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**EUROPEAN UNION - EXTERNAL ACTIONS
THE COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY
(CSDP)**

Mitel-Laurențiu Alexandru

Ministry of National Defense/ Romania

Abstract:

The European Union has implemented a ‘comprehensive approach’ in Somalia, a country now considered as the paradigm of a failed state, that tries to assess the situation from different angles and perspectives. Two fundamental parts of that approach are the fields of security and development. This essay sheds light on how these grounds interact in the frame of the ‘comprehensive approach’ by analysing to what extent the European Union development aid contributes to enhance security in the country. In order to do so, this work studies the nature of the European Union ‘comprehensive approach’ and the specific programmes that are implemented in the Horn of Africa region and Western Indian Ocean.

Key words: Common Security, Development, Comprehensive approach, knowledge transfer, European Union, EUCAP NESTOR, Somalia.

1. Introduction

The Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) enables the European Union to take a leading role in peace-keeping operations, conflict prevention and in the strengthening of the international security. It is an integral part of the EU's comprehensive approach towards crisis management, drawing on civilian and military assets.

The idea of a common defence policy for Europe dates back to **1948** when the UK, France, and the Benelux signed the Treaty of Brussels.

The agreement included a **mutual defence clause** laying down the foundations for the creation of the **Western European Union (WEU)**, which remained until the late 1990s, together with NATO, the principal forum for consultation and dialogue on security and defence in Europe.

Following the end of the Cold War and the subsequent conflicts in the Balkans, it became clear that the EU needed to assume its responsibilities in the field of conflict prevention and crisis management. The conditions under which military units could be deployed were already agreed by the WEU Council in 1992 but the so-called “**Petersberg Tasks**” were now integrated in the 1999 **Treaty of Amsterdam**. In addition, the post of the “High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy” was created to allow the Union to speak with ‘one face and one voice’ on foreign policy matters.

In 2003 the former High Representative Javier Solana was tasked by the Member States to develop a **Security Strategy for Europe**. The document entitled ‘*A Secure Europe in a Better World*’, analysed for the first time the EU's security environment and identified key security challenges and subsequent political implications for the EU. The implementation of the document was revised in 2008.

EUROPEAN UNION – EXTERNAL ACTIONS. THE COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY (CSDP)

The **Lisbon Treaty** came into force in December 2009 and was a cornerstone in the development of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). The treaty includes both a mutual assistance and a solidarity clause and allowed for the creation of the European External Action Service (EEAS) under the authority of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission (HR/VP), Catherine Ashton. The two distinct functions of the newly created post give the HR/VP the possibility to bring all the necessary EU assets together and to apply a "comprehensive approach" to EU crisis management.

On 23 March 2012 the Foreign Affairs Council decided to activate, for the first time, the **EU Operations Centre, with the aim of coordinating and strengthening civil-military synergies between the three CSDP missions in the Horn of Africa**. Initially, the mandate of the EU Operations Centre was extended until 23 March 2015 (Council Decision 2013/725/CFSP), and subsequently on 1 December 2014 the Foreign Affairs Council has extended the EU OPCEN's Mandate until the end of 2016 and expanded the geographical and functional scope to the Sahel region.

In the Horn of Africa region the EU is currently conducting a military operation – EUNAVFOR ATALANTA – which protects humanitarian aid shipments and fights piracy off the Somali coast, a military mission – EUTM Somalia – which contributes to the training of Somali Security Forces and provides military advice to the Somali National Authorities, and a *civilian mission - EUCAP NESTOR - to strengthen maritime capacities in the Horn of Africa*.

The three CSDP missions supported by the EU OPCEN in the Sahel regions are - EUTM Mali - to restore constitutional and democratic order, the authority of rule of law and human rights and neutralize organized crime and terrorist threats in Mali, - EUCAP SAHEL MALI - , and - EUCAP SAHEL NIGER - to give advice and training to support the Nigerien authorities' efforts to strengthen their security capabilities.

2. CSDP structure, instruments and agencies

In order to enable the European Union fully to assume its responsibilities for crisis management, the European Council (Nice, December 2000) decided to establish permanent political and military structures, such as:

The Political and Security Committee (PSC) meets at the ambassadorial level as a preparatory body for the Council of the EU. Its main functions are keeping track of the international situation, and helping to define policies within the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) including the CSDP. It prepares a coherent EU response to a crisis and exercises its political control and strategic direction.

