EU funded police cars for Palestinian civil police

The European Union Representative handed over 48 vehicles on 6 July to the Deputy Chief of the Palestinian Civil Police as part of an EU grant of equipment to the Palestinian Civil Police worth a total of € 5 million. This contribution is part of the European Union’s support of the security sector reform of the Palestinian Authority and its commitment to the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP) Development Plan. The contribution is based on the needs and development plan of the PCP upon advice of the EUPOL COPPS mission.

By improving the PCP’s capacity to travel quickly and safely to public disturbances, these cars will assist the Police in safeguarding law and order in the West Bank in line with international standards. This will contribute to the marked improvement in the capability and responsiveness of the PCP and of the maintenance of law and order in the West Bank over the past few years, thus further contributing to the stable foundations required for a Palestinian State.

The EUPOL COPPS HoM, Commissioner Malmquist, highlighted “the importance of this EU donation, which, along with a recent Spanish contribution, to build 3 compounds for light vehicle maintenance workshops, enhance the sustainability of EU support and stand as a good example of a coordinated EU approach”.

President of the European Council and High Representative condemn violence in Kosovo

The EU High Representative, Catherine Ashton, and the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, condemned on 2 July the tragic incident in north Mitrovica, Kosovo which resulted in one dead and eleven injured. Both sent their condolences to the families and friends of the victims. The HR calls on the Kosovo police, with the support of EULEX, to conduct an investigation into the incident and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice.

The President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, visited EULEX Kosovo

During his visit in Kosovo on 6 July, the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, met President of Kosovo Fatmir Sejdiu, Speaker of Kosovo Parliament Jakup Krasniqi and Prime Minister Hashim Thaci. He also met EU Special Representative Pieter Feith and visited the Headquarters of the European Union Rule of Law mission, EULEX.

The President expressed his support for the work of EULEX and of other EU presences in Kosovo.

EUPOL Afghanistan: security training for female police

EUPOL, which as a police officer assigned as a mentor to gender affairs in the ministry of interior, is addressing the fact that female police recruits not trained in the same manner as their male counterparts. The first priority was to provide the female recruits with basic self-defense tools. Coordinating efforts with other coalition mentors, EUPOL designed a strategy to acquire the necessary equipment to ensure these female police officers, enrolled in training at the Kandahar training center, would be able to defend themselves in a dangerous and hostile environment. In August 2010, the first class of better trained and better prepared female police officers will graduate, trained on equipment specifically dedicated to them. This represents a great breakthrough in Afghanistan, not just for female police officers but for the country’s women in general.
EUPM and EUFOR ALTHEA work together for the Srebrenica commemorations

European Union Police Mission (EUPM) and EUFOR Althea have been discussing coordination between EUFOR, EUPM and BiH Law Enforcement Agencies in order to ensure a safe and secure environment for the imminent march of peace and Srebrenica commemorations together with securing the municipalities of Bratunac, Srebrenica and Zvornik.

Upcoming activities

5-30 July - EDA: Advanced search advisor training course, Rome
6 - 8 July - HR Ashton attends the European Parliament plenary in Strasbourg (vote on EEAS)
8 and 9 July - HR Ashton will visit Greece
13 July - HR will participate in EU-Turkey Ministerial meeting, Istanbul
16 and 17 July - HR will participate in the OSCE Ministerial meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Nouvelle attaque de pirates dans le sud de la mer rouge pour EUNAVFOR

Le navire-citerne “MT Motivator”, chargé de produits chimiques, a été attaqué le 4 juillet dernier par un groupe de pirates dans la zone au nord de Bab Al Mandeb, dans le sud de la mer rouge. Le MT Motivator a à son bord un équipage de 18 personnes. EUNAVFOR-Atalanta suit attentivement la situation.

EDA and European Commission conference on Unmanned Aircraft Systems

The European Defence Agency (EDA) and the European Commission co-organised on 1 July a conference dedicated to Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). Over 450 senior government officials and industry representatives gathered to discuss the potential of UAS for European users, their economic, technological and industrial impact, as well as a common European way forward.

Presentations outlined the dual use nature of UAS, both for defence and civilian security purposes. Financial savings and environmental benefits through reduced fuel consumption as well as CO2 emissions were highlighted, in addition to the multiple possibilities UAS already offer in reducing the risk to human life in high risk missions. This sector opens a promising chapter for the aerospace domain and for the aviation industry in Europe, where EDA and the Commission already have joined forces to promote innovation and new opportunities for a wide range of businesses and SMEs.

New EUMM Georgia agreement with Georgian MoD increases transparency

The Head of the EU monitoring mission and the Georgian minister of defence have signed on 2 July an amendment to the memorandum of understanding between the mission and the ministry concluded in 2009. The original memorandum contains a number of unilateral obligations the ministry has undertaken in order to document the adherence of Georgia to the principle of non-use of force as enshrined in the six-points agreement of 12 August 2008. The amendment improve co-operation between EUMM and the ministry. Its implementation will further increase the transparency of military dispositions on the Georgian side. It will therefore contribute to enhancing military confidence building along the administrative boundary lines with Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

EU Military Committee Chairman visits Portugal

The Chairman of the European Union Military Committee, General Syrén, visited Portugal on 1 and 2 July upon invitation of the Chief of General Staff of the Portuguese Armed Forces, General Luis Valença Pinto. CEUMC was given a thorough presentation of the Portuguese military capabilities and activities, with focus on the ongoing transformation process and on the contribution to peacekeeping operations and missions. General Syrén also had an open and straightforward exchange of views on global and regional security issues with the Minister of National Defence, Augusto Santos Silva, and with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Luis Amado. Finally, he was honoured to meet the President of the Republic of Portugal, Anibal Cavaco Silva.