

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



**EUROPEAN UNION  
MILITARY STAFF**

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**LIMITE**

**CSDP/PSDC  
COSDP**

**NOTE**

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From: European Union Operations Centre  
To: Political and Security Committee  
European Union Military Committee

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Subject: Six Month Report on the EU Operations Centre (EU OPCEN) 22 September 2012  
– 14 March 2013

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Delegations will find attached the above mentioned document from the Head EU Operations Centre.

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## Six month report of the EU Operations Centre 22 September 2012 - 14 March 2013.

### REFERENCES.

- A. Council Decision 2012/173/CFSP on the activation of the EU Operations Centre for the Common Security and Defence Policy missions and operation in the Horn of Africa, 23 March 2012.
- B. EU OPCEN 6 month report 23 March 2012-21 September 2012, 01568/12, 14 September 2012.
- C. PSC MD 02/13, Implementation Review of the EU Strategic Framework for the Horn of Africa, 11 January 2013.
- D. EUTM Somalia - Revised Crisis Management Concept, ST16406/12, 23 November 2012.
- E. Council Decision 2013/44/CFSP 22 January EUTM Somalia Third Mandate.
- F. European Union Strategic Framework for the Horn of Africa, EEAS, 16858/11, 14 November 2011.
- G. EEAS 00072/13 Operation Plan for the European Union Regional Capacity Building Mission in the Horn of Africa and the Western Indian Ocean (EUCAP NESTOR), 16 January 2013.
- H. EEAS 02309/12 OP ATALANTA Six Month Report, 20 December 2012.
- I. Joint Staff Working Document, Action Plan for the EU fight against piracy off the HoA and in the Western Indian Ocean, September 2012.
- J. EU Operations Centre - Provisional Outcome Manning Conference, 00655/12, 19 April 2012.
- K. European Union Military Staff (EUMS) Terms of Reference and Organisation Annex C to Council Decision 2008/298/CFSP, 07 April 2008.
- L. Decision of the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 23 March 2011 establishing the rules applicable to National Experts Seconded to the European External Action Service, 2012/C 12/04, 23 March 2011.

## **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The EU OPCEN has been at Full Operational Capability for eight months and significant progress has been made against the six tasks mandated by the Council. This has been achieved primarily by focussing upon the consolidation of relationships and the development of networks across the EU.**
- 1.2 As forecast in the last report, the provision of planning support has been the main effort of the EU OPCEN over this reporting period. Unsurprisingly, given its status as the newest of the HoA CSDP missions, EUCAP NESTOR has been supported as required, through the CPPC and the Head of Mission . With the renewal of its mandate and revision of its Crisis Management Concept, EUTM Somalia, via CMPD, has also been afforded its share of EU OPCEN resource and the liaison with ATALANTA has continued to go from strength to strength.**
- 1.3 With what can be described as well established relationships and protocols in place with the organizations responsible for the three HoA CSDP activities, the EU OPCEN is now in a position to adjust the emphasis of its work towards the facilitation of coordination between the three HoA CSDP activities and interaction with these and the Brussels based structures. Preparations to effect this adjustment are already underway, making efficient use of existing and newly created coordination mechanisms.**

## 2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Aim. The purpose of this document is to report the work of the EU Operational Centre (OPCEN) over the period 22 September 2012 - 14 March 2013, to the Political and Security Committee (PSC).

2.2 Objectives. The objectives of the report are to:

- Describe the EU OPCEN activities in pursuance of its mandated tasks (Reference A).
- Provide an assessment of the effectiveness EU OPCEN activities in relation to the mandated tasks.
- Describe the approach taken and activities performed in pursuance of its tasks.
- Outline the way ahead over the forthcoming six months.
- Make recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the EU OPCEN.

