



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



15914/09 (Presse 329)

PRESS RELEASE

2974th Council meeting

General Affairs and External Relations

External Relations

Brussels, 17 November 2009

President **Mr Carl BILDT**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden

* Some external relations items were adopted without debate at the 2973rd meeting on General Affairs (15913/09).

P R E S S

Rue de la Loi 175 B – 1048 BRUSSELS Tel.: +32 (0)2 281 9548 / 6319 Fax: +32 (0)2 281 8026
press.office@consilium.europa.eu <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/Newsroom>

15914/09 (Presse 329)

1
EN

Main results of the Council

The Council conducted its six-monthly review of developments and projects in the field of European Security and Defence Policy, in the presence of defence ministers. In particular, it:

- *underlined the contribution of **EUNAVFOR- ATALANTA** to maritime security off the coast of Somalia by protecting World Food Programme chartered vessels delivering aid, vessels supplying critical shipments to the AU peace support operation in Somalia (Amisom), and other vulnerable vessels, notably in the Gulf of Aden and in the Somali Basin. It agreed to extend Operation ATALANTA for another year following the end of the current mandate on 12 December. Finally, the Council approved a crisis management concept on a possible ESDP mission to contribute to the training of TFG security forces.*
- *welcomed further progress in preparatory planning work for the possible future development of **Operation ALTHEA** in Bosnia and Herzegovina towards a non-executive capacity-building and training operation. It reiterated that a decision on the matter would necessarily take account of political developments, including the future role of the EU special representative;*

*Development ministers held their six-monthly meeting within the Council. They adopted an **operational framework on aid effectiveness** containing key measures to reduce the burden on developing countries and to contribute to a more effective delivery of aid.*

*Furthermore, the Council took note of final preparations for the **EU-Russia and EU-Ukraine summits** which will be held respectively in Stockholm on 18 November and Kiev on 4 December.*

*The Council reviewed the situation in **Belarus** and decided to extend until October 2010 the restrictive measures provided for by Common Position 2006/276 CFSP, as extended by Common Position 2009/314/CFSP. However, in order to encourage progress in the areas identified by the EU, the Council decided at the same time to extend the suspension of the application of the travel restrictions imposed on certain officials of Belarus.*

CONTENTS¹

PARTICIPANTS.....	5
ITEMS DEBATED	
MIDDLE EAST.....	8
PREPARATIONS FOR THE EU-RUSSIA SUMMIT	8
UKRAINE	8
AFGHANISTAN - <i>Council conclusions</i>	9
EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY - <i>Council conclusions</i>	10
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, INCLUDING OPERATION EUFOR ALTHEA	23
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION.....	23
Aid effectiveness - <i>Council conclusions</i>	23
Climate change and development - <i>Council conclusions</i>	23
Policy coherence for development - <i>Council conclusions</i>	24
OTHER BUSINESS	24
Belarus.....	24
ESDP	24
IN THE MARGINS OF THE COUNCIL.....	25

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.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED*EXTERNAL RELATIONS*

–	Iran - Restrictive measures.....	26
–	EU - Latin America political dialogue and cooperation agreement -EU enlargement.....	26
–	EU - Tajikistan partnership and cooperation agreement.....	26
–	EU mediation and dialogue capacities - Crisis management.....	27

EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

–	ESDP 10 years	27
–	EU police mission in Afghanistan - Budget.....	28
–	Guinea-Bissau - EU mission for security sector reform.....	28
–	Bosnia and Herzegovina - Operation Althea - Participation by the Dominican Republic.....	28

GENERAL AFFAIRS

–	Maritime surveillance - Presidency report and <i>Council conclusions</i>	28
---	--	----

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

–	EU development and external assistance policies - <i>Council conclusions</i>	29
–	Programme for action to confront HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis - <i>Council conclusions</i>	29
–	European development fund for 2010.....	29

PARTICIPANTS

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

Belgium:

Mr Yves LETERME	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Charles MICHEL	Minister for Development Cooperation
Mr Pieter DE CREM	Minister for Defence
Mr Olivier CHASTEL	State Secretary for European Affairs

Bulgaria:

Ms Rumiana JELEVA	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Nickolay MLADENOV	Minister for Defence

Czech Republic:

Mr Jan KOHOUT	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Marek MORA	Deputy Minister for European Affairs
Mr Jan FULÍK	Deputy Minister for Defence

Denmark:

Mr Per Stig MØLLER	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Ms Ulla TØRNÆS	Minister for Development Assistance
Mr Søren Gade JENSEN	Minister for Defence

Germany:

Mr Guido WESTERWELLE	Vice-Chancellor and Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Rüdiger WOLF	State Secretary, Ministry of Defence

Estonia:

Mr Urmas PAET	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Jaak AAVIKSOO	Minister for Defence

Ireland:

Mr Dick ROCHE	Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach and at the Department of Foreign Affairs with special responsibility for European Affairs
Mr Peter POWER	Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs with special responsibility for Overseas Development

Greece:

