



EU Security and Defence news

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

Somalia: the EU renews its support to stability, development and political transition



On 23 February, High Representative/Vice-President Catherine Ashton was in London for the International Conference on Somalia, along with European Commissioners for Development Andris Piebalgs and for Humanitarian Affairs Kristalina Georgieva. The Conference aimed at reinforcing the global response to helping Somalia out of its current crisis.

The EU welcomed the London Conference, in line with its recently adopted Strategic Framework for the Horn of Africa, which sets out our comprehensive approach to the region which encompasses our support to the political process, humanitarian assistance, development support – as the biggest donor to Somalia, with €517 million for 2008-2013 – and action in the security field. The newly appointed EU Special Representative to the Horn of Africa, Alexander Rondos, has been tasked to focus on Somalia, the regional dimensions of the crisis, and piracy.

Speaking at the Conference, High Representative Ashton recalled that the EU supports the process to end the transition in August this year, and she insisted that “it is essential for the political progress to speed up”.

She also announced that the EU would allocate an additional €100 million to support AMISOM, the African Union peacekeeping mission in Somalia. The new funding will support the proposed increase in troop strength agreed by UN Security Council Resolution 2036(2012) on 22 February. “The EU is a major donor to AMISOM. This is a substantial effort, but it will only cover part of the needs, so we call on the international community to step up their assistance”, she said.

Beyond this support to AMISOM, the EU is actively engaged in the security sector. EU NAVFOR – Operation Atalanta, the most obvious component of a much wider EU action to fight piracy, has successfully contained pirate attacks and secured the delivery of aid since December 2008. The EU is also committed to the exit strategy of AMISOM: we are contributing to training Somalia’s own security forces in Uganda through the EU Training Mission, and we are planning for a possible new CSDP mission to support the maritime capacities of states in the region.

Le Conseil s’accorde sur la prolongation de l’opération EU NAVFOR Atalanta jusqu’à décembre 2014

Le 27 février, le Conseil est convenu de prolonger le mandat de l’opération navale EU NAVFOR Atalanta jusqu’en décembre 2014, sous réserve d’une décision distincte devant être adoptée “dès que possible”.

Les ministres des Affaires étrangères de l’UE ont en effet salué “la contribution importante que EU NAVFOR Atalanta a apportée à la lutte contre les actes de piraterie”, notamment en permettant, avec succès, d’escorter vers la Somalie les convois du Programme alimentaire mondial et de l’AMISOM, de protéger les navires les plus vulnérables et de dissuader, de prévenir et de réprimer des actes de piraterie et de vols à main armée au large des côtes de la Somalie. Le Conseil a également souligné que l’opération contribuait ainsi “à la sécurité et à l’activité économique des pays de la région et de la communauté internationale dans son ensemble.”

EU launches a needs assessment mission for border management in Libya

This week the European Union has deployed an expert mission in Libya aimed at assisting the Libyan authorities to assess needs on border management. The mission consists of a team of 10 experts drawn from EU Member States. It will last three months and make recommendations to the EU for both medium- to long-term support and for early concrete action to help Libya ensure secure and efficient border management for all its land, sea and air borders.

Together with the United Nations and other international partners, the EU has participated in extensive discussions with the Libyan authorities regarding their priorities for support as they guide Libya through a process of transition. Border management has repeatedly been identified as key in this respect.

The assessment forms part of the EU’s wider support for Libya agreed with the Libyan authorities. This included humanitarian assistance during the crisis and a package of €30 million designed to help Libya address some of the most pressing issues. Expert needs assessment missions are already underway in the areas of civil society and media. The EU will continue to discuss assistance for Libya with the authorities in line with its strong commitment to support the transition process.

Palestinian judges and prosecutors on anti-corruption visit to Finland

A group of Palestinian judges and prosecutors attended in mid-February a study trip to Finland to enhance the preparation of corruption court hearings. The visit is part of a €2.4 million joint programme between the United Nations Development Programme, [EUPOL COPPS](#) and the Palestinian Authority. It was organised and conducted by EUPOL COPPS' prosecution team, and included meetings at the Supreme Court, District Court, as well as the Attorney General and the Prosecution offices in Finland.

The Palestinian delegation attended presentations from Finnish judges and prosecutors on corruption case preparation. Special emphasis was placed on the common need for judges and prosecutors to prepare court hearings in order to avoid unnecessary postponements: identification of the issues in dispute between parties, identification of evidence and relevant witnesses to be called by the prosecution. Following the visit a workshop about case preparation will be organized for judges, prosecutors and attorneys. [More news](#)

EULEX Kosovo: Justice in 1 minute!



The first episode of a TV series called "Justice in 1 minute" TV series was broadcast on 26 February on Kosovo public TV. This is part of a public outreach campaign of 50 episodes that present

justice at large, starting from a philosophical point of view, and then practically how the justice system works. The episodes are very short (one minute only), broadcast at peak time hours, they will be repeated 4 times per day, giving a chance for everyone to see it.

Who are the actors of justice? What happens between a pre-trial detention and a verdict? What does the justice system do for me? How are laws made and who controls their drafting? In what way is corruption harming my future and the society I live in? This TV series will answer all of these questions and will look at how the justice system developed historically, what institutions administer justice, how investigations and trials proceed, and what rights people have as individuals.

[More info](#)

3,000 students trained by EUPOL Afghanistan in six months

The Head of the [EU Police mission in Afghanistan](#) Jukka Savolainen announced this week the progress the Mission has made in training and mentoring civilian police competencies: nearly 3,000 students of the Afghan National Police received EUPOL leadership and specialised training during the second semester of 2011. At the same time the Mission continued focusing on training Afghan trainers to ensure ownership and sustainability in the build-up of civilian policing.

This announcement comes in the context of a wave of violence in Afghanistan, including the death of two US advisors who were murdered in the Ministry of Interior. The Mission expressed condolences to ISAF, and to the Afghan government for the loss of lives of Afghans in the unrest. In the aftermath of the incidents, EUPOL also took temporary precautionary measure as the security of its local and international staff is of paramount importance. However, Jukka Savolainen reassured Afghan partners of "EUPOL's continued engagement and commitment. We will not lose sight of our shared goals."

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EUMM Georgia facilitates discussion on freedom of movement



On 29 February, the [EU Monitoring Mission](#) participated in a new meeting of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM), chaired by the United Nations in Gali. Representatives from Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Russia and

Georgia exchanged information on detainees and discussed recent incidents that took place in the vicinity of the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL). The sides have demonstrated willingness to work towards improving freedom of movement of the local population. The need for joint efforts in the fight against cross ABL crime was also raised again. The next meeting of the IPRM will take place in Gali on 23 March 2012.

Upcoming activities

9-10 March: Informal meeting of EU Foreign Ministers, in Copenhagen

22 March: Meeting of Foreign Affairs Council (FAC Defence)

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