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Delegations will find attached the EU Maritime Rapid Response Concept, which was agreed by the EUMC on 15 November 2007.

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EU MARITIME RAPID RESPONSE CONCEPT

References:

- A. EU Military Rapid Response Concept (doc. 5641/1/03 REV 1 dated 16 Sep 03).
- B. Requirement Catalogue 05 (doc. 13732/05 dated 7 Nov 05).
- C. Military Advice for PSC on the RC05 Strategic Planning Assumptions (doc. 13237/05 dated 13 Oct 05).
- D. Report on Rapid Response for MinDef's Informal Meeting on 14-15 Mar 03 (doc. 7289/03 dated 12 Mar 03).
- E. SG/HR report on accelerated decision making and planning process for EU Rapid Response Operations (doc. 7317/05 dated 15 Mar 05).
- F. Military Advice on SG/HR report on accelerated decision making and planning process for EU Rapid Response Operations (doc. 8397/05 dated 25 Apr 05).
- G. EU Battlegroups Concept (doc. 13618/06 dated 5 Oct 06).
- H. General Principles and Procedures for EU Force Identification, Generation/Activation and Deployment (doc. 12398/02 dated 26 Sep 02).
- I. Suggestions for procedures for coherent, comprehensive EU crisis management (doc. 11127/03 dated 3 Jul 03).
- J. EU Military C2 Concept (doc. 11096/03 dated 3 Jul 03).
- K. Headline Goal 2010 (doc. 6309/6/04 REV 6 dated 4 May 04).
- L. EU Framework Nation Concept (doc. 11278/02 dated 25 Jul 02).
- M. EU Maritime Dimension Study (doc. CCD 02-28/03-07 OPS 134/2/06 REV 2 dated 12 December 2006).
- N. Maritime Dimension Study - EU Maritime Forces in a Rapid Response Capacity (doc. CCD 02-28/03-07 OPS 034/2/06 REV 2 dated 12 December 2006).
- O. Terms of Reference and Methodology for a study of the Maritime Dimension in ESDP (doc. 14105/05 dated 8 November 2005).

A. INTRODUCTION

1. In the context of the European Security Strategy (ESS) 2003, Member States (MS) recognised the threats and dangers of the international security environment and acknowledged the crucial role that military assets often play in crisis management. The sea and the EU's extensive littoral region will remain a key dimension in both economic and security terms. Significant threats, increasingly asymmetric in nature, can both emanate in and utilise the maritime domain to impact on the EU and its constituent MSs.
2. Following adoption of the ESS, Member States committed themselves to Headline Goal (HLG) 2010 and the ability to '*respond with rapid and decisive action*'. A key element of this HLG is for the EU to be able to '*deploy force packages at high readiness as a response to a crisis either as a stand-alone force or as part of a larger operation enabling follow-on phases*'. Within the context of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), there may be operational circumstances that require a more rapid response to crisis situations than the envisaged ability, at Corps level, "*..to deploy in full within 60 days..*".
3. Pursuant to the findings of the EU Maritime Dimension Study (MDS)¹, the EUMC at its meeting of 20 December 2006 tasked the EUMS to develop a Maritime Rapid Response Concept.

B. PURPOSE

4. The purpose of this paper is to provide a conceptual basis to better facilitate the rapid generation of EU Maritime assets and capabilities.

C. SCOPE

5. The paper makes a number of assumptions based on the EUMC guidance provided in the MDS Terms of Reference (TOR)² and lays out briefly the rationale for maritime rapid response. It describes the processes and mechanisms necessary to unlock the potential in maritime rapid response and the timely delivery of maritime effects; and defines the principle means for achieving this. The paper concludes by highlighting the key considerations that

¹ Reference M.

² Reference O.

will need to be borne in mind in the implementation of the concept. It is coherent with the work on the Rapid Response Air Initiative and should be seen as complementary to the agreed EU document '*General Principles and Procedures for EU Force identification, Generation/Activation and Deployment*'³.

D. ASSUMPTIONS

6. In considering Maritime Rapid Response, a number of assumptions have been made, namely:
 - a. The HLG 2010 capability development process, including the Requirements Catalogue (RC) 05 and the subsequent Force Catalogue, will provide an initial starting point from which to develop the Maritime Rapid Response Database (MarRRD);
 - b. The Concept is cognisant of the voluntary nature of Member State commitments and should therefore strive to utilise to best effect available resources without increasing the maritime burden on MS;
 - c. This Concept has to be positioned within the wider context of EU concepts and procedures, since they collectively form the basis for the planning and execution of EU-led CMO requiring Rapid Response, including EU Decision-making and Force Generation Processes.
 - d. **DELETED**

E. RATIONALE FOR MARITIME RAPID RESPONSE

7. In an emerging crisis, where timely influence, deterrence, coercion or military intervention may help to prevent deterioration into conflict or mitigate the effects of a disaster, the early presence of a maritime force can be a significant factor in providing the necessary political and/or military leverage.

³ Reference H.

8. The EU Military Rapid Response Concept identifies that an 'Evacuation Operation in a non-permissive environment' (EO) and 'Assistance to Humanitarian Operations' (HA) '*could primarily require a shorter reaction time*'. It also acknowledges that there may be rapid response implications for all other operations, in particular for enabling elements which may need to be deployed as a precursor to the deployment of the main force.
9. **DELETED**
10. In the context of Maritime Rapid Response, the requirement is to be able to generate the necessary capability, from the full maritime capability spectrum, including the necessary C2 arrangements, within the Rapid Response timeframe of 5-30 days, to enable the delivery of the necessary effects in the EU's response to a crisis.

