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THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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Luxembourg, 14 June 2010

President

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Security Policy.

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Main results of the Council

*The Council discussed the situation in **Kyrgyzstan** following the violent confrontation in the south and adopted conclusions underlining the need to restore public order and build democratic institutions and confirming the EU's readiness to provide urgent humanitarian aid.*

*The Council held an exchange of views with International Quartet Envoy Tony Blair on the situation in **Gaza** following the Israeli operation in international waters against the Flotilla. It adopted conclusions calling for an immediate, full and impartial inquiry, declaring that the situation in Gaza is unsustainable and calling for the policy of closure to be changed and the crossings to be opened for the flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and persons. It declared that the EU is ready to contribute to the implementation of a mechanism to permit the reconstruction of Gaza and the revival of its economy.*

*The Council discussed **Iran's nuclear programme** and adopted conclusions welcoming UN Security Council Resolution 1929 imposing a fourth round of sanctions. It also prepared for the discussion by Heads of State or Government at the European Council on Thursday on measures to accompany and support the UN Resolution.*

*Ministers discussed the **Western Balkans** with ICTY prosecutor Serge Brammertz. The Council adopted conclusions welcoming the outcome of the high-level meeting on the Western Balkans in Sarajevo on 2 June 2010 and recalling the EU's commitment to the European perspective of the Western Balkan countries.*

*In its conclusions, the Council notes that **Serbia** has maintained its cooperation with the Tribunal, states that ministers agreed to submit the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with **Serbia** to their parliaments for ratification, notes Serbia's application of 22 December 2009 for membership of the European Union and welcomes its commitment to EU integration. It expresses concern about the political situation in **Albania**, Ministers also raised the subject of the situation in the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**.*

*Ministers discussed the situation in **Somalia** and the issue of **piracy**, and were given a briefing by the outgoing Commander of the EU naval operation EU NAVFOR ATALANTA, Rear-Admiral Peter Hudson. The Council adopted conclusions prolonging Operation EUNAVFOR Atalanta for a further two years and agreeing in principle to extend the Area of Operations further to the east and south.*

*Ministers discussed **Cuba** in the context of the annual evaluation of the EU's common position.*

*The Council adopted the EU position for the UN high-level meeting on the **millennium development goals** in New York in September. It also discussed **gender equality and development**.*

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- Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
- Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's Internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
- Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's Internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

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Member
Member

ITEMS DEBATED

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Council (development ministers) held an exchange of views in preparation for the United Nations high-level plenary meeting to be held in New York from 20 to 22 September to review implementation of the UN's millennium development goals (MDGs).

It approved conclusions setting out the EU position for the meeting.

The MDGs constitute the first-ever set of shared development goals agreed at international level. World leaders agreed in 2000 to take decisive action to combat world poverty in its different dimensions by 2015, using time-bound and measurable targets. With only five years remaining until the deadline, the aim of the New York meeting will be to provide a comprehensive review of successes and shortcomings, and to agree on concrete action to speed up progress.

The EU has doubled its official development assistance since 2000 in promoting the MDGs. In 2009 it provided EUR 49 billion, more than half the total of global development aid.

An EU action plan on gender equality and women's empowerment in development is attached to the Council conclusions.

The conclusions can be found in document [10830/10](#).

GENDER EQUALITY AND DEVELOPMENT

The Council (development ministers) held a brief exchange of views on gender equality and development policy, endorsing an EU plan of action on gender equality and women's empowerment in development.

The plan of action, covering the 2010-15 period, can be found in the annex to document [10830/10](#).

EAST AFRICA - PIRACY OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA

During the development session, the Council took stock of the situation in East Africa, following a visit by the High Representative at the end of May, and discussed briefly how to address the root causes of piracy in the region.

It confirmed its support for a comprehensive approach in the region, linking security policy with development, the rule of law, respect for human rights, gender-related aspects and international humanitarian law.

The EU has committed EUR 215.4 million for development aid to Somalia through the European development fund for the 2008-13 period. The European Commission's development aid programme for Somalia (including all regions of south-central Somalia, Puntland and Somaliland) amounts to almost EUR 180 million for 87 projects. The main areas of development cooperation are governance, security and support for civil society, education, the productive sectors and rural development. Humanitarian aid from the EU amounted to EUR 45.8 million in 2008.

