

Hellenic Presidency of the Council of the EU

Visit of the Political and Security Committee and the Nicolaidis Group to Greece, 4-6 June 2014

Visit to the Special Forces Training Centre, the EU EL Operation Headquarters and the Hellenic Tactical Air Force Headquarters, 5 June 14.

In the wider context of the activities of the Hellenic Presidency of the Council of the EU during the 1st Semester of 2014, and the scheduled visit of the Political and Security Committee (PSC) and the Nicolaidis Group in Greece (4-6 June 2014), Members States Delegates and the Chief Executive of the European Defence Agency, also visited on the 5th of June 2014, the Special Forces Training Centre in Nea Peramos near Athens, and the Hellenic EU Operation Headquarters and the Hellenic Tactical Air Force Headquarters in Larissa, Central Greece.

At the Special Forces Training Centre, units of the Special Forces impressively demonstrated part of their training activities, with a purpose, Member States Ambassadors and the Nicolaidis Groups diplomats, to acquire a better view and understanding of the specialized capabilities and abilities of the Hellenic Special Forces.

In Larissa,

During the visit of the EU Member States Delegates to the Hellenic EU Operation Headquarters, the Operational Commander of EUFOR CAR, French General Philippe Ponties, provided a useful and comprehensive briefing on the operational functions of the EL EU OHQ and on the planning, preparing and leading the EU troops in Central Africa Republic. The Chairman of the PSC, Ambassador Walter Stevens and the Chief Executive of the European Defence Agency, Mrs *Claude-France Arnould*, expressed their satisfaction and appreciation for the excellent work done until now by the OHQ, both for the successful and effective planning of the Operation and the preparation, launching and control of EUFOR CAR.

The PSC, the Chief Executive of the European Defence Agency and the Nicolaidis Group, accompanied by representatives of the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs and the Hellenic National Defence General Staff, finally visited the Hellenic Tactical Air Force Headquarters. The Chief of the Hellenic Tactical Air Force, Major General Christos Vaitsis, welcomed all distinguished guests. During a comprehensive presentation, Member States Delegates were briefed on the mandate, structure, activities and areas of concern of the Tactical Air Force. All visitors demonstrated their high interest on the mission of the Hellenic Air Force.