



EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE

Chairman's E - Newsletter
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Interview at page 2: Col. GELL (Chairman of a ESDC Implementation Group)

Message from the Chairman

My recent visit to Operation EUFOR Althea concludes my first tour to all EU CSDP military Operations and Missions.



After having met the 3000 men and women posted in the Balkans and in the African continent, I would like to share with you some of the intense impressions of this journey which are very positive indeed.

First, I have seen personnel highly motivated and committed to their mission who consistently deliver outstanding service, experience and value to each and every assignment.

Second, I have met local authorities who unanimously have expressed the great appreciation for our people operating under the EU flag.

Third, I would like to highlight that since the start of EU CSDP, no less than 18 Third States have participated in EU military CSDP operations while around 10 others have cooperated or supported the EU in various ways.

Currently, 9 partner countries are providing support to 5 EU CSDP military missions and operations (EUTM Mali, EUTM Somalia, EUNAVFOR Atalanta, EUFOR Althea, EUMAM RCA) with a total of some 350 military personnel from Albania, Chile, FYROM, Georgia, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Republic of Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey.

Finally, during my field trips I could also verify how effective are synergising effects of the bridging of internal and external policies, together with the close interplay of CSDP with other EU policies such as the Neighbourhood Policy, the regional and trade policies and even the space policy.

All in all, I may say that the Union is exploiting the potential of the institutional framework of the Lisbon Treaty.

General Mikhail Kostarakos

The European Union Partnership with Third Countries

The challenges for Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) are complex and numerous. In this framework partner countries play a big role in our endeavour.

While the effects of the global economic crisis continue to be felt across EU defence budgets, at the same time the security context within which the EU operates continues to evolve and becomes more difficult.

The High Representative's report "The EU in a Changing Global Environment: a more connected, contested and complex world" presented to the European Council in June 2015 recognised the importance of partnerships in the changing global environment and feed into ongoing work on the Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy.

Further, the recently finalised review of the European Neighbourhood Policy highlighted the importance of the security aspects of working with EU partners.

Several other EU workstrands (CBSD, co-operation in countering hybrid threats and on maritime security) have a potential of boosting EU partnerships on CSDP further, within a comprehensive approach with other tools and instruments.

EU partners continued actively supporting CSDP operational activities, showing its attractiveness despite the costs.

Altogether, 12 partner countries participated in 9 CSDP missions and operations in 2015. As of January 2016, 11 partner countries are deploying more than 300 personnel and troops in 8 CSDP missions and operations.

The following countries participated in CSDP missions and operations in 2015: Albania, Australia, Canada, Chile, former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Montenegro, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, US. These countries have all signed a Framework Participation Agreement (FPA) with the EU, which provides the legal and political basis for such cooperation.



The participation of third countries in CSDP operations is, arguably, mutually beneficial. Depending on their geopolitical agenda and strengths, non-EU states contribute to EU operations for a variety of reasons which range from security interests and the acquisition of operational experience to broader institutional motives.

Partnerships both increase EU capabilities and personnel in CSDP missions and operations and bring contributing countries closer to the EU and its values through cooperation.

Approximately forty-five non-EU states have participated in CSDP operations since the first mission (about thirty if the countries that have joined the EU since 2004 are subtracted). These countries have all signed a Framework Participation Agreement (FPA) with the EU, which provides the legal and political basis for such cooperation.

In the recent years the process has gained momentum and the number of FTAs has increased as the legitimacy of EU operations is partly a function of the size of the community of states that the EU is able to bring together.

In this issue:

1. The cover story takes us to the EU's partnership with Third Countries.
2. The newsletter also presents an ESDC Implementation Group.

Col Giovanni Ramunno



COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY STRUCTURES:



European Security and Defence College (ESDC) The Implementation Group (IG) for the European Initiative for the exchange of young officers inspired by Erasmus (the Initiative).

In this issue we will provide an insight into the Implementation Group – and we will interview its Chairperson, Colonel Dr. Harald GELL, MSc, MSD, MBA.

Q. Could you explain to our readers the role of the IG?

In 2008 the European Union (EU) Ministers of Defence decided in their 2903rd External Relations Council Meeting to establish an IG with the tasks to harmonize the EU Basic Officer Education (BOE), to increase interoperability and to promote a European Security and Defence Culture among the future military leaders. The IG is a project-focused configuration of the Executive Academic Board (EAB) supported by the ESDC Secretariat.

Consisting of experts from BOE Institutions (BOEI), the IG elaborates possibilities and creates preconditions to encourage exchanges of young officers during their initial education and training. Existing exchange programmes – also civilian ones such as “ERASMUS+” – are used as well as creating new avenues of approach for the purpose of strengthening the interoperability of the EU Armed Forces and – as a consequence – to increase EU’s security within the frame of CSDP.

The first challenge for the IG was to define problem areas which were to be solved to facilitate exchanges. So-called Lines of Development (LoD) were created, among them the development of necessary officer’s competences, regulations concerning administrative matters, how to pass the information to persons who need it or define Common Modules (CM) seen to be of essential importance for all young officers’ education. If such CMs are implemented into the national curricula, step by step the EU BOE will be harmonized. At current stage some 18 CMs exist which may cover two academic semesters. New ones – such as Cyber Security – are in the developing phase.

On the other hand we should not abandon well-developed specializations of certain EU’s Armed Forces and use them in terms of pooling & sharing. Therefore, the IG takes into consideration the need for a harmonized BOE (generalisation) as well as the special knowledge and experience of certain EU BOEIs (specialisation).

Q. What drives you to achieve your objectives?

Facing EU’s challenges and taking a statement of the 2008 Report on the Implementation of the European Security Strategy (ESS) into consideration – “No single country is able to tackle today’s complex problems on its own” – it is crystal clear that also on BOE level we need a closer cooperation to increase security.

Experiences and scientific research studies proved beyond doubt that an international participation during the education phase increases Cadets’ learning outcomes. Therefore, as a consequence we can state that Cadet exchanges among EU BOEIs increase education’s efficiency.

Q. What are your recent achievements?

The most important achievements are listed hereinafter:

A huge step forward is a cooperation contract between five EU BOEIs from Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Romania to dedicate future elaborations in favour of IG’s tasks.

Following a proposal of Mr. Michel Barnier, the Special Adviser to Jean-Claude Juncker on European Defence and Security Policy – “Member States should introduce a European Semester on Defence” – the same five institutions – as mentioned above – work on the creation of an international semester within the frame of the civilian Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership Programme. It will consist of some existing and some new CMs. When finalised, all the elaborations will be available for all EU BOEIs.

An “Interdisciplinary Master Study Programme for CSDP” is in the developing phase and should start in 2017. More and more CMs are implemented into the national curricula and, therefore, are conducted on a regular basis with international participation.

An increasing number of BOEIs receive the Erasmus+ Charter and – because of that – are able to use external funding for exchanges.

Taking into consideration the strict rules for the European Higher Education – the EU BOE is part of it – the IG reached a lot just in few years. Of course the IG’s challenge is not only to maintain current standards but also to pursue the path on order to convince future leaders about the necessity of CSDP.



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