Mr Evangelos VENIZELOS	Minister for Defence
Mr Dimitris DROUTSAS	Alternate Minister for Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr Miguel Ángel MORATINOS	Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
Ms Carme CHACÓN PIQUERAS	Minister for Defence
Ms Soraya RODRÍGUEZ RAMOS	State Secretary for International Cooperation

France:

Mr Hervé MORIN	Minister for Defence
Mr Pierre LELLOUCHE	State Secretary with responsibility for European affairs

Italy:

Mr Franco FRATTINI	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Giuseppe COSSIGA	State Secretary for Defence

Cyprus:

Mr Marcos KYPRIANOU	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Costas PAPACOSTAS	Minister for Defence

Latvia:

Mr Māris RIEKSTIŅŠ	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Imants Viesturs LIEĢIS	Minister for Defence

Lithuania:

Mr Vygaudas UŠACKAS
Ms Rasa JUKNEVIČIENĖ

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for Defence

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean ASSELBORN

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration

Mr Jean-Marie HALSDORF

Minister for the Interior and Regional Planning, Minister for Defence

Ms Marie-Josée JACOBS

Minister for the Family and Integration, Minister for Equal Opportunities

Hungary:

Mr Péter BALÁZS
Mr Imre SZEKERES

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for Defence

Malta:

Mr Tonio BORG
Mr Chris SAID

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs
Parliamentary Secretary for Public Dialogue and Information in the Office of the Prime Minister

Netherlands:

Mr Frans TIMMERMANS
Mr Bert KOENDERS
Mr Eimert van MIDDELKOOP

Minister for European Affairs
Minister for Development Cooperation
Minister for Defence

Austria:

Mr Michael SPINDELEGGER
Mr Norbert DARABOS

Federal Minister for European and International Affairs
Federal Minister for Defence and Sport

Poland:

Mr Radosław SIKORSKI
Mr Mikołaj DOWGIELEWICZ

Minister for Foreign Affairs
State Secretary, Office of the Committee for European Integration

Mr Stanisław KOMOROWSKI

Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Defence

Portugal:

Mr Luis AMADO
Mr Augusto SANTOS SILVA
Mr Pedro LOURTIE

State Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for Defence
Secretary of State for European Affairs

Romania:

Mr Bogdan MAZURU
Mr Doru Romulus COSTEA

State Secretary for European Affairs
State Secretary for International Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Viorel OANCEA

State Secretary and Head of the Defence and Planning Policy Department, Ministry of National Defence

Slovenia:

Mr Samuel ŽBOGAR
Ms Ljubica JELUŠIČ
Mr Mitja GASPARI

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for Defence
Minister without Portfolio, responsible for Growth and European Affairs

Slovakia:

Mr Miroslav LAJČÁK
Mr Daniel DUCHOŇ

Minister for Foreign Affairs
State Secretary, Ministry of Defence

Finland:

Mr Alexander STUBB
Mr PaaVo VÄYRYNEN
Ms Astrid THORS
Mr Jyri HÄKÄMIES

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for Foreign Trade and Development
Minister for Migration and European Affairs
Minister for Defence

Sweden:

Mr Carl BILDT
Ms Gunilla CARLSSON
Ms Cecilia MALMSTRÖM
Mr Sten TOLGFORS

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for Development Aid
Minister for European Affairs
Minister for Defence

United Kingdom:

Mr Chris BRYANT

Mr Douglas ALEXANDER

Baroness TAYLOR

Minister of State for Europe and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
Secretary of State for International Development
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for International Defence and Security

.....

Commission:

Ms Margot WALLSTRÖM

Mr Olli REHN

Ms Benita FERRERO-WALDNER

Mr Karel DE GUCHT

Vice President

Member

Member

Member

.....

General Secretariat of the Council:

Mr Javier SOLANA

Secretary-General/High Representative for the CFSP

ITEMS DEBATED

MIDDLE EAST

The Council held an exchange of views on the situation in the Middle East.

The discussion focused on the political situation and the situation on the ground, and concerns about the lack of progress since the Council's last discussion in October.

The Council expressed its readiness to further support the Palestinians and Palestinian Authority, and particularly the position of President Mahmoud Abbas.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE EU-RUSSIA SUMMIT

The Council discussed preparations for the EU-Russia summit, to be held in Stockholm on 18 November.

The summit will focus on climate change, energy and the economic and financial crisis. Furthermore, it will take stock of progress in EU-Russia relations, focusing on key issues covered by the four EU-Russia "common spaces" such as trade issues, WTO accession, visa issues, crisis management cooperation, as well as progress made in negotiations on a new EU-Russia framework agreement.

The summit will also provide an opportunity to discuss a number of international issues including Georgia, the Middle East and Afghanistan/Pakistan.

UKRAINE

The Council discussed the situation in Ukraine in the context of preparations for the EU-Ukraine summit, to be held in Kiev on 4 December.

The summit will focus on the economic and financial crisis, climate change and energy challenges.

It will also provide an opportunity to take stock of progress in EU-Ukraine relations, and to discuss incentives for Ukraine to continue its democratic development and EU approximation.