Foreign ministers discussed the situation in Somalia over lunch with Rear Admiral Peter Hudson, the outgoing Commander of the EU naval operation EU NAVFOR Atalanta.

The Council adopted the following conclusions on piracy off the coast of Somalia:

"The Council notes with concern the continuing impact of piracy off the coast of Somalia on international maritime security and on the economic activities and security of countries in the region. The Council reiterates its determination to strengthen the EU's overall engagement to enhance regional capacity to fight piracy.

The Council commends Operation Atalanta for its successes in deterring, preventing and disrupting pirates' activities, especially in protecting World Food Programme and AMISOM shipments. The Council agrees to prolong the operation for another two years until December 2012. The Council intends to have a strategic discussion on the operation in early Autumn as part of the EU's comprehensive engagement in the region. The Council also agrees in principle to extend the Area of Operations further to its East and South in order to respond to the increased range of pirates' attacks. It strongly encourages the international maritime community to further promote full adherence to recommended best practice in order to continue increasing its capacity to meet its responsibility to keep its vessels safe.

The Council welcomes the ongoing engagement of the High Representative with countries of the region in order to promote the development of regional cooperation to fight piracy. It also welcomes the regional ministerial conference on piracy convened by the HR in the Seychelles on 21 May supporting the process of forging regional solutions. The Council reiterates the EU's commitment to help countries in the region to enhance their capacity to facilitate the prosecution and detention of suspected pirates consistent with applicable international human rights law. The Council commends Kenya and the Seychelles for their cooperation and invites other countries in the region to engage in these efforts. The Council encourages the ongoing efforts by the HR to find sustainable solutions to avoid impunity for crimes of piracy and looks forward to concrete progress on that issue. The EU stands ready to continue cooperating with the international community in a coherent manner, in particular within the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia and looks forward to the report in this field by the Secretary General of the United Nations, as requested in UN Security Council Resolution 1918.

The Council stresses that an enduring solution to the threat of piracy off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden can only be reached by building on Somali ownership and addressing the underlying security and developmental challenges in Somalia.

Recalling its conclusions adopted in July and December 2009, the Council reaffirms its commitment to a comprehensive approach in addressing the Somali crisis. It reiterates its support to the Djibouti process and the Transition Federal Government and welcomes the agreement signed by the TFG and Puntland, including the memorandum of understanding of April 2010 addressing piracy and the agreement of March 2010 with Ahlu Sunna Wal'Jamaa. The Council also welcomes the outcome of the Istanbul conference and the work of the UNSRSG Ould Abdallah. The Council encourages continued constructive engagement from all regions of Somalia. Building on the "EU policy on the Horn of Africa- towards a comprehensive EU strategy" Council document from 2009 and the Commission communication on the Horn of Africa from 2006, the Council invites the HR and the Commission to make proposals for a comprehensive EU strategy for relations with the Horn of Africa as a basis for continued cooperation with regional partners."

GAZA - *Council conclusions*

The Council discussed the situation regarding Gaza and adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. The EU deeply regrets the loss of life during the Israeli military operation in international waters against the Flotilla sailing to Gaza and condemns the use of violence. The Council believes that an immediate, full and impartial inquiry into these events and the circumstances surrounding them is essential. To command the confidence of the international community this should include credible international participation.
2. The situation in Gaza remains unsustainable. The continued policy of closure is unacceptable and politically counterproductive. The EU calls for an urgent and fundamental change of policy leading to a durable solution to the situation in Gaza. In line with UNSC Resolution 1860, the EU reiterates its call for an immediate, sustained and unconditional opening of crossings for the flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and persons to and from Gaza including goods from the West Bank. The Council calls for a solution that addresses Israel's legitimate security concerns including a complete stop to all violence and arms smuggling into Gaza.
3. The Council deplores the continuing acts of rocket fire. All those responsible must take immediate and concrete steps to cease and prevent such violence. The Council calls on those holding the abducted Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit to release him without delay. Hamas must also unconditionally allow ICRC access and end its interference with the operations of NGOs and UN agencies in Gaza.
4. The EU stands ready to contribute to the implementation of a mechanism based on the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access that would permit the reconstruction of Gaza and the revival of its economy. To this end, full and regular access via land crossings, and possibly by sea, on the basis of a list of prohibited goods, should be the prime aim, while at the same time providing strict control over the destination of imported merchandise. To achieve progress on the ground, the High Representative will continue to engage with the Government of Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Quartet members and other appropriate parties as a matter of urgency and present EU options with a view to the next Foreign Affairs Council.
5. The Council recalls its conclusions of December 2009. The EU stresses the paramount importance that the proximity talks continue with a view to the resumption of direct negotiations which should lead to a settlement negotiated between the parties within 24 months. All efforts to achieve Palestinian reconciliation behind President Mahmoud Abbas must be accelerated. The Council acknowledges Egyptian efforts in this respect."

