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Common Security and Defence Policy
EU CSDP PSDC
Politique de sécurité et de défense commune

EU Security and Defence news

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

High Representative Ashton visited the Middle East

Mahmoud Abbas and Catherine Ashton

The EU High Representative visited Israel and the Palestinian Territories on 5 and 6 January. During her visit in Israel she spoke to Prime minister Netanyahu and met with Foreign minister Liberman, Defense minister Barak and Kadima party leader Tzipi Livni. In Ramallah she met with President Abbas and Prime minister Fayyad. She also visited Bethlehem, including the Aida Camp and the Church of the Nativity. This was her first official trip abroad in 2011.

"I am pleased to begin the new year with a visit to the Middle East. My trip to the region so early in the year is an expression of my personal commitment and that of the European Union and its 27 member states to peace in the Middle East. [...]", said the High Representative.

Statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on demolition and settlements in East Jerusalem

European External Action Service: transfer of staff on 1 January 2011

The European External Action Service entered a new phase on 1 January 2011 with the transfer of staff from Council and Commission. Altogether 1643 permanent officials have been transferred to the new service, bringing on board their expertise and experience. With this transfer the EEAS, launched on 1 December 2010, is taking another decisive step.

"The service will mark a new beginning for European foreign and security policy as we bring together and streamline all of the Union's existing resources, staff and instruments. We will also receive a fresh injection of talent and skills as we incorporate Member States' diplomats into our team. This combination of staff and resources will be more than the sum of its parts: we will be able to find synergies and develop new ideas, which will enhance our ability to act more creatively and decisively in an increasingly challenging world," said Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission. > Read further

Nouveau Directeur exécutif pour l'Agence européenne de défense

Claude-France Arnould

Catherine Ashton, Haute Représentante de l'Union pour les affaires étrangères et la politique de sécurité et Chef de l'Agence européenne de défense (AED), s'est félicitée le 6 janvier dernier de la nomination de Claude-France Arnould comme Directeur exécutif de l'Agence européenne de défense.

"Sur ma proposition, le Comité directeur de l'Agence européenne de défense a décidé, à l'unanimité, de nommer Claude-France Arnould en qualité de Directeur exécutif de l'Agence européenne de défense pour un mandat de trois ans. Avec son expertise des questions de défense, Claude-France apportera plus de 20 ans d'expériences à cette fonction, à un moment déterminant pour l'Agence", a déclaré la Haute Représentante.

Claude-France Arnould prendra officiellement ses fonctions le 17 janvier prochain. Elle est depuis novembre 2009 Directeur général adjoint à la Direction Gestion des crises et planification (CMPD) au Service européen pour l'action extérieure. De 2001 à 2009, elle était Directeur pour les questions de défense au Secrétariat général du Conseil de l'Union européenne, en charge plus particulièrement des opérations PSDC et des capacités militaires. Madame Arnould a plus de 20 ans d'expériences en matière de Relations extérieures, de Politique étrangère et de sécurité commune et de Politique de sécurité et de défense commune.

www.eda.europa.eu

EDA: new defence data

The European Defence Agency has just published new defence data. Two new data files are now available: the first examines the aggregate data of the 26 participating member states between 2006 and 2009 as well as the percentage change of the several defence expenditure components, between 2008 and 2009. The second one compares the aggregate data of the 26 participating Member States with that of the United States in 2009.

EUTM Somalia: final military parade of the first intake of Somali soldiers

The final parade of the first Somali troop intake in the Uganda People Defence Forces (UPDF) Bihanga training camp was held on 15 December 2010. The ceremony served to showcase the final graduation of the newly trained 18 platoons of Somali soldiers which will be deployed at the end of January in Somalia.

During the ceremony, the national anthems of Somalia and Uganda were played before the troops were inspected on the parade ground. All military personnel present returned the historic first salute as the Somali troops marched past the viewing stand and rendered honours. As guest of honour, the Somali Deputy Prime minister presided over the formal final ceremony and afterwards addressed the audience. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Uganda, the EU and the US Government.

A total of 911 Somalis have changed their status from recruit to professional soldier in the future army of Somalia over a six months period of hard training at this camp in Western Uganda. 720 of them are soldiers, 170 non-commissioned officers and 21 junior officers.

Finally, the Somali Deputy Prime minister in the company of several authorities met the recruits informally and urged them to ensure a better future for Somalia. This plea was met with cheers of approval from the newly trained Somali troops.

Watch the video on youtube

EUTM Somalia

Is permanent structured cooperation a workable way towards EU defence?

Permanent structured cooperation in Defence, brought in by the Lisbon Treaty allows a core group of states that fulfil certain criteria to enter into closer cooperation to enhance European defence capabilities. A Citizen's Controversy with Pieter De Crem, Belgian Minister of Defence, and Lieutenant General David Leakey, former Director General of the EU Military Staff. Read the Madariaga Report

EULEX Kosovo: Indictment filed in major organised crime case

At the end of December, an EULEX Prosecutor from the Kosovo Special Prosecution Office (SPRK) filed an indictment against three persons at the District Court of Prishtinë/Priština.

The accused are charged with trafficking in drugs and organised crime. The case stems from a major investigation undertaken by the Kosovo Police Organised Crime Directorate led by a EULEX Special Prosecutor of the SPRK since late 2008.

Two of the accused were arrested in Kosovo on 27 May 2010, the third on 4 December 2010 pursuant to orders for arrest issued by a EULEX Pre-Trial Judge. The pre-trial phase was subsequently delegated to the local judiciary. The hearing on the confirmation of the indictment is anticipated for early 2011.

Contrôle des exportations de technologie et d'équipements militaires

Le 12ème rapport annuel définissant des règles communes régissant le contrôle des exportations de technologie et d'équipements militaires vient d'être publié.

En 2009 et 2010, les États membres de l'UE ont poursuivi l'intégration dans leur législation nationale de la position commune 2008/944/PESC du Conseil définissant des règles communes régissant le contrôle des exportations de technologie et d'équipements militaires, qui remplace le code de conduite en matière d'exportation d'armements.

Des États tiers comme la Bosnie-Herzégovine, le Canada, la Croatie, l'ancienne République yougoslave de Macédoine, l'Islande, le Monténégro et la Norvège se sont officiellement ralliés aux critères et aux principes énoncés dans la position commune du Conseil de l'Union européenne.

Upcoming activities

17 - 21 January - European Security Defence College: Course on 'International law for military legal advisers', Vienna

18 - 19 January - HR participates in the European Parliament plenary session, Strasbourg

20 -22 January - HR travels to Istanbul for talks with Iran on their nuclear programme, on behalf of the E3+3

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