**Accord sur le Service européen d'action extérieure**

La Haute Représentante, le Conseil de l'UE, la Commission et le Parlement européen sont parvenus, lors d'une réunion organisée par la présidence espagnole à Madrid, le 21 juin, à un accord politique sur l'organisation et le fonctionnement du Service européen d'action extérieure (SEAE). Les représentants de ces institutions se sont engagés à tout mettre en œuvre pour que celles-ci confirment l'accord afin que l'acte établissant le SEAE puisse être adopté formellement le plus rapidement possible. Certaines questions doivent encore être réglées, en particulier l'adoption du règlement financier et de celui relatif au personnel.

**Joint statement on the agreement on the European External Action Service**

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**HR Catherine Ashton encouraged by Israeli Gaza decision**

HR Catherine Ashton said on 20 June that she was encouraged by the announcement of the Government of Israel concerning Gaza: "It represents a significant improvement and a positive step forward. Once implemented, Israel’s new policy should improve the lives of the ordinary people of Gaza while addressing the legitimate security concerns of Israel." She reiterated that the EU wanted to work in partnership with Israel and the Palestinian Authority to find a satisfactory solution.

**Read the HR’s full statement and the Quartet statement**

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**Le Ministre des affaires étrangères roumain visite EUFOR Althéa**

Teodor Baconschi, le ministre des affaires étrangères de Roumanie a visité, le 18 juin, le quartier général d’EUFOR Althéa, où il été reçu par le commandant de l’opération Bernhard Blair. Durant sa visite, il a eu l’occasion de rencontrer des membres du contingent roumain, avec qui il a pu parler de leur travail au sein de cette opération militaire de l’UE en Bosnie-Herzégovine. Les soldats roumains sont principalement déployés dans le nord-ouest du pays au sein des équipes de liaison et d’observation à Banja Luka et Cazin. Le commandant d’EUFOR a salué leur professionnalisme en soulignant leur bonne intégration parmi les populations locales.

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**HR Catherine Ashton visits India**

HR Ashton is visiting India from 22 to 25 June to enhance EU relations with India, a key strategic partner for the EU. The main focus of the visit was the EU-India Ministerial meeting in Delhi on June 22, where the two sides discussed a wide range of issues among which terrorism, piracy and the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The ministerial meeting was also a preparation of the 11th EU-India summit later this year. The HR hopes to deepen cooperation with India in the area of security and defence in the post-Lisbon era, in particular in the field of crisis management and anti-piracy. With this in mind, Ashton is accompanied by Gilles de Kerchove, the EU Anti-Terrorism Coordinator, and General Ton Van Osch, Head of EU Military Staff.

**EUNAVFOR’s new tactic is proving successful**

“EUNAVFOR’s new tactic has been successful, we are disrupting more suspected pirates near the coast, before they put on the high seas and conduct hijackings. The challenge is that once they get through they venture further and further out on the Indian Ocean,” said Rear Admiral Jan Thörnqvist when he summing up his first two-month as Force Commander.

**Read the full article on EUNAVFOR’s webpage**

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**EULEX Kosovo: Terrorism and war crime related arrests**

Last week, the Kosovo Police Anti-Terrorism Unit, under the supervision of a EULEX prosecutor from the Special Prosecutor’s Office of Kosovo (SPRK) arrested a Kosovo Albanian man in the Mitrovica region following a request for extradition made by the USA to the authorities of Kosovo. The Kosovo Police also carried out a house search related to the same request.

The US Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina has charged the defendant with two counts: the provision of material support or resources to terrorists, support for terrorism and conspiracy to kill, kidnap, maim, or injure persons or damage property in a foreign country.

Besides, on 23 June, EULEX’s Police Executive Department, under the supervision of the SPRK, carried out a house search in the Gjakova region and arrested a suspect in connection with war crimes. The case relates to the ongoing EULEX investigation into possible mistreatment of persons held in KLA facilities in northern Albania during the conflict in 1998-1999. Two other suspects have been identified in connection with the same case.
Bosnia and Herzegovina: Coordinated Fight against Corruption Seminar

A high-level seminar on the fight against corruption organised by the EU Delegation and the EU Police Mission (EUPM) took place in Sarajevo on 17 and 18 June. The objective was to share experiences and best practices. Examples from Slovenia, Latvia and Bulgaria in the fight against corruption were presented and different models of cooperation between prosecutors and police services were discussed. Particular attention was paid to the use of special investigation means in corruption investigations and to the need to ensure adequate resources for the police and prosecution services. The EU representatives reiterated that the EU is ready to continue providing support to sustain the anti-corruption activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

15th Anniversary of Srebrenica under preparation

The EUFOR Althea Commander, Bernhard Blair, and the Head of the EU Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Stefan Feller, recently met the Interior Minister of Republika Srpska, Stanislav Čađo, to discuss various issues and in particular matters related to the preparations of the 15th Anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre, on 11 July, at the Potočari Memorial Centre. Commissioner Feller emphasized the importance of joint meetings as a symbol of commitment of the EU Military and Civilian Crisis Management to guarantee a safe and secure environment and to assist in the establishment of the rule of law. “We are all pleased with the operational preparations of the law enforcement agencies of BiH for marking of the 15th Anniversary of Srebrenica,” said Feller. He also welcomed the assurance of the Minister and the RS Government, as well as other institutions in BiH, to have the Commemoration pass in the most dignified manner.

Upcoming activities

21-25 June - HR Ashton visits India.

EDA Helicopter training programme in Spain

As part of the European Defence Agency’s Helicopter Training Programme (HTP), Spain hosted a multinational helicopter exercise (azor 2010) from 9 to 24 June. The exercise, which is the largest of its kind so far, with more than 40 helicopters and 700 people took place just over a half year after the ministerial approval of the HTP concept which consists of two live exercises per year, one focusing on individual training and one on interoperability and operational tactics.

azor 2010 allowed European helicopter crews to practice techniques of flying in a hot, high and dusty environment, the same conditions that many of the participants will encounter when they deploy on operations. The participants were Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Slovenia, Sweden, UK and the host nation, Spain. More info

Austria contributes to EUPOL Afghanistan

An assessment team from the Austrian Ministry of Interior visited EUPOL Afghanistan at the beginning of June. Austria will contribute to the EUPOL mission for the first time this year by sending police officers by the end of August. Austria’s contribution is one in the series of more EU member states joining the mission in the form of seconded personnel in the coming months.

Forensics for lawyers training in the Palestinian Territories

The Palestinian Bar Association (PBA) together with EUPOL COPPS started the implementation of a 3-week specialisation course for criminal defence lawyers in forensics that began on 21 June in the premises of the PBA in Ramallah. The training is conducted by Friedrich Schwindt, a Criminal Investigation Director from Germany, and co-ordinated by EUPOL COPPS.

The main modules of the training deal with crime scene management, classification of evidence, causes of death, collection of special evidence, expert statements and interrogation techniques.

Les avis exprimés ne peuvent en aucun cas être considérés comme une position officielle du Conseil de l’Union européenne. The views expressed are not to be taken in any way to represent the official position of the Council of the European Union.