2.2 Background. The EU OPCEN has now been in existence for one year, achieving full operating capability in July 2012. As reported at Reference B, the first six months of operation saw the EU OPCEN achieve Initial and Full Operational Capability and the formation of the networks and relationships that enable the EU OPCEN to achieve its mandated tasks. This reporting period has seen the consolidation and development of these relationships, in a stakeholder environment which can be characterised as complex. As it has integrated itself into the EEAS, there has been a growing awareness of the EU OPCEN, its role and capabilities, matched by an increasing confidence and trust shown in it by other EU organizations. Patient, tailored stakeholder engagement activities continue to improve and consolidate relationships.

2.3 Report Structure. In order to meet the aim and objectives set out at paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2, the report is structured in the following way:

1. Executive Summary
2. Introduction
3. Task Delivery
4. Way Ahead
5. Conclusions
6. Recommendations

Annex: Coordination Mechanisms

2.4 Situation. The strategic environment of the HoA region has continued to improve steadily. This is reflected in Somalia, where there have been significant developments in the political and security environment. This has included the formation of a new Government following elections in 2012; the removal of Al Shabaab from the major cities of central Somalia has continued and there has been a consequent improvement of the security situation. From the perspective of the EU, the implementation of the EU Strategic Framework for the HoA (Reference C) has been reviewed. In relation to the CSDP missions and operation, developments have included the deployment and establishment of the EUCAP NESTOR MHQ in Djibouti and in country elements in the Seychelles; the revised EUTM Somalia Crisis Management Concept (Reference D), which directs that activities will facilitate the planning and establishment of the mission in Somalia, will be initiated in Mogadishu, as well as the approval of the third mission mandate (Reference E) by the Council in January 2013. With the launch of EUCAP NESTOR, the approval of EUTM's third mandate and the palpable success of ATALANTA, it is conceived that the conditions and circumstances present opportunities for a significant increase in the levels of coordination and synergy between these three CSDP activities.

2.5 Emerging Trends. Over the period of this report, several themes have emerged in relation to the strategic environment.

- a. The focus of development and capacity-building thinking, both inside and outside the EU, has progressively moved beyond a curative approach to addressing symptomatic manifestations of instability to a far more holistic and comprehensive approach to the underlying problems of Somalia. However, the EU Strategic Framework for the HoA (Reference F) is not yet formally supported by a comprehensive series of ratified action plans, or a cross-cutting operational level analysis or campaign plan. It is not obvious as to who would sponsor such planning and how to authoritatively orchestrate activities amongst the Commission structures.
- b. The requirement for coherence of delivery through the application of the Comprehensive Approach to Somalia continues to become more apparent, especially as the security situation appears to be on a trajectory that should enable a marked increase of cross institutions EU activity in support of the new Somali administration under the guidance of the European Union Special Representative (EUSR) for the HoA.

- c. As a result of the two trends described above, the three HoA CSDP activities, which 6 months ago appeared to be clearly delineated, both geographically and thematically, are now increasingly likely to be able to contribute to inter-related and mutually supporting activity.

2.6 Tasks. The six tasks that the EU OPCEN has been directed to perform by Council Decision (Reference A) are to:

- (a) Provide, using its military expertise and specialised planning expertise, direct support to the Civilian Operations Commander for the operational planning and conduct of the EUCAP NESTOR mission.
- (b) Provide support to the EUTM Mission Commander and enhance strategic coordination between EUTM Somalia and the other CSDP mission and operation in the HoA.
- (c) Liaise with Op ATALANTA.
- (d) Provide support to the Crisis Management and Planning Directorate (CMPD), at its request, in its strategic planning for the CSDP missions and operation in the HoA.
- (e) Facilitate interaction between the HoA CSDP missions and operation and the Brussels-based structures.
- (f) Facilitate coordination and improve synergies amongst Op ATALANTA, EUTM Somalia and EUCAP NESTOR within the context of the HoA Strategy, and in liaison with the EUSR for the HoA.