WESTERN BALKANS - *Council conclusions*

The Council discussed the Western Balkans (including, over lunch, a presentation by the ICTY prosecutor, Serge Brammertz) and adopted the following conclusions:

"THE SARAJEVO MEETING

The Council welcomes the outcome of the High Level Meeting on the Western Balkans, organised by the Council Presidency and chaired by the Foreign Minister of Spain, Mr Moratinos, which took place on 2 June 2010 in Sarajevo to mark the 10th anniversary of the Zagreb summit and appreciates the participation of all partners. The Council looks forward to appropriate follow up to the meeting.

Recalling its conclusions of 7/8 December 2009, the Council reaffirms the EU's unequivocal commitment to the European perspective of the Western Balkan countries in line with the Thessaloniki Agenda and in accordance with the renewed consensus on enlargement and looks forward to moving to the next stages of the process. The Council reiterates that each country's progress towards the European Union depends on its individual efforts to comply with the Copenhagen criteria and the conditionality of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

The Council welcomes the commitment of the Western Balkans to intensify the pace of reform in key areas. It stresses the importance of addressing the challenges ahead, in particular related to the rule of law, including the fight against corruption and organised crime.

The Council welcomes the commitment of the Western Balkans to further strengthen regional cooperation on the basis of the principles of inclusiveness and regional ownership. It welcomes recent commendable initiatives regarding reconciliation and encourages further efforts to this effect. The Council recalls the importance of regional cooperation and good neighbourly relations and encourages all parties concerned to address outstanding issues with neighbouring countries.

Recalling its previous conclusions according to which the EU strongly supports the goal of the abolishment of the visa regime for all the countries of the Western Balkans, as well as the joint statement of the European Parliament and the Council of 30 November 2009, the Council welcomes the progress achieved by Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina in reaching the criteria of visa liberalisation, as stressed in the Commission proposal of 27 May 2010 for a European Parliament and Council decision to amend Regulation 539/2001, as it applies to Member States. The Council and the European Parliament will take a decision as soon as the Commission assesses that all the outstanding benchmarks are met and in the light of such assessment.

SERBIA

Following the latest report of the Prosecutor of the ICTY, the Council notes that Serbia has maintained its cooperation with the Tribunal with a view to delivering further positive results.

The Council encourages Serbia to follow the recommendations of the Prosecutor.

Recalling the Council conclusions of 29 April 2008 and 7/8 December 2009, Ministers agreed to submit the Stabilisation and Association Agreement to their parliaments for ratification.

The Council underlines that full cooperation with the ICTY remains an essential element of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

The Council took note that Serbia applied for membership of the European Union on 22 December 2009 and welcomed Serbia's commitment to EU integration. The Council decided to return to the membership application.

* * *

Regarding Serbia, recalling its decision of 29 April 2008, and having regard to the efforts made by Serbia's authorities in their cooperation with ICTY with a view to delivering further positive results, the Council decided that the ratification procedures of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement should begin.

ALBANIA

The Council continues to be concerned about the political situation in Albania following the general elections on 28 June 2009. It welcomes the return of the opposition to the parliament in connection with the facilitation initiative by MEPs Daul and Schulz, on behalf of their political groups, which was supported by the High Representative and by Commissioner Füle. It is high time to find a solution to the current crisis on a basis which will stand the test of time.

The Council regrets, however, that the facilitation initiative has not yet found sufficient support to enable the Albanian Government and the opposition to overcome their differences. The Council reiterates that it is the responsibility of the Government of Albania together with the opposition to promptly find, in a transparent manner and in full respect of the Albanian constitution, solutions and ways forward which will be required for the country on its EU path.

