



EU Security and Defence news

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

EU High Representative Ashton co-chaired a ministerial conference on piracy and maritime security

Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy visited South Africa on 6 October and Mauritius from 7-9 October to discuss strengthening strategic dialogue, deepening regional cooperation in the fight against piracy and contribution to international efforts for stability in Somalia.

The EU is committed to a regional approach to piracy off the coast of Somalia, based on ownership of the countries concerned and EU support for their efforts to ensure the prosecution and detention of suspected pirates. The EU is also committed to stability and security in Somalia and to responding to the needs of the Somali people.



During her visit to South Africa, HR Ashton met key government officials including President Jacob Zuma, the Foreign minister and the Defence minister. In particular, she discussed enhanced cooperation between South Africa and EUNAVFOR-Atalanta which has proven a major success since its launch in December 2008.

In Mauritius, HR Ashton co-chaired the second regional Ministerial conference on piracy following on from the first regional meeting on piracy held in the Seychelles in May 2010 which paved the way to the adoption of the regional counter-piracy strategy. Catherine Ashton said: "Piracy is one of the big challenges of our times both for the region and for the international community. It undermines maritime security in the Indian Ocean and stability and development in the region. The countries in the region have taken an active role in developing a regional approach based on three key elements - Somalia strategy, prosecution and detention of pirates and maritime governance. The long term solution of course lies on land and on development and a lasting political solution in Somalia." During the conference in Mauritius, the HR reiterated the EU's full support for this strategy and the action plan developed by the countries in the region and regional organisations. The HR also held bilateral meetings with the President and Prime minister of Mauritius and foreign ministers from other countries in the region who were present in Mauritius.

See the joint communiqué published at the end of the regional ministerial meeting on piracy and maritime security

See the videos on TV newsroom

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EUNAVFOR's deputy Commander visits World Food Programme headquarters

EUNAVFOR's deputy Commander, Rear-Admiral Thomas Ernst, visited the World Food Programme (WFP) headquarters in Rome on 4 October to discuss possible ways for EUNAVFOR to improve the assistance it provides to WFP vessels.

The WFP logistic officer compared the situation today to the situation prior to the engagement of EUNAVFOR and explained to Rear-Admiral Ernst that their escorts had made a huge difference for the safety of the vessels transits. More...

EU Military Committee visited Uganda, Ethiopia and the African Union

The European Union Military Committee (EUMC) met in informal session during a visit to Africa. The EUMC visited Uganda,



Ethiopia and the African Union (AU) HQ, from 3 to 6 October 2010. The visit started in Uganda, with a meeting with the Ugandan President, Yoweri Museveni, followed by a conference with ministers, diplomats and general officers from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), Somalia and Uganda. On 5 October, the EUMC visited the Bihanga camp to meet EUTM Commander Colonel Elul.

During the last day, the EUMC visited Addis Abeba in Ethiopia, where the Chairman of the EUMC had a meeting with the Ethiopian Chief of defence. The EUMC also met the director of the peace and security department and the Head of the peace support division and other officials from the AU.

Next week, within the framework of the EU-Africa partnership on Peace and Security, a command post exercise will be held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 29 October 2010. This exercise called "Amani Africa" will train and engage the structures within the AU to deal with possible crisis and will train and evaluate AU capabilities to plan and conduct a peace support operation. The operational results achieved by Amani Africa will be presented at AU-EU summit to be held in November 2010.

Voir le dossier "Paix et sécurité" réalisé par la Délégation de l'UE auprès de l'Union africaine

EULEX carries out arrests in northern Kosovo

On 4 and 6 October, officers from [EULEX](#) carried out arrests in northern Kosovo. Two individuals have so far been arrested. One person faces charges relating to attempted murder, unauthorised possession of weapons and causing general danger and the other one is facing charges relating to threatening a public official, unauthorized possession of weapons and obstructing official persons in performing official duties.

The investigations are being carried out by EULEX police under the supervision of a EULEX prosecutor at the Mitrovica District Court. The arrest warrants were issued by an EULEX pre-trial judge in the district Court of Mitrovica. Both individuals were also the subjects of international arrest warrants.

In Brussels, upon the end his mandate, Yves de Kermabon gave his last briefing to the press, accompanied by his successor Xavier Bout de Marnhac.



[Watch the interview with the new head of EULEX](#)

EU presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina

This week, the EU ambassadors of the political and security committee received an overview of the political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, given by EU Special Representative Valentin Inzko, and a state of play on [EUFOR Althea](#) and [EUPM](#).

First EU Special Representative Inzko gave a preliminary assessment of the outcome of the 3 October elections. He welcomed the overall orderly conduct of the elections.

On operation EUFOR ALTHEA, the Operation Commander, General McColl, underlined that, despite the difficult political environment, the security situation in BiH remains calm and stable. He highlighted the successful launch of the new capacity-building and training tasks.

[Watch the interview of Operation Commander McColl](#)

On the EU police mission, EUPM head of mission Stefan Feller focused on the progress achieved in the institutional area as well as the operational results.

[Watch the interview with the head of mission Stefan Feller](#)

Interview avec le coordinateur de la lutte contre le terrorisme de l'UE, Gilles de Kerchove

A l'occasion de son intervention cette semaine devant le Comité politique et de sécurité de l'UE pour évoquer la situation au Sahel, [Gilles de Kerchove](#) fait un point de situation sur les menaces terroristes. Quel est le rôle des Etats membres et celui de l'UE dans ce domaine ? Gilles de Kerchove insiste également sur le lien entre sécurité et développement.

[Voir l'interview](#)

EUPOL Afghanistan: weapon intelligence investigator – counter improvised explosive device course

Fifteen Afghan criminal investigation department officers from Kabul travelled to Mazar-e-Sharif to take part in a weapon intelligence investigator – counter improvised explosive device (C-IED) course organised at the end of September. The nine-day course is organised jointly by EUPOL Afghanistan and ISAF. The objective is to improve the ability of Afghan officers to investigate crime scenes of IED incidents and terrorist attacks.



As part of the course the officers were trained to use specific equipment, take pictures of crime scenes, collect evidence and document investigations.

These Afghan officers are certainly eager to learn. "That's why we are here – to learn what we do not know", the most senior of participants says. More info on: www.eupol-afg.eu

Upcoming activities

9 - 14 octobre - Visite du Comité politique et de sécurité en République Démocratique du Congo

13 - 29 October - Amani Africa exercise, Addis Ababa

12 - 15 octobre - Collège européen de sécurité et de défense, cours pilote sur la non-prolifération des armes de destruction massives et de leurs vecteurs, Bruxelles

13 October - Seminar on level playing field and SMEs, Brussels

14 - 15 October - HR Ashton will chair the Friends of Democratic Pakistan meeting, Council of the EU, Brussels

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