2.7 Relationships. The nature of the EU OPCEN mandate, is such that personal relationships and networks are the essential currency that enables success. The complexity of the environment, the design of organizational structures, divergent interpretations or analysis of situations, blended with political sensitivities, demand that there is a need to invest considerable capital in the initiation and then maintenance of these all important relationships and networks. What on paper may seem to be a reasonably unchallenging journey, can frequently make unexpected detours as new stakeholders enter the fray. As it has gained experience, the EU

OPCEN has adapted its internal practices and arrangements to optimise effective engagement with the Crisis Management and Planning Directorate (CMPD), the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee, the European Union Military Staff (EUMS), the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC), MD Africa and EUSR HoA staff. Regarding support, the EU OPCEN draws upon the EUMS for the provision of expertise and resource for personnel administration, intelligence, logistics, medical support, communications and financial management. Although the aforementioned support is not requested on a routine basis, it more takes the form of a reach-back style capability, allowing the EU OPCEN to perform its business. In addition the EU OPCEN makes effective use of existing EUMS structures, such as the Mission Monitoring Teams and the Counter Piracy Action Plan (see Annex).

2.8 Approach. As a consequence of its mandate, the EU OPCEN occupies a unique position in the relationship of EU networks that exist in regard to the HoA. This position spans both the EEAS and the Commission and as such provides high levels of insight, perspective and access. As the EU OPCEN seeks to execute its mandated tasks, it broadly takes the approach of participating in the use of a set of coordination mechanisms (Annex); provision of proactive support to the EUSR to the HoA; and the identification of concurrencies, discrepancies, overlaps and gaps between EU HoA activities.

### **3. TASK DELIVERY**

3.1 Review. As reported in September 2012 (Reference B), the EU OPCEN set out the principles that were to guide and shape the activities undertaken in pursuit of the mandated tasks. These were that the EU OPCEN should:

- seek to add value, not process
- interface, not interfere
- facilitate collaboration, not competition
- support without duplication

With regard to Tasks (a) to (d), these principles have continued to be applied at desk officer level, where as has been stated already, relationships have been developed reasonably and information flow is generally effective. In relation to Tasks (e) and (f), where broad, cross-mission and cross-institution networks and relationships are necessary, the application of the principles described is taking longer and requires additional resources to gain effective and

efficient engagement and traction. This was anticipated in the previous report, where it was assessed that because some coordination activities were already taking place, that the EU OPCEN's approach needed to account for established protocols between stakeholders and be alert to potential sensitivities as it seeks to discharge its mandate.

- 3.2 Progress has been made across all tasks and the rate of progress has increased steadily over the reporting period. While EU OPCEN initiatives and proposals have not always achieved complete acceptance in the first instance, it has been gratifying to see that there have been occasions where they have subsequently been taken up and sponsored by other institutions. That said, work in some areas has been more rapid than others and this has been recognised and palliative actions put in place to remedy. EUCAP NESTOR, the most recently established CSDP mission, has, understandably attracted a greater amount of support and attention than the other CSDP activities.
- 3.3 The EU OPCEN uses a set of existing and newly established coordination mechanisms. As experience has accrued over the course of the reporting period, the requirements for additional mechanisms have been identified. These mechanisms and how they have been utilised can be found at Annex A. The subsequent paragraphs describe what has been done to progress delivery of the mandated tasks.
- 3.4 Support to EUCAP NESTOR - Task (a). The EU OPCEN planning team has been closely involved with the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC), assisting in the refinement and scrutiny of operational planning staff work and liaising with Brussels-based structures on a range of issues including equipment procurement, benchmarking, staff recruitment and helping to shape the way EUCAP NESTOR coordinates with other bodies inside and outside the EU. Of the three CSDP activities, this has drawn the greatest level of effort from the EU OPCEN over this reporting period. The EU OPCEN has supported the Civilian Operations Commander with contributions to the preparation of the mission OPLAN (Reference G). Additionally, EU OPCEN staff have temporarily forward deployed into Djibouti, to provide direct support to the mission in the operational planning effort. The extent of the involvement is such that the relationship has become effectively structured, with EU OPCEN staff seamlessly integrating with the CPCC NESTOR team.



