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COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH FOCUSES
IN THE ARC OF INESTABILITY IN AFRICA

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EU CSDP CENTRES ITS COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH FOCUSES ON THE ARC OF INESTABILITY IN AFRICA

Abstract:

The European Union Common Security and Defence Policy, while it prepares the next NATO summit in Chicago, where among other issues will be discussed the concepts of NATO Smart Defence and the EU "Pooling and Sharing" of military capabilities, centres its comprehensive approach focuses on the arc of instability in the area of the Sahel and the Horn of Africa. While extending the mandate of Operation Atalanta until the end of 2014, it activated, for the first time ever, its Operations Centre in support of the missions in that part of Africa and has endorsed the concept of crisis management to start a new civilian mission in the Sahel.

Keywords:

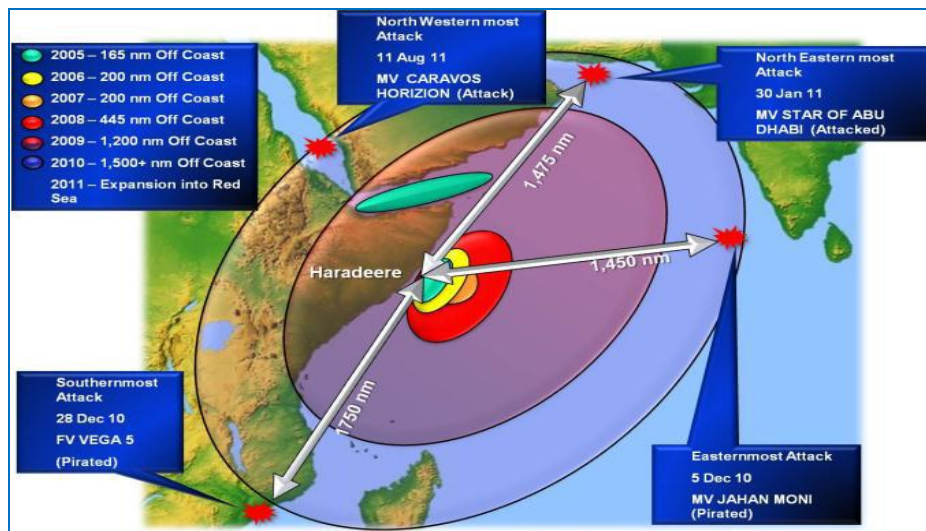
CSDP, Africa, Sahel, Horn of Africa, Atalanta, Niger, Comprehensive approach.

Last March, within the framework of the meeting of the European Union Council of Foreign Affairs, the Ministers of Defense of the member countries met to discuss the concept of Pooling and Sharing of military capabilities as a complementary European initiative to the NATO Smart Defense model. The Secretary General of NATO was invited to participate in the discussions to prepare the Alliance Summit in Chicago, which took place from 21 to 23 of May.

Simultaneously, in the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the effort of the comprehensive approach of the EU operations was centred on the arc of instability in Africa.



On the one hand, it extended the term of office of Operation Atalanta¹ for an additional two years, until December 2014, with a budget of 14.9 million Euros, expanding the area of operations to the internal waters or territorial seas of Somalia. The aim of this amplification of the area of operations is to collaborate directly with the Transitional Federal Government to launch operations from the Somali coast. "Today's important decision allows us to take more robust action on the Somali coast," the EU's foreign policy head Catherine Ashton said in a statement.



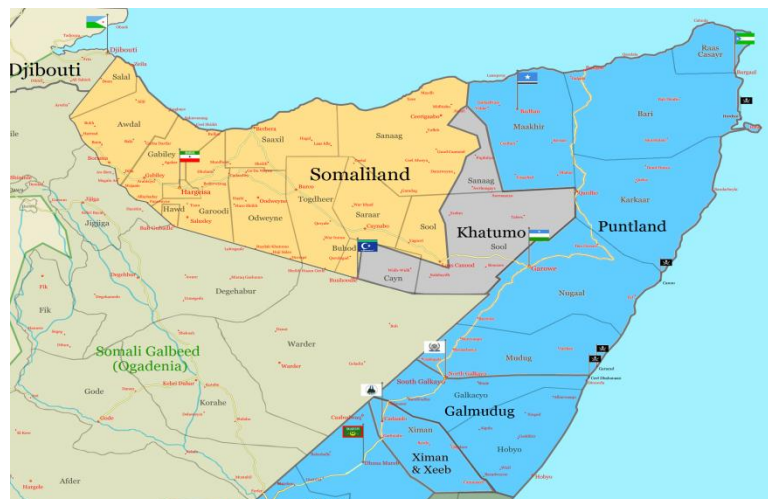
The operation, which cooperates actively within the area with the NATO "Combined Maritime Forces", and nations like China, India, Russia, Taiwan, Japan..., has maintained a budget of 8 million Euros per year approximately for the last two years. Furthermore, within the approach to the conflict from a comprehensive perspective, to support the creation of a viable state in Somalia, the European Commission has invested, among other financial

