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NOTE

from:	General Secretariat of the Council
to:	Delegations
Subject:	Summary record of the meeting of the European Parliament Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE) , Brussels, 1 April 2014

The meeting was chaired by Mr DANJEAN (EPP, FR) and Mr LISEK (EPP, PL).

- I. Building maritime capacity in the Horn of Africa - exchange of views with:**
- Etienne de Poncins, Head of Mission, EUCAP Nestor
 - Gilles Janvier, acting Civilian Operations Commander and Director of CPCC, EEAS

Both invitees stressed the good coordination between, and the complementarity of, the EU missions in the region. Mr DE PONCINS added that the EUCAP Nestor mandate, ending in 2014, would most likely be extended. He underlined that it was the first time an EU mission was based on geographical scope. He also provided information on some keystones of the mission (+/- 100 staff, HQ in Djibouti, an office in Kenya, a team in the Seychelles, a liaison officer in Tanzania; the mission's principal activities: assisting host countries in developing a self-sustainable capacity for continued enhancement of maritime security, including counter-piracy and maritime governance). He admitted that there had been some problems in Tanzania and Kenya, adding that the worsening security situation in Somalia was geographically limiting the mission's activities. Mr JANVIER reported on the recent strategic review carried out by Member States, which had asked for more focus on Somalia and extension of the mission to the Seychelles and the Maldives.

The Chair and Mr GAHLER (EPP, DE) explicitly welcomed the presence of the EU in the region, although Mr GAHLER was of the view that the Somali government should clearly commit.

Mr VAN ORDEN (ECR, UK) voiced concerns about the situation being worse than two years ago and wondered how money was being spent and if the mission was value for money. He believed that the drop in piracy attacks was not due to the EU Atlanta operation but to private security companies - a view that was not shared by the Chair.

In reply to the questions, Mr JANVIER said that the operational centre (question put by Mr GAHLER (EPP DE)) had existed for two years and that its aim was to ensure better coordination between the civilian/military missions. As such, it was an *ad hoc* actor and also involved the Commission. He said that results had been positive, in particular when the centre had acted as the interface between the Commission and crisis management actors. Both invitees confirmed to Mr VAN ORDEN (ECR, UK) and the Chair that EUCAP Nestor was also cooperating with other international actors such as NATO and the AU and Mr DE PONCINS stressed that the interest of the international community in the region had significantly increased.

The Chair reported on the SEDE delegation visit of the mission, saying that as there was a lot to do, there was scope for a number of actors to be active. He also reported on the talks with the AU, saying that at least there was a convergence of views on Somalia and the need for EU funding.

II. Debriefing on the SEDE delegation to Djibouti/Ethiopia on 24-26 March 2014

Dealt with under agenda item I.

III. The next steps in strengthening the European defence industry - exchange of views with Slawomir Tokarski, Head of Unit, Defence, Aeronautic and Maritime Industries, DG Enterprise and Industry

Mr TOKARSKI recalled that the December European Council had fully supported the Commission's priorities and that defence ministers had since confirmed this. There was a change of attitude among Member States and soon the Commission would implement some elements of its communication. The next step would be the adoption of a road map (operational document) to be adopted by the Council/European Council in July and the subsequent organisation of horizontal meetings.

Mr GAHLER put a number of questions to Mr TOKARSKI, who replied that a task force had specifically been set up and that there was constant contact with other DGs during the drafting phase of the communication, which was submitted as usual to the inter-services consultation. He specified that the document which had been presented at the informal Council meeting in Athens was not really a road map. Regarding the standardisation/certification issue, he said that the Commission was convinced of the need for a stronger status for standards and that industry should indicate, through the Member States, which standards should be granted a European standard status. Then the standardisation/certification process would be launched.