The Council encourages Albania to actively continue with the necessary reforms for the smooth and timely implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, taking into account the European Partnership priorities, and it reiterates its support for the European perspective for the country.

The Council recalls that Albania's application for EU membership, submitted in April 2009, will be assessed according to the principles set out in the EU Treaty and the criteria defined by the Copenhagen European Council in 1993, as well as the December 2006 European Council conclusions on the renewed consensus for enlargement. The Council agrees to return to the matter when the Commission has presented its opinion."

IRAN - *Council conclusions*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council welcomes the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1929. This Resolution underlines the deep concerns within the international community about Iran's nuclear programme. The offer of negotiations remains on the table. The Council reiterates its support for a negotiated solution and for the efforts of the EU High Representative Catherine Ashton to meet with Iranian counterparts to discuss their nuclear programme and other issues of mutual concern.

The Council discussed this issue and prepared the upcoming European Council which will take up the issue of strong measures accompanying and supporting the UN Security Council Resolution."

CHILD LABOUR - *Council conclusions*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. June 12 is the international day against child labour. On this day the international community, based on a strong belief that the vulnerable deserve protection and that the young deserve a future, commemorate our shared goal of a child labour free world. While during the period 2000 - 2004 the world witnessed a decrease in child labour, since then, this positive trend has slowed down.

2. The Council expresses its deep concern about the fact that over 200 million children are still engaged in child labour, more than a half of which are in hazardous work. The Council reaffirms its commitment to protect and promote the rights of the child, including the right of children to enjoy education and to live a life free from child labour.
3. The Council strongly welcomes the document ‘Combating Child Labour’ prepared by the Commission, following the Council’s discussion in May 2008. The Council supports the conclusion in the study by the Commission that there is room for stepping up EU efforts towards eliminating child labour, based on a comprehensive policy approach. The Council agrees with the Commission that the EU’s and Member States’ instruments – notably a policy dialogue, combined with development cooperation and trade incentives can be used more effectively to contribute to the internationally agreed goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016 and eventually ending all forms of child labour if applied in a mutually supportive manner and as a part of a broader policy framework that focuses on development and poverty eradication.
4. The Council is fully aware of the role and responsibilities of the EU in the strife towards ending child labour, and agrees to take a number of measures to further increase its contribution to reaching this goal. Particular efforts are called for to counter all forms of discrimination that contributes to child labour, and to address hazardous work by children in regions, sectors and occupations where child labour is most prevalent. The Council considers the following measures as a first step following the report by the Commission and will revert to the issue.
5. Dialogue and multilateral affairs – The promotion of the rights of the child constitute an integral part of the EU’s human rights policy. The EU Guidelines for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child stress the need to mainstream these rights in EU policy and action. The Council emphasizes that the elimination of child labour is a legal obligation based in international treaties and conventions, in particular the Convention on the Rights of the Child and ILO Conventions 138 and 182. It invites the HR, the Commission and EU Member States to actively encourage effective implementation of these obligations in EU dialogues with third countries.

6. The Council recalls that worst forms of child labour constitute violence against children. It affects very young children, and entails serious physical and emotional harm. The Council welcomes the appointment by the UNSG of Marta Santos Pais as Special Representative on Violence against Children and is committed to work with her, in particular on follow-up to the UNSG's report on child labour presented at the last session of the UNGA as well as the resolution adopted by the General Assembly. The council stresses the need for using effectively the multilateral system and existing partnerships while recognizing the lead role of the ILO in combating child labour.
7. Development Cooperation - Development cooperation by the EU donors represents an important contribution in the efforts to combat child labour. The Council notes that the eradication of child labour requires a holistic approach, including through prevention, and is not only a matter of improving human rights, it also yields high social and economic returns and contributes to eradicating poverty and promoting human development. The Council invites the Commission, and Member States, to encourage partner countries to adopt and implement National Action Plans against Child Labour, Time bound Programmes to end the worst forms of child labour at the latest by 2016, include child labour in the ILO Decent Work Country Programs, and in regional strategies to tackle transborder forms of child labour.
8. The Council invites the Commission and the Member States to work with partner countries to ensure that children's rights, including the fight against child labour where it occurs, is mainstreamed in poverty reduction strategies and addressed in all relevant sectors. The Council welcomes the inclusion of a specific call for proposals on child labour within the Thematic programme Investing in People.

