
EURODEFENSE WORKING GROUP
“MILITARY AND NON MILITARY CAPABILITIES FOR COMPLEX OPERATIONS”
PROPOSAL FOR EURHOC

“EUROPEAN HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS CORPS – EURHOC”

“We need to develop a strategic culture that fosters early, rapid and, when necessary, robust intervention. We could add particular value by developing operations involving both military and civilian capabilities.”

(“European Security Strategy”, December 2003)

The EU is firmly engaged in the sectors of civil protection and humanitarian aid, as shown by the recent documents of both Council and Commission, such as the communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, *“Reinforcing EU Disaster and Crisis Response in third countries”*. (Brussels, 20.04.2005).

EU and member countries, having perceived this need, have already established the organizational structures for civil-military coordination, such as the “Civil-Military Planning Cell” and have already defined “ad-hoc” principles and norms for the coordination of military operations and humanitarian missions in support of peace.

For a successful “Civil-Military Coordination” it is essential to foster dialogue and interaction between civilian and military actors in order to establish and achieve a common goal.

The recent series of natural disasters, the threat of international terrorism and the risks inherent in the technological-industrial processes entail a wider, detailed and rapid reactive organization of civil protection, not only at local and national level, but also at international level, as it was amply shown by the EU in its documents after the seaquake in South East Asia.

It is perceived that at supranational level an immediate-reaction capability is needed since experience shows that there is shortage of capabilities able to perform special technical activities in an emergency and within very short periods of time. In other words, there is lack of skilled, coherent and self-sufficient organizations which are required in situations made critical by both the nature and the extent of the damages to be remedied and the conditions and situations in which they have to operate.

Should the EU Political Authorities consider that, in addition to the existing capabilities, a specific body should be established to better ensure the fulfilment of a common mission, that body could be inspired by the following **concept paper**:

EURODEFENSE WORKING GROUP
“MILITARY AND NON MILITARY CAPABILITIES FOR COMPLEX OPERATIONS”
PROPOSAL FOR EURHOC

The solution that the Working Group has submitted for approval to “EuroDefense”, that could be named “*European Humanitarian Operations Corps -EURHOC*” - is designed to close the above mentioned gap and to contribute under various framework conditions such as:

- integrated in or annexed to the CIMIC component of the military force running an operation;
- an autonomous organization that institutionally operates under the co-ordination of the military Commander or the International Organization in charge of the operation;
- an asset available to the Community Civil Protection Mechanism for interventions inside and outside the EU, in countries where there is not a situation of crisis as referred to in the Title V of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), where the competence belongs in the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP);
- an asset of the Community Civil Protection Mechanism when the latter is used in crisis management operations under Title V of the TEU, when member states so decide in the competent bodies of the Council of the European Union;
- an asset available to the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU for ESDP crisis management operations under Title V of the TEU (outside the Community Civil Protection Mechanism).

EURHOC deployment would be part of the “EU Civil-Military Crisis Management”.

The deployment should be based on expert assessment of the needs in the affected area and in coordination with respective Civilian Authorities.

EUROCH would not replace activities primarily within the mandate of civilian humanitarian organizations.

EUROCH would provide, under a complementary concept, capabilities to cover the existing needs which cannot be matched by civilian actors. In situations where the civilian capabilities are not sufficient to meet the needs, EUROCH could be deployed adding additional value to the already existing civilian resources.

EUROCH deployment should be coordinated with other key players (“UN”, “Community Mechanism”, “NATO”, “affected governments”) on strategic and operational level in order to prevent duplication of efforts.