AFGHANISTAN - *Council conclusions*

The Council held an informal exchange of views, attended by NATO Secretary-General, on Afghanistan, in particular in the light of the political and security situation.

In a joint session involving foreign and development ministers and attended by UN special representative to Afghanistan Kai Eide, it discussed Afghanistan in the context of democracy support in EU external relations.

The conclusions adopted on this issue highlight that the EU has an extensive array of instruments at its disposal in support of democracy worldwide, which could be applied more consistently and effectively as mutually enhancing parts of a coherent whole. The attached EU Agenda for Action aims to enhance the overall effectiveness of EU action in support of democracy without introducing new conditionality for EU development aid.

The text of the Council conclusions can be found in document [16081/09](#).

EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY - Council conclusions

As usual every six months, the Council included a substantial ESDP component, with the participation of defence ministers.

A European Defence Agency (EDA) steering board meeting, chaired by High Representative Javier Solana, was held in the margins of the Council.

Defence ministers discussed ESDP operations and missions, capabilities, including battle groups, and issues involving the EDA.

They commemorated the 10th anniversary of ESDP, which has seen the deployment of some 70 000 personnel in 22 ESDP missions and operations (of which 12 are ongoing) on three continents. The Council adopted conclusions on "ESDP ten years - challenges and opportunities".

Regarding EU operations and missions, the Council discussed:

- military operation EUFOR Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina; and
- the naval operation against piracy EU NAVFOR Somalia - Operation ATALANTA, including broader engagement in Somalia.

Over lunch, ministers discussed defence-related aspects of the Treaty of Lisbon.

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- “1. Commemorating the 10th anniversary of the inception of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), the Council commended the success of this policy which saw the deployment of some 70.000 personnel in 22 ESDP missions and operations, of which 12 are ongoing, in support of international peace and security. ESDP has proven to be an effective tool in the EU's comprehensive external action to be viewed in the framework of the European Security Strategy (ESS) and the need to strengthen the links and synergies between security and development.
2. The Council endorsed the Ministerial Declaration "ESDP Ten Years - Challenges and Opportunities¹".

¹ Doc. 15649/09 + COR 1

I. ESDP MISSIONS AND OPERATIONS

Western Balkans

EULEX Kosovo

3. The Council commended the mission's efforts in implementing its mandate throughout Kosovo, following its declaration of full operational capability on 6 April 2009, despite facing serious challenges. The Council continued its full support to the further efforts of EULEX to exercise its mandate throughout Kosovo.
4. The Council noted with satisfaction the results achieved so far by EULEX KOSOVO in assisting judicial and law enforcement agencies and in promoting rule of law reforms, including in the prosecution and adjudication of sensitive criminal cases and in the fight against organised crime and corruption; as well as for assuming responsibility for law and order in support of the Kosovo police and in cooperation with other international partners when needed.
5. The Council looked forward to the establishment of the Human Rights Review Panel to assess the conduct of EULEX Kosovo in the performance of its executive mandate. This will contribute to the external accountability on the part of EULEX.
6. Recalling the considerable and unique responsibility assumed by the European Union, the Council stressed the importance of all Member States ensuring that the mission continues to be adequately staffed with high quality personnel in order for the mission to fulfil its mandate.
7. While expressing its full support for local efforts to establish the rule of law, the Council stressed the importance of continued and genuine cooperation on the part of the Kosovo authorities with the mission. The Council reiterated the importance of cooperation by regional and international partners with the mission. The implementation of the EULEX KOSOVO mandate will continue to play an important role in strengthening the stability of the region, in line with its European perspective and will require a consistent commitment by all stakeholders. The Council expressed its continued support to EULEX Kosovo's efforts to enhance regional cooperation.

EUPM Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUPM)

8. The Council welcomed the efforts carried out by EUPM Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) to achieve its mandate and noted the important role played by the mission as part of the overall EU efforts to stabilise BiH with a view to its European perspective. It welcomed the support provided by the mission to BiH authorities in implementation of police reform; the fight against organised crime and corruption, including in high-level cases; and in improving the coordination between the police and the Judiciary.
9. The mission will contribute to the comprehensive enhanced EU engagement in BiH, as well as prepare for its reorganisation in line with its post-2009 mandate, refocused on the support to the combat against organised crime and corruption. EUPM will continue its close cooperation within the EU family, in particular with the EUSR, EUFOR ALTHEA and the European Commission.

Operation ALTHEA

10. The Council assessed Operation ALTHEA and approved the recommendations made in the Secretary-General/High Representative's six-monthly report on the operation.
11. The Council reconfirmed that Operation ALTHEA remained an important part of EU's comprehensive efforts in BiH to support a political process aimed at enabling BiH, on the basis of necessary reforms, to continue to move forward in the EU integration process.
12. The Council noted that the security situation in BiH continued to remain stable, despite the challenging political environment. The Council welcomed the positive contribution of the force to the safe and secure environment in BiH, and added that the EU-led force (EUFOR) continued to provide reassurance and remained ready to respond to possible security challenges throughout the country.
13. The Council welcomed further progress with the preparatory planning work for the possible future evolution of Operation ALTHEA towards a non-executive capacity-building and training operation. The Council reiterated that a decision on the possible evolution of Operation ALTHEA would need to take political developments, including the future role of the EU Special Representative, into account. It is expected to revert to the issue at its forthcoming meeting in December.

