

SCHEDA

EUROGENDFOR (EGF)

1. SITUATION

Among the instruments available to International Organizations for crisis management, *The European Gendarmerie* (EGF) has proven to play a prominent role in intervention, able to operate effectively even in highly unstable situations.

The idea of creating a structure made up of military police forces to intervene in crisis areas, under the egis of NATO, UN and EU or other coalitions *ad hoc*, was launched during an informal meeting of the Ministers of Defense from the EU, held in Rome October 8, 2003. della Difesa dell'UE, tenutasi a Roma l'8 ottobre 2003.

On that occasion the Ministers of Defense of France and Italy (M.me Françoise ALLIOT MARIE and l'On. Prof. Antonio MARTINO) came together about the necessity of an instrument able to be a part of a specific segmento of the *Peace Support Operations* (PSO), to carry out the activity of the police, as a substitute for or as support to the local police, collapsed or able to only do their duty partially.

It came about through a **technical table** for the arrangement agreed upon between the representatives of the Military Police Forces of the European Union¹ for a Declaration of Intent signed **September 17, 2004 in Noordwijk (the Netherlands)** on the side of an informal meeting of the EU Defense Ministers.

The above mentioned *Declaration* was then contained in an International treaty, **October 18 2007 in the Netherlands** and is still subject to parliamentary ratification² process.

In particular, the General Staff (SM) of EGF foresee a **total of 36 positions, equally distributed among the Carabinieri Force, French National Gendarmerie, Spanish Civil Guard, Portuguese Republican National Guard** which currently cover the charge of Command of the *Permanent Headquarter* (PHQ) in Virena , the *Dutch Marechaussée and the Romanian Gendarmerie* (a member of EGF since December 2008).

The aforementioned PHQ of the EGF, is located in the "Chinotto" Barracks, where the Center for Excellence for *Stability Police Units* (CoESPU) is also situated, is the proposed seat for the Deputy Command for the planning of future Policing operations. This solution, among other things, allows for the ability to act as the Headquarters in the conduct phase outside the Theater with the capacity to interface with the political authority responsible for the mission as well as direct and control the operations on the ground.

The EGF can be, due to the flexibility of its structure, positioned for the availability of a military or civilian Authority indifferently.

The presidency of CIMIN (the *High Interministerial Committee/ Comitato Interministeriale di Alto Livello*), the organ dedicated to the political-military coordination of the EGF, has been held by Italy for all of 2010. Spain has taken over from Italy in 2011.

The growing interest for the newly constituted Force has been accompanied by the request from **Romania, Turkey, Poland and Lithuania** to join the EGF respectively as members, observers and partners.

The evaluation of opening to new countries depends on the possession of a **tecnica prerequisite - being a military police force** - and a **political prerequisite - being a member country or a candidate for entry in the European Union.essere Paese membro ovvero candidato all'ingresso nell'Unione Europea.**

¹ The Italian Carabinieri, The French National Gendarmerie, the Spanish Civil Guard, the Portuguese Republican National Guard (GNR) and the Dutch Marechaussée.

² Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Portugal have already completed the Treaty ratification process. Only France has yet to complete the procedure.

The visits of recognition to the cited countries has allowed for the recognition of **Romania** (*Romanian Gendarmerie*) the status of effective³ **member** equal to Italy, France, Spain, Portugal and the Netherlands; the status of **observer** to **Turkey** (*Gendarmerie*), and for **Poland** (*Polish Military Gendarmeria*) and **Lithuania** (*Public Security Service*) that of **partner**.

2. OPERATIVE DEPLOYMENT

For that which concerns **the first operative deployment of the EGF**, CIMIN⁴ decided on the participation in the military operation "EUFOR ALTHEA" in Bosnia Herzegovina in the role of the Integrated Police Unit (*IPU*) already in Sarajevo. The operative deployment of the EGF was concluded on October 31, 2010

The Italian Carabinieri, was the major contributor also in logistic support making the Butmir 2 base available.

Since December 8, 2009 EGF has also been officially deployed to Afghanistan, within the ISAF mission and the *NATO Training Mission - Afghanistan*, (*NTM-A*) for the formation, training and *mentoring* of the Afghan Police Force.

February 8, 2010 CIMIN has also approved the involvement of EGF in the MINUSTAH mission in Haiti, where they operated with an Italian *Formed Police Unit (FPU)* (of 120 Carabinieri), one French (of 147 Gendarmes) and one Spanish *Special Weapons And Tactics (SWAT) Platoon* (23 u. Civil Guard). The mission ended December 31, 2010.

³ Riunione CIMIN del 18 dicembre 2008

⁴ 19 luglio 2007