HR Catherine Ashton at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference

On 3 May, at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in New York, HR Catherine Ashton recalled that the NPT, based on the three mutually reinforcing pillars of non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, represented a unique and irreplaceable framework for maintaining and strengthening international peace, security and stability.

Read the speech of HR Ashton

EULEX Police searches Ministry of Transport in Kosovo

EULEX Police have successfully completed searches at the Kosovo Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications and at several private residences in and around Pristina. The searches, carried out at six locations, are part of an investigation into several tenders related to the construction of roads in Kosovo in the period 2007-09. The investigation is being conducted under the supervision of the Special Prosecutor's Office in Kosovo (SPRK).

EULEX special prosecutors were present at the scene in order to ensure the effective gathering of evidential material. Computers and documents were taken away for further examination.

The private residences are of individuals connected with the Ministry for Transport and Telecommunications. At this stage, the searches are purely investigative in substance. The material gathered will be carefully analyzed by the police and SPRK.

EU Chiefs of defence meet in Brussels

The 27 EU Chiefs of Defence (CHODs) met in Brussels on 4 April, under the chairmanship of General Håkan Syrén, to discuss the state of play of the military operations currently conducted by the EU and the main activities carried out to improve European military capabilities.

Beside the formal sessions of the meeting, CHODs were updated by the Ukrainian Chief of General Staff and Commander-in-Chief on the transformation process of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and on Ukraine's preparedness to contribute to regional security and CSDP activities, in particular EUNAVFOR-Atalanta and EU Battlegroups. Alain Le Roy, UN Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations, provided CHODs with his perspectives on peacekeeping operations and practical measures to further strengthen UN peacekeeping.

Interview of General Syren, Chairman of the EU Military Committee

EUNAVFOR Operation Commander’s interview

Rear Admiral Peter Hudson, EUNAVFOR Operation Commander, talks about the surge of piracy activity off the coast of Somalia and how the EU naval operation is coping with this phenomenon.

EUNAVFOR efforts are paying off

At the end of last week, an EUNAVFOR maritime patrol aircraft from Sweden detected a pirate action group (PAG) of one mother ship and two skiffs. The Force Commander ordered the nearest EUNAVFOR vessel, French warship Tonnerre, to intercept the group of pirates.

The Tonnerre located the PAG and deployed her helicopter. When the suspected pirates realised that anti piracy forces were closing in, they started to throw weapons and the ladder overboard which was recorded by the helicopter crew. A boarding party went over from Tonnerre, secured the remaining evidence and took the suspected pirates on board the frigate. The mother ship, a “whaler” was destroyed and the two skiffs taken aboard FS Tonnerre. Over 40 pirate action groups have been disrupted in the last 2 months showing that EUNAVFOR’s strategy is working.

Fête de l’Europe !

**The EU Special Representative for the African Great Lakes at the PSC**

On 30 April, Roeland van de Geer, EU Special Representative for the African Great Lakes Region, briefed the Political and Security Committee (PSC) about his last visit to RD Congo. In this interview he talks about the latest developments in the region and the EU’s involvement there.

**Distribution du Guide de Police Administrative en RD Congo**


Lors de la présentation officielle du guide, le chef d’EUPOL a indiqué: “ce guide de consultation aisée traite des droits fondamentaux des citoyens, y compris la liberté de jouir pleinement de la sécurité, de la salubrité et de la tranquillité publiques. Il cherche avant tout à orienter l’activité des membres de la PNC sur le terrain afin de garantir ces droits, mais également à apporter une amélioration des procédures et méthodes policières en la matière.”

**Eujust Lex: continued support to developing the rule of law in Iraq**

Last week, the Council reaffirmed the strong commitment of the EU to support the rule of law in Iraq. The proposed activities for the mission over the next two years will increase its presence and visibility in Iraq, as well as more specialized and alumni follow-up training in the country, building upon the success of recent pilot activities.

Such an in-country activity just took place on 29 and 30 April. Judicial and police experts of EUJUST LEX and a judge from Germany held a seminar for 18 Iraqi investigating judges and prosecutors in Arbil (Kurdistan Region). The seminar was co-chaired by the senior investigating judge of Baghdad. Presentations and discussions focused on the division of responsibilities for leading investigations between the police and investigating judges, undercover investigations including the use of technical equipment, crime scene management, and the role of investigating judges in criminal investigations and for safeguarding the fundamental rights of suspects.

Work is ongoing in preparing EUJUST LEX’s extension until June 2012, following a strategic review.

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