14. The Council reiterated the importance of Member States providing the operation with the necessary resources for the implementation of the mandate.
15. Coherence of EU action in BiH - involving all EU actors including the Commission and EU Heads of Mission - remains important. The EU Force Commander, the EUSR and the Head of EUPM continue to consult each other regularly prior to taking action. EUFOR has also maintained a close working relationship, including on operational matters, with other international actors. Cooperation with NATO continues to work well in respect of Operation ALTHEA.

South Caucasus

EUMM Georgia

16. The Council welcomed the Mission's contribution to the overall EU effort towards conflict resolution in Georgia, especially by monitoring the implementation of the Agreements of 12 August and 8 September 2008. Given the cessation of the UN and OSCE monitoring missions, EUMM is now the sole international monitoring mission in Georgia. This has increased the significance of EUMM activities. The mandate of the mission was extended by the Council for another year until 14 September 2010.
17. The Council welcomed the mission's contribution to stability, normalisation and confidence building in Georgia. The Council reiterated its support to the full implementation of EUMM's country-wide mandate, including access to the de-facto entities. While expressing its continued commitment to Georgia's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as to the principle of non-use of force, the Council emphasised the importance of measures to further build confidence among the parties, including through taking advantage of the agreed Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms (IPRM). This should enable human and trade contacts throughout Georgia leading to further improvement of living conditions for all populations affected by the conflict. In this context, the Council invited all parties to use all means at their disposal to contribute to these efforts.

Asia**EUPOL Afghanistan**

18. The Council reaffirmed its determination to make a significant contribution to the reform of the Afghan police. Strengthening the Afghan police and rule of law sector is of crucial importance in the promotion of stability and security in Afghanistan. The Council stressed the distinctive role of EUPOL AFGHANISTAN in providing civilian policing expertise as key to the sustainability of police reforms in Afghanistan and acknowledged the importance of close cooperation among the actors on the ground. In this context the Council underlined the crucial role of the International Police Coordination Board (IPCB). The Council welcomed the consolidation of EUPOL AFGHANISTAN strategic priorities along six objectives, namely intelligence-led policing; police chain of command, control and communication; criminal investigation; anti-corruption; police-prosecutor linkages; and human rights and gender mainstreaming within the Afghan Police. The Council also welcomed the continued progress made by the mission over the last year at strategic, operational and tactical levels.
19. At this critical moment, it is of utmost importance that the EU honours commitments made in support of police reform in Afghanistan. The Council underlined the importance that Member States provide the mission with the personnel and logistical resources necessary to implement its mandate countrywide.

Middle East**EUJUST LEX**

20. The Council underlined the strong continued commitment of the European Union to support the development of the rule of law in Iraq, specifically by providing training and mentoring in the area of the police, the judiciary and the penitentiary system. The Council welcomed the extension of EUJUST LEX for one year and its first pilot activities on Iraqi territory. Building on the success of these in-country activities, the mission is stepping up its engagement to support the rule of law in Iraq through further planned work. The Council stressed the importance of ensuring a geographical balance in the mission activities and the continuation of training of senior officials, in Iraq, in the region as well as in Europe.

EUPOL COPPS

21. The Council welcomed the work carried out by the mission in the area of police and criminal justice. In particular, it welcomed the mission's efforts to strengthen its advisory section on the rule of law which now co-locate with their Palestinian counterparts and its advocacy for the Civil Policing Model and support for Community Policing. The Council agreed to take work forward on addressing further action in the broader rule of law in the Palestinian Territories. Synergies should continue to be sought between EUPOL COPPS activities and Community as well as Member States action in this area.

EUBAM Rafah

22. Welcoming the extension of the mandate of EUBAM Rafah for a further six months, the Council confirmed the EU's readiness to redeploy at short notice at the Rafah Crossing Point, should circumstances allow. Despite the closure of the Rafah Crossing Point the mission is maintaining its operational capability.

Africa**Operation ATALANTA/EUNAVFOR**

23. The Council commended that ATALANTA continued to successfully contribute to maritime security off the coast of Somalia by protecting World Food Programme chartered vessels delivering aid to Somalia, vessels supplying critical shipments to the AU peace support operation in Somalia (AMISOM), and other vulnerable vessels, notably in the Gulf of Aden and in the Somali Basin. In this regard, the Council welcomed the successful generation of maritime assets so far, in particular the recent increase in maritime patrol aircraft, and noted the need for continuing efforts. The Council also welcomed the growing participation of third states.
24. Recognizing the complex challenges involved in combating piracy over vast maritime areas, the Council encouraged all actors to pursue existing coordination efforts, including in the field of gathering and exchanging information and intelligence. The Council welcomed the achievements made through ATALANTA's Maritime Security Centre - Horn of Africa, which allows notably an effective coordination and cooperation with the civilian maritime community. The Council welcomed the leading role taken by ATALANTA in the coordination between the multinational, national and regional naval forces operating in the area to ensure de-confliction, shared awareness and coordination in the disruption of piracy. In this context, the work of the SHADE (Shared Awareness and Deconfliction) forum in Bahrain was particularly commended.

