The EU High Representative addressed the UN Security Council

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, addressed the United Nations Security Council on cooperation between the UN and regional and sub-regional organisations in maintaining peace and security on 8 February.

“As you know, we have a long-standing commitment to effective multilateralism with a strong UN at the core. Regional organisations are building blocks for global governance, with a dual responsibility. First, a responsibility to enhance security, development and human rights in their own region. And second, to support UN efforts to promote these goals around the world.

I am pleased that as of 1 January the European External Action Service, one of the Lisbon Treaty’s main innovations, is up and running. It operates under my authority and brings together all our global instruments.

In our view the Lisbon Treaty and the External Action Service are not just good for Europe. They also make us a better partner for the UN. We are grateful for your help in recognising this. [...]"

These are not just words. The EU will offer practical support to the transition processes. I have discussed this with the new Tunisian Foreign Minister Ounaies and I will visit the region next week to clarify how the EU can help. [...]"

There are several cases around the world where the international community is working to build functioning states where current structures fall short. Somalia is a clear example. The EU has an important and successful naval operation off-shore, called ATALANTA. But there can be no long-term solution to the problem of piracy without more stability on-shore and greater regional capacities. Therefore we are working hard on these three tracks, as part of an overall regional strategy. [...]"

But there are many others in which the EU is engaged, with, and in support of, the UN, to protect the vulnerable and ensure that genuine democracy can take root.

Let me end by acknowledging the great responsibility of this Council in steering the international community away from conflict and confrontation. In carrying out its tasks, it can count on the full commitment and support of the EU. [...]"

Watch the video

EU High Representative Catherine Ashton chaired Middle East Quartet ministerial meeting

Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, chaired the first meeting of the Middle East Quartet principals of 2011 on 5 February. She has been joined in the meeting, which took place in the margins of the Munich Security Conference, by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Quartet Envoy Tony Blair. During her time in Munich, Catherine Ashton also held a number of bilateral discussions, including with Secretary of State Clinton on EU-US relations, Afghanistan Ashton also held a number of bilateral discussions, including with Secretary of State Clinton on EU-US relations, Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai and Ban Ki-moon ahead of her upcoming trip to New York.

High Representative Catherine Ashton also attended the 47th Munich Security Conference on 4 and 5 February. Over the past decades, the Munich Security Conference has become the major security policy conference worldwide. Each year it brings together senior figures from around the world to engage in an intensive debate on current and future security challenges.

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Among the features in this issue: the European External Action Service, the 10 years of the UN resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and its implementation by the EU CSDP missions, training of Somali soldiers in Uganda and the EU’s capacities for support to security sector reform.

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Au sommaire de ce numéro, notamment, le Service européen pour l’action extérieure, les 10 ans de la résolution 1325 du Conseil de Sécurité des Nations unies sur les femmes, la Paix et la Sécurité et sa mise en œuvre par les missions PSDC, la mission de formation des soldats somaliens en Ouganda et les capacités de l’UE en matière de réforme du secteur de la sécurité.

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EU Election observation mission visited EUTM Somalia

On 3 February, an exchange of information on the political situation in Uganda took place in the EUTM Somalia headquarters premises between Mission Commander Elul and staff personnel, and a delegation of the EU Election observation mission to Uganda 2011 (EU EOM). The elections are scheduled to take place on 18 February 2011.

The Mission Commander welcomed the EU EOM delegation to the HQ and provided them with an update on the progress to date of EUTM Somalia. Afterwards, all attendants were briefed about the political and security situation.

The EU is deploying an Election observation mission for the general elections in Uganda in response to the invitation of the Ugandan government to observe the elections. This invitation reflects the desire to ensure that the elections meet international standards. The EOM consists of 110 EU observers who will assess pre-election preparations and campaigning across the country, voting, counting and tabulation of the results on election day, as well as the post-election period.

EUMM Georgia participated in the Incident prevention and response mechanism meeting

The 9th Incident prevention and response mechanism meeting covering the South Ossetian theatre took place in Ergneti on 4 February. The meeting was facilitated by EUMM Georgia and the OSCE. > More

EU's commitment to northern Kosovo

“The state is required to ensure that private parties within its jurisdiction do not deprive people of their rights unlawfully or arbitrarily,” said Alexander Hug, EULEX Chief Human Rights and Gender Office, during his lecture on the European Court of Human Rights that was held on 3 February 2010 in north Mitrovica.

This was the second lecture in the EU’s new programme of outreach activities to communities in north Kosovo. Law students and representatives of EULEX were present.

EUPOL RD Congo: formations spécialisées pour la police nationale congolaise

Plus de 250 cadres de la Police nationale congolaise bénéficieront à partir d'aujourd'hui, et ce pendant les cinq prochains mois, de 17 formations spécialisées. Ces formations, organisées par la mission EUPOL RD CONGO, permettront de renforcer les capacités des quatre unités destinataires au sein de la Police nationale congolaise – la Police d’Investigation Criminelle, la Police de Recherche et d’Intervention, la Police d’Intervention Rapide et la Police des Polices.

Les cours donnés par les experts policiers de la mission EUPOL porteront sur ‘la rédaction des procès verbaux’ et les ‘Gestes Techniques Professionnels d’Intervention (GTPI)’.

A l’issue de ces formations spécialisées, les cadres bénéficiaires devront être en mesure de transmettre eux-mêmes les connaissances acquises aux plusieurs centaines de policiers qui composent chaque unité.

Ces formations s’inscrivent dans le cadre du soutien de la mission EUPOL à la réforme de la Police nationale congolaise, et plus concrètement au renforcement des connaissances et compétences des officiers de celle-ci.

EUJUST LEX Iraq’s first newsletter is out

The first e-newsletter of the European Union integrated rule of law mission for Iraq (EUJUST LEX) aims to provide you with a monthly update on developments of the mission.

Established to strengthen the rule of law and promote a culture of respect for human rights in Iraq, EUJUST LEX provides professional development opportunities to senior Iraqi officials from the criminal justice system.

Upcoming activities

14-17 February - to travels to Tunisia and the Middle East
14-18 February - European Security and Defence College: CSDP orientation course, Bulgaria
21 February - Foreign Affairs Council, Brussels