



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

Brussels, 22 September 2014
(OR. en)

13474/14

LIMITE

COPS 223
CSDP/PSDC 526
PESC 968
COAFR 260

NOTE

From: Politico-Military Group (PMG)
To: Political and Security Committee (PSC)
Subject: PMG Recommendations on the EEAS Note on the Future of the EU
OPCEN - Review

Delegations will find attached the "PMG Recommendations on the EEAS Note on the Future of the EU OPCEN - Review", as finalised by the Politico-Military Group on 22 September 2014.

INTRODUCTION

1. On 24 June, the PSC tasked the PMG to examine the EEAS note on the future of the EU OPCEN – Review (doc. 10990/14, dated 13 June 2014) and to report back in July.

CONSIDERATIONS

Introduction

2. The PMG welcomes the EEAS note as a basis for facilitating a decision on the future of the EU OPCEN.

Way ahead

3. The PMG stresses that a decision should be reached as soon as possible in order to provide a clear perspective for the EU OPCEN and its staffing.
4. The PMG reiterates the added value provided by the activated EU OPCEN, within its current mandate for the Horn of Africa, as recognised by PSC on the basis of the EU OPCEN's Six Monthly Reports.
5. The PMG therefore underlines the relevance of this review of the activated EU OPCEN for the EEAS Review process, in follow-up to the Council conclusions on the EEAS Review of 17 December 2013, and vice versa. It notes that the Council invited the High Representative to revert to the Council by the end of 2015.
6. The PMG recommends a mandate extension of the activated EU OPCEN until December 2016. This mandate extension will also allow time to prepare for a transition of its coordination and planning support functions and resources to the EEAS CSDP structures on a permanent basis, to provide additional civil/military support to CSDP missions and operations, in the context of the EEAS review process to be led by the HR, with due respect to

the institutional framework and applicable procedures. There would be no need for further mandate extension after such a transition.

7. The PMG notes that the present discussion concerns the EU OPCEN as activated for the HoA, not the 'generic' EU OPCEN which will continue to remain available as a potential command and control option for CSDP missions and operations, in line with its agreed terms of reference. Any future new entity within the EEAS CSDP structures undertaking coordination and planning support functions would therefore have a different name reflecting this role.
8. In the interim, the activated EU OPCEN should expand its civil/military coordination and planning support role, and assume an enhanced geographical responsibility for the Sahel region, within the established resource and staffing ceiling. Any geographic expansion beyond the Sahel region would require a separate PSC decision. This revised mandate should be elaborated in a Council Decision as soon as possible, to be followed subsequently by a prioritised implementation plan from the EU OPCEN, on the basis of the EEAS note and taking into account Working Group discussions, in close coordination with the EEAS, for submission to PSC.
9. The PMG recommends integrating the relevant mission/operation liaison/support cells as part of the OPCEN, without prejudice to current chains of command with mission and operation commanders.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. The PMG recommends the PSC to agree to the considerations above and to invite the EEAS, in cooperation with the EU OPCEN, to submit a draft Council Decision on this basis.