



EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

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Interview at page 2: Luis Felipe FERNÁNDEZ DE LA PEÑA (EEAS- Europe Asia)

Message from the Chairman

I hosted the Chiefs of Defence on 19 May in Brussels for the EU Military Committee.

CSDP Operations and Missions, partnership, military capabilities, the upcoming EU Council 2015 and the global security situation were discussed.



Details on current military commitments were provided by Operations and Missions Commanders

to allow for an exchange of views on the way forward for enhanced military cooperation and assess and discuss its performance.

Partnership was another highlight of this meeting. For the first time, CHODs from Partner Nations engaged in EU military Training and Advisory missions were invited.

Thus, Chiefs of Defence of EU and Partner Nations (namely from Canada, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Switzerland) shared their perspectives on strategic issues of common interest as well as their experience and recommendations.

They also provided an overview of their perspectives in terms of experience and recommendations. The session was an opportunity to evaluate the development of enhanced military to military cooperation.

Finally, Colonel General Viktor Muzhenko, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, provided us with an update on the current situation in the country.

General Patrick de Rousiers

command and control. Further, soldiers do not have protective equipment against mines and explosive devices. Other needs and requirements include ambulances, water tanks and fuel trucks to ensure autonomy and the ability to operate independently. Basic essentials, including accommodation, food and medical support are also lacking. Assistance in providing such equipment and support is necessary to ensure that trained battalions do not have to rely on the support of the local population.

In some cases, *ad hoc* solutions have been found, such as the provision of vehicles by other donors, but this has not been consistent, nor is it a sustainable long-term solution. Where such *ad hoc* funding has not been possible, no alternative funding sources have been identified to fill the gaps.

Further efforts should aim at better synchronising and coordinating the use of different instruments, fully recognising the nexus between security and development and enhancing our collective ability - the EU and its Member States - not only to train and advice but also to equip partners.

In this light, lessons learnt from military CSDP missions/operations involving security sector capacity building initiatives have demonstrated the need to supply and provide basic military training equipment to Partner nations. Such equipment is required to enable the mission/operation perform and achieve objectives efficiently and to enable partner nations to capitalise and build on EU military support, training and advisory efforts.

The EU's train and Equip initiative, just mentioned, is another crucial step to foster partnership. The EU and its Member States, through the CSDP and other policies and instruments, have a strong role to play through its unique comprehensive approach to preventing and managing conflicts and their causes.

Col Giovanni Ramunno

Train and Equip initiative

In the conclusions adopted following its discussion on the outlook for the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) in November 2014, the EU's Foreign Affairs Council agreed on next steps regarding the initiative to support capacity building of partner countries and regional organisations "in order to enable them to increasingly prevent and manage crises by themselves".

Accordingly and acknowledging the importance of good governance and security in some countries, Member States have also decided to launch CSDP missions to assist in reinforcing their security and defence capacities. And capacity building is at the core of the mandate of three CSDP missions launched by the EU in 2014.

Further, at the end of last month, a joint European Commission (EC) and European External Action Service (EEAS) communication has been presented to the EU Parliament in view of the European Council in June 2015.

This Joint Communication, to which the EU Military committee contributed with a Military Advice, addresses inter alia the issue of equipment to support partner countries' security capacity building.

Further on capacity building, two strategic frameworks (**EU Strategy for security and development in the Sahel** (2011) and **EU strategic framework for the Horn of Africa** (2011)) provide guidelines on how the EU should use its full range of instruments in supporting the stability and development of the countries in both regions.

The EU counts today three missions in Sahel (EUCAP Sahel Niger, EUCAP Sahel Mali, EUTM Mali) in support of interior security and defence forces. The EU has similar types of activities in the Horn of Africa. More specifically, two CSDP missions are deployed in support of the interior and defence security forces: EUTM Somalia to train the Somali defence forces, and EUCAP Nestor to enhance coast-guards capabilities in the region. CSDP operation EUNAVFOR Atalanta is concurrently combating and deterring piracy at sea, off the coast of Somalia.

Additionally, the EU's military advisory mission in the Central African Republic (**EU-MAM RCA**) supports the authorities of that country in preparing the coming security sector reform. It does so by assisting the national military to build capacity, raise standards and move towards the goal of becoming modernised, effective and accountable armed forces.

But the EU's comprehensive approach needs to be strengthened to cover gaps in the current EU response. For example, this may be the case where training has been provided by CSDP missions, but its sustainability and effectiveness has been hampered by a lack of basic equipment.

In this respect, the trained units lack communication equipment, thus hindering command and control. Further, soldiers do not have protective equipment against mines and explosive devices. Other needs and requirements include ambulances, water tanks and fuel trucks to ensure autonomy and the ability to operate independently. Basic essentials, including accommodation, food and medical support are also lacking. Assistance in providing such equipment and support is necessary to ensure that trained battalions do not have to rely on the support of the local population.

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Col Giovanni Ramunno

In this issue:

1. The cover story takes us to the Train and Equip initiative.
2. The newsletter also presents the EEAS Directorate Europe.



COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY STRUCTURES: European External Action Service - Europe and Asia Directorate MD III

In this issue we provide an insight into the EEAS - Europe and Asia Department and interviewed Amb. Luis Felipe FERNÁNDEZ DE LA PEÑA, who is the Managing Director.



Amb. Luis Felipe FERNÁNDEZ DE LA PEÑA

Amb. FERNÁNDEZ DE LA PEÑA, could you explain the role of your Department to our readers?

