Council establishes the European External Action Service

The Council adopted a decision on 26 July establishing the European External Action Service (EEAS) and setting out its organisation and functioning. On this occasion, High Representative Catherine Ashton said: “I am delighted that in four short months since I tabled the proposal, we have come so far. We can now move forward to build a modern, effective and distinctly European service for the 21st century. The reason is simple: Europe needs to shape up to defend better our interests and values in a world of growing complexity and fundamental power shifts.” The High Representative also highlighted the importance of moving rapidly forward with the amendments to the EU Staff and Financial Regulations, and an amending budget for 2010 to allow formally the Service to come into being by the first anniversary of the Lisbon Treaty. The EEAS aimed at making the EU’s external action more coherent and efficient, thereby increasing the EU’s influence in the world.

More

Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of the 26 July 2010

Relations UE-Union africaine : état des lieux du partenariat pour la paix et la sécurité


Interview de PM Joana

Russian warship supports EUNAVFOR and the World Food Programme

On 26 July, the Russian destroyer Admiral Levchenko began escorting a World Food Programme (WFP) shipment, in support of EUNAVFOR-Atalanta. Force Commander Jan Thörnqvist said: “This is a clear demonstration of the excellent co-operation between EUNAVFOR and the Russian Navy”. EUNAVFOR welcomes the involvement of the Russian Navy in operation Atalanta’s main task of escorting WFP vessels. The WFP has provided more than half a million tonnes of food into Somalia since late 2007. The destroyer Admiral Levchenko arrived in the Gulf of Aden earlier this month to take part in the counter-piracy mission off the coast of Somalia.

www.eunavfor.eu

EUJUST LEX meets with Irakis training Institutes

On the occasion of the meeting of the European Union Integrated Rule of Law Mission for Iraq, EUJUST LEX, with a delegation of Irakis from the trainings Institutes in Irak, the head of the mission, Francisco Díaz Alcantud, updates the e-newsletter on the state of play of the mission and talks about the development of future activities in Irak for the next mandate of EUJUST LEX.

Watch the statement by Francisco Diaz Alcantud, Head of EUJUST LEX mission

EUPOL COPPS’ training on forensics for High Judicial Council

EUPOL COPPS’ second seminar on the judicial evaluation of forensics evidence for Palestinian judges started on 25 July in Ramallah, under the auspices of the High Judicial Council and the Palestinian judicial institute. This seminar consists of two workshops, lasting two days each, where around 40 members of the Palestinian judiciary will be trained in scientific evidence and forensics. In his opening remarks, chief justice F. Al Jallad highlighted that: “The expertise of the Palestinian judges is good and has been accumulated during their experience in the Judiciary field; however, this expertise needs development and improvement”. He also commended the results achieved by the High Judicial Council in cooperation with EUPOL COPPS.

More
EDA: contract on the future of the European military aerospace defence technological and industrial base

At the occasion of the Farnborough International Air Show 2010, the European Defence Agency (EDA) and SAAB, representing a large part of the EU's military aerospace industry, signed a contract launching strategic work to help safeguard Europe's ability to independently provide competitive aerospace solutions to meet CSDP capability requirements in the 2035 timeframe.

The contract, valued at EUR 400 k, aims to provide an achievable step by step plan to develop a more robust, sustainable and competitive European military aerospace industry, one better able to provide the military capabilities member states require.

EDA’s chief executive, Alexander Weis, highlighted that Europe's military aerospace industry, which represents over 55% of Europe's Defence Technological and Industrial Base, employing directly over 200,000 people, is critical to meeting member states' future military requirements, but is unlikely to be sustained in the long term without transformational action and new ways of business.

More on: www.eda.europa.eu

New Head of EULEX Kosovo Mission appointed

On 27 July 2010, Xavier Bout de Marnhac was appointed Head of Mission of the EULEX Kosovo. The decision was taken by the European Union Political and Security Committee on a recommendation by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton. Mr Bout de Marnhac, who will succeed Mr Yves de Kermaison, will take up his duties on 15 October 2010. The appointment is for one year renewable.

On this occasion the EU High Representative made the following statement:

“Mr Xavier Bout de Marnhac has the leadership needed to conduct a large rule of law operation in a complex environment. His experience in crisis management and his knowledge about the situation on the ground constitutes the appropriate background to lead EULEX through the next period in which the mission will be facing considerable challenges while continuing to deliver on the core of its mandate throughout Kosovo. I look forward to working with Mr Bout de Marnhac and in the accomplishment of his tasks he will have my full support”.

EULEX Kosovo: High level arrests

On 23 July 2010, Kosovo police officers from the special prosecutor’s office’s (SPRK) anti-corruption task force carried out seven searches in Pristina at the private residences of four suspects, including the governor of the Central bank of Kosovo, as well as at the Central Bank of Kosovo and in one private company. Following the searches the Head of the SPRK authorized the arrest and police detention of the governor of the Central Bank of Kosovo.

The searches were made in connection with an ongoing corruption and financial investigation into suspicion of abusing official position or authority, accepting bribes, tax evasion, trading in influence and money laundering.

A Kosovo Special Prosecutor from the special prosecutor’s office as well as EULEX police monitors and a liaison officer were present at the Central Bank in order to provide oversight to and ensure the effective gathering of evidence material.

On 28 July, the special prosecutor’s office in Kosovo again instructed EULEX police to carry out a search. This time in the residence of a former Kosovo Liberation Army commander. This search was made in connection with an ongoing investigation into murder, attempted murder, aggravated murder and organised crime (Bilaca case). Following the end of the search, a summons to appear before the special prosecutor was duly served on the suspect. The latter must appear within a week of its delivery.

On the following day, on 29 July, the EULEX police executive department carried out searches in the private residence and office of an IT administrator in the Kosovo government. This search was made in connection with an investigation in the ministry of transport and telecommunication. The defendant is arrested and charged with obstruction of evidence. He is currently under police detention authorized by the special prosecutor’s office in Kosovo.

Une délégation du Parlement européen visite EUMM Géorgie

Les 14 et 15 juillet derniers, une délégation de députés européens de la sous-commission “sécurité et défense” s’est rendue à la mission d’observation de l’UE, EUMM Géorgie. La délégation, menée par Krysztof Lisek, et composée notamment de Justas Paleckis et de Pawel Kowal, a pu s’entretenir avec le chef d’EUMM, Hansjörg Haber, sur les dernières activités de la mission et se rendre sur la ligne de séparation administrative près de l’Ossétie du Sud au côté d’une patrouille d’EUMM.

www.esdp10years.eu

ESDP Newsletter - ESDP@10

EU Security and Defence on YouTube

Press - EU Council Secretariat Tel: +32 (0)2 281 7640 / 6319 - presse.psdc@consilium.europa.eu

EU external action web site: eeas.europa.eu - For information on the EU CSDP agencies, click here

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