

# Chairman's Newsletter

EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

Message from the Chairman

@Kostarakos



Gen. Mikhail Kostarakos

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The EU Global Strategy (EUGS) makes a clear connection between European prosperity and Asian peace and stability.

The Asia-Pacific Region is the EU's biggest trade partner. At the same time, its security landscape is shaped by a large number of factors ranging from strategic competition among players to ethnic and religious tensions, governance failures, competition for resources, all compounded by expanding defence spending and capabilities.

For this reason, the Global Strategy calls for deeper security engagement in and with Asia, complementing the EU's support to regional integration through specific initiatives like the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

The EU has four Strategic Partners in the Region (China, Japan, India and RoK) and, with specific regard to the field of security, it complements the UN's role in the region, has included several Asian countries in CSDP Operations and, since 2013, runs the so called EU-ASEAN high-level dialogues on maritime security as well as CSDP and other security-related courses.

The EU has also expanded its engagement at key security dialogues, under the aegis of the ARF. It is designed to further develop its security cooperation, bilaterally supporting regional peace and stability, further operationalising the EU's regional approach in the framework of the ASEAN security architecture, engaging with Asia in third areas of interest to European security, notably Africa and the wider Middle East.

Against this scenario, increased contacts by the EU at strategic/military level might be promoted by inviting Asian Chiefs of Defence (ChOD) to discuss security issues with their European counterparts. Extending to other Asian partners participation in selected CSDP Orientation courses (currently focussed on China and ASEAN) could also be part of a tailored engagement for security cooperation with individual countries in the Asian Region. Finally, important discussions are ongoing on the possibility of a more systematic deployment of military advisors to EU Delegations.

Our partners on the Asian side are clearly waiting for us to deliver on our ambition as a global security provider and, in response, the EU needs to become better at delivering. Yet we need to add investments in security training, capacity building and joint exercises in order to complement the investments we have already made in the dialogue. And we have all the capabilities to take this historical opportunity, thinking strategically, building on the high interest of our partners as well as investing in our own security.

## LATEST EVENTS



Brussels, 6 March: FAC (Defence)



Thessaloniki, 19 March: CE-UMC at the opening day of the Pilot Course "EU's CSDP Operations Planning"



Ljubljana, 25-27 March: CE-UMC official visit to Slovenia



Brussels 28 March: CEUMC at the "Cérémonie d'hommage à militaires belges en opérations dans le monde et sur le territoire national"

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



# EUFOR ALTHEA

by Gen. Sir. James EVERARD  
EUFOR ALTHEA Operation Commander

## Can you explain the role of Operation ALTHEA?

Since the end of NATO's Stabilisation Force (SFOR) mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in 2004, EU Force (EUFOR) Operation ALTHEA has been responsible for the implementation of the military annexes of the "Dayton Peace Agreement". This task is carried out on the basis of the Operation's Executive Mandate under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

Since 2010 Operation ALTHEA has been focused on Capacity Building and Training of the Armed Forces of BiH. Recently, on 23 January 2017, the Political and Security Committee (based on the Politico-Military Group recommendations and the Military Committee advice) decided to re-focus the Operation on its core task: to support BiH Authorities in maintaining a Safe and Secure Environment. Therefore our recommendations, included in the last Six-Monthly Review of Operation ALTHEA, aimed at making EUFOR fitter, faster and genuinely fit for this purpose.

EUFOR is currently a small Force consisting of roughly 600 troops, mainly located in Sarajevo. It can be bolstered by Reserve Forces - at high readiness - located out of Theatre. It also has a network of 17 Liaison and Observation Teams, spread throughout the country, which represents the visible presence of EUFOR and an instrument for communication and reassurance to local communities.

EUFOR Operation ALTHEA is also part of the EU comprehensive approach towards BiH as it seeks further Euro-Atlantic integration. The responsibility for the execution of many tasks, associated with the

safe and secure environment, have been handed over to the local authorities - according to the principle of "local ownership" which is central to this comprehensive approach.

## Can you explain the role of EUFOR in Ammunition, Weapons and Explosive disposal?

Since the end of the war in 1995 Bosnia-Herzegovina still has significant surpluses of Weapons and Ammunition. It is a burden, and EUFOR is currently supporting BiH Armed Forces to dispose of its surplus ammunition (around 7,000 tons) and surplus light weapons (some 50,000) and introduce a sustainable life-cycle management system.

EUFOR also retains the right - through the "Dayton Peace Agreement" - to 'observe, monitor and inspect any Forces, facility or activity' in BiH, that it believes may have military capability.

## Can you explain the role of EUFOR in de-mining?

BiH has been responsible for de-mining since 2012 with the EU Force retaining the right to monitor, mentor, advise and liaise. Although over 3,000 km<sup>2</sup> have been cleared since 1996, current efforts to rid the country of mines have largely failed with 1,100 km<sup>2</sup> containing some 79,000 mines requiring clearance.

