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Delegations will find attached the declassified version of the above document.

The text of this document is identical to the previous version.



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COVER NOTE

from: European External Action Service
to: Political and Security Committee
European Union Military Committee

Subject: Military Advice on the Joint Staff Working Document – "Draft EU Gulf of Guinea Action Plan 2015–2020"

Delegations will find attached document EEAS(2015) 164 REV 4.

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EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



**EUROPEAN UNION
MILITARY STAFF**

Brussels, 10 March 2015

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**COPS
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NOTE

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

No. Prev. doc.:

Subject: Military Advice on the Joint Staff Working Document - "Draft EU Gulf of Guinea Action Plan 2015 - 2020"

AO: Cdr Oreste MOLINO Tel. 02-584 9591

Delegations will find attached the Military Advice on the Joint Staff Working Document - "Draft EU Gulf of Guinea Action Plan 2015 - 2020" that was approved by EUMC on the 10 March 2015.

Reference:

- A Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - "Elements for the EU's Strategic Response to the Challenges in the Gulf of Guinea" (ST 18099/13 - JOIN (2013) 31 final dated 18 December 2013)
- B EU Strategy on the Gulf of Guinea, dated 17 March 2014 (ST 7223/14)
- C Joint Staff Working Document - "Draft EU Gulf of Guinea Action Plan (AP) 2015-2020" (ST 5442/15 - SWD (2015) 5 final dated 20 January 2015)
- D EU Maritime Security Strategy, dated 24 June 2014 (ST 11205/14)

A. INTRODUCTION AND AIM

1. On 17 March 2014, the Foreign Affairs Council adopted the EU Strategy on the Gulf of Guinea at Reference B, drawing on the Joint Communication at reference A developed by the EEAS and the Commission. On presentation by the EEAS and the Commission of the Draft AP at reference C, which provides the operational framework for the implementation of the EU Gulf of Guinea (GoG) Strategy, the PSC tasked COAFR, assisted by PMG and CIVCOM as appropriate, to take work forward on the draft Action Plan and invited the EUMC to provide Military Advice.
2. This document provides the Military Advice on the Draft AP with the aim of seeking greater military participation in its development.

B. ADVICE

3. The EUMC welcomes the Draft AP, which provides the operational framework for the implementation of the EU GoG Strategy, its comprehensive approach based on security, governance and development to address the challenges in the GoG either on land or at sea.
4. The EUMC advises the PSC to note that the actions in the AP have no clear delivery horizon, prioritisation, or synchronization and it is not specified who has the leadership of different actions. A better detailed mapping of the EU MS and other lead actors actions in the area should be beneficial in order to avoid overlaps or duplications. The EUMC therefore, further recommends the use of pragmatic SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time bound) goals and actions in annexes 1 and 2 (expected results).
5. The EUMC emphasises the relevance of addressing maritime insecurity in its widest sense taking into account the EU Maritime Security Strategy and its AP, and that the insecurity in the GoG region should be taken into account in conjunction with the EU Strategies in Sahel, Central America and the Caribbean.
6. The EUMC stresses the crucial importance of the synchronisation and coordination of all the actions with other actors in the GoG. It emphasizes the importance of participating in suitable co-ordination instruments including the G7++ Friends of the GoG, which seeks to coordinate

the international community's support to the implementation of the 2013 Yaoundé Code of Conduct. The EEAS and a number of MS are represented in the G7++. In addition a more regular exchange of information with US AFRICOM is essential in order to identify capacity building in the military sector and information sharing gaps or overlaps, and to better coordinate their efforts.

7. The EUMC advises the PSC on the pivotal role to be played by an EU Senior Coordinator in overseeing the implementation of the EU Strategy on the Gulf of Guinea and its Action Plan.¹ In this context, the EUMC deems that the early appointment of a Senior Coordinator could add value to the implementation of the Action Plan.
8. In addition, the added value of any EU MS effort and contribution to deliver on the EU's objectives should be encouraged.
9. The EUMC particularly emphasises the need to support the implementation of the regional maritime security strategy, the establishment of a maritime surveillance architecture, and the need to support local naval and maritime (such as coast guard) forces and other relevant government authorities (such as police, justice, customs etc.) to contain criminal activities at sea. The voluntary coordination of naval presence of EU MS operating under national tasking in the region, particularly on the high seas and without prejudice to national chains of command, could contribute to a more dissuasive effect in the region.
10. The EUMC emphasises the need to assist states in the region to establish coherent legal frameworks, and to support the development of port infrastructures and maritime administrations in the strategic ports of the region.
11. Although the situation in the Horn of Africa (HoA) significantly differs from the GoG, the EUMC stresses the need to draw appropriately from relevant EU experience gained from the HoA and Western Indian Ocean, among others to increase the level of coordination between the EU and EU MS in the region as well as with other international partners.
12. The EUMC advises the PSC to note that an EU Expert is already supporting the Inter-regional Coordination Centre (in Yaoundé, Cameroun). In addition, when deemed necessary, an EUMS Officer, together with other EU or military MS experts, could provide multi-dimensional support in the form of mentoring and advice, to the inter-regional, regional and national coordination centres on a temporary basis.
13. The EUMC notes with great concern the threat of terrorism in the region posed in particular by Boko Haram in Nigeria and advises the PSC on the need to better involve Nigeria in a process of collaborative stability and security, preferably through the Subregional Organisation ECOWAS. The EUMC invites the PSC to note that a military advisor in the EU Delegation to Abuja (Nigeria), and/or in ECOWAS, provided on a voluntary basis by MS,

¹ Working within the extant EU structures in developing the AP, taking into account regional responsibility and ownership, and the capability of neighbouring countries and regional organisations to coordinate their own efforts.

would be desirable.

14. The EUMC considers that CSDP military instruments could have a role to play. Although a CSDP mission/operation in the area is not foreseen at the moment, even if it remains a possibility, MS' military expertise, complementarily with EEAS and the Commission, is an added value in the development of the AP with particular reference to capacity building, the provision of expertise and technical assistance, training, equipping and supporting the planning of maritime exercises in the region.
15. The EUMC underlines that the possible contribution of MS' capabilities in the context of the EU's CSDP such as governmental security services and the military to comprehensive and cross-sectorial engagements in the area of Maritime Security is articulated in the EU Maritime Security Operations (MSO) Concept in accordance with experiences and practices in this field, including in Maritime Security Capacity Building.
16. The EUMC emphasises the engagement with the civilian shipping sector as highlighted in the GoG Strategy.

C. RECOMMENDATION

17. The PSC is invited to agree this advice.

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