HR Catherine Ashton is visiting Africa

From 18 to 21 May, the High Representative is visiting Kenya, Tanzania and the Seychelles in the context of the EU’s engagement to help fight piracy off the Eastern coast of Africa and stabilize Somalia. She will meet the leaders of these countries as well as representatives of the civil society. In the Seychelles, she will also participate in a Regional Ministerial Conference on Piracy to discuss with the countries in the region common efforts for a more effective response to the challenge of piracy. The EU has concluded pirate transfer agreements with Kenya and the Seychelles. Similar agreements with other countries are under discussion. The HR’s trip to the region will also provide her with the opportunity to assess the work carried out by EUNAVFOR, which she will visit.

EUPOL Afghanistan extended for 3 years

On 18 May, the Council of the EU decided to extend the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL Afghanistan) for three years, until 31 May 2013. EUPOL Afghanistan’s mandate is to contribute to the establishment under Afghan ownership of sustainable and effective civilian policing arrangements, which will ensure appropriate interaction with the wider criminal justice system. EUPOL Afghanistan works closely, with the Government of Afghanistan and relevant international players, including the NATO Training Mission, Provincial Reconstruction Team Lead Nations, the United Nations Assistance Mission Afghanistan (UNAMA) and third States currently involved in police reform in Afghanistan.

EU willing to participate in International Monitoring Team in Mindanao

Following a request from the Peace Panels of the Government of the Philippines and of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the European Union has confirmed its willingness to participate in the International Monitoring Team (IMT) assisting the peace process in Mindanao. The EU has been asked to lead the humanitarian, rehabilitation and development component of the IMT. This participation will be finalised once appropriate terms of reference have been agreed with the parties in the peace talks. Press release

The High Representative met EUTM Commander

High Representative Catherine Ashton met EUTM Commander, Colonel Ricardo Gonzalez Elul on 18 May in Nairobi (Kenya). Colonel Elul briefed the HR on the way ahead for this mission, which was launched earlier this month, as part of the comprehensive approach of the EU in the region.

Mandat d’EUBAM Rafah prolongé

Le 12 mai dernier, le Conseil a décidé la prolongation de la mission de l’Union européenne d’assistance à la frontière au point de passage de Rafah, EUBAM Rafah jusqu’au 24 mai 2011. EUBAM Rafah a pour objet d’assurer la présence d’une tierce partie au point de passage de Rafah afin de contribuer à l’ouverture du point de passage de Rafah, et d’instaurer la confiance entre le gouvernement israélien et l’Autorité palestinienne. Malgré la suspension temporaire des opérations de la mission à la suite de la prise de contrôle de la bande de Gaza par le Hamas, EUBAM a conservé une capacité opérationnelle qui lui permettrait de se redéployer rapidement si les parties parviennent à un accord.

EUFOR Althea: Gender Awareness conference in Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 19 May, a conference on Gender Awareness in Peace Support Operations (PSO) was held at the PSO training centre of the armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). This conference, that was opened by General Bernhard Bair, Commander of EUFOR Althea, represents a step in realizing the promise of the joint memorandum of understanding between the UN Development Fund for Women, the EU Police Mission and EUFOR to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation between military and civilian police personnel and citizens, particularly women, in BiH. “Fostering balanced gender awareness, thus contributing to the overall situational awareness, has become more critical in the light of the increasing complexity of civil-military interaction” said the EUFOR commander.

www.euforbih.org
EUPOL RD Congo soutient les unités d’investigation criminelle de la Police nationale congolaise

La Police de Recherche et d’Intervention (PRI) de la Police nationale congolaise (PNC) a établi ses premières fiches de signalisation suite à l’interpellation de vingt délinquants membres d’un groupe criminel de Kinshasa, sous la supervision des experts du laboratoire de police technique et scientifique de Kinshasa et d’EUPOL RD Congo. Il s’agit des premières signalisations effectuées par une unité d’investigation luttant contre la criminalité organisée en R.D. Congo.

Le processus de signalisation comprend la fiche de renseignements avec l’identité complète du mis en cause, la prise de vue judiciaire, un signalement descriptif de la personne ainsi que la prise d’empreintes. Il s’agit là de la première application directe sur le terrain des techniques acquises par les policiers de la PRI lors d’une formation sur la police technique de proximité au début du mois de mai, organisée avec l’appui des experts de la mission européenne de police EUPOL RD Congo.

Visit the EULEX Kosovo new-look website

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Belgium donates 25 cars to the Palestinian Civil Police

This week, in the presence of the Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Steven Vanackere, who was visiting the Palestinian Territories and the region, twenty-five cars were handed over by Belgium to the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP). This donation of vehicles was made possible through the coordination of EUPOL COPPS and the facilitation of UNOPS. “This contribution illustrates the Belgian commitment to the institutional development and establishment of a future Palestinian State” highlighted the Foreign Minister of Belgium. These vehicles, their proper use and maintenance will contribute to the efficiency and success of the Palestinian police.

European Defence Agency: Delivering military aerial capabilities, Seminar 8 June 2010

Europe’s military aeronautics sector is facing some tough challenges. How will it preserve the capability to provide the high tech aerial capabilities member states’ forces require with reduced R&T investment and constrained procurement budgets? Europe’s Aerospace Defence Technological Industrial Base (DTIB) is critical to meeting member states’ military requirements, including for CSDP today and in the future; underpinning deployability and manoeuvrability for crisis management operations, and providing theatre-wide intelligence, air defence and other capabilities adapted for Network Enabled Capabilities.

At a half day seminar at the Berlin Air Show, the European Defence Agency will present the case for enhanced European collaboration, eliciting the views of stakeholders on the best way to maintain European excellence in delivering military aerial capabilities.

Upcoming activities

25 May - 18th EU-ASEAN Ministerial meeting
25 May - EUNAVFOR press conference, Brussels
27 May - Handover of Director-General of EU Military Staff (with press conference)

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