



EU Security and Defence news

The e-newsletter on EU Common Security and Defence Policy activities

EDA annual conference: “confronting challenges through cooperation”



The European Defence Agency (EDA) held on 30 January its annual conference, under the theme “Refocusing Defence: European perspective on Defence cooperation in a time of financial challenge”.

Some 350 senior representatives from governments, parliaments, EU institutions, industry and think tanks took part in this active discussion on how defence cooperation can overcome the austerity challenge. High Representative Catherine Ashton, Head of the Agency, insisted in her speech on the importance of further developing European military capabilities:

“To be able to respond to the complex threats of the 21st century we must mobilise all our levers of influence – political, diplomatic, economic, as well as our civil and military crisis management tools. This is the idea of the “comprehensive approach” foreseen in the Lisbon Treaty.

My objective today is to encourage you in your work to develop the military capabilities that will ensure CSDP remains an effective component of the EU’s response. If Europe is to be a credible player in the world, it requires more than just soft power.

Military capabilities matter and that is why pooling and sharing – allowing the development of key capabilities with limited resources – is so important. It is a political imperative if CSDP is to progress, especially in a climate of austerity. The European Defence Agency has a key role to play in bringing member states and industry together to deliver projects (...).

This conference is an important step towards advancing our collective thinking on how to harness defence resources through Pooling & Sharing, setting the strategic priorities for Europe’s defence technological and industrial base and increasing the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the defence market.”

[Full speech \(text\)](#)

[More on the EDA conference](#)

The European Union joins hands to tackle instability in Somalia



The European Union will remain fully engaged in Somalia: this is the message conveyed by the EU during a recent visit to Mogadishu by senior representatives operating under the EU Common Security and Defence Policy.

For the first time, General Håkan Syrén, Chairman of the EU Military Committee, Rear Admiral Duncan Potts, Operation Commander of the EU NAVFOR - Operation Atalanta, and Colonel Michael Beary, Commander of the EU Training Mission for Somalia (EUTM), paid a joint visit to the Somali authorities in Mogadishu. They reiterated with the members of the Joint Security Committee, which includes senior representatives from the Transitional Federal Government and regions including Puntland and Galmudug, the EU’s intention to enhance peace and security and to counter piracy in Somalia.

The meetings confirmed the need for closer cooperation with the Somali authorities to further strengthen Somali security forces and to improve law and order, with a view to improve the daily lives of the Somali people. The EU officials also stressed that security gains can only be sustainable when the political process moves forward as well. “The Somali security concerns are our concerns as well and we need to tackle them together” said Rear Admiral Potts.

The possible upcoming EU civilian mission – augmented with military expertise – to strengthen maritime capacities in the Horn of Africa was also discussed with the Somali partners. Complementing the successful EU NAVFOR Atalanta operation at sea, this mission would, inter alia, assist Somali and regional efforts to counter piracy on land.

[Factsheet on EU NAVFOR Atalanta](#)

[Factsheet on EUTM Somalia](#)

[Factsheet on the possible upcoming mission to support regional maritime capacity building in the Horn of Africa and the Western Indian Ocean.](#)

EU NAVFOR, NATO and Russian navies exercise together off the Horn of Africa



On 31 January, EU NAVFOR and NATO ships demonstrated to several Russian observers on-board the two Flagships a manoeuvre of replenishment

at sea where the ships steer parallel courses while passing fuel. In the afternoon, the same challenging seamanship exercise was performed by the Russian Task Force units, this time watched by EU NAVFOR and NATO observers.

The exercise was coordinated to improve the interoperability among ships from different forces that operate in the Horn of Africa countering Somali pirates. Following the exercise, all those involved agreed that they were much more aware of the differences between the procedures, which will improve the efficiency of the multi-national forces in the region.

[More](#)

Handover in EU NAVFOR Atalanta



Rear Admiral Christian Canova (French Navy) recently handed over the responsibility of Deputy Operation Commander of the European Union Naval Force Somalia, Operation Atalanta to Rear Admiral Rainer Endres (German Navy) at the

Operational Headquarters in Northwood, near London.

Joining EU NAVFOR – Atalanta in July 2011, Rear Admiral Canova added this duty to an impressive career including three commands at sea and three operational duties in the Indian Ocean and Arabian Gulf. His comprehensive knowledge of NATO and EU policy was beneficial to the overall mission.

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Lutte contre les violences sexuelles: EUPOL RDC renforce la police judiciaire congolaise



La formation de 172 officiers de police judiciaire en matière de lutte contre les violences sexuelles s'est clôturée le 3 février à l'Ecole de formation des officiers de police judiciaire, à Kinshasa. Réalisée sous l'impulsion de la Police

Nationale congolaise, cette formation a été possible grâce au soutien de la mission EUPOL RDC, ainsi que du Bureau Conjoint des Nations Unies aux Droits de l'Homme, et de la police civile de la Mission de l'ONU pour la stabilisation en RDC (MONUSCO). Cette activité a doté les officiers des outils nécessaires pour améliorer et renforcer la méthodologie d'investigation, en particulier pour les crimes de violences sexuelles.

La formation couvrait plusieurs aspects du droit pénal, en particulier la procédure spécifique en cas de violences sexuelles, ainsi que la déontologie, les droits de l'homme, le droit international humanitaire et la loi pour la protection de l'enfant. Elle comprenait également un volet pratique focalisé sur les techniques d'enquête en cas de violences sexuelles et la gestion de la scène de crime..

EUJUST LEX-Iraq completes cross-sector course on investigation of financial crimes

On 6-8 February, EUJUST LEX-Iraq organised its third cross-sector course on investigation of financial crimes at the Judicial Development Institute in Baghdad, bringing together five judges from different courts, ten corruption investigators from the Commission of Integrity and three police officers from the Office of the Inspector General at the Ministry of Interior. The course focused on high level corruption and money laundering and completed the anti-corruption training EUJUST LEX-Iraq had planned for the present mandate.

[More](#)

Upcoming activities

22-23 February: International Conference on Somalia, in London

27 February: Foreign Affairs Council, in Brussels

[CSDP Newsletter - issue 11 - special issue - ESDP@10](#)

[EU Security and Defence on YouTube](#)

www.esdp10years.eu

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European External Action Service - eeas.europa.eu - Tel: +32 (0)2 281 7367 - presse.psd@eeas.europa.eu

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