The EU is underpinning a strategic re-set for de-mining based on the idea of Land Release starting with a Re-Survey Project beginning this month and lasting 2-years. We predict that the results of the Re-Survey will already reduce the scale of the challenge and that, by



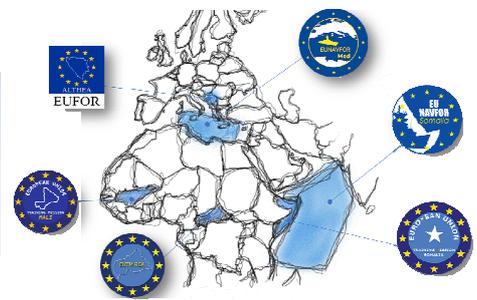
*Gen. Sir. James EVERARD (second from the left)  
EUFOR ALTHEA Operation Commander*

using the Land Release approach during the following clearance and cancellation phases, BiH can reduce the scale of the challenge and deliver a mine-free country by 2025. However, the 3-Phase Project still needs oversight, and EUFOR has the powers of the "Dayton Peace Agreement" to help.

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

The Berlin Plus agreement is a comprehensive package of agreements between NATO and the EU finalized in 2002. It allows the EU to draw on some of NATO's military assets in its own Peace Support Operations. EUFOR Operation ALTHEA is currently the only ongoing operation carried out under Berlin Plus agreement. It works well. In the case of a direct threat to the Safe and Secure Environment, EUFOR can also call on NATO reserve forces for support. This is exercised on an annual basis during Exercise Quick Response.

# News from our Operations and Missions



## EUFOR ALTHEA

On March the 20th, General Claudio Graziano, Chief of the Italian Defence General Staff, was welcomed to EUFOR Headquarters in Sarajevo by Major General Anton Waldner, Commander EUFOR. The Generals met to discuss Italy's ongoing contribution to EUFOR and the current situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This visit will be particularly relevant to General Graziano, as he will become the Chair of the European Union's Military Committee in November 2018.

## EUNAVFOR ATALANTA

Deputy Commander of EU NAVFOR, Rear Admiral Alfonso Nanclares, attended, in March, the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) Maritime Security Conference in Bahrain reinforcing the strong relationship that exists between these two international organisations. Colonel Saw Shi Tat of the Singapore Navy will take command of Combined Task Force 151 (CTF-151) from the current commander, Rear Admiral Daisuke Kajimoto of the Japanese Navy, next June for a four months period.



## EU NAVFORMED Sophia

On March the 20th, the Spanish frigate 'Santa Maria' carried out a rappelle exercise on board. Having a Boarding Team on board increases ship's capabilities on performing the necessary inspections on suspect merchant vessels. Merchant vessels usually have large freeboard and can store containers packed on top of another which make quite difficult to run a thorough inspection. Cargo ships normally stack containers up to 10 and it requires a professional boarding team able to perform rappelling in order to be effective. For this purpose rappelle training is a routine activity required when ships have boarding team on their crew.

## EUTM Mali

In March, the Education and Training Task Force (ETTF) of EUTM MALI has conducted and executed a two-week course where 20 trainees from the Malian Armed Forces were taught the principles of logistics, how to organize and run a storehouse and how to produce and issue the various documents required for an efficient and effective stores operation (e.g. Livre Journal, Fiche de Casier, etc). The subjects contained in the curricula of this course followed one clear purpose: that each student could develop proficient knowledge and skills to competently work within a MaAF storage facility.



## EUTM Somalia

On March the 19th, in Villa Gashandiga, headquarters of the Somali Ministry of Defence and Somali National Army General Staff, the EU Head of Delegation, Ambassador Veronique Lorenzo and EUTM-S Mission Force Commander, Brigadier General Pietro Addis, met with the Minister of Defence, Mohamed Mursal. The meeting allowed the EU Ambassador and the MFCDR to share with the Minister several issues that are characterizing the SSR in Somalia.

## EUTM RCA

From March the 7th to the 9th, the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) and the Political and Security Committee (PSC) of the European Union, conducted a joint field mission to the Central African Republic (CAR) led by the Ambassador Adam Maïga Zakariaou, SPC President, and the Ambassador Walter Stevens, Permanent Chair of the PSC. The joint field mission, organised in the framework of the AU PSC and the EU PSC partnership, focussed on promoting peace and security in Africa with particular reference to the stabilization of the CAR, on the basis of a trilateral cooperation among the two organizations and the United Nations (UN), in the field of peace and security.



# News from the Committee



## Address to the students of the UK Higher Command and Staff Course (HCSC)

On March the 12th, in Brussels, the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, General Mikhail Kostarakos, gave a keynote speech on "European Defence: Moving forward" to the students of the UK Higher Command and Staff Course (HCSC), a course which prepares some of the UKs officers for one star Command and Staff appointments.



## Farewell to the EUFOR ALTHEA Force Commander

On March the 14th, in the occasion of the EUMC meeting, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Mikhail Kostarakos bid farewell to Major General Anton Waldner, outgoing EUFOR Althea Force Commander, and thanked him for his excellent leadership during his mandate.



## Address to the students of the Hellenic Supreme Joint War College

On March the 19th, in Thessaloniki, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Mikhail Kostarakos, gave a keynote speech on: "European Defence: In the Age of Maturity" to the students of the Hellenic Supreme Joint War College.

The College's mission is to provide senior officers of the three services of Armed Forces with mutual training at operational and strategic level and education on key geopolitical issues.



## Farewell to the Polish Milrep

On March the 21st, in the occasion of the EUMC meeting, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Mikhail Kostarakos bid farewell to Lieutenant General Andrzej Fałkowski, outgoing Polish Milrep, and priced him outstanding service.