- 3.5 Support to EUTM Somalia - Task (b). The EU OPCEN has established an effective interface with the mission through the EUTM Somalia Brussels Support Cell. Through the CMPD, the EU OPCEN has contributed to the Crisis Management Concept and the Initiating Military Directive for EUTM Somalia's third mandate. On a routine basis, the EU OPCEN works with the EUMS and the EUTM Somalia Brussels Support Cell in the EUTM Mission Monitoring Team, which in addition to situational awareness, ensures that opportunities to facilitate coordination and interaction with Op ATALANTA and EUCAP NESTOR are being identified. Further support to the EUTM Mission Commander, include planning support (EU OPCEN personnel forward deployed in Kampala) for the production and development of the mission plan for the next mandate; arrangement of geospatial support in liaison with the EU Satellite Centre and the provision of a paper on the threat posed by Improvised Explosive Devices. Work has been initiated and progresses against support requirements recently raised by the EUTM Somalia Mission, which relate to information on wider EU (EEAS and Commission) activities in the HoA.
- 3.6 Liaison with Operation ATALANTA - Task (c). Sound and productive liaison is being maintained with OHQ Northwood through the Op ATALANTA Liaison Cell, with direct contact at staff officer level established between relevant functional areas. With piracy activity continuing on a downward trend, the Operation ATALANTA Six Month report (Reference H) envisaged that while the threat of a return to previous levels of pirate activity cannot be discounted, opportunities are now being presented to support other EU instruments in the HoA, such as EUCAP NESTOR. This was re-enforced in January 2013, by the Operation Commander ATALANTA, when it was requested that the EU OPCEN undertake work relating to strategic communication, identification of synergies between ATALANTA and other EU activities in the HoA. This work has been initiated and progresses.
- 3.7 Support to the CMPD for the strategic planning of CSDP missions (Task d). The OPCEN has been engaged in the support of CMPD in a number of activities. At the strategic level, the EU OPCEN was requested to assist in the preparation of the Crisis Management Concept for the next EUTM Somalia mission mandate, while at the operational level the EU OPCEN is engaged on an ongoing basis, supporting CMPD's participation in the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS). Specifically, the EU OPCEN is actively engaged in the formation and development of the Capacity Building Coordination Group (CBCG), a forum of capacity building delivery agencies, which has been established to coordinate

capacity building activities at the operational level and below. In support of this forum, the EU OPCEN, as requested by CMPD, has worked closely with the supporting NGO, Oceans Beyond Piracy, to develop a software based Capacity Building Coordination Platform (described at the Annex), which is intended to provide a comprehensive and coherent picture of all capacity building activities in the Horn of Africa.

- 3.8 Facilitate Interaction Between the HoA CSDP and Brussels based structures (Task e). The need for close coordination between the CSDP activities and other EU instruments is clearly recognised and strong civil - military cooperation is essential to achieving this. The Head EU OPCEN has conducted consultations with various Commission DGs (DEVCO, ECHO, FPI, MARE and MOVE) where it has been agreed to collaborate in order to provide inputs to the Capacity Building Coordination Platform. The development of the Platform, in which CMPD and the EU OPCEN collaborate closely, into an up-dated database accessible to all EU actors is now commonly seen as an important mechanism for situational awareness, coordination and, where possible, interaction and synergy. Furthermore, the Inter-Service Contact Group on Piracy (ISCGP) (described at Annex) has proved to be a particularly productive forum. This presently provides the primary means of developing cohesion between the EEAS CSDP activities and the Commission. It has already led to a sound relationships at action officer level, between the EU OPCEN and Commission bodies of DEVCO, ECHO, MARE and MOVE.
- 3.9 The formation of relationships at the higher level have been developing steadily. Currently the EU OPCEN only has military expertise and it is felt that with the provision of additional civilian expertise, progress can be greatly accelerated as civilian and military perspectives are drawn together within the EU OPCEN. Progress has been achieved with a set of informal agreements being created with the senior echelon of the pertinent Commission directorates, that provide a level of provenance behind the relationships formed at staff level in the ISCGP. These agreements also prepare the ground for future interactions at the strategic level. With the introduction by the EU OPCEN of the CSDP HoA Coordination Platform (see Annex), the facilitation of coordination at the operational level has been enhanced.
- 3.10 Facilitation of coordination amongst HoA CSDP activities in liaison with EUSR (Task f). With formation of EUTM Somalia's footprint in Mogadishu and the potential for Op ATALANTA, in addition to its original mission, to provide support to EUCAP NESTOR and

