



**General Mikhail Kostarakos**  
Chairman of the European Union  
Military Committee

**Keynote Speech**

**The implementation of the EU Global Strategy – new  
common capabilities as a major goal**

Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017, 16:50 – 17:10 h

General Mikhail Kostarakos assumed his duties on 06 November 2015. The EU Foreign Affairs Council, based on the proposal of the EU Military Committee at the CHODs level, appointed him on 15 December 2014, as the next Chairman of the Military Committee. He was born in Thessaloniki in February 1956. He graduated from the Experimental School of the University of Thessaloniki. He was admitted to the Hellenic Military Academy (Evelpidon) in 1974, graduated in 1978 and was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the Artillery.

He has successfully graduated from:

- All Basic and Advanced Field Artillery training courses and the Joint Air Defence course,
- The “HAWK” missile air defence system courses in Greece and in the USA (Fort Bliss, Texas),
- The “HAWK” system course in the NATO Programming Centre (NPC, Glons, Belgium),
- The Hellenic Army War College,
- The first NATO Operations Planning course at the Netherlands Defence Academy,
- Changing Security Environment Course at the NATO Defense College,
- The Hellenic National Defence College.

As junior and field Officer, he has served as:

- Heavy Self Propelled Artillery and “HAWK” Missile Battery Commander,
- “HAWK” Missile Battalion Operations Officer,
- Field Artillery Battalion Deputy Commander,
- Field Artillery Battalion Commander,
- ADA “HAWK” Missile Battalion Commander,
- Staff Officer in Artillery Command,
- Staff Officer in the Intelligence Division of NATO International Military Staff (IMS/NATO),
- Staff Officer in the Intelligence Division of HNDGS,
- Military Assistant (MA) to the Chief, Hellenic Army General Staff (HAGS),
- Section Chief, Current OPS for the Balkans in IMS/NATO,
- Director of Staff, NATO Deployable Corps Greece,
- Director, KFOR Joint Operation Centre.

As general Officer, his main duties were:

- Deputy Chief of Staff, Hellenic C’ Army Corps/NDC-GR,
- Commander, 96 Brigade level Command “CHIOS”,
- Director, 3rd Staff Office (Current Operations), HAGS,
- Director, Operations Division, HAGS,
- Commanding General, XII Mechanised Infantry Division “EVROS”,

- Commanding General, C' Army Corps "ALEXANDER THE GREAT",
- Commanding General, NATO Deployable Corps Greece,
- Chief, Hellenic National Defence General Staff (HNDGS).

He has been awarded military medals and distinctions, as described below. He holds a Political Science degree from the Law Faculty of the University of Athens and an MsC in "Diplomatic and Strategic Studies". He speaks both English and French. General Mikhail Kostarakos is married to Ms Katerina Sgourou and the couple has two daughters.

Ranks - Promotions:

1974:	Admitted to Evelpidon Military Academy
1978:	2nd Lieutenant
1981:	Lieutenant
1985:	Captain
1990:	Major
1995:	Lt Colonel
2002:	Colonel
2006:	Brigadier General
2009:	Major General
2011:	Lt General
2011:	General