The European Union Military Committee (EUMC) is the highest military body set up within the Council. It is composed of the Chiefs of Defence of the Member States, who are regularly represented by their permanent military representatives. The EUMC provides the PSC with advice and recommendations on all military matters within the EU.

In parallel with the EUMC, the PSC is advised by a **Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CIVCOM)**. This committee provides information, drafts recommendations, and gives its opinion to the PSC on civilian aspects of crisis management.

The Politico-Military Group (PMG) carries out preparatory work in the field of CSDP for the Political and Security Committee. It covers the political aspects of EU military and civil-military issues, including concepts, capabilities and operations and missions. It prepares Council Conclusions, provides Recommendations for PSC, and monitors their effective implementation. It contributes to the development of (horizontal) policy and facilitates exchanges of information. It has a particular responsibility regarding

EUROPEAN UNION – EXTERNAL ACTIONS. THE COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY (CSDP)

partnerships with third states and other organisations, including EU-NATO relations, as well as exercises. The PMG is chaired by a representative of the High Representative.

The Crisis Management and Planning Directorate (CMPD) contributes to the objectives of the European External Action Service, the EU Common Security and Defence Policy and a more secure international environment by the political-strategic planning of CSDP civilian missions and military operations, ensuring coherence and effectiveness of those actions as part of the EU comprehensive approach to crisis management and developing CSDP partnerships, policies, concepts and capabilities.

The European Union Military Staff (EUMS) - working under the direction of the EU Military Committee (EUMC) and under the authority of the High Representative/Vice President (HR/VP) - is the source of collective (multi-disciplinary) military expertise within the European External Action Service (EEAS). As an integral component of the EEAS's Comprehensive Approach, the EUMS coordinates the military instrument, with particular focus on operations/missions (both military and those requiring military support) and the creation of military capability. Enabling activity in support of this output includes: early warning (via the Single Intelligence Analysis Capacity - SIAC), situation assessment, strategic planning, Communications and Information Systems, concept development, training and education, and support of partnerships through military-military relationships. Concurrently, the EUMS is charged with sustaining the EU OPSCEN and providing its core staff when activated.

The Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC), which is part of the EEAS, is the permanent structure responsible for an autonomous operational conduct of civilian CSDP operations. Under the political control and strategic direction of the Political and Security Committee and the overall authority of the High Representative, the CPCC ensures the effective planning and conduct of civilian CSDP crisis management operations, as well as the proper implementation of all mission-related tasks.

The European Defence Agency (EDA) is the Union's agency facilitating defence cooperation among its Member States for the whole life-cycle of a capability including cooperation in research and technology as well as procurement or training.

The European Security and Defence College (ESDC) was established in 2005, with the aim of providing strategic-level education in European Security and Defence Policy, now Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). It followed thorough need analysis and experimentation phases. The creation of the ESDC was to give the Common Security and Defence Policy a training and education instrument which actively promotes a European security culture.

The European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) is an EU agency dealing with the analysis of foreign, security and defence policy issues. The EUISS was set up in January 2002 as an autonomous agency under the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) [Council Joint Action 2001/554, amended by Council Joint Action 2006/1002] to foster a common security culture for the EU, support the elaboration and projection of its foreign policy, and enrich the strategic debate inside and outside Europe. Based in Paris, with an antenna in Brussels, the EUISS is now an integral part of the new structures that underpin the further development of the CFSP/CSDP.

3. The Military and Civilian missions and operations

The European Union has undertaken many overseas operations, using civilian and military instruments in several countries in three continents (Europe, Africa and Asia), as part of its **Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)**.

EUROPEAN UNION – EXTERNAL ACTIONS. THE COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY (CSDP)

Each EU mission works in the framework of a **comprehensive approach**. The mission works in agreement and coordination with the EU Delegations in the same area and in the framework of EU regional policies.

The decisions of deployment and management of the mission are taken by the EU countries during the Foreign Affairs Council.