EUTM Somalia, Task (f) is becoming increasingly topical and hence afforded a greater level of attention. Activities are proliferating in this area. With an increasing interaction between the operational commanders, via VTC and face to face, and with a set of EU OPCEN led initiatives, the HoA Weekly Executive Summary, the CSDP HoA Coordination Platform, and the development of a strategic communication plan (see Annex), momentum is building.

3.11 Beyond the CSDP activity, liaison continues to grow with the EUSR for the HoA, manifesting itself in the frequent engagement with his Brussels based team and with the MD Africa desk, with the purpose of identifying areas where coordination of efforts might be improved. This has included contributions to policy, namely the Implementation Review of the HoA Strategic Framework and the preparatory paper proposing the EU approach in post-transition Somalia. In response to a joint request by the EU Special Envoy in Somalia and the EUSR in the HoA, the EU OPCEN investigated and reported on the facilitation of co-ordination between the CSDP activities in theatre. After considering the report, CMPD and the Operation Commander ATALANTA proposed that as an interim solution, the Operation ATALANTA POLAD, based in Nairobi would facilitate this in theatre co-ordination activity, with the EU OPCEN standing ready to support as required. Also worthy of note has been the provision of specialist advice, spanning the three CSDP missions and operation in the form of a report on the IED threat within Somalia.

#### **4. WAY AHEAD**

4.1 Overview. With twelve months of experience upon which to draw, it is now possible to more precisely and objectively set out the direction in which to take the work of the EU OPCEN. Analysing the results so far and assessing them against the trends in the strategic environment, it is apparent that there will be a growing emphasis placed upon Task (e) (Facilitation between HoA CSDP missions and operation and the Brussels based structures) and Task (f) (Facilitation of coordination and improvement of synergies amongst Operation ATALANTA, EUTM Somalia and EUCAP NESTOR). Measures, such as the formation of the CSDP HoA Coordination Platform (see Annex), to enable and advance work in these areas are in place and will be exploited, through use of the coordination mechanisms, in the forthcoming reporting period.

- 4.2. Tasks (a) to (d). Now with established networks, stable relationships and effective information conduits, it is envisaged that the pace of progress against the support and liaison tasks will increase significantly over the forthcoming reporting period. The EU OPCEN will target its effort in these areas to maintain the effective networks and to ensure that it is in a position to proactively support CMPD, CPCC and the CSDP missions and operation, in collaboration with EUMS staff. With regard to supporting EUCAP NESTOR, it is assessed that the challenge will lie in the translation of strategic objectives into execution. The EU OPCEN remains at the disposal of the civilian operation commander as required.
- 4.3. Task (e) - CSDP / Commission Interaction. As the EU OPCEN has established itself and gained traction within the EEAS, it is now in a good position to advance and engage more widely with the other EU structures. Sound working relationships have been formed at action officer level between the MARE, ECHO, MOVE and DEVCO Commission bodies and measures have now been put in place to ensure a commensurate level of engagement with the Brussels based, senior echelons of these bodies and with the FPI. To that end the EU OPCEN will nurture the development of the recently established HoA Coordination Platform and seek to further develop and intensify engagement with the Inter Service Contact Group on Piracy. Concurrently, the EU OPCEN, in conjunction with CMPD, remains heavily engaged with the Capacity Building Coordination Group (CBCG), as it moves towards the development and introduction into service of the Capacity Building Coordination Platform. This is in order to be able to provide the Operation Commander and Head of Mission with full situational awareness of the other (EU) activities and projects that are being conducted in their respective area of operations.
- 4.4. Task (f) - CSDP Coordination Facilitation. With the improvement of strategic environment across the HoA region, it is assessed that the activities of the CSDP missions and operation will evolve and adapt to reflect the changes on the ground. The EU OPCEN, situated in a nodal position that cross cuts the CSDP missions and operation, is, as its relationships and networks continue to evolve, potentially very well placed to act as the oil between the CSDP missions and to facilitate interaction and coordination. In consultation with the EUSR HoA, the EU OPCEN will improve situational awareness and coordination with all stakeholders, through the production and evolution of the Weekly Executive Summary (see Annex para f). Regarding strategic communications, the EU OPCEN has been asked by SG3 (EEAS Strategic Communication) to assist in the development of the HoA Strategic Communication

