

## **Council conclusions on Common Security and Defence Policy**

### **Foreign Affairs (Defence) Council meeting**

**Brussels, 18 November 2014**

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. Europe's security environment is evolving significantly, rapidly and dramatically. Ongoing conflicts and instability in our immediate and wider neighbourhood, such as in Iraq, Libya, the Sahel, Syria and Ukraine, remain a particular cause for great concern. Together with long standing and newly emerging security challenges, these developments may have longer term effects on European security and international peace and stability. They demonstrate also the close links between internal and external security dimensions.

Therefore, in line with the December 2013 European Council Conclusions, the Council reiterates the invitation to the High Representative, in close cooperation with the Commission, to assess the impact of changes in the global environment, and to report to the Council in the course of 2015 on the challenges and opportunities arising for the Union, following consultations with the Member States.

2. The Council furthermore reiterates the urgent need of enabling the EU and its Member States to assume increased responsibilities to act as a security provider, at the international level and in particular in the neighbourhood, thereby also enhancing their own security and their global strategic role by responding to these challenges together. The EU and its Member States, through the Common Security and Defence Policy (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. Moreover, the Council stresses that protecting and promoting European interests and values will increasingly require the EU and its Member States combining their efforts, underpinned by the necessary means and sufficient budgetary resources.

The Council reaffirms its commitment to strengthen CSDP, in line with the Conclusions from the European Council of December 2013 and its own Conclusions of November 2013.

3. The Council emphasises the importance of working with its partners, in particular the UN, NATO, OSCE, and African Union, as well as strategic partners and other partner countries, within its neighbourhood and more globally, with due respect to the institutional framework and decision-making autonomy of the EU. It notes that priority should be given to cooperation with partners who share with the EU common values and principles and are able and willing to support EU crisis management efforts.

The Council welcomes relevant outcomes of NATO's Wales Summit in September 2014. It also reaffirms its support to the further implementation of the EU plan of Action for CSDP support to UN peacekeeping and of the Declaration of the EU-Africa Summit of 2014.

4. In line with the European Council Conclusions of December 2013 on security and defence, the Council reiterates the need to enhance the effectiveness of CSDP and the development and maintenance of Member States' capabilities, supported by a more integrated, sustainable, innovative and competitive European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB), which also contributes to jobs, growth and innovation across the EU and can enhance Europe's strategic autonomy, strengthening its ability to act with partners. This requires systematic cooperation and coordination within the EU and among its Member States, underlining the importance of addressing the need to sustain sufficient expenditures related to security and defence, and coherent and effective use of EU instruments and policies.
5. Emphasising the contribution of the CSDP missions and operations to international peace and stability, the Council welcomes the deployment, in 2014, of the CSDP military bridging operation in the Central African Republic (EUFOR RCA), the civilian CSDP mission in Ukraine (EUAM Ukraine), which today the Council has decided to launch, and the progress made towards launching a civilian mission in Mali (EUCAP SAHEL Mali). The Council welcomes as well the ongoing action by the other nine civilian CSDP missions and four military CSDP operations across three continents<sup>1</sup>. The Council notes with satisfaction that throughout these missions and operations particular attention was given to supporting human rights, as well as to implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325, thus promoting core values of the EU.

The Council recognises the need for common approaches with the UN in the Central African Republic in the reform of the security forces, including the armed forces, in order to stabilise the situation in support of the political process. In this regard, it acknowledges the added value of a potential further EU role in the reform of the security sector, in support of UN efforts, while ensuring local buy-in, and calls in this context for the development of a crisis management concept.

6. Today, the 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, inviting the High Representative and the Commission to present, in view of the European Council in June 2015, a joint proposal for a policy approach for concrete implementation. This policy should take into account the role and competence of Member States and propose suitable coordination and funding mechanisms, on the basis of shared needs assessments and risk analyses. Stressing the flexible geographical scope of the initiative, it notes that the development of this policy should draw on the identified pilot cases on Mali and Somalia, which should be developed by early 2015, as well as the follow up on the Conclusions of the European Council of March 2014 regarding the need to strengthen the African Peace and Security Architecture;
  - adopted the EU Cyber Defence Policy Framework, which focuses on: supporting the development of Member States cyber defence capabilities related to CSDP; enhancing the protection of CSDP communication networks used by EU entities; promoting civil-military cooperation and synergies with wider EU cyber policies, relevant EU institutions and agencies as well as with the private sector; improving training, education and exercises opportunities; and enhancing cooperation with relevant international partners;

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<sup>1</sup> EUBAM Libya; EUBAM Rafah; EUCAP Nestor; EUCAP SAHEL Niger; EUFOR Althea; EULEX Kosovo; EUMM Georgia; EUNAVFOR Atalanta; EUPOL Afghanistan; EUPOL COPPS; EUSEC RD Congo; EUTM Somalia and EUTM Mali.

