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# ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

**The Chief of the Romanian General Staff Met with the Chairman  
of the European Union Military Committee**

## Special points of interests:

- The Chief of the Romanian General Staff Met with the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee
- General Mikhail Kostarakos and minister Gabriel Leș discussed about the EU Global Strategy on defence and security
- The F-18 Canadian aircraft will be deployed in Romania in the second part of this year
- The Dutch offered support to rendering operational the multinational brigade from Craiova
- Exercise PLATINUM EAGLE-17.1
- The Chief of the Romanian General Staff Met USSOCOM Commander



General Nicolae Ciucă, the Chief of General Staff and General Mikhail Kostarakos, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee

The Chief of General Staff, General Nicolae Ciucă, and a group of experts had a second meeting with General Mikhail Kostarakos, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee, on Friday, March 3, during the latter's official visit in Romania.

The agenda included talks on the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and the nations' contributions to ongoing projects. They also analyzed the participation of the Romanian military in EU and NATO missions under CSDP aegis and in the battle groups, as well as the developments of the security situation in Eastern Europe. Our country's political and military intentions and priorities were presented in the

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perspective of taking over the rotational presidency of the European Union Council in the first semester of 2019.

“We discussed topics high on EU agenda, mainly the ones related to the Common Security and Defence Policy. Last but not least we talked of the challenge of the presidency of the EU Council in the first semester of 2019, at a time of high effervescence at European level” General Ciucă said.

In turn, General Kostarakos said that “through the Common Security and Defence Policy the European Union, member and partner states have a strong role to play, that should be based on the security and development connection” and spoke highly of the Romanian military involvement in the CSDP missions and operations.

The first meeting between the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee with the chief of General Staff, General Nicolae Ciucă took place on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The two officials discussed topics related to the Common Security and Defence Policy and the way nations participate in the projects under way at the level of EU.

The visit of the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee in Romania was meant to enhance the visibility of CSDP activities and their impact, as an illustration of EU operational commitment to promote and maintain a peace and stability environment, at European and global level.

### **General Mikhail Kostarakos and minister Gabriel Leș discussed about the EU Global Strategy on defence and security**

The Minister of National Defence, Gabriel Leș, had a meeting with General Mikhail Kostarakos, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), at the defence ministry, on Thursday, March 2, during the latter’s visit in Romania, at the invitation of General Nicolae Ciucă, the chief of General Staff.

The talks focused on the Implementation Plan of the EU Global Strategy on defence and security, especially the current issues high on the EU agenda – Permanent Structured Cooperation, the permanent command and planning structure, the coordinated annual review of the defence.

Minister Gabriel Leș presented the defence priorities of the government and stressed the importance, in the complex current security environment and the existing threats in the region, of the modernization of the defence capabilities both in national context and through multinational mechanisms made available by the EU and NATO.

The defence minister pointed out the necessity that the EU should enhance its role as a security provider and expressed Romania’s political and operational support for this ambitious endeavour of the Union. This should be achieved through a realistic implementation of the defence priorities identified in the Strategy,



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in agreement with the conclusions of the Foreign Affairs Council of November 2016 and of the European Council of December last year on defence and security.

### **The F-18 Canadian aircraft will be deployed in Romania in the second part of this year**

On Wednesday, March 1, the Minister of National Defence, Gabriel Leş, had a meeting with the ambassador of Canada to Bucharest, H.E. Kevin Hamilton, at the latter's request. During this first meeting, the two officials discussed topics related to the developments in the regional and international security environment, at bilateral level and within the Alliance.

The defence minister thanked for Canada's solid involvement in the implementation of the reassurance measures and the achievement of NATO forward presence on the entire eastern flank of the Alliance. He made a special note of the contribution with staff personnel to rendering operational the multinational brigade in Romania and the consistent presence of the Canadian troops to the exercises conducted in Romania, at the three operational levels, air, land and maritime.

A special mention was made of the F-18 aircraft deployed in Romania, in the previous years and on the second part of this year, with a view to participating in Air Policing missions and other common training with the Romanian Air Force.