25. The Council recalled the crucial contribution made by Kenya to the detention and to the undertaking of prosecution of suspected pirates apprehended by ATALANTA's warships. The Council also welcomed the exchange of letters concluded on 30 October 2009 between the EU and the Republic of Seychelles for the transfer of suspected pirates and armed robbers apprehended by ATALANTA. This arrangement constitutes an important new contribution to the counter-piracy efforts. In this context, the Council commended the important contribution by the European Commission through the Instrument for Stability in support of the Kenyan judicial system and welcomed that the Commission is now providing similar support to the Seychelles.
26. The Council underlined the necessity to seek sustainable solutions for the prosecution of suspected pirates and took note of the initiatives taken in the framework of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, including to set up a UN trust fund inter alia to financially support countries willing to prosecute suspected pirates, and on the study on establishing an international mechanism for the prosecution of suspected pirates.
27. The Council recalled its intention to extend Operation ATALANTA for another year following the end of the current mandate on 12 December 2009.

Somalia

28. In July 2009 the Council decided to step up the EU's engagement for promoting peace and development in Somalia. To this end, the Council has studied possibilities for the EU to contribute to international efforts, including in the security field.
29. Further EU support to the Somali security sector should be considered within a comprehensive EU approach to the situation in Somalia. This support should be part of a larger and coherent framework involving close EU cooperation with the AU, the UN and other relevant partners, in particular the US. In regard to the AU, the role of AMISOM is especially important.
30. The Council stressed the importance of Transitional Federal Government (TFG) ownership and a clear TFG commitment to build a viable and sustainable security sector.
31. The Council approved a Crisis Management Concept on a possible ESDP mission to contribute to the training of TFG Security Forces and requested further planning work, without prejudging subsequent decisions on a possible ESDP action.

EUSEC RD Congo

32. The Council welcomed the work of EUSEC RD Congo and stressed that defence reform and good governance in the defence field remain key factors in creating conditions for lasting stability and development in the country. On the basis of a strategic overview, the mandate of EUSEC RD Congo was revised and extended until 30 September 2010.
33. The Council underlined the importance of EUSEC RD Congo's key tasks of providing advice and assistance for defence reform with the aim of implementing the Congolese revised reform plan for the Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC) and to translate it into concrete actions. The Council highlighted the importance of political commitment by the Congolese authorities to take the reform process forward and encouraged the establishment of a coordination mechanism for defence reform under Congolese ownership, with appropriate support from EUSEC.
34. The Council welcomed the progress in the integration of former armed groups, including CNDP. This integration, including cooperation in the chain of payments, remains a key short term priority in the defence reform process.
35. The Council underlined the importance of EU action in DRC in contributing to the prevention and addressing of human rights violations and therefore welcomed the increased focus of EUSEC RD Congo in supporting efforts to address impunity for crimes, particularly sexual and gender-based violence, committed by the security forces and the use of child soldiers.

EUPOL RD Congo

36. The Council welcomed the work of EUPOL RD Congo in supporting the reform of the Congolese national police and its interaction with the justice sector. Notwithstanding the security situation in the country, which remains volatile, this reform is beginning to achieve some positive results, such as the submission of the draft Organic Law for the Police to the Congolese National Assembly. The Council encouraged the Congolese authorities to proceed with passing this important law in a timely manner. The Council also noted the important coordination work conducted by the Comité de Suivi de la Réforme de la Police (CSRP) and invited all partners to further the coordination efforts in the field of police reform.
37. The Council welcomed the deployment of the mission in Goma and Bukavu and the reinforced effort in the area of criminal investigation, including the fight against sexual violence and impunity, through the deployment of additional specialised personnel. The mission's mandate has been extended until 30 June 2010.

EU SSR Guinea-Bissau

38. The Council welcomed the work taken forward by EU SSR Guinea-Bissau under difficult circumstances and in a climate of political instability. The Council noted the recent positive developments in Guinea-Bissau, notably the successful presidential elections, and the more promising outlook for progress on SSR reform. The Council noted the expression of commitment from the Government of Guinea-Bissau to reiterate its efforts for Security Sector Reform.
39. The Council approved in November 2009 an extension of the mission for six months. The main purpose of the extension is to complete the activities foreseen in the current mandate and to prepare the ground for the future implementation of the legal framework by the authorities of Guinea-Bissau. A strategic review on the future of the EU engagement in Guinea-Bissau, taking into account regional aspects, will be carried out by January 2010.