Framework, which in the short term sees the convening of a wide ranging stakeholder workshop in May 2013.

- 4.5 Marketing the EU OPCEN. The position the EU OPCEN holds gives it unique perspective of and access across the EU HoA CSDP activities, as well as those of the wider EU bodies. Experience to date suggests that not all organizations are fully conversant with what the EU OPCEN can potentially bring to the table. Therefore the EU OPCEN will continue with a proactive engagement strategy to ensure interaction and coordination opportunities are not overlooked.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 In executing its mission within the mandate and within its means and capabilities, the EU OPCEN has made progress against all the tasks assigned by the Council Decision (Reference A).
- 5.2 The EU OPCEN has consolidated its position within the EEAS through the patient development of relationships. It continues to strive for effective coordination with EU processes and has gone a long way to gaining the confidence and trust of other stakeholder organizations across the EU.
- 5.3. Awareness of the EU OPCEN, its role and capabilities has improved significantly over the reporting period at both staff level and at the senior echelons of EU organizations.
- 5.4 The prevailing conditions and circumstances present opportunities for a significant increase in the levels of coordination and synergy between the three CSDP activities. This amplifies the alignment with its mandate, thereby creating conditions under which the value added contribution of the EU OPCEN can be increased markedly.
- 5.5 The EU OPCEN is adequately manned with military personnel, through the much appreciated contributions made by DE, ES, FI, FR, IT, NL, SE and UK. However two posts, assigned as administrative support, out of a total of 16, remain vacant. As the work of the EU OPCEN intensifies, the requirement to draw upon the administrative resource of the EUMS is increasing commensurately.

5.6. The EU OPCEN has limited civilian expertise to draw upon while seeking to form effective interfaces with stakeholder institutions and services and to develop civil - military synergies.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

6.1 It is recommended that:

- (a). The PSC note conclusions 5.1 to 5.4.
- (b). The EU OPCEN be provided with the administrative support to fill the vacant posts that were predicated at the manning conference held in April 2012 (Reference J). The work level of the EU OPCEN has increased steadily over the reporting period, placing additional burden upon administrative support arrangements of the EUMS.
- (c). The EU OPCEN be augmented by a limited number of civilian staff with EU experience. The augmentation of the EU OPCEN with these civilian personnel will afford substantial benefits, particularly when seeking to deliver against tasks (e) and (f). Civilian personnel with experience of the EU Commission and other Brussels-based structures will provide a more effective interface with other EU institutions and services. This augmentation is assessed to be within the mandate, if implemented through Articles 4.1 (d) and 7.2 of the Council Decision (Reference A).

