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# Common Module

## Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC)

01-05 March 2021

Report by Cadets from HMACSO/GR

The common module “Law of Armed Conflict” was virtually organised by the Post Conflict Operations Study Centre (PCOSC) located in the city of Turin, Italy, from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2021. The Covid-19 pandemic circumstances made it impossible for the common module to be conducted live in the city of Turin, through face-to-face contact and meetings for the participants. Nevertheless, the virtual realisation of the seminar through online courses and workshops was an unprecedented experience for everyone, that proved to fulfil all the high expectations, despite the challenges the pandemic provoked by altering the conducting circumstances.

Specifically, the main goal of providing knowledge on the field of the Law of Armed Conflict to all the participants – young cadets, junior officers of the European Armed Forces, as well as civilians – was fully attained through fruitful collaboration between them, despite the distance, with the vital contribution of technology on this project, making the most of the technological means provided.

Introduction to basic terms and definitions of the Law of Armed Conflict, the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights’ Law (IHRL), the Protection of Cultural Property in International Law, International Criminal Justice and Means and Methods of Warfare were some of the teaching units included among the courses conducted by Officers and Academicians, providing a better understanding on the development of the Law of Armed Conflict, on its impact and great importance on modern military operations. Additionally, the learning and pre-reading material enabled the participants to absorb efficiently the courses and was a great source of information. The coming-up work in syndicates that allowed the application of the theory on a practical level of case studies gave also to participants the opportunity to collaborate in distance in order to achieve solutions, making use of the knowledge they acquired during this one week seminar, on challenging legal topics. Awareness was also raised as far as the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) is concerned, highlighting the ESDC initiative, the objectives pursued and its main task on providing common training through common understanding of that



policy. The module was concluded with a Moodle examination that summarized every theoretical aspect that was taught during the week and closing remarks.



Despite the distance challenge, the common module achieved to bring together the European Cadets and Officers, providing them with the opportunity not only to boost their legal expertise, but their bonds as well through open communication and interaction during the courses, as well as collaboration during the common tasks and workshops assigned to each group. New ideas and opinions on different topics were exchanged, through the eyes of all cadets taking part.

Participation in EMILYO (Military Erasmus) activities and common training, whatever the pandemic conditions and in general the implications the pandemic set, proved to be conducted quite effectively through virtual means as well. The common module of LOAC is a great opportunity for all the personnel from states of the EU to take part in the initiative of the unification of European armed forces, by completing the ultimate task of common training through such an interactive and remarkable experience.

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