II. CONFLICT PREVENTION AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES AND THEMATIC ISSUES

Civilian Capabilities

40. The rise of new security threats and challenges and the growing demand for EU civilian crisis management has resulted in the need to enhance further the ESDP civilian capabilities. Moving forward means addressing persistent shortfalls - as they have been identified in the course of the Civilian Headline Goal 2010 and recalled by the European Council Conclusions of December 2008 - and better preparing, deploying and conducting ESDP civilian missions increasingly faced with more challenging and complex tasks. In light of this, the Council recognized the growing need to ensure that civilian ESDP missions, as an effective crisis management tool are able to be deployed rapidly by the EU alongside other instruments, in support of strategic EU's aims and objectives.
41. The Council welcomed the considerable progress made in civilian capability planning and development during the Swedish Presidency. The Council welcomed the document on implementation entitled "Civilian Capability Planning and Development - Guiding Lines for the Second Semester 2009", which brought together the various strands of work needed to address the EU's challenges comprehensively. It noted that this process had allowed for a dynamic and focused civilian capability development effort while ensuring adequate strategic oversight and guidance. Although it acknowledged the need of taking into account the various national approaches, the Council deemed that a well coordinated civilian capability development framework continues to be necessary to guide future work on enhancing civilian capabilities.

42. These conclusions bring together reporting on progress made as foreseen in the Civilian Headline Goal 2010 (November 2007), the Ministerial Commitments as Regards the Development of Civilian Capabilities (November 2008) and the Implementation Plan for Civilian Capabilities (January 2009). It also comprises reporting on the ESDP mandate for the Swedish Presidency (June 2009) as well as the state of implementation of the Guiding Lines for Civilian Capabilities (July 2009).
43. As the Civilian Headline Goal 2010 draws to a close, the Council looked forward to further reflections on ways to foster the delivery of European capabilities beyond 2010. This should include modalities for the foreseen stocktaking event by the end of 2010 and considerations on the need to bring closer together the civilian and military capability development processes, where possible, also taking into account the results of the Headline Goal 2010 on the military capabilities.

Enhancing the availability of civilian personnel

Facilitating the deployment of civilian personnel

44. The Council welcomed the considerable progress made by Member States in enacting and implementing national measures facilitating the deployment of civilian personnel. It noted that several Member States are in the process of adopting such national measures/strategies and establishing more appropriate structures. The Council welcomed, in this context, the fostering of a continuous exchange of experiences and best practices, through inter alia expert seminars, leading to increased involvement of relevant national authorities in the civilian force generation process. The Council notes that this exchange currently focuses on four areas of action (i.e. national regulatory measures, national budgetary measures, national rosters and training). The Council expects this work to be pursued without delay.
45. The Council noted the continued need for missions to be adequately staffed with high quality personnel to enable the successful delivery of mission mandates. The Council stressed the importance of continuing efforts to match ambition with resources. It encouraged strongly that all Member States take practical steps to ensure the required force generation.

Human Resources

46. With a view to facilitating an orderly and predictable force generation, the Council welcomed the significantly improved procedures that have been put in place regarding calls for contribution and selection of staff. The Council took note of progress regarding the standardisation of job descriptions as well as of the development of standard mission administrative tools.

Rapid deployment

47. The Council welcomed progress made towards enhancing civilian rapid deployment capability, and recalled the need to enhance further this capacity as a priority action.

Preparatory measures and financial regulation

48. The Council welcomed the agreement to make financial resources available in the early phases of EU response to a crisis, and looked forward to the adjustments of the Preparatory Measure framework in 2010. In order to enhance the EU's potential to respond rapidly to crises, the Council underlined the need to make further progress on financing of activities and simplifying decision-making procedures and implementation modalities, taking account of lessons learned.

In this regard, the Council also looked forward to the opportunities offered by the revision of the Financial Regulation foreseen in 2010.

Equipment

49. The Council stressed that a permanent capacity to store new and existing strategic material is a vital resource to ensure rapid deployment of equipment to new and existing missions as well as sound financial management. It welcomed the establishment of a temporary warehouse within EUPM Bosnia and Herzegovina by January 2010 and appreciated the ongoing exploratory work on the establishment of a permanent warehousing solution. The Council looks forward to the results in 2010 with regard to the possible establishment of a permanent warehousing solution. The Council also welcomed the ongoing work of an inventory management system for civilian ESDP missions.
50. The Council took note of the Framework Contracts currently concluded by the Commission and emphasized the need to put in place or launch, before the end of 2009, all Framework Contracts necessary to allow for proper and timely delivery of key equipment.

Civilian Response Teams (CRT)

51. The Council welcomed the revision of the CRT concept. This foresees that the CRT pool shall be doubled with a target up to 200 experts with additional fields of expertise, as well as more efficient procedures for decision and deployment. The Council expects that the revised CRT concept will lead to a higher degree of flexibility and availability. The Council also welcomed the Commission's participation, including in identifying a long-term solution for the financing of training needs. It looked forward to the implementation of the revised CRT concept, while at the same time taking into account the development of the European SSR pool.

Goalkeeper software environment

52. The Council welcomed the progress made with the development and release of the Goalkeeper software environment and recalled the need to finalize, implement and operationalize all Goalkeeper applications without delay.

