Foreign Affairs Council on 14 June in Luxembourg

EU Foreign Affairs ministers will meet in Luxembourg on Monday 14 June 2010. Their agenda will include Iran, the Western Balkans, lessons learned in connection with the response to the Haiti disaster, Cuba, and child labour. Ministers for development, meeting within the Foreign Affairs Council, will discuss the Millennium Development Goals and gender equality in development cooperation. Rear Admiral Hudson, Commander of Operation EUNAVFOR-Somalia will be present for a discussion on piracy off the coast of Somalia. The situation in Gaza and the Middle East Peace Process will also be on the agenda. The FAC will be chaired by High Representative Catherine Ashton.

11th Round of the Geneva discussions on Georgia on 8 June

The two working groups discussed, respectively, security and stability issues and humanitarian matters. They agreed to reconvene in the same format on 27 July 2010.

Read the press release from the co-chairs

EUPOL Afghanistan helps create transparency in the Administration of Justice

On 6 June 2010, a course on “Transparency in the Administration of Justice” Training for Military Judges and Prosecutors started. This training, organised by EUPOL Afghanistan, is implemented together with the Max-Planck-Institute for International Law.

During the ten days course, more than 60 military judges and prosecutors from Kabul and the regions are trained.

Criminal investigations and trials against allegedly corrupt members of the Afghan security forces (mainly ANP) must meet basic legal standards in order to be effective.

In his opening speech General Halim, the President of the Military Appellate Court and Afghanistan’s highest ranking Military Judge, appreciated EUPOL’s leading role in supporting the Afghan Military Justice Sector.

Symposium de l’UE sur la piraterie au Parlement européen

La ministre de la défense espagnole, Carme Chacón, a inauguré le 10 juin 2010 le symposium sur la piraterie organisé au Parlement européen par la Présidence espagnole. Conseil de l’UE, Commission et Parlement européen étaient réunis pour discuter de la piraterie et de ses conséquences. La ministre a rappelé la situation extrêmement fragile du Gouvernement fédéral de transition somalien et la violence qui frappe ce pays. Elle a souligné le rôle fondamental de l’UE dans l’aide apportée à la Somalie. Carme Chacón a rappelé l’importance des opérations militaires EUTM et EUNAVFOR, tout en annonçant que l’Espagne s’apprête à renforcer les moyens mis à disposition de cette dernière.

EUNAVFOR-Atalanta, dernier rendez-vous avec la presse pour l’Amiral Hudson


EUTM in Addis Ababa to meet the African Union

The mission Commander of EUTM Somalia, Colonel Elul, was in Ethiopia last week for important meetings of the African Union, troop contributing countries to AMISOM and international partners on Somalia. The participants reviewed recent developments in Somalia, in particular with regard to the political, security, capacity building and training programmes, equipment and sustenance of the Somali National Security Forces and the challenges that these present to AMISOM.

EUTM Somalia
**EUJUST LEX Iraq organises a training course for senior prison staff**

From 24 to 28 May 2010, 13 senior correctional staff, including 4 women and 6 members of the Iraqi Correctional Service (ICS), attended in Basra (South Iraq) a training course focusing on empowering managers to plan, coordinate and implement changes in the prisons belonging to the ICS. The “Leading Change in Prison” training was organized by the EUJUST LEX Penitentiary Team. The course culminated with all Iraqi participants creating a workable Individual Action Plan to implement change in their work environment. The progress of these action plans will be monitored, supported and evaluated by EUJUST LEX. This is one more example of the increasing number of activities organized by EUJUST LEX within Iraq.

**EUJUST LEX contributes to fighting domestic violence in Iraq**

An EUJUST LEX training seminar on domestic violence ended in Arbil, Kurdistan Region (KR), on 5 June 2010. The 5-day seminar was attended by 20 participants from the KR police, 4 of them women. It was the first EUJUST LEX seminar at which both EUJUST LEX experts and Kurdish trainers from the Kurdistan Region delivered training and lectures. Fighting domestic violence is one of the key areas of EUJUST LEX's training and mentoring activities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, in cooperation with the KR Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the police authorities. The EUJUST LEX mission also delivers training on the same subject in federal Iraq.

**Participants from Iraq attend a training course in Madrid**

EUJUST LEX Iraq organised a Training the Trainers course in Madrid, from 10 to 28 May 2010. The course was attended by fifteen participants from various parts of Iraq, who hold trainer positions at the Iraqi Ministry of Interior. Participants were given the opportunity to enhance their training skills in line with latest European standards.

**First meeting of representatives of minorities with EUFOR Althea**

Commander of EUFOR, Major General Bair met with representatives of minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina at Camp Butmir, Sarajevo, on 4 June 2010. The meeting aimed to increase mutual understanding and to inform EUFOR of the ongoing concerns of the communities they represent.

MG Bair stated the meeting “was very interesting and instructive. For me as military commander of an international force, the minority perspective is always very important. For EUFOR this meeting will help inform my troops and myself so that we are more aware of the day-to-day problems that all people face here. Therefore, EUFOR can confidently observe and help maintain the safe and secure environment for all citizens.”

