



EU Security and Defence news

The weekly e-newsletter on EU Common Security and Defence Policy activities

EU High Representative Ashton's new visit to the Middle East

After her visit in the region last March, High Representative Catherine Ashton visited the Middle East again from 17 to 19 July 2010. During her trip Ms Ashton met leaders of both Israel and the Palestinian Authority, along with U.S. Senator George Mitchell and Quartet Envoy Tony Blair, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) as well as EUBAM Rafah and EUPOL COPPS, the EU's CSDP missions in the Palestinian Territories.

"We stand ready to support the opening of the Gaza crossings for the traffic of goods to and from Gaza," said HR Ashton. "The EU is also committed to progress in the Middle East Peace Process. We want the proximity talks to continue with a view to the resumption of direct negotiations, which should lead to a final settlement and an end to the conflict" HR Ashton added.

The HR added "If we can be of value and the parties agree, the EU is ready to play a role at the crossings provided that a number of conditions are met. These relate to the Agreement on Movement and Access: capacity at crossings, procedures, exports, movement of persons, security". www.eeas.europa.eu

Kabul Conference: HR Ashton reaffirmed the EU's long-term commitment to Afghanistan

After her trip to the Middle East, the High Representative travelled to Kabul to participate in the Conference on Afghanistan held on 20 July. Catherine Ashton presented plans for continued EU engagement in Afghanistan, stressing the priority areas which include sub-national governance; reform of the justice and police sectors, notably through the EU Police mission EUPOL and human rights. "The EU is keeping its promises to Afghanistan. We have a multi-annual commitment and will take steps to further align this assistance with the Afghan Government's priorities. We plan to raise our level of support in line with the new EU Action Plan" said HR Ashton.

EUNAVFOR et EUTM Somalia à l'honneur de la fête nationale belge

À l'occasion de la fête nationale belge, des dizaines de milliers de spectateurs ont participé aux festivités du 21 juillet. Parmi les thèmes retenus, celui de la présidence du Conseil de l'UE. C'est dans ce cadre et dans celui de la Défense, que les opérations EUNAVFOR et EUTM étaient représentées pour expliquer au grand public leurs missions et répondre aux très nombreuses questions. Le stand a reçu la visite du Prince Philippe et de son épouse la Princesse Mathilde, ainsi que du ministre de la Défense Pieter De Crem.

Catherine Ashton joins EUMM Georgia on patrol

During the trip that took her to Georgia from 15 to 16 July, the EU High Representative joined the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM Georgia) on 16 July on a visit to the Georgian check point at Odzisi to see for herself the situation on the administrative boundary line with South Ossetia. She was given an extensive briefing by the Head of the EUMM Gori Field Office about the situation on the ground, the position regarding freedom of movement across the boundary line (ABL), and the work of the EUMM teams in the area.



She said that her visit in itself underlined the EU's commitment to Georgia and she praised the work of the EUMM and its efforts to ensure security and stability in often difficult circumstances. She explained "My visit to Georgia had two purposes: first, the EU-Georgia Association Agreement talks and second, today I was given the possibility to come here and study the work of the EUMM. This is very important and I hope that all these problems will in future be solved by political means."

HR Ashton continued her trip with a visit to the Internally Displaced People's (IDPs) settlement at Tserovani where she was briefed about the general situation involving all IDPs across Georgia as well as the circumstances of those living at Tserovani.

www.youtube.com/EUSecurityandDefence

Seminar on Permanent Structured Cooperation, Royal Military Academy

In support of the High Representative, the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU organised an expert level seminar on Permanent Structured Cooperation on 13 July 2010, with 150 experts on security and defence from EU Member States and EU institutions.

Permanent Structured Cooperation is one of the instruments that have been laid down in the Lisbon Treaty and is one of the priorities in the work program with regard to security and defence. It foresees a military cooperation between willing Member States in order to improve defence capabilities in support of a credible common security and defence policy. The current economic and budgetary context is an opportunity for more and better cooperation.

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The synergy that can be attained through the cooperation should ultimately lead to operational advantages, a more efficient spending of the available defence budgets and help to eliminate the current duplications and identified shortfalls with regard to defence capabilities. In other words, this instrument should help the EU and member states to manage the available resources more efficiently.