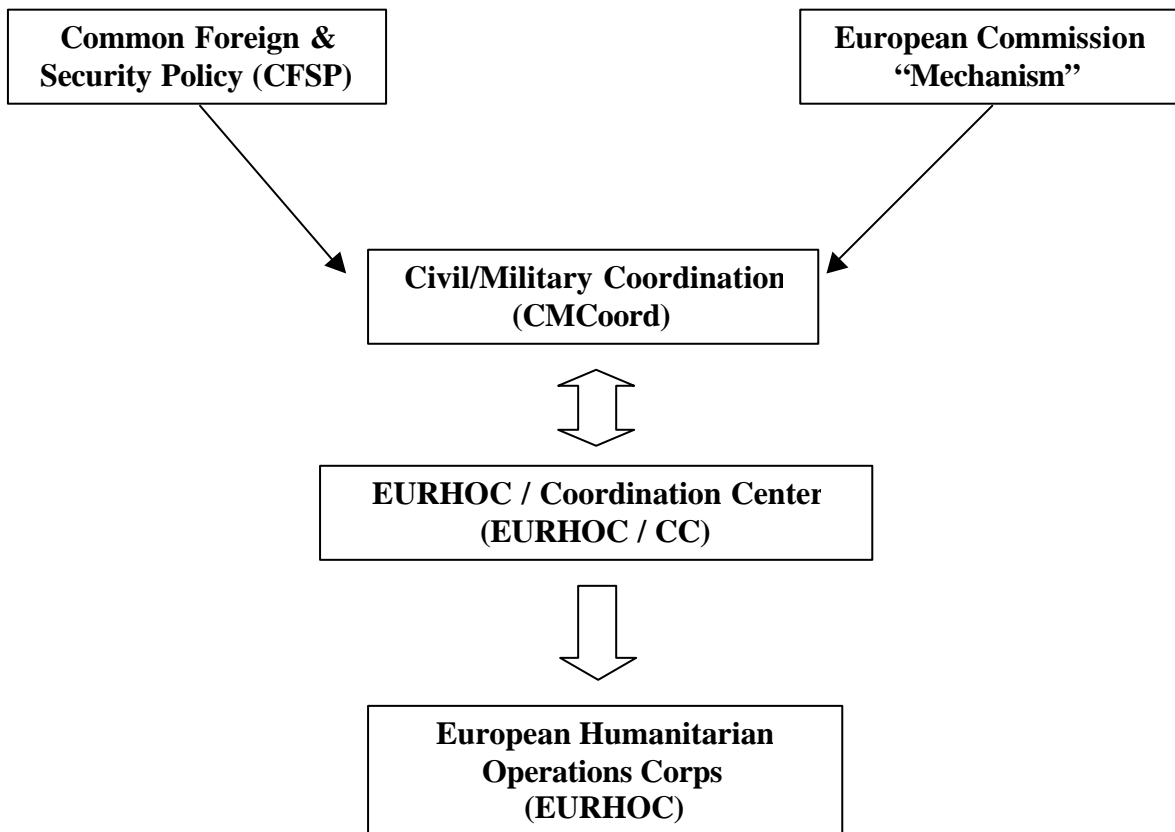
Already existing operating standards and procedures (e.g. “UN MCDA Guidelines for Natural Disaster and Complex Emergencies”, “INSARAG Guidelines”, etc) would be taken into account and existing training opportunities (UN, EU) would be used.

EUROCH would be fully integrated in the **European Union crisis management system**. On the **strategic level** this would be achieved through “**Civil-Military Coordination**” (CMCoord).

EURODEFENSE WORKING GROUP
“MILITARY AND NON MILITARY CAPABILITIES FOR COMPLEX OPERATIONS”
PROPOSAL FOR EURHOC

European Humanitarian Operations Corps (EURHOC)

Integration into the “EU’s Crisis Management System”



The **EUROHOC structure** would include:

- “**EURHOC Coordination Centre**” (EUROHC/CC) as focal contact point, being responsible for planning, mobilization and training standardization;
- “**EUROHC Database of Military and Civil Defence/Protection Assets (MCDA)**” inclusive of national modules and experts, as well as experts capabilities from the private sector.

