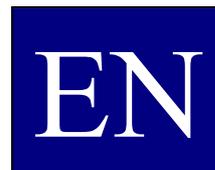




**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



5686/10 (Presse 10)

PRESS RELEASE

2992nd Council meeting

Foreign Affairs

Brussels, 25 January 2010

President

Ms Catherine ASHTON

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and
Security Policy

P R E S S

Main results of the Council

*The Foreign Affairs Council (FAC), chaired by the High Representative, Catherine Ashton, discussed the coordination of the Union's overall response to the earthquake in **Haiti**. In addition to the immediate humanitarian and development aid earmarked at the emergency Council on 18 January, it agreed that Member States would provide a collective EU contribution of at least 300 police personnel as a temporary reinforcement of the police capability of the UN Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). In addition, the Council also agreed to set up a cell - EUCO Haiti - in Brussels to coordinate contributions by Member States of military and security support in response to the UN appeal. The purpose of this cell would be to match contributions to needs and maximise the speed and efficiency of the Union's response, avoiding duplication. EUCO Haiti will complement the coordination of the Member States' civil protection contributions by the European Commission Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC).*

*The Council also discussed **Somalia** and agreed to set up a Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) operation to contribute to the training of the Transitional Federal Government's (TFG) National Security Forces in Uganda.*

The intention is to launch the operation, which will take place in Uganda, with the next intake of trainees, scheduled to start in spring 2010.

*The Council decided that the Union would begin to provide non-executive capacity building and training support within **Operation EUFOR Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina**. It agreed that EUFOR's executive mandate would continue in accordance with UNSCR 1895 and it underlined its readiness to maintain an executive military role to support these efforts beyond 2010, under a UN mandate, should the situation so require.*

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¹ 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.

PARTICIPANTS

The meeting was chaired by Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

The governments of the Member States and the European Commission were represented as follows:

<u>Belgium:</u> Mr Olivier CHASTEL	State Secretary for European Affairs
<u>Bulgaria:</u> Mr Konstantin DIMITROV	Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
<u>Czech Republic:</u> Mr Jan KOHOUT	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs
<u>Denmark:</u> Mr Per Stig MØLLER	Minister for Foreign Affairs
<u>Germany:</u> Mr Guido WESTERWELLE	Vice-Chancellor and Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
<u>Estonia:</u> Mr Urmas PAET	Minister for Foreign Affairs
<u>Ireland:</u> Mr Dick ROCHE Mr Peter POWER	Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach and at the Department of Foreign Affairs with special responsibility for European Affairs Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs with special responsibility for Overseas Development
<u>Greece:</u> Mr Dimitris DROUTSAS	Alternate Minister for Foreign Affairs
<u>Spain:</u> Mr Miguel Ángel MORATINOS Mr Diego LÓPEZ GARRIDO	Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation State Secretary for the European Union
<u>France:</u> Mr Pierre LELLOUCHE	State Secretary with responsibility for European affairs
<u>Italy:</u> Mr Alfredo MANTICA	State Secretary for Foreign Affairs
<u>Cyprus:</u> Mr Marcos KYPRIANOU	Minister for Foreign Affairs
<u>Latvia:</u> Mr Andris TEIKMANIS	Minister for Foreign Affairs
<u>Lithuania:</u> Mr Vygaudas UŠACKAS	Minister for Foreign Affairs
<u>Luxembourg:</u> Mr Jean ASSELBORN	Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration
<u>Hungary:</u> Mr Péter BALÁZS	Minister for Foreign Affairs
<u>Malta:</u> Mr Tonio BORG	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs
<u>Netherlands:</u> Mr Frans TIMMERMANS	Minister for European Affairs
<u>Austria:</u> Mr Michael SPINDELEGGER	Federal Minister for European and International Affairs

Poland:

Mr Mikołaj DOWGIELEWICZ

State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Portugal:Mr Luis AMADO
Mr Pedro LOURTIEState Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs
Secretary of State for European Affairs**Romania:**

Mr Teodor BACONSCHI

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Slovenia:

Mr Samuel ŽBOGAR

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Slovakia:

Mr Miroslav LAJČÁK

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Finland:

Mr Alexander STUBB

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Sweden:

Mr Carl BILDT

Minister for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:Mr David MILIBAND
Mr Chris BRYANTSecretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Deputy Leader of the House of Commons and
Parliamentary Secretary**Commission:**

Mr Karel de GUCHT

Member

ITEMS DEBATED

HAITI

The Council continued the discussion begun at last week's extraordinary Council convened by the High Representative on the Union's response to the earthquake in Haiti. After the earthquake struck, the Union immediately mobilised search and rescue teams and earmarked EUR 122 million from the Commission and the Member States combined for urgent humanitarian assistance and a further EUR 100 million for the urgent restoration of government capacity in Haiti, as well as EUR 200 million for longer-term development.

The Council focussed today on the coordination of the Union's overall response to the disaster in the different fields of humanitarian assistance, reconstruction and development aid and the contribution by Member States of military and security assets as well as civil protection resources for the relief effort.

The High Representative briefed the Council on her meetings in New York and Washington with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Robert Zoellick, President of the World Bank.

The Development Aid and Humanitarian Affairs Commissioner, Karel De Gucht, reported on his visit to Haiti and stressed the huge scale of reconstruction work that was needed.

The Council agreed that the Union would provide, in response to the UN appeal:

- engineering expertise and equipment to open routes in order to facilitate the delivery of aid;
- a maritime logistical capacity able to operate without port facilities;
- a collective EU contribution, numbering at least 300 police personnel, to provide a temporary reinforcement of the police capability of the UN Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). This would include contributions by EU Member States that are part of the European Gendarmerie Force. (France, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania and Spain are members of the European Gendarmerie Force.)

The Council also agreed to the High Representative's proposal to set up a cell in Brussels, EUCO Haiti, to coordinate contributions by Member States of military and security assets to meet needs identified by the UN. EUCO Haiti will complement the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) at the European Commission, which coordinates civil protection contributions by Member States.

The High Representative echoed several ministers in pointing to the need to ensure that appropriate assistance was given to children in Haiti, particularly those orphaned by the disaster.

SOMALIA - Council conclusions

The High Representative led a discussion on the situation in Somalia and the Union's contribution to enhancing security there. The Council agreed to set up a crisis management operation to contribute to the training of the National Security Forces of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG). It also discussed the prosecution of captured pirates in connection with the implementation of the mandate of the EU's counter-piracy operation, EU NAVFOR Atalanta.

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

“The Council remained concerned about the situation in Somalia and its regional implications, recalling its 27 July Conclusions. It expressed its continued full support to the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia. It stressed the need for the full implementation of the Djibouti Agreement (19 August 2008). The Council reaffirmed the need to deal with the challenges of Somalia through a comprehensive approach. The EU should therefore continue to help stabilize Somalia by providing support to vital and priority areas such as the security sector, development, assistance to the population and capacity-building support, in addition to ongoing deployment of EU NAVFOR Atalanta and humanitarian assistance. The Council recalled relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, in particular UNSCR 1872, which urges the International Community to provide technical assistance to the Somali Security Forces.

In this context, the Council agreed to set up a military mission to contribute to training of Somali security forces. This mission would take place in Uganda where Somali forces are already being trained, which would also facilitate the coordination of the EU action with the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). It would be launched with the next intake of trainees, scheduled to start in spring 2010. The mission would be conducted in close coordination with our partners, including the TFG, Uganda, the African Union, the United Nations and the United States of America.

The Council recognised the need to carry out this training as part of a wider international effort and encompassing inter alia the vetting of trainees, the monitoring and mentoring of the forces once back in Mogadishu and the funding and payment of the salaries of the soldiers. The Council emphasised the need to ensure that these issues were satisfactorily addressed on a continuing basis, including before the launch of the mission.

Underlining the need for TFG ownership, the Council noted that it would also be essential that the international community gives the necessary support to the TFG to fulfil its role in developing its capacity with respect to its security forces.

The Council agreed to remain seized of the issue and asked the High Representative to report on progress achieved on a regular basis.”

AFGHANISTAN/PAKISTAN

The High Representative led a discussion on the situation in Afghanistan ahead of the London Conference on Afghanistan on 28 January. At this conference the international community is expected to renew its commitment to Afghanistan following the presidential election earlier in the year.

