

# **General Henri BENTÉGEAT**

## **Chairman of the European Union Military Committee**

General Henri Bentégeat was born on 27 May 1946 in Talence, France.

He graduated from the Military Academy of Saint Cyr in 1967 and chose to serve with the Marine Armoured Corps. His military education includes completion of the Junior Staff Course, Staff College (1985) and Advanced Military Studies Course (1992). He assumed operational responsibilities in Africa and France and also held various staff appointments.

As a junior officer, General Bentégeat served from 1968 to 1973 in Germany, Senegal, France and Djibouti. As a field grade officer, he served first in the Army Public Information Service before being appointed Chief Operations of the 9<sup>th</sup> Marine Division. In 1988, he took command of a fully professional unit, the RICM (Marine Infantry and Armoured Battalion).

In 1990, he was sent to Washington, D.C. as the Assistant Defence Attaché and came back to Paris in 1992 to attend the Advanced Military Studies Course. He then became Assistant to the Chief of the Military Staff of the President of the Republic in 1993.

Having been promoted to Brigadier General in 1996, he took command of the French forces in the West Indies. In 1998, he was promoted to Major General and became assistant to the Director for Strategic Affairs of the Ministry of Defence. In April 1999, he was assigned to the Elysée Palace as the Chief of the Military Staff of the President of the Republic. He was promoted to Lieutenant General on 1 September 1999 and General on 4 January 2001. He became Chief of the Defence Staff in October 2002.

On 6 November 2006, he was appointed Chairman of the European Union Military Committee by decision of the European Council.

General Bentégeat's awards include the Legion of Honour (with the rank of Grand Officer) and the National Order of Merit (with the rank of Commander).

He is married and the father of four.