¹ <http://www.eunavfor.eu/>

contributions, 215.8 million Euros from 2008 to 2013 in its special support program, 198 million Euros in humanitarian aid, 136 million Euros to improve security and governance sectors and education and development sectors, and also 43 million Euros to reinforce its legal system, of which 12 million have been assigned to the Police Force.

This comprehensive approach directly relates Operation ATALANTA (EU NAVFOR Somalia – Operation ATALANTA) with the training mission² (EUTM Somalia), the African Union mission³ (AMISON) and in the future, if that is what is decided, a new civil training mission to improve the maritime capacities within the area (RMCB) focused on Djibouti, Kenya, Tanzania and the

Seychelles. Within the framework of this last mission, its aim would be to train and equip the Police Forces of the coast in the Somali regions of Puntland, Somaliland and Galmudug, as well as instruct and protect the judges of Puntland.



This integrated vision is based on the “strategic framework for the Horn of Africa”⁴, recently adopted -November 14, 2011- and the activation for the first time, and for an initial period of two years, of the EU Operations Centre, which was established in 2003. This Operations Centre aims to coordinate and increase the synergies between all of these efforts,

² <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/eeas/security-defence/eu-operations/eu-somalia-training-mission?lang=en>

This operation has a 4.8 million budget (15 months: August 2011- October 2012) and a maximum authorized number of 124 people.

³ <http://www.africa-union.org/root/au/au/department/psc/amisom/amisom.htm> The EU financially supports (since its launch in 2007 there has been a contribution of 208 million Euros approximately), in terms of planning and developing capabilities (4.7 million Euros).

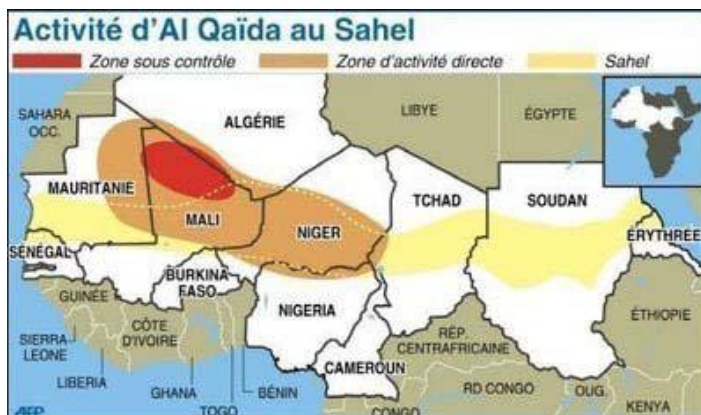
⁴ http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/126052.pdf

supporting the commanders of the operations and, where appropriate, developing strategic planning for support. The Operations Centre will not be integrated in the chain of command but it will be given EU Military Staff Officer Personnel, the certification support cell to the training mission based in Brussels, the liaison team of Operation Atalanta and national support staff.

At the same time, the Council shall approve the Crisis Management Concept to launch a civil assistance and training mission in the Sahel, focused on Niger, to improve the level of interoperability of the Gendarmerie, the National Police and the National Guard of Niger. The aim is to improve its potential for counter-terrorism and its fight against organized crime, with a particular focus on respect for legal rights as well as human rights

In its conclusions on the Sahel, the Council stated that a year after the approval of the “Strategy of Security and Development for the Sahel”⁵ the region is living in a “turbulent” situation, at the same time as it is suffering a new food crisis, the coup d’état in Mali and the risk of its territorial disintegration. The Council described the deteriorating security conditions in the area as “worrying”; seeing poverty, terrorism, violent extremism, organized crime and the effects of the Libyan crisis as the essential factors that dramatically affect its development and security.

The strategy highlights how one of the main challenges of the area, of the problems that laid waste to the region, are cross-border in character, in which, apart from the three real Sahelian countries in which the strategy focuses on: Mauritania, Mali and Niger, there are also some other affected countries that participate in solving the problem: Burkina Faso,



Chad and even Nigeria, as well as the three countries of the Maghreb: Morocco, Algeria and Libya.

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⁵ http://www.eeas.europa.eu/africa/docs/sahel_strategy_en.pdf