The EU High Representative’s visit to the Seychelles

Last week, as part of her trip to Africa, Catherine Ashton visited the Seychelles, where she met President Michel and other local leaders. On this occasion she also visited the Swedish warship Carlshrona, on board of which the force HQ of EUNAVFOR is located. She discussed with the Operation’s Commander, Rear Admiral Hudson, and the Force Commander, Rear Admiral Thörnqvist, the latest achievements of the EU naval operation in the region as well as its challenges for the future.

In Victoria, the capital of the Seychelles, the HR joined the Seychelles Regional Conference on Piracy, with the participation of Djibouti, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, the Seychelles, South Africa and international organizations such as the African Union, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Read the joint communique of the Seychelles Regional Conference on Piracy

www.youtube.com/EUSecurityandDefence

HR Catherine Ashton meets Kenyan leaders

During her trip to Africa last week, EU High Representative Ashton visited Kenya and met President Kibaki, Prime Minister Odinga and Foreign Minister Wetangula among others.

Excerpts from her press conference are available here

Istanbul Conference on Somalia, 21-23 May

The European Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs, has represented the EU at the Istanbul Conference on Somalia which took place in Istanbul from 21-23 May 2010. This conference reflected the strong determination of the international community to work with the Transitional Federal Institutions and the people of Somalia to defeat the cycle of lawlessness, violence and despair in the country and to build in its place a peaceful and prosperous future for the Somali people.

Mr. Piebalgs reiterated the EU’s comprehensive approach towards Somalia, covering simultaneously human rights, assistance to the population, development, political and financial support to the Djibouti process, governance, security sector and the fight against piracy.

Interview by the Commander of EUNAVFOR

Two weeks before leaving his position as Operation Commander of EUNAVFOR - Atalanta, Rear Admiral Peter Hudson reflects on the performances of EUNAVFOR and the immediate challenges of the EU’s first naval operation. Rear Admiral Hudson took his position on 3 June last year and will hand over his command on 14 June.

The EP’s Subcommittee on Security and Defence visits Northwood

A delegation of the European Parliament Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE) travelled to Northwood on 25 and 26 May. They visited the EUNAVFOR operation headquarters as well as the headquarters of the United Kingdom-Netherlands battlegroup.
Training on close protection of Palestinian prosecutors and judges

A basic training programme on Close Protection of Prosecutors and Judges for the Palestinian Judicial Police in Ramallah was recently completed. The two-week training, funded by the Netherlands and coordinated by EUPOL COPPS, was delivered to 27 Palestinian judicial police officers. In June, the graduates will attend the advanced course, after which they will be reemployed for close protection of prosecutors and judges. Training Palestinian Judicial Police Officers is an expression of the commitment of the EU to the creation and implementation of a professional and specialised Judicial Police across all courts of the West Bank.

Police support units get training from German experts

In cooperation with the EU Police Mission, the Republika Serpska Ministry of Interior has organized in Banja Luka a six-day training for 36 officers, including personnel from special units. Besides the exchange of experiences and knowledge within the security structures, the BiH officers are receiving training from German experts in operational techniques and self-defense.

EUPOL RD Congo - Renforcement des capacités de la police judiciaire au Nord-Kivu

Une quarantaine d’officiers et d’inspecteurs de police judiciaire des territoires de Butembo, Béni et Lubero, au Nord-Kivu, ont suivi du 12 au 22 mai une formation de recyclage et de renforcement de leurs capacités dans les domaines suivants: lutte contre l’impunité, accès à la justice en cas de violences sexuelles, éthique et déontologie du policier. Ce cours a été organisé par la Police Nationale Congolaise (PNC) en collaboration avec EUPOL RD Congo et d’autres partenaires.

Pour EUPOL RD Congo, l’appui à ce type de formations s’inscrit dans le cadre du renforcement des capacités de la police judiciaire au Nord-Kivu, notamment dans le domaine de la lutte contre les violences sexuelles et l’impunité, de la diffusion de méthodes de travail adéquates et de l’appropriation du processus de réforme, de réorganisation et de renforcement de la PNC par les autorités congolaises.

EU SSR Guinea Bissau mission is extended for 4 months

The Council decided on 25 May to extend the EU Security Sector Reform (SSR) mission in Guinea Bissau for a period of four months, until 30 September 2010. EU SSR Guinea Bissau was launched in June 2008 to provide local authorities with advice and assistance on the security sector reform. By July 2010, a final decision will be made on further engagement in Guinea-Bissau, based on a strategic review and on developments on the ground.

www.consilium.europa.eu/eu-ssr-guinea-bissau

EUPM participates in international conference on corruption in Sarajevo

The Head of the EU Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Stefan Feller, participated in the international conference “Corruption: Prevention and Institutional Reaction” at the University of Sarajevo on 20 May. This conference addressed corruption in its various forms, methods and efforts in prevention, and legislation. “As no country or institution is immune from corruption, responses to corruption and its effects can make the difference if efficient and tailor made to a given context” Feller said. He further compared corruption analyses from EU countries and Bosnia and Herzegovina, emphasizing the importance of the involvement of every segment of society and their interdependence in the fight against this plague. “Every citizen who sees the commitment of law enforcement increases trust and confidence that things and the system can change. On the other hand, law enforcement activity remains unsustainable without prevention strategies in parallel.”

Read the full speech

Upcoming activities

31 May and 1 June
President Van Rompuy and HR Ashton will travel to Russia to participate in the EU-Russia Summit

2 June
HR Ashton will travel to Sarajevo to attend the EU-Western Balkans Ministerial conference.

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