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Annex:  
Coordination Mechanisms

## COORDINATION MECHANISMS

1. A number of coordination mechanisms are used by the EU OPCEN to assist in delivering its mandated tasks. These mechanisms enable the development of cross domain situational awareness; support CSDP HoA missions and operation, by identifying opportunities and synergies; and inform other stakeholders of ongoing CSDP activity in order to promote coherence. Of the 10 mechanism tools described in this Annex, eight were already established when the EU OPCEN was formed twelve months ago. However, over the course of this reporting period, the need for additional tools have been identified. Two new mechanism tools have been created by the EU OPCEN, namely the Weekly Executive Summary and the HoA Coordination Platform and a further mechanism, the Inter Services Group on Piracy, has been adopted. The degree of interaction with the mechanisms tools ranges from occasional input to more geared engagement.
  - (a). The HoA Strategic Framework. The HoA Strategic Framework is a document adopted by the Council to guide the EU's engagement in the region. As part of this framework, in order to enhance the coherence, quality, impact and visibility of the EU's multifaceted action in the region, an EU Special Representative for the HoA, in close consultation with the EUSR for Sudan and South Sudan, will contribute to the EU's regional approach to the interrelated challenges facing the HoA. Initially, the EUSR's focus will be on Somalia and the regional dimension of the conflict including piracy. Tasked to facilitate coordination, the EU OPCEN remains well placed to support the activities of the EUSR for the HoA. Through its relationship with EEAS MD (Africa), the EU OPCEN has contributed to the Implementation Review of the HoA Strategic Framework, which was presented to the PSC in January 2013. The focus of the EU OPCEN contribution was upon the 3 CSDP activities and their impact upon the overall EU strategy in the HoA.

- (b). Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. The Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) was established early in 2009 to facilitate discussion and coordination of actions among states and organizations to suppress piracy off the coast of Somalia. This international forum brings together more than 60 countries and organizations, all working towards the prevention of piracy off the Somali coast. Five Working Groups (WG) have been formed to focus on specific matters. While CMPD are the lead EEAS organization of the Contact Group, it has been agreed that the EU OPCEN participates fully in WG1. From this a comprehensive awareness of current counter-piracy activities in the HoA is gained, enabling the provision of informed planning advice and the facilitation of coordination and identification of synergies between operations and missions. A significant part of the EU OPCEN's work within WG1 relates to the development and introduction into use of the Capacity Building Coordination Platform (see following paragraph).
- (c). Capacity Building Coordination Platform. The Capacity Building Coordination Platform (CBCP), formerly referred to as the Capacity Building Matrix, sponsored by the Capacity Building Coordination Group (CBCG), is a database which catalogues the activities of all organizations (not only EU) in the HoA region, related to counter-piracy. It is intended to enable the effective coordination and execution of international counter - piracy capability building measures. The technical support is provided by a US NGO, Oceans Beyond Piracy, currently on a no-cost basis. CMPD is the lead EEAS organization in the CGPCS forum and has requested that the EU OPCEN lead on the development and introduction into service of the CBCP.
- (d). Counter-Piracy Action Plan. The Counter-Piracy Action Plan (Reference I) is an inter-service initiative that has confirmed the consistency and completeness of EU activities countering piracy in the Horn of Africa. The plan continues to have utility, being able to identify gaps and overlaps of EU activities. Using this action plan, the EU OPCEN is developing a database of EU activities that will be used for both external (Capacity Building Coordination Platform) and internal coordination. Comparison of existing projects and missions with this plan and with the EU Strategic Framework for the Horn of Africa (Reference E), will better enable identification of opportunities to consolidate the EU comprehensive approach. Information will be directly provided to EUSR HoA



and to CSDP missions and operation in order to facilitate internal coordination and cooperation at all levels.