9. The Council reaffirms its December 2009 conclusions on Human Rights and Democracy in Third Countries, in which it expressed its full support for the work of the UN Special Representative on Business and Human Rights. By taking the necessary steps to implement the proposed UN Framework on Business and Human Rights, the European Union would also make a significant contribution to combating child labour. The Council also affirms its support for the ILO Tripartite Declaration, the UN Global Compact and the OECD Guidelines for Multi-national Enterprises. The Council would welcome a future Commission Communication on CSR which addresses the issue of business and human rights in the global context and gives due consideration to the issue of child labour. In this context, the Council invites the Commission to organise a multi-stakeholder conference with representatives of the business community, civil society, international organisations, EU Institutions, and Member States, to discuss progress made and what further steps may be taken.
- 9a. The Council would welcome future Commission guidelines on socially responsible procurement, and encourages procuring authorities to use existing possibilities to take inter alia social considerations into account at the different stages of the procurement process, whenever possible and deemed to be relevant to the individual procurement.
10. Trade incentives –The Council underlines the importance of the GSP + to promote sustainable development and good governance including the effective implementation of the ILO conventions 138 and 182. To that end, the Council invites the Commission to improve the GSP scheme in the context of the upcoming review of the GSP-regulation.
11. The Council invites the Commission to study and report before the end of 2011 on the worst form of child labour and trade, taking into account international experience and the views of competent international organizations."

HAITI AND DISASTER RESPONSE

The Council held an exchange of views on Haiti and disaster response, with a presentation by the High Representative and the Humanitarian Affairs Commissioner, Kristalina Georgieva, on the basis of their joint letter to the members of the Council. They stressed that the response by Member States and EU institutions to the Haiti earthquake had been swift, large-scale and comprehensive, and noted the importance of using existing structures in future, and improving visibility and readiness still further

CUBA

Ministers discussed Cuba during their working lunch in the context of the annual evaluation of the EU's common position. They exchanged views on the basis of the report of the EU-Cuba ministerial meeting of 10 June and agreed to return to the subject in the near future..

CORFU PROCESS

The Council held an exchange of views on the Corfu Process on European security ahead of the informal OSCE ministerial in July and a possible OSCE summit later in the year.

OTHER BUSINESS**Kyrgyzstan - Council conclusions**

The Council discussed recent events in Kyrgyzstan and adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council expresses its serious concern over the violent confrontation in the south of Kyrgyzstan, which has already led to a significant number of casualties. It expresses its sincere condolences to the families of the victims.

The Council underlines the need to restore public order and respect for the rule of law, insists that all violence and provocations should cease immediately and calls on all sides to show restraint. Dialogue must be restored as a matter of priority.

The Council insists on the need to pursue the political process to build democratic institutions in Kyrgyzstan, notably through the referendum on a new constitution and early elections as announced by the provisional government. This process represents the best chance to ensure peace, institutional stability, open dialogue, rule of law and democracy for the people of Kyrgyzstan.

The Council confirms the EU's readiness to respond to the most urgent humanitarian needs of the affected population. An emergency financing decision will be taken by the Commission. It calls on all parties concerned, as well as neighbouring countries, to take appropriate measures to safeguard access to vulnerable populations and to contribute, where appropriate, to humanitarian support points and corridors, in full accordance with international law.

The Council welcomes the close co-ordination between the European Union, the OSCE and the United Nations and the efforts of the three special envoys. It also asks the High Representative to maintain close contact with the OSCE and the UN and other appropriate actors."

MEETINGS AND EVENTS ON THE SIDELINES

The following meetings and events were held on the sidelines of the Council meeting:

Monday, 14 June 2010

- Cooperation Council with GCC
- Association Council with Montenegro

Tuesday, 15 June 2010

- ECOWAS Ministerial
- Cooperation Council with Algeria
- Association Council with Lebanon
- Cooperation Council with Ukraine
- Cooperation Council with Moldova

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED**FOREIGN AFFAIRS****United Nations General Assembly - EU priorities**

The Council approved the EU's priorities, with regard to peace and security, environment, sustainable development and human rights, for the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly, which will start in September ([10170/10](#)).

The Treaty of Lisbon reaffirms the EU's commitment to the principles of the UN charter, calling for multilateral solutions to common problems and challenges. To contribute to the achievement of this objective, the EU will continue to strive to build a stronger multilateral system, notably by enhancing the representativeness, transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations.

