



**« The European Union and the Comprehensive Approach:
The case of crises in Africa »
9 July 2015, Egmont Palace, Brussels**

Africa appears as a continent of contrasts: while some countries experience high levels of growth, other regions are torn up by crises, in which the African Union and sub-regional organisations are increasingly trying to play a mediation and stabilisation role, by strengthening their political and military instruments.

The complex causes of these crises, their often hybrid nature and the interconnections between security and development dynamics requires the adoption of an approach involving all participants, taking into account all facets of the crises and armed conflicts.

The European Union, through its different components and tools, is able to mobilise all its crisis management capabilities in a consistent and complementary way. The Comprehensive Approach was adopted as a guiding principle of the EU's foreign policy by the European Council in December 2013. The EU concept is thus moving closer to the Integrated Approach of the United Nations, which covers every sector connected to security, stabilisation, reconstruction, governance and development. As a result, the EU is implementing its economic, political and sometimes military instruments in a combined fashion, both in the Horn of Africa and in the Sahel region.

However, to what extent does the EU's proposed Comprehensive Approach in Africa constitute a truly operative course of action, as its implementation proves complex due to the multiplicity of challenges, players and interests involved? And are the EU's current instruments adapted to the task at hand?

This seminar aims to analyse the EU's Comprehensive Approach in light of its actions in the Horn of Africa (1st panel) and the Sahel (2nd panel), in order to make an evaluation of its current record and assess its future prospects (3rd panel).

The seminar is co-organised by the Institut des Hautes Études de Défense Nationale (IHEDN) and Egmont – the Royal Institute for International Relations - with the kind support of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC).

Participation on invitation only – Working languages are English and French, with simultaneous translation



PROGRAMME

09.00–09.30 Registration and coffee

09.30–09.40 **Welcome address/Introduction**

Lieutenant General Bernard de Courrèges d'Ustou, Director IHEDN
Ambassador Marc Otte, Director Egmont Institute

09.40–11.10 **Panel 1: the Comprehensive Approach and the Horn of Africa**

The Horn of Africa has experienced, since the early 1990s, a succession of internally-driven crises which have been exacerbated by regional tensions and external interventions under the guise of the 'Global War on Terror'. Alongside the UN and the African Union, the EU in the summer of 2012 created the civilian mission reinforced with military expertise, EUCAP NESTOR, in the framework of the CSDP. Very illustrative of the Comprehensive Approach concept, this mission highlights the necessary combination of both civilian and military instruments in order to combat piracy while also contributing the implementation of the required judicial instruments. It complements the ATLANTA naval operation, the training mission of the Somali security forces and other programs undertaken in the region. Which evaluation can be made of this mission after three years and which parameters have to be put forward to develop the tools most adapted to regional specificities ?

Chair: Prof. Alexander Mattelaer, Deputy Director of the Institute for European Studies, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)

Speakers:

- Lieutenant Colonel Jean Philippe Scherer , Chief of CSDP Missions & Operations Branch, (EUMS-OPCEN)
- Mrs. Sonia le Gouriellec, Research fellow, Institute for Strategic Research, Ecole Militaire (IRSEM)
- Captain (Navy) Jan De Beurme, Operations & Training, Belgian Defence

11.00–11.40 Coffee break

11.40–13.10 **Panel 2 : the Comprehensive Approach and the Sahel**

Diverse regional and international actors have been involved for several years in trying to resolve the multidimensional crises affecting the Sahel region - which combine economic, political and most recently religious dimensions – as illustrated by the military intervention launched in early 2013 in response to armed offensives launched by separatist and jihadist groups in Mali. The 'European Strategy for Security and Development in the Sahel', initially focused on three countries (Mauritania, Mali, and Niger), is also strongly framed by the internal situation in countries located in the Sahel's immediate neighborhood. Which lessons can be drawn from the EU civil and military operations undertaken in the region under the Comprehensive Approach ?

Chair: Ambassador Nicolas Normand, Deputy Director, Head of the Department International Activities, Diplomatic Advisor, IHEDN

Speakers:

- General Marc Rudkiewicz, Commander of the French German Brigade, former Commander EUTM Mali (2014)
- Ambassador Daniel Bertrand, Coordinator Sahel, Africa Division and Policy Planning Unit of the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mrs. Béangère Rouppert, PhD Student at Université d'Auvergne Clermont 1

13.10–14.10 Walking lunch

14.10–16.00 **Panel 3: Forward-looking reflection on the EU's action regarding the Comprehensive Approach**

Through the Comprehensive Approach concept the EU provides a wide spectrum of capabilities and instruments. Due to its complementarity alongside the CSDP, this concept offers concrete options for resolving crisis like those discussed in the previous panels. This comprehensive strategy, which offers prospects for more coherence and efficiency, has had some successes but its implementation still faces several challenges. Which lessons can be learned from the actions that have been undertaken so far and what recommendations can be made for the future?

Chair: M. Nicolas Gros-Verheyde, Editor B2-Bruxelles2 and correspondent for the newspaper Ouest France to EU and NATO

Speakers:

- Ambassador Michel Reveyard de Menthon, Special Representative of the European Union for the Sahel, EEAS
- Major General Maurice de Langlois, Director European and Transatlantic Security, IRSEM
- M. Dick Zandee, Senior Research Fellow, Clingendael Institute
- Ambassador Koen Vervaeke, Director Horn of Africa/East and Southern Africa/Indian Ocean, EEAS

16.00–16.15 **Conclusion**

Ambassador Marc Otte, Director Egmont Institute

Lieutenant General Bernard de Courrèges d'Ustou, Director IHEDN