- (e) Strategic Communication. In line with EEAS expectation, the EU OPCEN has been requested by the staff of the EUSR for the HoA to support coordination of CSDP strategic communication in the Horn of Africa through the analyse of audience groups, messages and by providing a shared engagement plan to the EEAS on a regular basis. The EU OPCEN will organise, under the direction of EEAS, a strategic communication stakeholder workshop in May 2013, centred on "EU commitment for security, defence and development in the HoA". At the request of EUNAVFOR ATALANTA, the EU OPCEN will also combine all Q&A about CSDP regional activities in a single comprehensive document.
- (f) Mission Monitoring. Monitoring is conducted by EUMS Military Monitoring Teams (MMTs) for Op ATALANTA, and EUTM Somalia. These are multi-functional staff groups representing EUMS directorates and other relevant Brussels-based services, led by the EUMS Operations directorate. MMTs monitor mission / operation development in order to liaise between stakeholders, inform the higher echelon political and military authorities, provide military advice, support strategic planning and facilitate contact with the EUMS. EU OPCEN participation with MMTs enables detailed situational awareness, facilitates interaction and cohesion between the various CSDP actions. For EUCAP NESTOR, the CPCC has formed a coordination forum involving the Brussels based stakeholders. As a new initiative, the EU OPCEN is producing an executive summary of the CSDP activities, the EU OPCEN Weekly Executive HoA CSDP Summary. The purpose of this summary is to provide a concise overview, for EEAS executive level personnel, of the activities conducted by ATALANTA, EUTM Somalia and EUCAP NESTOR and of forthcoming interactions between the missions and operation. It is compiled from an extensive range of more detailed reports, which originate from a number of sources. It is intended that the value added is the provision of overall situational awareness.
- (g) Shared Awareness and De-confliction (SHADE). The Shared Awareness and De-confliction (SHADE) group is a voluntary military coordination meeting attended by nations and organisations involved in operations to counter piracy off the coast of

Somalia to ensure the effective coordination and de-confliction of military resources and operations. Since 2008, military and civilian representatives from over 50 countries, 15 international organizations and the maritime industry have participated. As agreed with the ATALANTA Operation Commander, the SHADE should predominantly remain a forum for operational coordination.. In close coordination with ATALANTA staff, the Head of EU OPCEN has attended the SHADE 19 - 20 Mar 2013 and presented briefings on EUTM Somalia and EUCAP NESTOR in order to provide third states Situational Awareness on the other EU CSDP activities in the HoA, demonstrate EU's comprehensive approach and advocate the EU's Strategic Framework for the HoA. This in an attempt to gain support of non-traditional partners to the EU's comprehensive approach to counter piracy, as well as third states contribution, participation or even commitment to EUTM or EUCAP NESTOR. So although limited, the EU OPCEN contributed to the SHADE in terms of information exchange, cohesion, interaction and communication between stakeholders from third states, regional countries, international organisations and industry groups with the ultimate objective to encourage non-EU countries to become donor of EU comprehensive approach activities in the HoA.

- (h). Training Awareness and De-confliction (TRADE). This is a NATO / ATALANTA chaired forum to increase awareness of the maritime tactical training capabilities of maritime forces operating in the Western Indian Ocean and to de-conflict the training activity of these and other training stakeholders wishing to deploy to the region. EU OPCEN attendance will provide additional situational awareness and provides an interface between military practitioners and civilian planners. Participating in the TRADE mechanism over this reporting period, the EU OPCEN has gained awareness on the international efforts to streamline counter-piracy training support to HoA states, which has been used to de-conflict and coordinate the activities of the CSDP missions and operation. EUNAVFOR ATALANTA co-chairs the meetings and since the 10th meeting in October 2012, EUCAP NESTOR has joined the forum.
- (i). Inter Service Group on Counter Piracy. This forum, sponsored by DG MOVE, brings together parties from across the full spectrum of EU; amongst others, MOVE, MARE, ECHO, DEVCO, and EEAS. Its purpose is to share information relating to counter-piracy activities in the HoA. The EU OPCEN is fully engaged within this forum and meetings are bearing an increasing level of information exchange, which not only builds

sound awareness, but which also provides a valuable source of data to input to the Capacity Building Coordination Platform (see paragraph (c) above).

- (j). CSDP HoA Coordination Platform. The EU OPCEN has identified the need to ensure that there is a mechanism for enabling coordination of the CSDP and Commission activities across the Brussels based entities. Although at the time of preparation of this report, it is in embryonic form and only includes EEAS organizations (EUMS, MD Africa, CPCC and CMPD) the opening meetings of this forum have demonstrated considerable utility and promise of further productive interaction. This may merit considering expanding the membership beyond the EEAS to the wider EU.