The overview EU's external actions are depicted in Figure 1. [5]

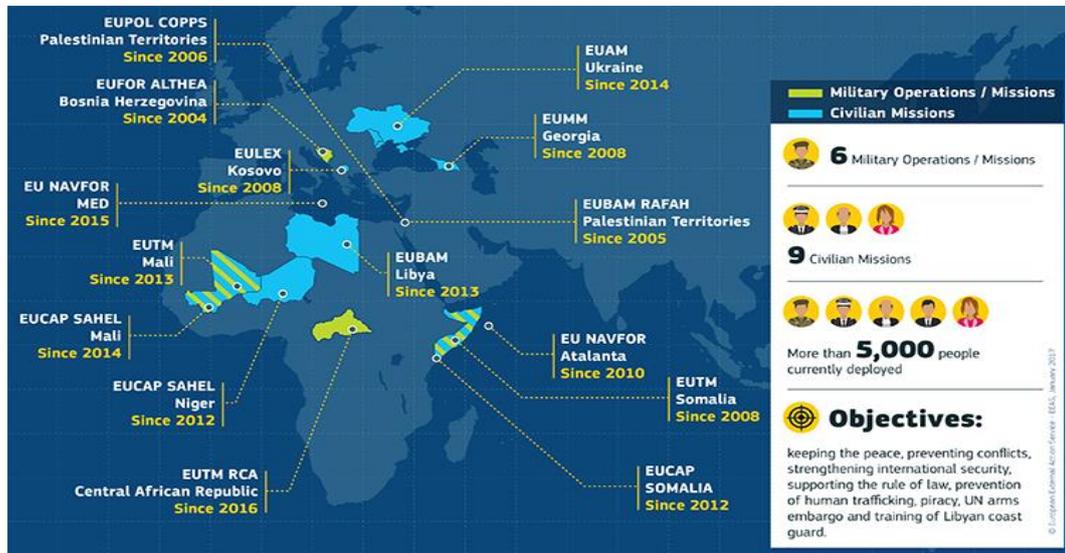


Fig.1 Overview of EU's external actions

The EU current missions and operations objectives are: keeping the peace, preventing conflicts, strengthening international security, supporting the rule of law, prevention of human trafficking, piracy, UN arms embargo and training of Libyan Coast Guard.

Overview of the EU current missions and operations:

- 6 military operations / missions
- 9 civilian missions
- more than 5.000 people currently deployed

4. The Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) capabilities

The world is changing and Europe faces an increasingly complex and uncertain security environment. There is a growing demand for the European Union to become more capable, more coherent and more strategic as a global actor. The EU disposes of a unique array of instruments to help promote peace and security where needed.

A comprehensive approach is a key asset to tackle the complex, multi-actor and multidimensional crises and growing security threats of today and tomorrow, as highlighted in the European Security Strategy.

The Council of the European Union agrees that in addition to continuing with civilian missions and military operations, the EU has to improve its ability to foster civilian-military cooperation and to use the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) as part of coherent EU action, which should also include political, diplomatic, legal, development, trade and economic instruments.

The Treaty of Lisbon offers an opportunity for reinforcing the comprehensive approach. As the European External Action Service becomes operational under the direction of the High Representative, who is also Vice President of the Commission, the

EUROPEAN UNION – EXTERNAL ACTIONS. THE COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY (CSDP)

Treaty's implementation will facilitate and maximize effectiveness of the use of the variety of policies and instruments at the EU's disposal in a more coherent manner, in order to address the whole cycle, from preparedness and preventative action; through crisis response and management, including stabilisation, peace-making and peace-keeping; to peace-building, recovery, reconstruction and a return to longer-term development. [1]

4.1. The Civilian capabilities

The civilian capabilities are at the core of every EU CSDP mission. Adequate and sufficient capabilities are the prerequisite for successful implementation of the assigned tasks in the field.

Since 2003, the process of generating the needed capabilities for civilian CSDP missions remains a strategic priority for the EU. The European Council from December 2013 called for the "enhanced development of civilian capabilities" and stressed the importance of "fully implementing the Civilian Capability Development Plan". Subsequently, the June 2015 European Council reiterated that work should "continue on a more effective, visible and result-oriented CSDP and the further development of both civilian and military capabilities".

The EU **Level of Ambition** regarding civilian crisis management is expressed through two Civilian Headline Goals (CHG 2008 and CHG 2010). The time horizon of the latter was extended beyond 2010. During their implementation, encouraging results were achieved by providing political impetus to **the processes of recruitment, training and deployment of civilian personnel to international missions**. However, important capability gaps persist.

The Civilian Headline Goal is the basis and the framework for the implementation of the multiannual **Civilian Capability Development Plan (CCDP)** established in July 2012.

The overall aim of the **CCDP** is to help EU Member States to address the persistent civilian capability shortfalls through concrete actions within the domain of its drivers: namely EU Ambitions, Capability Trends (operational & long term), National Strategies and Lessons Learnt that have consequences in the realm of capabilities.

