



European Security and Defence Assembly Assembly of Western European Union

Assembly Fact Sheet No. 6

European Union Military Staff

In December 1999, the European Council in Helsinki decided to create a European rapid reaction capability (*Headline Goal 2003*). This meant “being able, by 2003, to deploy within 60 days and sustain for at least one year forces up to corps level (60 000 persons)” with a view to carrying out all the so-called “Petersberg”¹ missions defined by WEU and incorporated in the Treaty on European Union.² A new EU *Headline Goal 2010* was adopted in 2004 by the European Council, according to which the EU member states should, by 2010, also be able to respond more rapidly to an emerging crisis by implementing a Battlegroup (1 500 soldiers) in less than 10 days.

In order to prepare the European Union to assume its responsibilities in **crisis management**, the Council of the European Union therefore decided at Nice in December 2000 to equip the European Union with **permanent political and military structures**. These are the Political and Security Committee (PSC), the European Union Military Committee (EUMC) and the European Union Military Staff (EUMS).

• *Functions*

The EUMS began operating on 11 June 2001.³ It has three major functions: to **provide early warning** of an emerging crisis, to **assess the situation** and carry out **strategic planning**, that is suggest various military options prior to decision-making in the event of a crisis.⁴ The EUMS provides the military expertise needed by the European Union during the strategic planning phase of EU-led operations.

The EUMS is a department of the EU Council Secretariat, but acts independently. In practice, it works under the military direction of the EUMC. Interaction with the PSC takes place through the Chairman of the EUMC. Directly attached to the Secretary-General/High Representative, the EUMS also provides support, on the request of the latter or that of the Political and Security Committee (PSC), for temporary missions to third countries or missions led by other international organisations.⁵

The EUMS also provides general military expertise to the EUMC, the PSC and the Secretary-General of the Council.

• *Structure*

The EUMS is led by a Director General, who is a three-star general, assisted by his deputy director and chief of staff (two-star general).

An EUMS Executive Office coordinates the EUMS activities as well as relations with the military delegations of EU member states and with other international organisations such as the UN or NATO.

For operational purposes, the EUMS is made up of five divisions and a cell:

- The **Policy and Plans** Division;
- The **Intelligence** Division;
- The **Operations and Exercise** Division;
- The **Logistics and Resources** Division;
- The **Communications and Information Systems** Division.

Press and Information Office

43, avenue du Président Wilson, 75775 Paris Cedex 16

Tel: (+33) 1.53.67.22.00 – Fax: (+33) 1.53.67.22.01 info@assembly.weu.int – <http://www.assembly-weu.eu>

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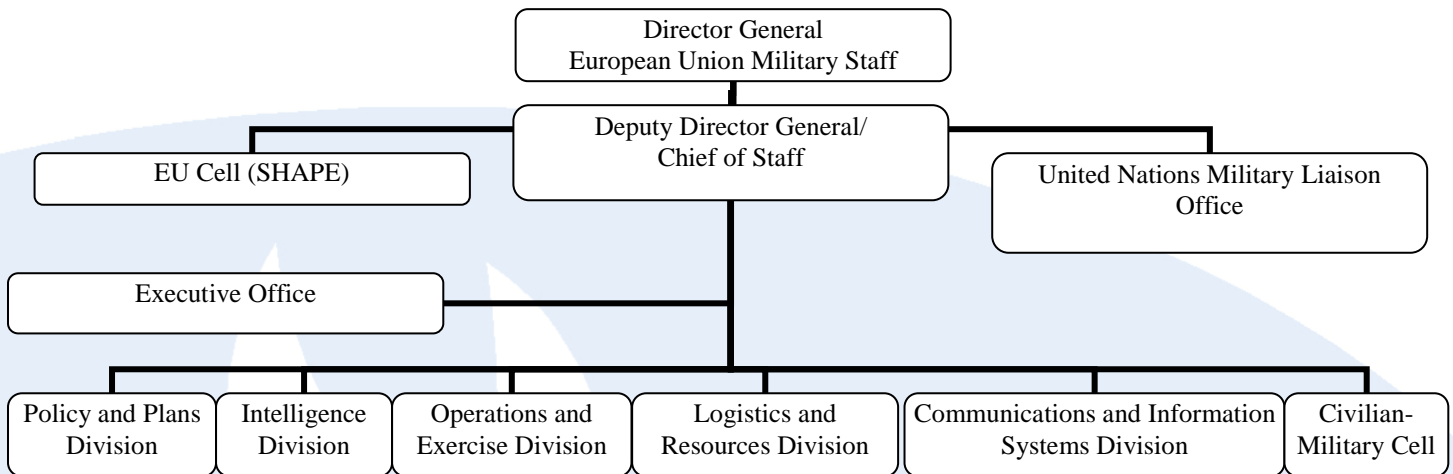
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The mission of the EUMS Civilian-Military Cell is to “enhance the EU’s capacity for crisis-management planning, to reinforce the national HQ designated to conduct EU autonomous operations, to assist in coordinating civilian operations and to generate the capacity to plan and run an autonomous EU operation”.⁶

Following the establishment of the Berlin Plus arrangements giving the EU access to NATO assets and capabilities, an EUMS cell was created within SHAPE⁷ so as to improve the preparation of EU operations drawing on such assets and capabilities (such as the EUFOR ALTHEA mission currently being conducted in Bosnia and Herzegovina). Similarly, NATO has set up a permanent liaison office within the EUMS.

- **Flow chart of the EUMS structure:**



- **Military Operations prepared and monitored by EUMS :**

To date, six military operations have been prepared and monitored by the EUMS:

CONCORDIA: FYROM, March-December 2003

ARTEMIS: Democratic Republic of the Congo, June-September 2003

EUFOR ALTHEA: Bosnia and Herzegovina, since December 2004

EUFOR RD Congo: Democratic Republic of the Congo, July-November 2006

EUFOR Tchad-RCA: Chad and Central African Republic, January 2008-March 2009

EUNAVFOR Somalia – Operation ATALANTA: off the Somali coast, since December 2008

The EU’s many civilian operations have also been supported by the EUMS through its Civilian-Military Cell.

On 18 June 2007, the Council approved the Guidelines for Command and Control Structure for EU Civilian Operations in Crisis Management. The Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) established in August 2007 is a new ESDP structure responsible for the planning, deployment, conduct and evaluation of civilian crisis-management operations. Directed by the Dutch diplomat Kees Klompenhouwer, the CPCC is located in Brussels and comes under the authority of the Council Secretariat. It is responsible for all the police, border assistance, rule of law and security sector reform missions of the EU. The Civilian Operations Commander works under the political control and strategic direction of the Political and Security Committee (PSC) under the overall authority of the Secretary-General/High Representative for the CFSP.

¹ See “EU Operations”, Assembly Fact Sheet No. 4.

² See Article 43 TEU.

³ In accordance with Council Decision 2001/80/CFSP. This Decision was amended in May 2005 by Council Decision 2005/395/CFSP.

⁴ “ESDP developments and the Headline Goal 2010 – reply to the annual report of the Council”, report submitted on behalf of the Defence Committee by Mr Konstantinos Vrettos, Rapporteur (Greece, Socialist Group), 15 June 2005, Document 1898, <http://www.assembly-weu.eu>

⁵ Council Decision 2001/80/CFSP, amended by Council Decision 2005/395/CFSP.

⁶ CIV/MIL Cell – Terms of Reference, 15 June 2005, Doc. 10580/05, <http://www.europa.eu>

⁷ Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, Mons (Belgium).