Catherine Ashton emphasised the EU's solidarity with its international partners in the drive to focus attention on efforts to help the Afghan government take greater responsibility for making the country secure. The Union is enhancing its engagement under an Action Plan adopted last October.

The EU Police Mission in Afghanistan will continue to contribute to the long-term sustainability of police reform in Afghanistan.

YEMEN - Council conclusions

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The EU reaffirms its commitment to a unified, stable, democratic and prosperous Yemen and recalls its support to the Government of Yemen in confronting the challenges it faces. In pursuing the implementation of its October conclusions, the EU is committed to joining with international partners, including Yemen's neighbours, in assisting the government through a comprehensive approach encompassing security, counter-terrorism, political dialogue, humanitarian and economic assistance. The aim is to ensure coherence and effectiveness of domestic and international efforts.

Acknowledging Yemeni ownership and responsibility of its reform efforts, the EU calls on the Government of Yemen to continue with its programme of domestic political and economic reforms. The EU welcomes the announcement by President Saleh to launch a comprehensive national dialogue, encourages its inception and calls on all national stakeholders to do their utmost to ease tension and strengthen the democratic process in Yemen.

The EU welcomes the forthcoming high-level Yemen meeting in London and looks forward to engaging fully with Yemen as well as with regional and international partners on follow up thereafter."

IRAN

Ministers discussed Iran over lunch, focusing on the next steps as regards the nuclear question. They reviewed the situation in the light of the outcome of the New York meeting of political directors from the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, Germany and the EU on 16 January 2010 and of the latest statements by Iran.

The Union continues to be committed to the international community's dual-track approach of seeking a negotiated solution with Iran while standing ready to take further measures if Iran fails to reassure the international community of its peaceful intentions, in line with the European Council declaration of December 2009.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA - Council conclusions

Ministers held a discussion, over lunch, on the political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Council adopted the following conclusions on the future of Operation "EUFOR Althea":

“The Council reiterated its full support for the European perspective of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH); and confirmed that Operation ALTHEA was an important part of the EU's comprehensive efforts in BiH to support a political process aimed at enabling BiH, on the basis of the necessary reforms, to continue to move forward in the EU integration process.

The EU underlined its commitment to Bosnia and Herzegovina's territorial integrity and sovereignty in accordance with the Dayton/Paris Peace Agreement. The Council also declared strong support for the High Representative/EUSR Valentin Inzko and called on all parties in BiH to comply with all decisions taken by him and not to seek to challenge his authority.

The Council recalled the decisive progress made by Operation ALTHEA towards accomplishing its mandate and in particular the completion of the military and stabilisation tasks provided for by the Dayton/Paris Peace Agreement; and underlined Operation Althea's significant contribution to the stability and security of BiH. Building on these achievements, the Council decided to start providing non-executive capacity-building and training support, within the framework of the Operation, subject to the completion of the necessary arrangements. The Council underlined in this context that security sector reform was an important part of the overall reform process in BiH, where EU military engagement through non-executive capacity-building and training tasks would contribute to strengthening local ownership and capacity.

The Council underlined the EU's commitment to supporting BiH efforts to maintain the safe and secure environment. Operation ALTHEA's executive mandate will continue in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1895 (2009). The Council expressed the readiness of the EU, should the situation require, to maintain an executive military role to support these efforts beyond 2010, under a UN mandate.

The Council confirmed that it will continue closely to monitor the situation in BiH. To this end, it intends regularly to review the operation, taking into account the internal situation in BiH as well as developments concerning the international community's presence, including the future role of the EUSR.

These elements should be seen as part of the EU's overall engagement and complementary to the wide range of instruments that contribute to a prosperous and secure BiH.”

IN THE MARGINS OF THE COUNCIL

- Ministerial political dialogue with Serbia;
- Ministerial with the OSCE Presidency;
- Ministerial political dialogue with Cape Verde.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Relations with Mauritania

The Council adopted a decision normalising its relationship and fully resuming development cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Mauritania ([5012/10](#)).

For more details see press release ([5687/10](#)).

BUDGET

Court of Auditors special report 12/2009 - Western Balkans - *Council conclusions*

The Council adopted conclusions set out in document [5360/10](#).
