

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



**EUROPEAN UNION  
MILITARY STAFF**

**Brussels, 12 September 2014**

**EEAS 01280/5/14/REV 5**

**LIMITE**

**COPS  
CSDP/PSDC**

**NOTE**

---

From: European Union Military Staff  
To: Political and Security Committee  
European Union Military Committee

---

No. Prev. doc.:

---

Subject: Military Advice on the document "The Future of the EU OPCEN - Review"

---

Delegations will find attached the Military Advice on the document "The Future of the EU OPCEN - Review" which was agreed by the EUMC on 12 September 2014.

Reference:

- A. EEAS 01233/14, CMPD, The Future of the EU OPCEN, dated 12 June 2014.
- B. Council Decision 2012/173/ CFSP of 23 March 2012 on the activation of the EU Operations Centre for the CSDP missions and operation in the Horn of Africa.

#### **A. INTRODUCTION AND AIM**

1. On 08 October 2013, PSC invited the EEAS to present a paper on the further functioning, the role and the mandate of the activated EU Operations Centre (EU OPCEN) and committed to revert to the issue in the spring 2014.
2. On 23 May 2014, CMPD issued an Option paper on possible options for the future (Ref. A).
3. On 24 June 2014 the PSC invited the EUMC to provide military advice on the military aspects of the document at Reference A.
4. This paper provides Military Advice as requested.

#### **B. ADVICE**

5. The EUMC welcomes the opportunity to provide military advice on the future of the EU OPCEN (as activated for the Horn of Africa) and underlines the added value provided by this entity as well as its contribution to the development and further success of the EU's comprehensive approach to the Horn of Africa.
6. The EUMC underlines the need to optimise the allocated resources and capabilities of the EU OPCEN to continue to provide added value to existing CSDP activity, increasing efficiency, coherence and synergies, taking into account budget and manning constraints. The EUMC agrees that the place and position of the EU OPCEN within the EEAS structure remain somewhat ambiguous and that EU actors have not always fully acknowledged the usability of the functions undertaken by the EU OPCEN.

7. The EUMC recommends that the most likely route for a successful way ahead, capitalising on the experience and the collective investment in this temporary structure, would be in the long term to embed a number of key planning and coordination functions within the EEAS on a permanent basis. The detail of the long-term provision for the functions undertaken by the EU OPCEN, the feasibility and practicalities of potential global geographical area of responsibility, and the associated scoping of manpower and resource requirements should be considered in the context of the EEAS Review. This should be done with a view to a possible transition of the EU OPCEN into a comprehensive coordination and planning support entity within the EEAS' CSDP structures, while ensuring continued military guidance from the EUMC.
8. In the short term and in conjunction with the overall concept identified in paragraph 7, the EUMC recommends a mandate extension to December 2016, with geographic expansion to cover CSDP missions and operations in the Sahel, and functional extension in line with lessons identified, within current resources and broadly within current manpower - a small headcount increase (e.g. 1-2 civilians) could be considered to enhance the civil-military coordination role. This geographic expansion and functional extension should be further detailed in an implementation plan. During this period, the EUMC considers that the place and position of the EU OPCEN should remain as it is described in its current mandate. There would be no need for further mandate extension after a transition to a permanent entity.
9. The EUMC recommends that the integration of Mission/Operation liaison cells/support cells inside the EU OPCEN (in accordance with Article 4 of Ref. B) to facilitate coordination, improve synergies and reduce duplications among operations/missions should respect current chains of command with Mission and Operation Commanders and boost further cooperation with all EEAS bodies. This should apply particularly to the EUMS in the areas of military planning, exercises, cross-cutting issues and lessons learned.
10. The EUMC considers that all the proposed changes should be based on optimisation of processes and of military expertise.

**C. RECOMMENDATION**

11. The EUMC recommends that the PSC agrees this Military Advice.

---

---