Some progress has already been achieved, for instance: **increasing the number of Member States with a national strategy to foster national capacity building for CSDP missions; progress made in establishing national budget lines for civilian crisis management and sharing EU Member States' best practices**. The CCDP also aims at maximizing efficient use of resources by allowing a more coherent and hence cost-effective development of civilian capabilities.

The CCDP constitutes a lasting framework for CSDP civilian capability development since it envisages periodic modifications deriving from changes in EU ambitions, political strategic context, operational feed-back and other variables.

The establishment of the list of generic civilian CSDP tasks in 2015 was one of the important steps towards the implementation of a CCDP aiming at building a common understanding of generic tasks occurring in civilian CSDP throughout the whole mission cycle.

This list supports CSDP structures and Member States in identifying capability requirements related to planning, conduct and overall support of civilian CSDP missions. As such, it is also part of the Goalkeeper project – the EU software-based platform to facilitate, training and recruitment of civilian personnel being sent to CSDP missions.

The principal body responsible for ensuring a sustainable process for development of civilian CSDP capabilities is the Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management

EUROPEAN UNION – EXTERNAL ACTIONS. THE COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY (CSDP)

(CIVCOM). In its activities in the capability domain, CIVCOM is supported by the Crisis Management and Planning Directorate of European External Action Service (EEAS).[2]

4.2. The Military capabilities

On 19 November 2007, the Council of the European Union (EU) approved the **Progress Catalogue 2007**, the culmination of the process launched in the wake of the approval of the Headline Goal 2010. The Catalogue identifies quantitative and qualitative military capability shortfalls on the basis of the requirements set out in the Requirements Catalogue 2005 and the contributions compiled in the Force Catalogue 2007. It analyses their potential implications for military tasks to be carried out in crisis management operations.

The overall conclusion of the Progress Catalogue 2007 is that **the EU, with a view to 2010, has the capability to conduct the full spectrum of military CSDP operations within the parameters of the Strategic Planning Assumptions, with different levels of operational risk arising from the identified shortfalls.**

Some of the shortfalls identified are regarded as critical; they relate to the capability to transport forces to theatre, to deploy them in theatre, to protect them and to acquire information superiority.

On that basis, a Capability Development Plan (CDP) was submitted on 8 July 2008 to the Steering Board of the European Defence Agency (EDA) composed of Member States' "Capabilities" chiefs. The Board endorsed the CDP conclusions and started work on an initial list of priority capability areas. The EDA, the Member States, the EU Military Committee (EUMC) the EU Military Staff (EUMS) and the General Secretariat of the Council will all cooperate in this task.

At the Cologne European Council in June 1999, EU leaders agreed that "the Union must have the capacity for autonomous action, backed by credible military forces, the means to decide to use them, and the readiness to do so, in order to respond to international crises without prejudice to actions by NATO".

At the European Council in Helsinki in December 1999, the so-called Helsinki Headline Goal was established, setting amongst others the following targets:

- co-operating voluntarily in EU-led operations, Member States must have been able, by 2003, to deploy within 60 days and sustain for at least 1 year military forces of, the Union will be able to carry out the full range of the tasks up to 50,000-60,000 persons capable of the full range of tasks stated in Article 17 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU).
- new political and military bodies and structures will be established within the Council to enable the Union to ensure the necessary political guidance and strategic direction to such operations, while respecting the single institutional framework.

In May 2003, the Council confirmed that the EU now has operational capability across the full range of Petersberg tasks, limited and constrained by recognised shortfalls. These limitations and/or constraints are on deployment time and high risk may arise at the upper end of the spectrum of scale and intensity, in particular when conducting concurrent operations. These limitations and constraints on full achievement of the Headline and Capability Goals could be alleviated if the recommendations on meeting the shortfalls are followed-up.[2]

5. EUCAP NESTOR

In July 2012, the European Union launched **EUCAP NESTOR**, a **civilian mission** which assists host countries develop self-sustaining capacity for continued enhancement of

EUROPEAN UNION – EXTERNAL ACTIONS. THE COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY (CSDP)

maritime security, including counter-piracy and maritime governance. Its Headquarters was in Djibouti and the Head of Mission was Etienne de Poncins from France.