The Belgian Presidency will take the observations and recommendations resulting from the seminar as a basis for further exploration in the coming weeks and months.

The Belgian Minister of Defence, Pieter De Crem, concluded that Permanent structured cooperation is clearly a project which needs political will as a basic condition for success and that the informal Ministers of Defence meeting in Ghent on 23 and 24 September will probably be a good opportunity for a first informal exchange of ideas at the political level. [More](#)

EUPOL RD Congo : formation à la lutte contre les violences sexuelles et l'impunité

La lutte contre les violences sexuelles et l'impunité étaient le sujet de la formation des officiers de police judiciaire (OPJ) qui seront affectés à la police spéciale pour la protection des enfants et des femmes au Nord-Kivu. Tenue à Goma pendant deux semaines, les policiers sont formés dans les matières suivantes : droit pénal et procédure pénale, code de déontologie, définition, approche et conséquences des violences sexuelles, approche de la victime, du suspect et du témoin, différents genres de procès verbaux et leur application, arrestation et garde à vue et la législation pertinente en la matière. La formation était assurée par un groupe de six formateurs de la police nationale congolaise (PNC), qui avaient eux-mêmes suivis une formation de formateurs assurée par EUPOL RD Congo. La mission assurera également le suivi, le débriefing et l'évaluation des formateurs de la PNC.



Ces derniers mois, 64 OPJ et 23 formateurs des provinces du Nord et du Sud-Kivu ont été formés dans le domaine de la lutte contre les violences sexuelles et l'impunité. [Plus d'infos](#)

Upcoming activities

26 July - HR Catherine Ashton to chair the Foreign Affairs Council, Brussels;

28 July - HR Ashton visit to Italy. HR to meet with Foreign minister Frattini and with Prime Minister Berlusconi in Rome.

Searches and arrests by EULEX Kosovo

On 13 July 2010, the [EULEX](#) Executive Police Department arrested a man in connection with an ongoing investigation into murder, attempted murder, aggravated murder and organised crime (Billaca case). An EULEX pre-trial judge of the District Court of Pristina ordered the defendant to be placed under house arrest for a month.

The same day, the former Permanent Secretary and current advisor at the Ministry of Health was arrested by EULEX police and the Kosovo Police Economic Crime Unit in the context of a criminal investigation into tax evasion.

Both investigations are being carried out by EULEX Police under the supervision of the Special Prosecutor's Office.

On the 13 July again, Norway extradited to Kosovo a Kosovo Serb accused of committing war crimes against the civilian population on 28 March 1999 in Peja/Peć. The following day, at the request of the prosecutor, a EULEX pre-trial judge at the District Court of Peja/Peć ordered a 30-day detention for the defendant.

On 14 July, a mixed panel of judges, including a EULEX judge, at the Prizren Municipal Court, announced the conviction of a man for accepting bribes during his work as a judge at the Pristina District Court from 2005-2007. The defendant was sentenced to four years in prison and fined to 10,000 Euros.

The day after, on 15 July, EULEX Executive Police, in conjunction with the Anti-Corruption Task Force of the Kosovo Police, carried out searches at eight locations, both in Pristina and Peja/Peć, in relation to financial and corruption matters in connection to a telecommunications license. In addition some Post and Telecom of Kosovo offices, in particular the office of the Chief Executive Officer and his private residence, are also the target of searches. These searches are also related to a second investigation into corruption.

Armes légères et de petit calibre : la contribution de l'UE

En 2009, l'UE a poursuivi son action sur la question des armes légères et de petit calibre (ALPC) dans toutes les enceintes multilatérales ainsi que dans le dialogue politique qu'elle mène dans le cadre des instruments internationaux pertinents. L'UE a continué d'aider les États tiers, des organisations internationales et régionales à lutter contre l'accumulation déstabilisatrice des ALPC, notamment grâce à des instruments de développement et de coopération, et des projets soutenus par des États membres de l'UE à l'échelle nationale.

[Rapport annuel 2009](#)

www.esdp10years.eu

[ESDP Newsletter - ESDP@10](mailto:ESDP@10)

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