



Admiral Philippe Coindreau

Vice Chief of Defence Staff, État-Major des Armées,
French Republic

High-Level Debate

European Defence – common ambitions and national realities?

Wednesday, 30th November 2016, 15:30 – 16:45 h

Married and father of three children, Admiral Philippe Coindreau was born in Toulon on June 12, 1959.

He entered the French Naval Academy in 1979. He chose the speciality of pilot of the Naval Aviation. In July 1984, he qualified as a Naval Aviation Pilot.

Assigned in November 1984 within the Squadron 21F in Nîmes-Garons as a pilot then an aircraft commander on Breguet Atlantic aircraft, he took part in the operation Silure (1985), Prométhée (1987) and Epervier (1988).

In September 1989, he was named as an instructor onboard the Jeanne d'Arc. Then he joined the Squadron 23F in September 1990. He was involved in bringing into operational service the Atlantique 2.

In September 1994, he joined the War College in Paris and was then assigned to the Joint Operational Center of the Defense Staff, within the Yugoslavia crisis cell.

From 1996 to 1998, he was in command of the Squadron 23F established in Lann-Bihoué station in Lorient. In September 1998, he was assigned to the Tactical Staff of the Admiral in command of the Naval Action Force and, in 1999, he participated in the operation Trident in the Adriatic sea, onboard the aircraft carrier Foch during the Kosovo conflict.

In April 2001, he received the command of the frigate Surcouf based in Toulon. He took part in a mission Corymbe (2002) and he participated in the operation Heracles (2002).

In September 2002, he was assigned to the staff of the Commander of the Mediterranean Maritime Zone in Toulon and became head of the Naval Air Force Division. In July 2003, he was named as the Commander of Lann-Bihoué Naval Air station.

In September 1st, 2005, he attended the 55th class of the Center of Advanced Military Studies (CHEM) and the 58th class of the Institute for Advanced Defence's Studies (IHEDN). From July 2006 to September 2009, he was assigned as military assistant of the General Secretary for Administration of the Ministry of Defence.

In September 2009, he was promoted to the rank of rear-admiral (lower half OF-6) and joined the French Maritime Force (FRMARFOR) as deputy commander. From August to December 2010, he participated in the fight against piracy at sea in Indian Ocean, as the commander of the European Task Force during the operation Atalanta. Then he participated to the French part of the operation Unified Protector off the Libyan coasts, as the commander of the Task Force 473, from March to August 2011.

He has been designated as commander of FRMARFOR in August 2011 and promoted to the rank of rear-admiral (upper half OF-7) in July 2012.

In September 2013, he was promoted to the rank of vice-admiral (OF-8) and named as the Commander of the Naval Action Force (Force d'action navale), backbone of the French Navy.

In September 2015, he was named as deputy chief of defence staff in charge of support.

In September 2016, he took up his duties as Vice Chief of Defence.