Arms trade treaty

The Council adopted a decision on EU activities in support of the preparatory process leading up to the UN Conference on the arms trade treaty ([8683/10](#)).

The decision is aimed at supporting UN member states in developing and improving national and regional expertise to implement effective arms transfer controls, in order to ensure that the future arms trade treaty, when it enters into force, will be as effective as possible.

CFSP main aspects and basic choices – 2009 Annual report

The Council endorsed the 2009 annual report from the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to the European Parliament on the main aspects and basic choices of the Common Foreign and Security Policy. It is HR Ashton's first annual report to be presented to the European Parliament.

Looking back at 2009, the report identifies the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, conventional weapons, terrorism, energy security, climate change and regional conflicts as major threats to European security and outlines the actions undertaken in response to these challenges.

It also sets out EU efforts to build stability in Europe and beyond via different policies such as, the European Neighbourhood Policy and other specific agreements; it illustrates the EU's contribution to a more effective multilateral order through its cooperation with other international and regional organisations and explains the EU's role in promoting democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

In addition, the report outlines EU attempts to consolidate relations with strategic partners such as the United States, the Russian Federation, China, India, Mexico, Brazil, Japan, Canada, and South Africa and provides an overview of EU endeavours in the fields of conflict prevention, consolidation and diversification of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

Looking ahead to 2010, the report identifies upcoming political challenges and initial EU responses to tackle them. Against this background it draws the conclusion that although much has been achieved in building a secure and prosperous neighbourhood, threats have increased, and much still remains to be done in these areas.

The report can be found in document [10659/10](#).

Relations with Central Asia

The Council approved a joint report by the Council and the Commission on the implementation of the EU strategy for Central Asia.

The report states that implementation of the strategy has enabled important advances over the past three years in education, economic development, trade and investment, energy and transport, environmental policies, and meeting common threats and challenges. Important initiatives have also been put in place to promote human rights, rule of law, good governance and democratisation.

The EU strategy for a new partnership with Central Asia, which was adopted by the European Council in June 2007, has made it possible to strengthen relations with the five countries of Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

EU/ Uzbekistan - Memorandum of understanding on energy

The Council endorsed the text of a memorandum of understanding on cooperation with Uzbekistan in the field of energy.

The Memorandum follows up the strategy for a new partnership between the EU and the countries of Central Asia, adopted by the European Council in June 2007, which highlighted the common interest in diversifying export routes, demand and supply structures and energy sources, and supporting the development of market economy structures in Central Asia.

Partnership and cooperation agreement with Uzbekistan

The Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations on an agreement amending the EU's partnership and cooperation agreement with Uzbekistan.

Relations with the South Caucasus - *Council conclusions*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. The Council recalls its Conclusions of 8 December 2009 welcoming the expressed commitment of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia to enhance their respective relations with the EU within the framework provided by the Eastern Partnership, as a specific Eastern dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy.
2. The Council looks forward to the launch of negotiations for future Association Agreements in the course of July 2010, with a view to establish political association and achieve gradual economic integration of these countries with the EU, including the establishment of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas, once the countries have met the necessary conditions. The negotiating processes will be guided by the principles of inclusiveness, differentiation, conditionality and joint ownership. The Council underlines that active engagement of the partner countries and their commitment to shared values and principles, including democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights and good governance are essential to make the negotiations and the implementation of these ambitious agreements a success. The EU is committed to assist the partner countries in this regard.

3. The Council notes that the recent decision on the establishment of the new subcommittees under the Partnership and Cooperation Agreements currently in force with the countries of the South Caucasus will considerably broaden the sectoral dialogue and contribute to advancing the implementation of the ENP Action Plans.
4. The Council recognises the high importance attached to mobility of citizens by the countries of the South Caucasus. Bearing in mind the importance of a secure environment, and in accordance with the Stockholm Programme and the Joint Declaration of the Prague Eastern Partnership Summit, the EU stands ready to promote mobility of citizens of the South Caucasus countries and other Eastern Partnership countries through visa facilitation and readmission agreements, and once these are successfully concluded and implemented, move towards a controlled process taking gradual steps towards visa-liberalisation as a long-term goal, on a case-by-case basis, as well as describe the conditions for well-managed and secure mobility. In this context, the Council has invited the Commission to develop before the end of 2010 a plan on how to take cooperation forward in this area.
5. The Council recognises that conflicts hamper not only the political and economic development of the partner countries but also the regional cooperation and the stability of the European continent. In this context, the Council reiterates its commitment to support the processes aimed at peaceful and lasting settlement of conflicts in the region and calls on all parties to fully commit themselves to these processes.
6. The EU will continue to promote stability, prosperity and cooperation, throughout the South Caucasus, building also on the opportunities provided by the multilateral framework of the Eastern Partnership, and reaffirms its commitment to assist Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia to this end."