The Mission is mandated to work across the **Horn of Africa (HoA) and Western Indian Ocean (WIO)** regions, with around **80 international** and **20 local staff members** carrying out activities and training across the region with a particular focus on Somalia. In addition to Djibouti, the Mission has personnel strategically positioned in Nairobi, Mogadishu, Bosaso, Hargeisa, the Seychelles and Tanzania. A liaison officer may be deployed to Yemen pending developments in the security situation.[5]

In 2015, activities in all states except Somalia were phased out and the Headquarters were relocated from Djibouti to Somalia. In December 2016, the Mission was rebranded as **EUCAP Somalia** and given a new civilian maritime security mandate: to assist Somalia in strengthening its maritime security capacity in order to enable it to enforce maritime law more effectively.

The Mission currently has personnel located in Somalia, at the Mission Headquarters in Mogadishu, the Field Offices in Hargeisa (Somaliland) and Garowe (Puntland), while maintaining an administrative Back Office in Nairobi.

EUCAP NESTOR Head of Mission is Maria-Cristina Stepanescu, a senior police officer from Romania, began her mandate on September 1st, 2016.

Hence, the mission focused on advising, mentoring and training activities or, as it is often referred to, **knowledge transfer**. One of the principal aims of EUCAP NESTOR is to bring lasting solutions to the piracy problem, and in that sense create an **exit strategy** for EU NAVFOR ATALANTA.

5.1. The Mandate and activities

EUCAP Nestor aims to support the development of ‘maritime security’ systems in HoA/WIO states, thus enabling them to fight piracy and other maritime crime more effectively and to reduce the freedom of action for those involved in piracy in the region. The objective is to offer a solution that covers the whole process **“from crime to court”** starting with the arrestation and detention of suspects up to the investigation and prosecution of maritime crime. Strengthening the existing legal and law enforcement frameworks related to anti-piracy and developing relevant maritime security capacity instruments are keys to reaching this goal. This requires the mission to work with the main actors responsible for maritime security in each host country. Typically these include coast guard, navy, civilian coastal and maritime police, prosecutors, judges and other key figures.

The Mission provides advice, mentoring, and training in three competence fields: legal, maritime and police. Basic coast guard training is for example provided as well as expertise in fields such as law drafting and engineering. Some of the missions’ experts are collocated within the authorities dealing with maritime security to support them in their daily work and in the development of organisational structures.

As part of its mandate, **EUCAP Nestor promotes regional cooperation in maritime security and coordinates capacity building activities**. A series of regional events have been organised, such as a regional conference on maritime security in 2013, as well as **a series of regional workshops** for prosecutors, judges and other legal practitioners on piracy and other maritime crime in Nairobi and Djibouti.

To achieve its key objectives, and contribute to improved maritime security in the HoA/WIO region, **EUCAP NESTOR** operates in various ways:

- In Somalia, the Mission assists the authorities in **developing a self-sustaining capacity in maritime security and rule of law**, enabling them to fight piracy more effectively. Currently, the Mission offers strategic and operational advice as well as law

EUROPEAN UNION – EXTERNAL ACTIONS. THE COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY (CSDP)

drafting support and training. A series of basic Coast Guard courses for recruits from Somali regions and the Federal Government, as well as workshops for legal practitioners and Police have already taken place inside and outside Somalia. Light equipment related to training activities has been provided based on previous assessments. Starting from autumn 2014, EUCAP Nestor is scaling up its engagement in the Somali regions and Somaliland. By January 2015, the Mission will have operative field offices in Mogadishu and Hargeisa. The Mission's activities include support in the practical implementation of legislation and policy frameworks, training, mentoring, advising and monitoring through embedded experts and capacity building activities addressing the Somali judicial and prosecution actors responsible for investigation and prosecution of suspect pirates and their leaders.

- In Djibouti, the Seychelles and Tanzania, the Mission's activities **are aimed at increasing the ability of the authorities to exert effective maritime governance and security over their coastlines, and in internal waters, territorial seas and exclusive economic zones**, with a particular focus on counter-piracy and armed robbery at sea. EUCAP Nestor delivers training courses and training expertise to strengthen the maritime security capacity of the host countries with a view to achieve self-sustainability in training.
- At the regional level, the mission brings together experts to assist in setting up regional networks and **to create a better understanding of maritime security needs in the region**. An important achievement is the development of a regional network of law drafters and prosecutors with experience in prosecuting piracy and maritime crime.