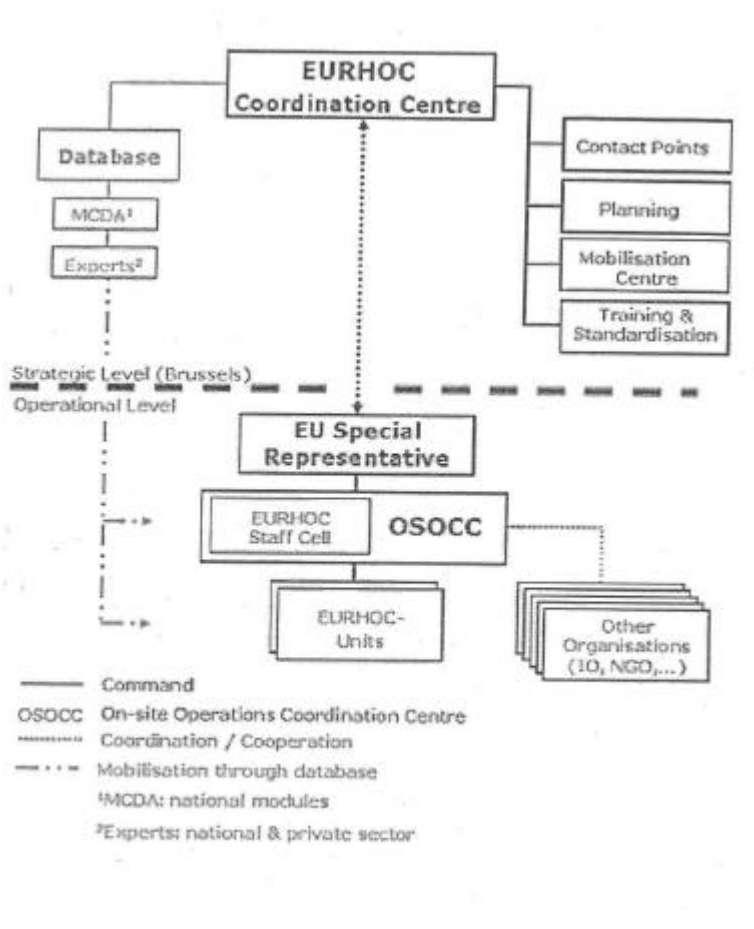
It could take advantage of the “**European Veterans Association**” which represents an already existing network that could provide high standard qualified human resources to fulfil the operational needs.

On the **operational level**:

- **EUROHC Staff cell** (within an “On-site Operations Coordination Centre –OSOOC”) to support EU-Special Representative;
- **Operational Units**

EURODEFENSE WORKING GROUP
‘MILITARY AND NON MILITARY CAPABILITIES FOR COMPLEX OPERATIONS’
PROPOSAL FOR EURHOC

- Logistic Support Elements
- EURHOC – experts.



EURHOC will have:

- expertise in self-protection, civilian reconstruction, transport, air traffic control,
- demining, communications, medical care, NBC, fire control, negotiation, education, training and legal.

EURHOC should carry on multinational training and exercises in order to maximize its readiness for missions in case of emergencies.

There is a number of challenging institutional questions which will need to be addressed. These include the linkage to the civilian capabilities, the headline goal process, the legal framework and the funding issues.

Nevertheless, the added value which EURHOC could provide would make these challenges worth being addressed.

EURODEFENSE WORKING GROUP
“MILITARY AND NON MILITARY CAPABILITIES FOR COMPLEX OPERATIONS”
PROPOSAL FOR EURHOC

Definitions / Glossary

-“**Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC)**” is the coordination and cooperation, in support of the mission, between military components of EU-led “Crisis Management Operations” and civil actors (external to the EU), including national population and local authorities, as well as international, national and non-governmental organizations and agencies.

-“**Civil-Military Coordination (CMCoord)**” is the essential dialogue and interaction between civilian and military actors in humanitarian emergencies, necessary to avoid competition, minimize conflict, and, when appropriate, pursue common goals. The key elements are information sharing, task division, and joint planning. Basic strategies are coexistence or cooperation. It is a shared responsibility, facilitated by liaison and the deployment of “CMCoord” officers.

-“**Community Mechanism**” is the mechanism to facilitate reinforced cooperation in “Civil Protection Assistance Interventions”. The “Mechanism” (introduced by the Council Decision of 23rd October 2001; 2001/792/EC, Euratom) is intended to provide, on request, support in the event of major emergencies which may require urgent response action. It aims at facilitating the mobilization and the coordination of intervention teams, experts and other resources through a reinforced “Community civil protection structure” consisting of a “Monitoring & Information Center (MIC)”, a common emergency “communication and information system (CECIS)”, a database of teams and experts and a standardized training system.

-“**Complex Emergency Assistance**” concerns a humanitarian crisis in a country, region or society where there is a total or considerable breakdown of authority resulting from internal or external conflict and which requires an international response that goes beyond the mandate or capacity of any single agency and/or the ongoing UN country programme.

-“**Coordination**” is a process through which actors involved in humanitarian assistance response as a result of emergencies, work together in a logical and concerted effort towards an agreed common end and in order to ensure maximum efficiency with the resources available.

-“**Humanitarian Assistance**” is the assistance that is willingly given, without requiring reciprocal financial or political gain, for the purpose of alleviating human suffering.

-“**Military and Civil Defence Assets (MCDA)**” comprise personnel, equipment, supplies and services provided by military and/or civil defence organizations.