The Department for Europe and Central Asia works towards the further comprehensive deepening of relations, and where applicable integration, between the EU and its immediate neighbours in Europe and to the East, up to Central Asia. The Department covers a broad and diverse geographic area, which includes countries closely aligned with the EU either bilaterally (Switzerland), or within the framework of the European Economic Area (Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein), countries with an Enlargement perspective (Turkey, Western Balkans), the countries of the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood (Russia, the Eastern Partnership countries), the countries of Central Asia, but also smaller European states such as Andorra, Monaco and San Marino, as well as Holy See. All of these regions and countries present different challenges that require specific policy responses.

In addition to actively pursuing and developing bilateral relations with individual countries, the Department is responsible for a number of regional policies including the Eastern Partnership (the Eastern dimension of the EU's Neighbourhood Policy), the Northern Dimension (involving the EU, Russia, Norway and Iceland), the EU's Policy towards the Arctic region, and cooperation in the Black Sea region. The Department is also responsible for relations with the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

In developing and implementing EU policy towards the region, the Department works closely with relevant Commission Services, the Parliament and the Council, as well as the network of EU delegations across the region.

The EU's neighbourhood is recognised as a priority within the Common Foreign and Security Policy, given its importance in terms of EU security and stability, as well as the economic and trade potential it represents. Countries such as Turkey and Russia are important partners in addressing key foreign policy and global challenges, such as the ongoing crisis in Syria, negotiations on the Iranian nuclear issue, the fight against international terrorism and efforts to tackle climate change. The neighbourhood is an area where the EU's 'comprehensive approach' has particular relevance, with the full range of EU tools and instruments – diplomatic, economic, development, security - deployed. The region hosts a number of EU CSDP missions, including EUFOR/Althea in Bosnia-Herzegovina, EULEX Kosovo, EUMM Georgia, and - most recently - EUAM Ukraine.

The past year and half has seen a heightened focus on the Eastern Neighbourhood, in light of the crisis in Ukraine, and the deterioration in relations with Russia. At the recent Eastern Partnership (EaP) Summit in Riga, the EU and partner countries reaffirmed their objective to develop strengthened, differentiated relations between the EU and its six sovereign, independent partners. The challenge in the period ahead will be to put the principle of differentiation into practice, and to develop bilateral relations with partner countries on the basis of mutual interests and commitments, while remaining true to EU values.

The Directorate has recently managed the review of the EU Central Asia Strategy with a view to adopting Conclusions on the Strategy by the June Foreign Affairs Council. The principal aim is to make the Strategy more responsive to the individual interests of Central Asian countries, while also preserving the important aspect of regional cooperation, which the EU has been promoting for almost 10 years since the launch of the Strategy in 2007.

The HRVP's December 2014 visit to Turkey set the EU's vision for a broader and more strategic relationship with this EU candidate country and important regional ally. EU Accession negotiations remain the foundation of our partnership, but we are now complementing that with an enhanced foreign policy dialogue, greater cooperation on counter-terrorism and migration, and by pursuing a shared agenda for greater prosperity.

What are your biggest accomplishments?

This has been an important year for the Eastern Partnership. The EU concluded Association Agreements and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine in June 2014. The focus for these three countries is now on implementing the substantial reform programmes foreseen under the agreements.

While this has been a challenging year for relations with Russia, the EU has maintained unity in its approach, and has agreed a range of sanctions in response to the illegal annexation of Crimea. EU Member States are united in their view that any relaxation of these measures depends on full implementation of the Minsk agreements.

In the Western Balkans, the 2013 Brussels Agreement on the normalization of relations between Serbia and Kosovo was the inspiring story of the last two years. The vision and political courage of the two leaderships has served and continues to serve as an example for other countries in the region. The job is not yet finished, there is still much to be done in order to reach a "comprehensive normalisation". Work in the context of the EU facilitated Dialogue is continuing and the Directorate is assisting the HRVP in this endeavour.

Most recently, there have been promising developments in BiH. The renewed approach launched in the autumn 2015 by the EU with strong engagement by HR/VP together with Commissioner Hahn, supported by Member States has changed the dynamics on the ground. BiH political leadership have signed up to a comprehensive Written Commitment on reforms and progress on EU path. This has been reciprocated by the Council concluding of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, which will enter into force on 1 June 2015. Further work is needed in Sarajevo, especially on the development and implementation of the reforms agenda. EUSR/HoD Wigemark is leading the efforts on the ground.

The EEA has further developed. We welcomed Croatia as a new EEA member and an agreement to this purpose was signed in April 2014. Additionally, new negotiations have been launched with both Switzerland and the smaller states in view of reframing their institutional relations with the EU.

What was the contribution to the recent crisis?

In response to the outbreak of the Ukraine crisis in (Dec 2013), the EU has delivered unprecedented levels of support to Ukraine to assist in reform efforts and contribute to a quick economic recovery in line with the Minsk Agreements. This includes a commitment of €11 billion in financial support from the EU and European Financial Institutions in support of Ukraine's political, economic and financial stabilisation. Alongside EU financial support, the EU offers expertise and advice, through the EU Delegation and an EU Advisory Mission in Kiev, and a dedicated Support Group based in Brussels. Considerable humanitarian assistance has also been mobilised to assist in alleviating the situation in the country's troubled Eastern regions. The EU is also actively supporting efforts to arrive at a political solution, including through substantial support to the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission including contribution to staff costs, satellite imagery, armoured vehicles, training and other support. The EU has played an active role in facilitating trilateral talks with Ukraine and Russia on implementation of the EU/Ukraine DCFTA, and on gas supplies to Ukraine.

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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.



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