



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

25 September 2014

Dear Madam President,

Pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006), 1785 (2007), 1845 (2008), 1895 (2009), 1948 (2010), 2019 (2011), 2074 (2012) and 2123 (2013), I have the honour to convey the attached letter dated 11 September 2014, which I received from Her Excellency Ms. Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, transmitting the thirty-eighth report on the activities of the European Union Military Operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The report covers the period from 1 March to 31 May 2014.

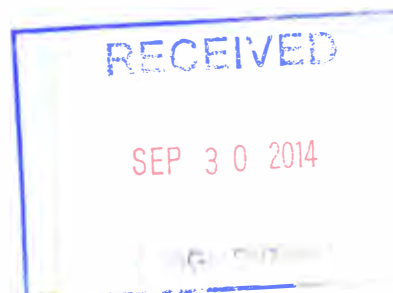
I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

Please accept, Madam President, the assurances of my highest consideration.


BAN/Ki-moon

Her Excellency
Ms. Samantha Power
President of the Security Council
New York

14-08727 POL/06/001 POL/04/001



ACTION

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

(Del. Can. Log:
14-08462)

Note to the Deputy Secretary-General

✓ BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – EUFOR

Please find attached, for the Secretary-General's approval and signature, a draft letter to the President of the Security Council transmitting the thirty-eighth quarterly report on the activities of the EU Military Operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR), covering the period from 1 March 2014 to 31 May 2014.



Jeffrey Feltman
22 September 2014

POL/06/001;
POL/04/001

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CATHERINE ASHTON

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

FOR POLICY OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Brussels, 11 SEP. 2014
A(2014)3199333

H.E. Mr Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations

Dear Secretary-General,

In accordance with UNSCR 1575 (2004), UNSCR 1639 (2005), UNSCR 1722 (2006), UNSCR 1785 (2007), UNSCR 1845 (2008), UNSCR 1895 (2009), UNSCR 1948 (2010), UNSCR 2019 (2011), UNSCR 2074 (2012) and UNSCR 2123 (2013), please find enclosed the thirty eighth three-monthly report on Operation ALTHEA to the United Nations Security Council.

Yours sincerely,



Catherine Ashton

EXR/121003

OPERATION ALTHEA – 38th QUARTERLY REPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Report by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on the activities of the European Union Military Operation (EUFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This report covers the period from 1 March to 31 May 2014.
2. United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006), 1785 (2007), 1845 (2008), 1895 (2009), 1948 (2010), 2019 (2011), 2074 (2012) and 2123 (2013) request that Member States, acting through or in cooperation with the EU, report to the Council on the activities of EUFOR at least at three monthly intervals. This is the thirty eighth such report.

II. POLITICAL BACKGROUND

3. The reporting period was marked by extensive floods mid-May 2014, which caused one of the largest-ever natural disasters on record in BiH and in the region. In BiH close to 1 million people were affected. BiH Armed Forces (AFBiH) participated in a strong effort undertaken by the civilian authorities in response to the humanitarian crisis. The EUFOR/ALTHEA supported BiH authorities in filling a critical gap during the life saving phase. The EU and its Member States as well as other international partners, like the World Bank and the IMF are in the lead in terms of providing assistance during the recovery. The disastrous floods further exacerbated the country's socio-economic challenges, while also showing encouraging signs of solidarity among the population.
4. General elections in BiH will take place on 12 October 2014. The ethnocentric politics and narrow party interests continued to dominate the political agenda. Election-related political calculations exacerbated the use of inflammatory and divisive political rhetoric.

5. Following the HR/VP visit to BiH on 11 March 2014, the Council in April adopted the conclusions supporting a broad EU engagement with the country and urging BiH authorities to respond to the needs of the citizens. Additionally, the Council endorsed the initiatives to improve economic governance, strengthen competitiveness, stimulate economic growth, address rule of law issues, and accelerate implementation of EU-funded projects.
6. In order to tackle the BiH's socio-economic needs that sparked the February riots, the EU, together with international partners and participating International Financial Institutions on 26/27 May 2014 organised the "Forum on Jobs and Prosperity". The Forum allowed for an in-depth discussion about the necessary socio-economic reforms and launched the process to formulate the "Compact for Growth", a package of key economic reforms for the country. It is of great importance that BiH leaders and institutions support and vigorously implement the outlined agenda,
7. The comprehensive approach, promoted by increased cooperation between EUSR and Operation Althea has proven, once more during the humanitarian crisis, its value added both in terms of increased effectiveness of EU reaction and demonstrated commitment to BiH.

III. SECURITY SITUATION & EUFOR ACTIVITIES

8. The overall security situation has remained calm and stable during the reporting period. Due to the flooding, the socio-economic situation significantly deteriorated, with which the BiH authorities have to deal.
9. Since the February riots, efforts to improve coordination with Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) have continued; indeed, the authorities have identified and openly admitted the need to improve communication, cooperation and coordination among all police bodies.
10. Operation ALTHEA continued its main effort in Capacity-Building and Training while retaining the means to support the BiH authorities' efforts in maintaining the Safe and Secure Environment (SASE) as "second responder".

11. The required four home-based companies as Intermediate Reserves (IR) were available throughout the period. From 1st May 2014, Slovakia also contributed an IR company. Therefore, EUFOR now has five IR Companies available until end of 2014, during the election period.
12. The Over the Horizon Reserve Force (ORF), comprising one Italian infantry battalion, reduced its readiness from 14 to 7 days Mission Ready in Theatre (MRT) until the end of the year to cover the elections in BiH. There is no Strategic Reserve Force (SRF) identified.
13. During the floods in BiH, EUFOR has provided substantial assistance to BiH's authorities by conducting over 300 Air evacuation flights in order to rescue over one thousand persons in immediate danger caused by floods, and delivering tons of essential supplies. There have also been over 30 EUFOR truck convoys delivering water, food, blankets, clothes, shelter, generators and so on to assist people in flooded areas.
14. Floods and landslides have displaced mines and also warning signs, which will pose an increasing risk to assistance personnel as well as the local population. EUFOR and BiH Mine Action Centre are currently working to identify areas of displaced mines.

IV. OUTLOOK

15. Work is ongoing to assess how much the safety conditions of the Weapons and Ammunitions Storage Sites (WSS, ASS) may have been affected by the flooding and to re-map the now potentially mine-contaminated areas where they had previously been cleared.
16. The overall security situation has remained calm and stable. Concerns exist that the socio-economic environment continues to remain a serious problem, in particular the possible perception that disaster relief actions do not reach the affected population equally. This may have the potential to lead to situations which could threaten the Safe and Secure Environment.
17. Given the election-related exacerbated use of inflammatory and divisive political rhetoric, as also seen in previous election periods, a close link between EUFOR and the BiH LEAs, particularly around the forthcoming election and during the government

formation period, will be crucial to ~~assure~~ an adequate situational awareness and responsiveness.



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Ambassador, Head of Delegation

Ref Ares(2014)3037178 - 17K 9/2014

New York, 11 September 2014

Subject: Transmission

Excellency,

Please find attached a letter and attachment addressed to H.E. the Secretary-General of the United Nations from High Representative/Vice-President Catherine Ashton, transmitting the 38th Report on Operation ALTHEA.

I would be grateful if you could relay these documents to the Secretary-General.

Thomas Mayr-Harting
Ambassador

Ms. Susana Malcorra
Under-Secretary-General, **Chef** de Cabinet
UN – Room S-3821