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P R E S S R E L E A S E

EU runs new crisis management exercise

The European Union will launch next week its 2nd Multi-Layer Crisis Management Exercise, also known as ML14. This exercise is organised by the European External Action Service (EEAS) and will be conducted with Member States from 30 September to 23 October 2014. ML14 will exercise the different layers of EU crisis response and management, from the political-strategic level to the operational level.

ML14 aims at improving the EU's capacity to manage crises and to rapidly implement the EU's comprehensive approach in a changing environment. Based on a fictitious scenario, ML14 will test the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) decision-making and planning processes and capabilities. It will exercise the different layers of the EEAS Crisis Response System – both civilian and military – and their interaction with other EU crisis response structures. Consequently, the exercise will involve the EEAS – including some EU Delegations –, the European Commission, the relevant Council instances, and a military Operations Headquarters offered by Italy and the Force Headquarters of the EU Battlegroup led by Belgium.

Acting under the authority of High Representative/Vice President of the Commission Catherine Ashton, Agostino Miozzo, EEAS Managing Director for Crisis Response and Operational Coordination, will oversee the exercise. The EU's Political and Security Committee will exercise its role to provide the political control and strategic direction of the proposed military CSDP operation and civilian CSDP mission.

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ML 14 is organised two years after ML12, the first ever Multi-Layer exercise, but it will test for the first time the EU's Comprehensive Approach as well as its new fast track planning procedures, within a challenging and complex scenario.

Note to editors

The exercise scenario focuses on the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in a fictitious region where the stability of the state of "Sarunia", is threatened by events in the neighbouring states of "Ranua" and "Celego". The story line includes, among others, an escalation of border skirmishes leading Sarunia to request an EU military intervention to maintain a secure environment as well as a civilian mission to support border management and judicial reforms. Worsening humanitarian situation in refugee camps triggers external civilian actions with the support of the UN and ICRC. A piracy attack on an oil tanker, although unsuccessful, causes oil spill near the harbour of the city "Batela" while a cyber-attack targets the EU's local communications system. To face the environmental disaster, the Union Civil Protection Mechanism is activated via the European Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre. A number of EU citizens from various Member States working at the local oil refinery in West Sarunia are at risk of being attacked requiring a coordinated EU approach with a view to a possible evacuation.