5.2. The EU's Comprehensive Approach to Fighting Piracy

EUCAP Nestor's carries out its activities within the context of the EU's comprehensive approach to the Horn of Africa (HoA) comprising a broad set of actions (political, diplomatic, development, security and humanitarian). This is outlined in the "Strategic Framework for the Horn of Africa", which the EU Member States adopted in November 2011 in order to guide the EU's engagement in the region.

In the fight against piracy, the Mission complements a number of other EU actions including the two CSDP missions in the region, the European Union Naval Force Somalia – Operation ATALANTA at sea and the EU Military Training Mission (EUTM) for Somalia on land as well as a number of EU programmes funded under the Instrument for Stability (Critical Maritime Routes Programme – MARSIC) and the European Development Fund (Regional Maritime Security Programme – MASE). The Mission also works closely with key international and regional organizations such as the United Nations, in particular UNODC and UNDP, the African Union, IGAD, IMO, etc.

The mission faced several challenges during its first year and in July 2013 it only comprised 45 international staff members, including personnel at the mission headquarters and country offices. One main challenge concerned EUCAP NESTOR's ability to secure political buy-in in recipient countries, acquiring letters of invitation and the status of mission agreements (SOMAs). Many of the challenges related to the support functions of the mission – especially procurement and logistics. Furthermore, coordination within the regional mission as well as with various external actors posed a challenge. A part of these issues are detailed in the **Table 1**.

MISSION FACTS AND FIGURES

Evolution EUCAP NESTOR / year	Manpower		Contributing states		Budget mil €
	International	Local staff members	EU members	Non - EU	
2012	80	20	15	2	23

EUROPEAN UNION – EXTERNAL ACTIONS. THE COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY (CSDP)

2014	86	18	15	-	11.9
2016	137	39	9	-	12
2017	125	15	15	2	22.95

Table 1

The EU Comprehensive approach:

In carrying out its mandate, in the spirit of the EU Comprehensive approach, the mission cooperates with the EU Delegation to Somalia and the two CSDP military missions operating in Somalia (EU NAVFOR Operation ATALANTA, EUTM Somalia). Coordination and joint activities also takes place with EU-funded agencies, such as the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as well as with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM).