F. PROCESSES AND MECHANISMS

11. The key to unlocking the potential in maritime rapid response and the timely delivery of maritime effects is the flexible utilisation of the necessary Member State capabilities and capacities, and maximising the time available to react, including the early designation of appropriate C2 arrangements based on transparency of available maritime C2 capabilities. The achievement of maritime rapid response will depend heavily on the speed of the Member State procedures, the overall EU decision-making process⁴, and the ability to conduct appropriate advance and parallel planning at all levels will be of paramount importance⁵.

⁴ Reference H, para 15.

⁵ The early designation of the Operation Commander and the Operations Headquarters, have been identified as being of paramount importance in this regard.

12. Maritime Rapid Response Mechanism (MarRRM)⁶. Rapid Response requires assets and capabilities identified within the foreseen MarRRD, as well as appropriate advance planning. This will facilitate a responsive Force Generation Process which offers flexibility in the mission-tailoring of forces and diversity in the delivery of effects by enabling the selection of the most appropriate available assets and capabilities to undertake an assigned mission. **DELETED**. This necessary process will be provided by a MarRRM. A schematic of the foreseen MarRRM in the context of EU force generation is at Annex A.
13. Maritime Rapid Response Database (MarRRD)⁷. The MarRRM will develop a MarRRD to articulate the refinement of the maritime element of the Force Catalogue (FC), including those assets and capabilities which MSs may wish to hold at a higher readiness for a limited and/or specific period of time. The MarRRD will provide clarity of potential availability of assets and capabilities, including the necessary C2 arrangements, from which to support advance and parallel planning at all levels and facilitate earlier and more informed decision making. It will provide an increased level of transparency to support and inform the EUMS in the performance of its preliminary work and facilitate early preparatory consultations with MSs. This preparatory work will form a baseline which can be refined by the Operation Commander during the development of the CONOPS and will provide a basis for the elaboration of the Provisional Statement of Forces Requirement (SOR) by the Operation Commander.

⁶ A Maritime Rapid Response Mechanism provides a list of refined requirements, in terms of declared assets, whose declared readiness and availability has been validated and which can be associated with force generation. Whilst providing greater flexibility, the MarRRM risks not meeting the rapid response timelines if it is not supported by a quick decision-making process by both MS Capitals and the EU bodies.

⁷ It is foreseen that the EUMC would task the EUMS to provide the necessary means to facilitate the establishment and maintenance of the necessary data.

14. The EU does not maintain standing forces or any form of dedicated assets and capabilities⁸. **DELETED**. The MarRRD will also provide the opportunity and flexibility to reflect additional assets and capabilities, held at the appropriate readiness, with a more finite availability timeframe than those derived from the refinement of FC contributions, from those MS who so wish to declare such assets and capabilities to the MarRRD. This could also include assets and capabilities that are deployed nationally 'out of area' that could have utility in meeting ESDP rapid response mission requirements if, on a case by case basis, a MS chose to commit such assets and capabilities⁹.
15. Maritime Rapid Response Information Conference (MarRRIC). In order to support the operational planning process, and the EU Force Generation Process in particular, the MarRRD should be updated regularly to realise to greatest effect the practical utility of the database to the timely generation of maritime assets and capabilities. It is envisaged that this activity should take place at a biannual MarRRIC supported by MS and chaired by the EUMS. The foreseen conference would be an opportunity to manage and refine the content of the database and provide the opportunity to highlight, discuss and resolve any related issues; and should be combined with related activity where possible. The Conference will be prepared on the basis of a questionnaire, in a format derived from the FC, which could also be used by MS to update their refinements in the MarRRD in between conferences and on their own initiative as necessary.
16. The MarRRM in the context of the EU Force Generation Process. In the initial stages of a potential crisis the EUMS would confirm the MarRRD contributions with MS, together with any possible preliminary indications of their intention to commit to a particular crisis situation, together with the position of their potential resources. This process would support the Force Identification Phase of the Force Generation Process and, in the initial stages of a

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⁹

This identification is envisaged to be facilitated in the form of a biannual co-ordination conference. However, additional conferences may be called on an ad-hoc basis should circumstances dictate.

potential crisis, provide the necessary information to underpin the provisional Statement of Forces Requirement (SOR) and initial force balancing, and contribute to the early selection of an appropriate C2 structure.

17. Commensurate with the assumptions above, the provisional SOR could be finalised in parallel with the development of the draft Crisis Management Concept (CMC) / CONOPS and preliminary deployment information¹⁰. Further, it may be necessary to authorise the early deployment of forces and/or HQs prior to the Council decision to launch an operation (OPLAN approval)¹¹. When authorised, and following the formal commitment of MS contributions to the early deployment, the Operation Commander will request MSs to deploy their assets and capabilities to reach the JOA within an agreed timescale. Subject to circumstances, including national caveats, MSs may even consider the early positioning of intended commitments to a particular ESDP operation in order to facilitate a timely deployment; this could be particularly pertinent in the case of a potential Framework Nation¹², or for MSs with assets and capabilities further away from the foreseen JOA.

G. KEY CONSIDERATIONS IN IMPLEMENTATION

18. **DELETED**:

- a. **DELETED**

- b. **DELETED**

¹⁰ References A and E.

¹¹ Reference H, para 16.

¹² Reference E, para 3.a. bullet 4.

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MARITIME RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM SCHEMATIC