**EULEX helping modernise Kosovo’s Customs Services**

As Kosovo moves towards the EU, it is important that government institutions are EU compliant. That is why EULEX recommended Kosovo Customs to introduce a state-of-the-art computerized system like Asycuda World for processing customs declarations. This system, that should be fully operational in Kosovo by the end of 2010, was developed by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

For governments the main plusses of introducing Asycuda World are increased international trade and economic development. It has many advantages: more risk models and streamlined procedures, better operations, improved security measures, more control on goods entering Kosovo which lead to an improved flow of traffic at the border crossing points. All of which translate into increased revenue. Since Albania and Bosnia Herzegovina have already adopted the Asycuda system, Kosovo Customs will be able to receive support from its neighbours.

**Feith, de Kermabon report on progress in Kosovo**

After briefing EU Member States in the Political and Security Committee, EULEX Kosovo Head of Mission, Yves de Kermabon, and the EU Special Representative in Kosovo, Pieter Feith, met the press in Brussels on 8 June 2010.

Yves de Kermabon said that EULEX was given full support from all 27 member States, especially for the latest concrete steps taken in the fight against corruption. He also informed that the decision to extend the mission’s mandate for two more years had just been taken. Pieter Feith mentioned steady progress on two fronts: institution building and the consolidation and strengthening of a multi-ethnic democracy in Kosovo.

He underlined that operations such as the searches recently carried out by EULEX had not been taking place in Kosovo during the past ten years and that the Kosovo Government had now taken a lead in fighting corruption. About the northern part of Kosovo, he said: “The North will not be left behind. The EU is and will play a major role in promoting social-economic development and rule of law. The north will be part of the European perspective, as it is for Belgrade and Pristina”

**Watch the press briefing**

**Job vacancies in EU CSDP missions**

A number of positions are now available in several EU CSDP missions: EUPM (Bosnia-and-Herzegovina), EUPOL COPPS (Palestinian Territories) and EUPOL RD Congo (Democratic Republic of Congo). >> Further information
EUPM continued support to Bosnia and Herzegovina Border Police on its 10th anniversary

The Bosnia and Herzegovina Border Police celebrated its 10th anniversary on 7 June 2010. The European Police Mission, launched in 2003, has been providing support.

“Ten years ago, the first multi-ethnic and modern State-level law enforcement agency in Bosnia Herzegovina was created,” said Vinko Dumančić, Director of the BiH Border Police at the anniversary ceremony. “Ten years down the road we are conducting border control activities in accordance with best standards and practices of similar agencies in Europe and the world.”

Dumančić praised the cooperation with EUPM: “We have continued with our professional cooperation with the EUPM’s representatives through the development of joint projects, as well as exchange of experience and information on a daily basis. Via implementation of these projects, we are constantly increasing our capabilities.”

European Parliament exchanges on CSDP missions in the Western Balkans

The subcommittee on security and defence (SEDE) had an exchange of views last week on EU operations in the Western Balkans with Kees Klompenhouwer, Civilian Operations Commander, Yves de Kermabon, Head of EULEX Kosovo, General Sir John McColl, Operation Commander of EUFOR Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and Brigadier General Stefan Feller, Head of the EU Police Mission in BiH.

Upcoming activities

14 June
- Foreign Affairs Council Luxembourg
- Change of EUNAVFOR- Atalanta’s Operation Commander
14 - 18 June
Salon EuroSatory 2010, Paris
15 June
EUJUST LEX Iraq briefing to the press
16 June
European Defence Agency’s helicopter exercise (Azor 2010), Spain
17 June - European Council

La situation des droits de l’homme en RD Congo préoccupe la Haute Représentante

À la suite de la mort de Floribert Chebaya, directeur de “la Voix des Sans Voix”, Catherine Ashton a demandé aux autorités de la République démocratique du Congo de faire la lumière sur la mort de ce défenseur des droits de l’homme qui a contribué pendant des années à la promotion des droits de l’homme et au développement de la démocratie dans son pays. La HR a aussi exprimé sa préoccupation quant à la dégradation de la situation générale des défenseurs des droits de l’homme en RDC et a souligné sa solidarité avec toutes les organisations congolaises actives dans ce domaine.

Lire le communiqué

EUPOL RD Congo forme la Police nationale congolaise

Quelque soixante-dix policiers et civils de l’Inspection Générale d’Audit (IGA) de la Police nationale congolaise (PNC) suivent actuellement une formation de base de sept semaines organisée par l’IGA et la mission de police de l’UE en RDC, avec la collaboration de la police de la MONUC.

Cette formation comprend 29 modules axés sur les différents domaines théoriques et les outils techniques que les futurs inspecteurs et auditeurs devront maîtriser pour l’exercice de leurs fonctions.

Par ailleurs, un groupe de 14 formateurs de la PNC vient de terminer à Kinshasa une formation de formateurs de six semaines sur le maintien et le rétablissement de l’ordre public. Il s’agit d’une initiative organisée et financée par la police de la MONUC et EUPOL RD Congo.

EUSEC RDC renforce l’autosuffisance alimentaire des soldats congolais et de leurs familles

EUSEC a remis du matériel agricole destiné aux fermes militaires, permettant d’améliorer la situation socio-économique des militaires, en leur assurant une certaine autonomie et facilitant ainsi leur réinsertion après leur retraite.