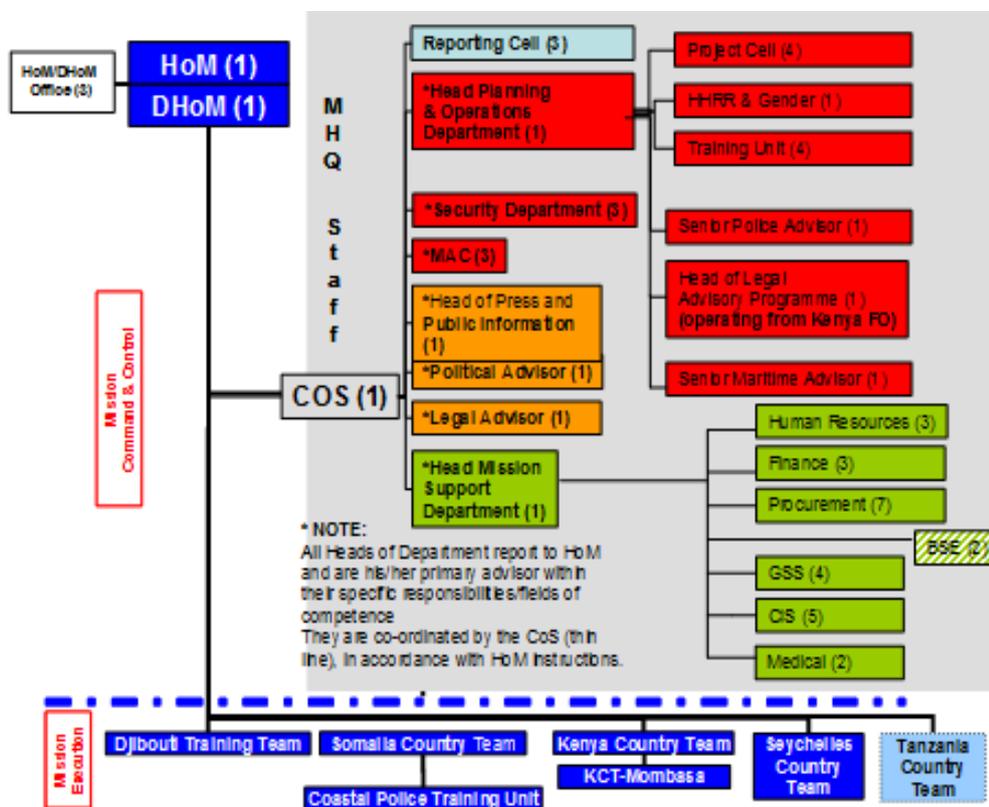


Fig.2 Organogram of EUCAP NESTOR

The mission structure is depicted in Figure 2. All the recipient countries have different needs and set different preconditions for working with EUCAP NESTOR. The varied needs depended on what other training and maritime capacity building the countries were already receiving. The mission was to have its own relatively strong Country Teams with their own Country Team Leaders (CTLs) and Political Advisers. The mission was planned to have 137 international staff and 39 local staff. The first personnel of EUCAP NESTOR were deployed in September 2012. The initial deployment was to Djibouti and consisted of the HoM and his enabling team, who started to develop an Operation Plan (OPLAN) and to set up a working environment. By October the same year, some 20 people had been deployed to Djibouti and CTLs had been deployed to the Seychelles and Kenya.[4]

EUROPEAN UNION – EXTERNAL ACTIONS. THE COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY (CSDP)

6. Conclusion

In the fight against piracy, the EUCAP NESTOR/SOMALIA - Mission complements a number of other EU actions including the two CSDP missions in the region, the European Union Naval Force Somalia – Operation ATALANTA at sea and the EU Military Training Mission (EUTM) for Somalia on land as well as a number of EU programmes funded under the Instrument for Stability (Critical Maritime Routes Programme – MARSIC) and the European Development Fund (Regional Maritime Security Programme – MASE). The EUCAP NESTOR/SOMALIA - Mission also works closely with key international and regional organizations such as the United Nations, in particular UNODC and UNDP, the African Union, IGAD, IMO, etc.

To sum up, as a level of ambitions, the EU through its External Actions as Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) should work to contribute to the establishment of a peaceful, stable, and democratic Somalia and should be committed to sustainable development and to increasing stability and security in Somalia, in the Horn of Africa and beyond. A stable and secure Somalia means increased security for the population and the chance for it to benefit from the peace dividends.

After 25 years of civil conflict, the Somali “Maritime Security Architecture” should be restructured. This necessitates could comprise a long-term political and strategic-level agreements. Rebuilding of operational maritime law-enforcement capability similarly could take place with a long-term perspective and should be framed within the developing Maritime Security Architecture, the rule of law and human rights.

But, due to the last events in the autumn of 2016, the council extended until 31 December 2018 the mandate of its two CSDP missions in Somalia, civilian mission **EUCAP NESTOR** capacity building and military training mission EUTM. Capacity building mission EUCAP NESTOR was renamed by the Council "**EUCAP Somalia**".

In the same line, the Somalia EUCAP mission objective was outlined in assisting the country in terms of strengthening its capabilities in maritime security so as to ensure more effective compliance with maritime law, for example by increasing the capacity of Somali forces to carry out inspections on fishing activities and to combat smuggling and piracy by supporting Somali authorities in drafting the legislation necessary to strengthen maritime criminal justice chain and by providing training and equipment.

The EU military mission EUTM Somalia contributes to capacity Somali National Army (SNA).

So, the EU has a comprehensive approach to Somalia , based on active diplomacy and the support of the political process, security support, development assistance and humanitarian aid. This approach targets both symptoms and root causes of piracy. EU support includes these two civilian missions and EU NAVFOR Operation ATALANTA - EU military operation against piracy off the Somali coast. Also, the EU NAVFOR Operation was extended until 31 of December 2018.

All in all, there are a lot of aspects that could emerged from this EUCAP NESTOR's mandate and activities, and, only if all the lessons learned are fully applied, some benefits could emerge in order to avoid some foreseeable implications.

All EU state members should realise this unpredicted issue that could lead us to an hybrid approach instead to have the permanent boost to act in an comprehensive manner to support the Maritime Security Architecture to contribute a stable and secure Somalia.

Thus, the Common Security and Defence Policy is the ‘business card’ of the European Union in crisis and conflict areas. With over 30 missions and operations around the world, the European Union has proven to be a **global and reliable actor**.

The European Union, its Member States and its citizens must regain their common vision. This common vision can be found by reinforcing our common European security

EUROPEAN UNION – EXTERNAL ACTIONS. THE COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY (CSDP)

culture, allowing us to benefit from the joint situational awareness that will lead to common action and a unified Europe in a better world.

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