Iraq - Integrated Rule of Law mission

The Council adopted a decision extending by 24 months the EU's integrated rule of law mission in Iraq (EUJUST LEX Iraq), from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2012.

During this additional period, EUJUST LEX will progressively shift its activities and relevant structures to Iraq, focusing on specialised training, while maintaining out-of-country activities.

The decision provides for an additional financial reference amount of EUR 17.5 million.

Taking into account further developments in the security conditions in Iraq and the outcome of the mission's activities in Iraq, the Council will examine the results of the new mandate and decide on the future of the mission after 30 June 2012.

EUJUST LEX Iraq was established by joint action 2005/190/CFSP.

Democratic Republic of the Congo - EU police mission

The Council adopted a decision extending by three months the EU police mission undertaken in support of the reform of the security sector in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The decision extends the mission, established under joint action 2007/405/CFSP, from 1 July 2010 to 30 September 2010, with a financial reference amount of EUR 2.02 million.

The three month extension was endorsed by the Political and Security Committee on 13 April, following consultations with the Congolese authorities and other parties concerned.

Small arms and light weapons - Annual report

The Council approved the ninth annual report on the EU's contribution to combating the destabilising accumulation and spread of small arms and light weapons as laid down in joint action 2002/589/CFSP ([9997/10](#)).

It also endorsed a six-monthly progress report on implementation of the EU's strategy in this field.

Weapons of mass destruction - Progress report

The Council endorsed a report on implementation of the EU's strategy for combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction covering activities during the first half of 2010.

The report, which covers the first half of 2010, focuses on work carried out on priority areas such as:

- the EU's role in multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation fora and international organisations;
- continued political and financial support to projects, including assistance programmes to third countries;
- cooperation with international partners towards a global convergence of views on the need to promote all objectives contained in the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons;
- addressing proliferation crises of particular concern around the world;
- implementation of the list of priorities endorsed by the Council in June 2008, as well as the "new lines for action by the EU in combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems", adopted by the Council in December 2008; and
- the efficient use of financial resources in order to maximise the impact of EU activities in this field.

Review of the EU measures to combat terrorism.

The Council conducted a review of the list of persons, groups and entities to which article 4 of common position 2001/931/CFSP applies. The Council is required to do so at regular intervals and at least twice a year to ensure that there are grounds for keeping those persons, groups and entities on the list.

- The Council confirmed the list as set out in annex to common position 2009/468/CFSP of 15 June 2009.

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

ACP-EU Council of ministers

The Council took note of preparations for the 35th joint session of the ACP-EU Council of ministers, which will take place in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 21 and 22 June.

A second revised version of the ACP-EU cooperation agreement is expected to be signed at this session.

Cross-country division of labour – *Council conclusions*

The Council adopted conclusions set out in document [10348/10](#).

Tax and development - cooperating with developing countries - *Council conclusions*

The Council adopted conclusions set out in document [10349/10](#).

TRADE POLICY

Interim trade agreement with Turkmenistan

The Council adopted a decision approving the conclusion of an interim agreement on trade and trade-related matters between the EU, the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one hand, and Turkmenistan, of the other.

Anti-dumping - Cargo scanning systems from China - Ammonium nitrate from Ukraine

The Council adopted regulations:

- imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty and collecting definitively the provisional duty imposed on imports of certain cargo scanning systems originating in China (doc. [9934/10](#));
 - imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty and collecting definitively the provisional duty imposed on imports of certain molybdenum wires originating in China (doc. [9938/10](#)); and
 - imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of ammonium nitrate originating in Ukraine following an expiry review pursuant to regulation 1225/2009 (doc. [10084/10](#)).
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