Comprehensive Concept for Police Strengthening Missions

53. The EU Comprehensive Concept for Police Strengthening Missions was revised, to take account of experience acquired in ESDP missions. The revised concept continues to be framed by the fundamental principles of rule of law and acknowledges the need for strong links with the justice sector. It continues to stress the importance of the necessary interface with a host country's justice system, as well as of local ownership; a stronger focus on combating organised crime and corruption; as well as police officers able to take appropriate action when faced with Human Rights violations. The Council considers that the revised concept, in setting out the tools available to police strengthening missions, should contribute to improved mission planning, mission benchmarking and best practice sharing.

Cooperation between ESDP and JHA

54. The Council welcomed the initiatives taken in this area. Recognizing the pressing need for increased participation of police, prosecutors, judges and penitentiary personnel in ESDP missions, the Council welcomed the discussions that have taken place between ESDP and Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) actors (e.g. Informal CivCom meeting, Article 36 Committee, Informal EUROPOL Ministerial meeting and the Task Force of Chiefs of Police) on cooperation between the relevant JHA and ESDP actors. It noted that several ESDP missions also make a positive contribution to the EU's internal security by supporting the combat against serious transnational crime in their host countries and by building capacity in the field of international legal cooperation. It noted that the experience gained in missions contributes to competence development for law enforcement personnel. It underlined the importance that relevant JHA actors recognize this rationale when prioritizing allocation of appropriate personnel to ESDP missions. It welcomed the progress made regarding the exchange of information within agreed frameworks between ESDP missions and EUROPOL, and in particular with EULEX Kosovo. The Council encouraged enhanced coordination between ESDP and initiatives relating to the external dimension of the JHA, e.g. FRONTEX. Furthermore, the Council encouraged further enhanced cooperation and sharing of information, where appropriate, between relevant ESDP and JHA actors.

Civil-Military Capability Development

55. The Council reconfirmed the importance of the EU's Comprehensive approach to crisis management and welcomed work launched by the Swedish Presidency aimed at identifying possible synergies between EU civilian and military capability development work, taking into consideration previous efforts on civil-military synergies. The Council looked forward to the workplan to be presented during the first semester 2010, in which the possible ways forward on a number of concrete areas will be further elaborated, with a view to strengthening future synergies. It also emphasized the need to concentrate joint efforts on concrete areas based on lessons identified in ESDP missions, operations and exercises. Further, the Council acknowledged the possible economic benefits of finding Civil Military synergies in Capability Development, and the added value of dual use capabilities.
56. The Council underlined that the Political and Security Committee (PSC) should play a leading role in this work by giving guidance to the work related to synergies between the EU civil and military capability development and noted the importance of the establishment of the Crisis Management and Planning Directorate (CMPD) in the work ahead. The CMPD will, within its area of responsibility, inter alia foster and coordinate work on synergies between civilian and military capability development, including in helping identify dual needs.
57. The Council noted that the ongoing work towards the integration of maritime surveillance is a concrete example of achieving civil-military synergies. In this context, the Council welcomed the EDA's ongoing work and the Commission's communication on maritime surveillance. The Council noted that the work of the Wise Pen Team is ongoing."

The full text of the conclusions can be found in document [16500/09](#).

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, INCLUDING OPERATION EUFOR ALTHEA

The Council, in a joint session involving foreign and defence ministers, assessed the political environment and security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). It agreed to continue reviewing political developments in BiH, and approved the High Representative Javier Solana's report on the six-monthly review of Operation ALTHEA.

The Council also assessed Operation ALTHEA and its contribution to a safe and secure environment in BiH.

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Aid effectiveness - Council conclusions

The Council adopted an operational framework which contains measures in key areas of the aid effectiveness agenda, such as division of labour, use of country systems and technical cooperation. They will reduce the burden on developing countries and contribute to a more effective delivery of aid.

The Council underlined the EU's commitment to aid effectiveness and stressed that the implementation of the aid effectiveness agenda should be reinforced. With a view to further enhancing the implementation of the EU aid effectiveness agenda and providing a strong and effective EU input to the Seoul High Level Forum in 2011, the Commission and future Presidencies are invited to prepare early in 2010 further action-oriented proposals for possible joint approaches to be added to the Operational Framework.

The conclusions are set out in document [15912/09](#).

Climate change and development - Council conclusions

The Council held an orientation debate and adopted conclusions that underline the importance of a medium- to long-term perspective in addressing climate change and development. Strengthening coherence between the two is essential to successfully achieve internationally agreed climate and development objectives, while ensuring that the fight against poverty and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals are not jeopardized.

The conclusions invite the Commission and member states to engage in more dialogue with partner countries and to support the integration of climate change concerns into their development strategies and budget processes.

The conclusions are set out in document [16071/09](#).

Policy coherence for development - *Council conclusions*

The Council discussed policy coherence for development and adopted conclusions on this issue.

Although progress has been made in improving policy coherence for development (PCD) within the EU, further work is needed to set up a more focused, operational and results-oriented approach. This includes strengthening dialogue with partner countries in order to make progress at all levels and in all relevant sectors. The conclusions identify five priority issues where the EU will take account of development objectives in a more pro-active way as part of a more focused approach to PCD: trade and finance, climate change, food security, migration and the security and development nexus. It is understood that these priorities may evolve over the years.