- adopted a Policy Framework for Systematic and Long-Term Defence Cooperation. In view of deepening cooperation in Europe, this Policy Framework will guide the cooperative approaches of Member States, through their national decision making processes, when developing defence capabilities. In line with the European Council Conclusions, it has been put forward in full coherence with existing NATO planning processes;
  - agreed the Progress Catalogue 2014, which provides an assessment of the critical military shortfalls resulting from the Headline Goal process and their impact on CSDP; these shortfalls are integrated into the revised Capability Development Plan agreed by the Steering Board of the European Defence Agency, which should support and orientate national capability planning, identify the capabilities required and seize collaborative opportunities.
7. Furthermore, the Council welcomes further progress made in implementing the Conclusions of the European Council, as reported in the High Representative report of July and the Commission roadmap of June, and encourages further work on all outstanding issues in view of the preparation of the European Council in June 2015. In this context, the Council highlights in particular:
- the implementation of EU's Comprehensive Approach, as set out in the Council conclusions of May 2014, including through the development of an Action Plan before the end of the first quarter of 2015;
  - the adoption of the cross sectorial EU Maritime Security Strategy by the Council in June 2014 and its ongoing translation into concrete actions, mainstreaming maritime security into EU policies and strategies, and, inter alia, promoting enhanced common situational awareness and better sharing of information for the EU and its Member States, through an Action Plan to be agreed by the end of 2014;
  - the ongoing work on training, rapid response, interoperability and the security and protection of deployed personnel;
  - the development of CSDP concrete support to border management in the Sahel-Saharan region as part of the Action Plan implementing the EU Sahel Strategy;
  - strengthening the links between external and internal security, notably through a more structured approach to cooperation between the CSDP missions and operations and Freedom/Security/Justice actors, notably the EU Agencies (EUROPOL, FRONTEX and CEPOL) and with INTERPOL as well as strengthening links with the European Gendarmerie Force. This will, inter alia, help to address important horizontal issues such as illegal migration, organised crime, terrorism, foreign fighters and cyber security;
  - the importance of revisiting the priority areas identified at Feira European Council and fully implementing the Civilian Capability Development Plan and further developing tools to help address identified gaps, including by finalising the Goalkeeper project and establishing a list of generic civilian CSDP tasks;
  - the ongoing deliberations looking into the full potential of the use of Article 44 TEU;
  - the added value provided by the activated EU Operations Centre, in line with its mandate as revisited, as well as the renewed mandates of the EU Satellite Centre and the European Security and Defence College;
  - the need to urgently take work forward on establishing a Shared Services Centre, in order to realise greater efficiencies and rationalise the provision of mission support functions to civilian CSDP missions and improve their early deployment and effective conduct.

8. The Council welcomes the results achieved by the European Defence Agency (EDA) in 2014, in particular its contribution to fulfilling the taskings from Council in November and the European Council in December 2013.
9. The Council welcomes the progress achieved by Member States with the support of EDA in Pooling & Sharing projects and programmes, notably in the four key projects endorsed by the European Council in December 2013: Air-to-Air Refuelling, Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems, Governmental Satellite Communications, and Cyber Defence. The Council encourages the Agency to continue to identify opportunities for cooperation on defence capabilities on the basis of the recently revised Capability Development Plan; and to support cooperative projects through enablers and incentives. In this context, it notes the progressing work on non-market distorting fiscal measures and pooled procurement, in close coordination with Member States, ahead of the June 2015 European Council. The Council encourages synergies where possible with EU policies and instruments in support of programmes and incentives.
10. The Council encourages the Agency to continue supporting the engagement of Member States with the Commission on relevant issues. The Council welcomes the Commission's work on the Preparatory Action on CSDP-related research, bringing together Member States, EDA and EEAS, which could lead to a wider research programme in support of CSDP, and calls for further progress. The Council welcomes the Agency's role in supporting participating Member States in addressing the possible implications for defence of other EU policies, including potentially acting as the military interface for the implementation of the Single European Sky (SES) and the Single European Sky Air Traffic Management Research (SESAR) for the military domain, and the European Space Policy. The Council reiterates the need to maximise dual-use synergies in Research & Technology, in line with the December 2013 European Council conclusions.
11. Underlining the importance of the EDTIB, the Council welcomes the EDA's and Commission's actions to: (i) improve security of supply, notably through the development by the Commission, working with the Member States and in cooperation with the High Representative and the EDA, of a roadmap for a comprehensive EU-wide security of supply regime; (ii) support Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in the security and defence sector including access to EU funding programmes and cross border markets, including through the establishment of an advisory group; and (iii) improve cost-effectiveness and efficiency in the European security and defence market; and (iv) support the European technological and industrial base, including to enhance its competitiveness in the global market. The Council recalls that these efforts should be inclusive with opportunities for defence industry in the EU, balanced and in full compliance with EU law.
12. The Council underlines that its conclusions concerning the enhancement of military capability development and strengthening defence industry addressed to the EDA constitute the Council guidelines for EDA for its work in 2015, within the context of the Council decision defining the statute, seat and operating rules of EDA (Council Decision 2011/411/CFSP of 12 July 2011).

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13. In May 2015, the Council will adopt conclusions on CSDP in view of enabling the European Council to take stock of progress and provide further guidance in June 2015. To this end, it invites the Commission, the High Representative and the EDA to report on progress and provide their detailed input by April 2015."