The EU Military Staff and the ‘Way Forward’

Looking back on the year 2013 makes me confident that we, the EU Military Staff, as part of the European External Action Service (EEAS), managed to fully play both our advisory and planning roles. As the Director General of the EU Military Staff, I am fully aware that achieving excellent results would not be possible without the support of all personnel within the EU Military Staff, both military and civilian. Together we make a ‘difference’ by continually supporting and delivering expertise to all services. The EU Military Staff continues to work as a team and a team player within the EEAS. From the beginning of my tenure as Director General of the EU Military Staff in May 2013, I was proud to be the Director General of such a ‘team’ and my first experience entirely confirms my initial impression.

This recent period offered a variety of opportunities where the EU Military Staff was able to deliver a broad range of expertise, including a growing frequency of temporary deployments to support EU Delegations. It is likely that the working rhythm will accelerate further in the future. This should not distract us from a continuous search for quality, in our support to both the High Representative and the Chairman of the EU Military Committee.

The military instrument’s raison d’être in the EEAS context has been confirmed and remains as the unique provider of military expertise and analysis, as well as planning capacity. Including Member States’ contributions, the military in the EU has developed as an instrument for action of remarkable efficacy.

All our operations and missions lived up to expectations and decisively contribute to EU’s visibility and leverage in the comprehensive effort to build and sustain stability.

This said, nothing would have been achieved without Member States’ efforts and the dedication of all the military personnel they provided. My particular respect goes to commanders of all levels, to their reliability and proficiency. I would also use this message to commend all those who participated in the considerable work to prepare the European Council on Defence and Security.

2014 offers a number of challenges which we have to address. Numerous tasksings expressed by the Council will determine the EU Military Staff’s work-plan for the coming year and beyond. I would here particularly highlight the need to give more flexibility to our Rapid Response instruments, and to foster synergies and transparency between Member States’ capability planning.

We continue to prove our capacity to contribute to the planning and conduct of operations and the strategic exercises MILEX 14 and Multilayer 14. In particular, the operation in the Central African Republic remains high on the agenda, particularly when it comes to transforming the effort in durable results for the country’s security.

The EU Military Staff has to further consolidate its role as an important player within the EEAS Comprehensive Approach. I expect an increasing dynamic in supporting and shaping the EEAS’ crisis management structures as described in the recent High Representatives EEAS review. In this spirit, the EU Military Staff also supports increased coordination and support to EU Delegations, States and Organisations, including NATO, UN and the African Union, as appropriate. We must continue to prioritise development of politically identified partnerships through military-to-military actions, promote Capability Development, and contribute to Conflict Prevention.

I am confident that we are up to the task. My first months with the staff have taught me how much I can rely on our personnel’s dedication and proficiency. I also fully trust Member States support in the common European interest. Finally, I am certain that the further development of the EEAS will be one of mutual support of all services, where the military can further consolidate their place.
European Union Military Staff

Intelligence Directorate (Commodore Georgii ALEFUSOFF, FI)
Provides intelligence input to early warning and situation assessments; contributes to the EUMS planning through the provision of intelligence and intelligence planning expertise; and provides the intelligence input to crisis response planning and assessment for operations and exercises.

Operations Directorate (Brigadier General Herman GEENS, BE)
Plans EU-led military crisis management operations, including post-launch strategic crisis response planning, develops strategic advice and crisis response planning, including early military assessment and planning in support of informed decision making; monitors all CSDP operations and generates the capacity to plan and run an autonomous operation.

Logistics Directorate (Brigadier General Dionigi LORIA, IT)
Generates the capacity to plan and run an autonomous operation.

Communications and Information Systems (CIS) (Rear Admiral Santiago BARBER LOPEZ, ES - from the 23 March 2014)
Develops EUMS policies and guidance for implementation; is responsible for the operation and maintenance of CIS, in support of CSDP activities; contributes to EUMS planning through the provision of CIS planning expertise; provides the logistics element of crisis response planning and assessment for operations and exercises; and provides administrative support to the EUMS.