The Council adopted conclusions set out in document [16079/09](#).

OTHER BUSINESS

Belarus

The Council discussed the situation in Belarus and adopted conclusions on the review of restrictive measures taken against leading Belarusian figures.

The conclusions are set out in document [15593/09](#).

ESDP

The Council discussed ESDP (European Security and Defence Policy) civilian capabilities.

IN THE MARGINS OF THE COUNCIL

- EU - European Economic Area Council (EU-EFTA) ([1610/09](#));
- EU - Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (EU-OSCE);
- EU - Jordan Association Council ([16161/09](#));
- Meeting of defence ministers with non EU European allies and candidates countries;
- EU - Kazakhstan Cooperation Council ([16175/09](#)).

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED**EXTERNAL RELATIONS****Iran - Restrictive measures**

The Council adopted a decision and a regulation updating the list of persons and entities in Iran to which EU restrictive measures apply, notably in order to take account of changes in the government and the administration, as well as in the situation of the individuals and entities concerned ([14347/09](#), [14386/09](#)).

Under common position 2007/140/CFSP and regulation 423/2007 on restrictive measures against Iran, the Council is required to review the list of persons and entities at regular intervals and at least every 12 months, so as to ensure that there are grounds for keeping them on the list.

EU - Latin America political dialogue and cooperation agreement -EU enlargement

The Council adopted a decision authorising the Commission to negotiate a protocol adapting the EU-Central America political dialogue and cooperation agreement so as to take account of the accession to the EU of ten new member states in May 2004.

The negotiations will also deal with the accession of Bulgaria and Romania, which are already covered by a general negotiation mandate. The Council also adopted negotiating directives.

EU - Tajikistan partnership and cooperation agreement

The Council adopted a decision approving the conclusion of a partnership and cooperation agreement with Tajikistan ([12475/04](#), [11803/04](#)).

The agreement is aimed at strengthening the independence of Tajikistan and consolidating its democracy, achieving its transition to a market economy, providing a framework for political dialogue, promoting trade and investment and providing a basis for cooperation in other fields, such as economy and science.

The Council also adopted a decision approving the conclusion of a protocol to the partnership and cooperation agreement so as to take into account of the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the EU ([16406/08](#)).

EU mediation and dialogue capacities - Crisis management

The Council adopted a concept on strengthening EU mediation and dialogue capacities.

The joint Council and Commission concept provides a policy basis for EU engagement in the area of mediation and dialogue and makes proposals on how to strengthen the Union's capacity and support to EU and EU-backed mediators.

It is part of the follow-up to the 2003 European security strategy and the high representative's 2008 report on its implementation.

EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

ESDP 10 years

The Council adopted the declaration set out in document [15649/09](#) + [15694/09](#) COR 1.

European Defence Agency

The Council adopted guidelines for the European Defence Agency's work in 2010, aimed at updating the capability development plan, exploring synergies between military and civilian capability development, establishing a level playing field for the marketing of defence equipment and optimising capabilities.

The agency will also work on the harmonisation of military airworthiness regulations, and support the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) and the participating member states through collaborative projects and programmes.

The Council adopted the agency's budget for 2010. The total amount is EUR 30.5 million (EUR 22.1 million for functioning costs and EUR 8.4 million for the operational budget).

It also took note of a report from the head of EDA, highlighting the need to achieve cost-effective collaboration for participating member states in support of ESDP requirements.

EU police mission in Afghanistan - Budget

The Council adopted a joint action amending joint action 2007/369/CFSP on the EU police mission in Afghanistan ("EUPOL Afghanistan") ([15116/09](#)).

The new joint action allocates EUR 17.4 million to the mission's budget in order to cover its operational needs from 1 December 2009 until 30 May 2010.

EUPOL Afghanistan is intended to contribute to the establishment, under Afghan ownership, of sustainable and effective civilian policing arrangements, within the broader criminal justice system. It supports a reform process aimed at establishing a trusted and efficient police service, in accordance with international standards, working within the framework of the rule of law and respect of human rights.

Guinea-Bissau - EU mission for security sector reform

The Council adopted a joint action extending for six months until 31 May 2010 the EU mission in support of security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau.

Bosnia and Herzegovina - Operation Althea - Participation by the Dominican Republic

The Council adopted a decision approving the conclusion of an agreement on participation by the Dominican Republic in the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Operation Althea) ([15053/09](#)).

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Maritime surveillance - Presidency report and *Council conclusions*

The Council took note of a report from the presidency on integration of maritime surveillance submitted by the EU presidency ([15474/1/09](#)).

See also the conclusions adopted today by the Council on the same subject [15176/2/09](#).

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

EU development and external assistance policies - *Council conclusions*

The Council adopted conclusions set out in document [16078/09](#).

Programme for action to confront HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis - *Council conclusions*

The Council adopted conclusions set out in document [16076/09](#).

European development fund for 2010

The Council adopted a decision fixing the financial contributions to be paid by the member states contributing to the European development fund in 2010 ([15445/09](#)).