The Romanian minister thanked the authorities in Ottawa for inviting Romania at the 2017 edition of the INVICTUS Paralympics Games that will take place in Toronto, in the fall of this year.

The two officials discussed aspects of the military procurement in the two countries and the implication in the allied processes of developing military capabilities, in terms of the 2 percent of the GDP allotted to defence.



Official talks between minister Gabriel Leş and the ambassador of Canada to Bucharest, H.E. Kevin Hamilton

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Ambassador Hamilton reiterated the commitment of the Canadian authorities to consolidate bilateral defence cooperation and forwarded the invitation of defence minister Harjit Singh Sajjan to his Romanian counterpart, to make an official visit in Canada this year.

### **The Dutch offered support to rendering operational the multinational brigade from Craiova**

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The Minister of National Defence, Gabriel Leș, received the Ambassador of the Netherlands Stella Ronner-Grubačić at the defence ministry, on Tuesday , February 28.

This is one of a series of meetings planned after taking over the mandate of defence minister that was a good opportunity to take further the dialogue on topics of mutual interest which include mainly bilateral defence cooperation and the cooperation within NATO and EU.

Minister Gabriel Leș emphasized the importance and the upward trend of defence cooperation and thanked for the Dutch contribution to achieving NATO forward presence in Romania and made note of the support given to rendering operational the multinational brigade in Craiova.

They also discussed the need to consolidate the cooperation in specific fields for both armed forces, such as increasing interoperability within NATO and possible ways of enhancing technical and military cooperation.

The Dutch official was interested in enhancing the strategic dialogue on current topics concerning security, also involving civil society and the business environment of the two countries for the harmonization of the positions within NATO and the EU, as well as the defence and deterrence posture of the Alliance in implementing EU Global Strategy in security and defence.

### **Exercise PLATINUM EAGLE-17.1**

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Through February 28-march 1, the Secondary Center for Combat Training „Smârdan”, Galați County, hosted Exercise „Platinum Eagle 17.1” , as part of Black Sea Rotational Force 17 Exercise (BSRF 17).

The main goal of „Platinum Eagle 17.1” was to train jointly, in a unitary way, the participating units, in order to maintain the operational capacity and increasing interoperability, by exercising command and control procedures and shooting exercises.

The Black Sea Rotational Force 17 is an annual drill led by US Marine Forces Command deployed in Europe and Africa, being held in the Black Sea, in the Balkans and the Caucasus region. It is meant to increase the level of interoperability by training soldiers jointly for the participation in peacekeeping and counter-insurgency operations.

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„Platinum Eagle 17.1” brought together 500 troops from Bulgaria, Montenegro, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, the USA and Ukraine.

The Romanian Armed Forces were represented by 100 soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Battalion „Călugăreni”, the 1st „Argedava” Mechanized Brigade, 15 JTAC (air controllers for heading positions) and 30 Navy soldiers of the 307th Infantry Marines Battalion.



Exercise „Platinum Eagle 17.1”

### **The Chief of the Romanian General Staff Met USSOCOM Commander**

General Nicolae Ciucă, chief of the General Staff, had a meeting with General Raymond Thomas, Commander USSOCOM, during his visit in the USA, over February 19 to 25.

The two officials’ main topics of discussion were increasing interoperability and integrating the two countries’ conventional and special forces into the modern combat space. During the meeting they discussed about the missions conducted as part of the efforts to stabilize Afghanistan, to develop the specific capabilities of the special operations forces, to identify new means of increasing interoperability and the participation in common training activities of Romanian and American forces.

The chief of the General Staff expressed his appreciation for the support and cooperation of the US Special Forces with the Special Operations Forces of the Romanian Armed Forces, in the context of the reassuring measures established at Alliance level, especially within the set of exercises “ENDURING JCET” and Operation “ATLANTIC RESOLVE”.

The results of the security assistance programs in the area of special operation forces were presented and the role and contribution of these programs to the development of the Romanian-American relations.

During the visit, General Ciucă met with the Romanian staff personnel that works within the central command and the US special operations command, USCENTCOM (the US Central Command) and USSOCOM (the US Special Operations Command) respectively.