ACOS Synchronization (Colonel Jose Luis CALVO-ALBERO, ES)
Serves as a focal point for all matters in the functional areas of logistics; contributes to EUMS planning through the provision of logistics planning expertise; is responsible for logistic concepts and doctrine; provides the logistics element of crisis response planning and assessment for operations and exercises; and provides administrative support to the EUMS.

Concepts and Capabilities Directorate (Brigadier General Pascal ROUX, FR. Brigadier General Heinz KRIEB, DE; will be Director on the 1 September 2014)
Is responsible for EUMS concepts, doctrine, force planning and capability development, including crisis management exercises; responsible for training, analysis and lessons learned; and for cooperation with the European Defence Agency; Vis-à-vis EUMS planning, ensures coherence between the EU military concepts and the crisis management procedures.

ACOS External Relations (Colonel Martin CAUH/CH-INGLOTT, MT)
Develops policy for, and maintains the military dimension of all EUMS' external operations; plans EU-led military crisis management operations, including post-launch strategic crisis response planning, develops strategic advice and crisis response planning, including early military assessment and planning in support of informed decision making; monitors all CSDP operations and generates the capacity to plan and run an autonomous operation.

THE BALKANS
The EU continues to play an important role in defining the future path for the Balkans. EUFOR ALTHEA is one element of this strategy.

EUFOR ALTHEA (Operational Commander - General Sir Adrian BRADSHAW, UK - from the 28 March 2014)
Conducts the EU-led Operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), under the political control and strategic direction of the Council and in line with the mandate; support BiH efforts to maintain a Safe and Secure Environment (SASE); in parallel, conducts capacity building of the Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH) and contributes to the stability of the state.

HORN OF AFRICA (HoA)
The Strategic Framework for the HoA (November 2011) aims to assert a stronger comprehensive EU voice, and project the effectiveness of EU's policy in the region, through strategic representation of its Missions/Operations, Delegations, policies and programmes. EUNAVFOR Atalanta and EUTM Somalia are part of this EU Comprehensive Approach.

EUNAVFOR ATLANTA (Operational Commander - Rear Admiral Bob TARRANT, UK)
Protection of vessels of the World Food Programme (WFP) delivering food aid to displaced persons in Somalia; protection of vessels of AMISOM; protection of vulnerable vessels off the Somali coast; and the deterrence, prevention and repression of acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast.

EUTM Somalia (Mission Commander - Brigadier General Massimo MINGIARDI, IT)
In order to contribute to the building up and strengthening of the Somali National Armed Forces (SNAF) who are accountable to the Somali National Government and consistent with Somali needs and priorities, EUTM Somalia will provide political and strategic level advice to Somali authorities (Ministry of Defence and General Staff), support and advice on Sector Security Development as well as specific mentoring, advice and capacity building in the training domain.

EUFOR RCA (Operational Commander - Major General Philippe PONTIÈS, FR)
EUFOR RCA is a military bridging operation in the Central African Republic (once deployed) which aims to contribute to the provision of a Safe and Secure Environment (SASE), in accordance with the mandate set out in the UNSCR 2134 (2014) and concentrating its action in the Bangui area.

THE SAHEL REGION
The EU addresses the multifaceted challenges in the Sahel region through its comprehensive Strategy for Security and Development adopted by the Council in March 2011. EUTM Mali constitutes an important element of this EU Strategy.

EUTM Mali (Mission Commander - Brigadier General Marc RUDKIEWICZ, FR - from the 1 April 2014)
EUTM Mali will be responsible for providing military advice and training to the Malian Armed Forces, under civilian authority, in order to enable them to restore the country’s territorial integrity.

Note: Missions/Operations in **bold** are ongoing

Missions/Operations in italics are completed.

Dates refer to the agreed mandates and do not mean that missions/operations will necessarily close on dates indicated.
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