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# ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

## A delegation of the Ministry of National Defence participates in the Annual South-Eastern Defence Ministerial

### Special points of interests:

- A delegation of the Ministry of National Defence participates in the Annual South-Eastern Defence Ministerial
- State Secretary Sebastian Huluban participated in the Informal Meeting of EU Ministers of Defence, held at Nicosia, Cyprus
- Lieutenant General Valeriu Nicut met with the Deputy Commander of EUNAVFOR
- The Chief of General staff's visit to Alabama, USA

A delegation of the Ministry of National Defence headed by Minister Corneliu Dobritoiu, participates, between 2 to 4 October, in the South-Eastern Defence Ministerial (SEDM), organized in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The reunion agenda includes topics regarding SEDM projects, activities of the Political-Military Steering Committee (PMSC) and SEDM-CC (South-Eastern Defence Ministerial Coordination Committee) for this year. An analysis will be made of the state of play of the SEDM strategic review and the activities conducted by the Multinational Peace Force of South Eastern Europe since the last defence ministerial.

The following nations are part of this initiative: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYROM, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, Romania, Slovenia, the USA, Turkey and Ukraine, while Georgia and the Republic of Moldova are observers.

From 2013 to 2015, Romania will take over the chairmanship of the Political Military Steering Committee of the Multinational Peace Force of South Eastern Europe (PMSC/MPFSEE) and of the South-Eastern Defence Ministerial Coordination Committee (SEDM-CC), for the second time after the mandate of 2001-2003.

### State Secretary Sebastian Huluban participated in the Informal Meeting of EU Ministers of Defence, held at Nicosia, Cyprus

State Secretary for Defence Policy and Planning Sebastian Huluban participated on 26 and 27 September in the Informal Meeting of EU Ministers of Defence, held at Nicosia, Cyprus.

The Cypriot Defence Minister, Mr. Demetris Eliades chaired the meeting that represented an important step forward in preparing the formal meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council (19 November, Brussels) that reunited the EU defence ministers.

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The Informal Meeting of EU Ministers of Defence in Cyprus

The Informal EU Defence Ministers meeting in Nicosia focused on the recent developments in the Southern neighbourhood of the EU, mainly the security developments of the area, including Libya and the Sahel (Mali), as well as those in the Mediterranean basin. Discussions also focused on the current CSDP operations and missions, including those in the Horn of Africa (counter-piracy mission, EUNAVFOR ATALANTA, EUTM Somalia and EUCAP – NESTOR) and operation EUFOR ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Defence Ministers also discussed the development of EU military capabilities, primarily through pooling and sharing, the as well as the consolidation of the rapid reaction capacity through the EU Battlegroups.

### **Lieutenant General Valeriu Nicu met with the Deputy Commander of EUNAVFOR**

Lieutenant General Valeriu Nicu, deputy chief of General Staff for operations and training, met with Rear Admiral Gualtiero Mattesi, Deputy Operation Commander, Operation Atalanta EU NAVAL FORCES, at the ministry of national defence headquarters, on Tuesday, 25 September, during the latter's visit in Romania.

Romanian military's participation in NATO and EU-led missions and operations and the first time involvement of the Romanian Navy in Operation Atalanta were the main topics approached by the two officials.

Lieutenant General Valeriu Nicu pointed out that participating in EU counter-piracy mission in Gulf of Aden with „Regele Ferdinand“ frigate is a first for the Romanian Armed Forces and shows the commitment of our country to be up to its commitments as an EU member in deterring piracy and protecting international navigation.

Rear Admiral Gualtiero Mattesi thanked the Romanian part for contributing to Operation Atalanta and voiced the hope that the joint efforts of the EU member countries would make the Gulf of Aden a safer and more stable area.

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Photo from the meeting

The Deputy Chief of General Staff for operations and training informed Rear Admiral Mattesi that „Regele Ferdinand“ frigate was marching to the area of operations so that starting with 1 October it would join the forces in the Gulf of Aden.

„Regele Ferdinand“ frigate with a crew of 236 and a PUMA helicopter has been sailing to the Gulf of Aden since 12 September. The Romanian ship will operate within Operation Atalanta during October and November 2012.

### The Chief of General staff's visit to Alabama, USA

The Chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Stefan Danila, made an official visit in the State of Alabama, USA, from 18 to 23 September.

During the visit, the Chief of the General Staff had talks with Major General Perry Smith, Commander of the Alabama Army and Air National Guard, on the cooperation between the Romanian Armed Forces and the Alabama National Guard and ways of furthering it.

Lieutenant General Stefan Danila also met with Alabama Governor, Robert Bentley, with whom he discussed bilateral military cooperation and the ways of extending this partnership to other fields of activity.

The Romanian delegation visited two air bases and the Training Center of the Alabama Air National Guard.

Alabama Air National Guard is the US military component designated as a partner for the Romanian Armed Forces within „State Partnership Program“. The relations between the two institutions date back to 1994.

Visit at the headquarters of the  
Alabama Air National Guard