in order to raise awareness and promote safe behavior. Currently there are 123 Mine Risk Education instructors (54 EUFOR and 74 Armed Forces of Bosnia And Herzegovina) who are essential partners to the local communities that they operate within.

Can you explain how the 'Berlin Plus agreement' and EUFOR works?

The Berlin Plus Agreement is a comprehensive package of agreements between NATO and the European Union made in 2002. It allows the European Union to draw on some of NATO's military assets in its Peace Support Operations. At present EUFOR Althea is the only operation carried out under Berlin Plus agreement. In case of a threat to the safe and secure environment, EUFOR can call on NATO forces for support. This is exercised on a yearly basis during the Quick Response series.

News from our Operations and Missions



EUFOR ALTHEA

On June the 13th, a team from EUFOR and the Armed Forces of BiH attended Kindergarten Višnjik in Sarajevo to provide Mine Risk Education to a class of 60 children aged between 4 and 5 years old. The aim of Mine Risk Education is to reduce the risk of landmines and unexploded ordnance to humans and the environment and to make BiH a safer and more secure place.



EUNAVFORMED Sophia

On June the 8th, more than 80 international organizations were welcome to the Op Sophia OHQ in Rome, for the 4th edition of the Shade Med. During the two-days workshops, all the participants shared their best practices on different subjects, such as operations, smugglers business model and its effects, communication and information system, migration, SAR, shipping, capacity building and training in Libya, legal.

EUTM Mali

On June the 26th, the Commander of the G5 Sahel Joint Force, General Dacko, visited EUTM Mali HQ. General Dacko, former Chief of Staff of the Malian Armed Forces (MaAF), was welcome by the Mission Force Commander (MFC), Major General Devogelaere, as the new Commander of the G5 Sahel Joint Force (Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Chad) and, as such, leading the five countries' fight against terrorists in the region. Both commanders talked about the implementation of the international community's unequivocal support to the G5 Sahel Joint Force, at the operational level.



EUNAVFOR Atalanta

On June the 13th, Senior Captain Wang Zhongcai from the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy Escort Task Group (ETG) 577, welcomed Operation Atalanta's Force Commander, Rear Admiral Rafael Fernández-Pintado Muñoz-Rojas, on board Chinese PLA Navy warship, Huang Gang. These initiatives help to consolidate relations between the EU and Chinese counter-piracy naval forces, both seeking to strengthen maritime security off the coast of Somalia.

EUTM RCA

An EUTM RCA delegation made a donation to the children of an orphanage in Bangui. Through this initiative, the European Union's training mission strengthens its links with the civilian population. Clothing, food, care products including malaria prevention, school equipment and games have been given to children under the watchful eye of the orphanage which is the home of about fifty children, from their youngest age to adolescence. A moment of joy for the children but also for the military of EUTM RCA!



EUTM Somalia

Within the framework of the Security Pact implementation mechanism, adopted in May 2017 at the London Conference, the Defence Sector (Strand 2a) met, for the first time, on June the 21st. The meeting, chaired by the Somali Minister of Defence Abdilrashid Abdullahi Mohamed, gathered around the table all major actors at the aim to foster an effective SSR in Somalia. The European Union was represented by the EU Special Representative for the Horn, the EUTM Mission Force Commander and representatives from the EU Delegation for Somalia (currently based in Nairobi).

News from the Committee



CEUMC attends the opening Ceremony of the European Tactical Airlift Centre (ETAC)

On the 8th of June, in Zaragoza, the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, Gen. Mikhail Kostarakos, attended the Opening Ceremony of the European Tactical Airlift Centre (ETAC). The ETAC, officially inaugurated by Head of the EDA, High Representative and Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini and the Minister of Defence of Spain, Dolores de Cospedal, represents one of the largest transfers of a project created and developed by the EDA to one of its Member States, on a permanent basis.



EUMC pays tribute to the victims of the Bamako terrorist attack

On June the 21th, the European Union Military Committee observed a minute of silence in tribute to victims of the appalling attack of 18 June 2017 in Bamako, Mali.



EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) Annual Conference 2017

On June the 21th, the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, Gen. Mikhail Kostarakos, participated in the EUISS Annual Conference 2017. On the occasion, the High Representative/Vice President Federica Mogherini delivered the closing address on the implementation of the EU Global Strategy (EUGS) Year 1.



ESDC pre-deployment training for CSDP missions and operations

On June the 29th, the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, Mikhail Kostarakos, delivered the lecture “European Union Adapting for the future” to the participants to the ESDC pre-deployment training for CSDP missions and operations. The pre-deployment training, provided under the umbrella of the ESDC, contributes to a more time-efficient and effective implementation of the mission mandate in theatre, and future members of Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations are provided with the necessary understanding, knowledge and skills to be operational at a faster rate after deployment.

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