High Representative Ashton meets the heads of EU civilian missions

HR Catherine Ashton met the European Union heads of mission of the civilian Common security and defence policy (CSDP) missions on 29 June. They discussed the achievements and challenges of the CSDP missions engaged in the Middle East, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Georgia, Iraq and the Western Balkans. HR Ashton commended the heads of mission for their important work performed in increasingly complex environments and emphasised that the CSDP missions continue to be a major priority for the EU.

German Parliamentarians visit EUPOL Afghanistan

Former German Minister for the Environment and now Head of Germany’s Green Party in Parliament, Juergen Trittin, visited the EUPOL HQ in Kabul on 22 June. He underlined the fact that EUPOL was top of his agenda while in Kabul. He was briefed by the acting Head of EUPOL, Nigel Thomas, about the mission’s work and achievements and met with police officers from EUPOL and the German Police Project Team to discuss their views of and experiences in Afghanistan.

EUPOL Afghanistan helps promote human rights

A pocket-size reference guide on Police and Human rights was prepared by EUPOL Afghanistan for the Afghan National Police. The Booklet contains photos and pictures with inscriptions, illustrating relevant provisions from human rights standards. The preparation process has been inclusive and participatory every step of the way under the ownership of the Ministry of Interior Department of Gender and Human Rights. The booklet will be published in two versions: in Dari-Pashto and Dari-English.

The Head of EUJUST LEX meets the Iraqi Foreign Minister in Baghdad

The EUJUST LEX Head of Mission, Francisco Diaz Alcantud visited Baghdad from 18 to 22 June 2010, in its third visit to Iraq since taking up office in January. He met Foreign Minister Zebari and briefed him on the mission’s extended mandate and its in-country plans, including opening new offices in Arbil and in Basra. Minister Zebari, who has been following EUJUST LEX’s development since its beginnings, was supportive and encouraging the Mission to identify further suitable training needs in the field of human rights and the Iraqi criminal justice system. In particular he welcomed EUJUST LEX’s move towards more presence and visibility inside Iraq.

Mr Diaz Alcantud seized the opportunity of his visit to address the participants of an EUJUST LEX integrated seminar on police/judiciary interaction in major crime cases attended by investigative judges, prosecutors, judicial investigators and crime police investigators.

La Belgique et la Politique de sécurité et de défense commune

La présidence belge du Conseil de l’UE a présenté son programme de travail pour les six prochains mois en soulignant qu’elle mettra tout en œuvre pour une application harmonieuse des nouvelles dispositions du Traité de Lisbonne en soutien du Président du Conseil européen et de la Haute représentante. De nombreux sujets PSDC sont à l’ordre du jour des prochaines semaines, y compris la coopération structurée permanente.

EUPOL intelligence-led policing in the Provinces

From January to June, EUPOL Afghanistan has delivered an introduction to intelligence-led policing, informant and agent handling and analysis training in Kabul and three provinces. More than 400 police officers have completed the training.

The informant and agent handling course is a more advanced course on how to plan and execute human intelligence operations in hostile environments. This course is tailored for middle management, or more senior officers. The analysis course is designed for the specialists working with police intelligence analysis.

The training has been arranged and delivered in the Provinces in close and good cooperation with EUPOL PRT Mentors, Commanders in the PRTs and the Afghan National Police.
EULEX Kosovo helping improve the quality of the judicial system

EULEX judges and prosecutors and the Kosovo Chamber of Advocates signed an agreement to improve the quality of the organisation of the main trials in criminal matters. The president of EULEX Judges, Maria Giuliana Civinini, emphasised that all parties present at the trial – judges, prosecutors and lawyers - must make a common effort to increase the quality of trials and, through this, the quality of the judicial system as a whole.

Musa Dragusha, the president of the Kosovo Chamber of Advocates said that the new framework will help to make criminal proceedings more effective, introducing more detailed best practices. The agreement is a part of the general technical agreement signed by EULEX judges and the Kosovo Chamber of Advocates on 6 December 2009.

EULEX Kosovo : la campagne d’information dans le Nord bat son plein

La mission de l’Union européenne EULEX Kosovo aux côtés du Bureau de liaison de l’UE et du Facilitateur pour le Nord, l’ambassadeur Giffoni, ont entamé une importante campagne d’information dans le Nord du Kosovo.

Le programme vise à sensibiliser les populations établies dans le Nord du Kosovo aux activités et aux objectifs de l’UE pour le Nord. “L’engagement de l’UE concerne tant le Nord que le reste du Kosovo. Nous sommes ici pour promouvoir les critères et les valeurs de l’UE et pour contribuer à améliorer réellement et concrètement le sort des populations de toutes les communautés” a déclaré Yves de Kermabon, le chef d’EULEX Kosovo.

Upcoming activities

5 July - President Van Rompuy will travel to Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia.
5-6 July - ‘CSDP Human Rights and Gender Advisers and Focal Points meeting’, CMPD, Brussels
5-30 July - EDA: Advanced search advisor training course, Rome.
6 July - President Van Rompuy will visit Kosovo and EULEX.
6-7 July - HR Ashton will attend the EP plenary, Strasbourg.

EUPM - Women in Police

As part of the commitment to encourage initiatives, policies and programs which follow UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, the EU Police Mission (EUPM) for Bosnia and Herzegovina and the BiH Agency for Gender Equality have produced the “Women in Police - Situation in BiH” Report, which was officially presented on 23 June by the EUPM Head of Mission, Stefan Feller and the Agency’s Director, Sarra Filipović-Hadžiabdić.

“If policing were to remain a predominantly male profession, we will not succeed. Police managers need to launch, without further delay, initiatives to increase the recruitment, retention and promotion of women. Gender-responsive policing is indispensable for the development and advancement of democratic police services. This is even more important in post-conflict and transitional societies usually characterized by real and perceived insecurity," stressed Commissioner Feller.

Read the report

EUPOL COPPS: improving cooperation between the Palestinian Police and the Public Prosecutor’s Office

On 20 and 21 June EUPOL COPPS facilitated a high level seminar in Ramallah on improved cooperation between the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP) and the Public Prosecution. The workshop was part of a project initiated by EUPOL COPPS in June 2009 that included a study trip of PCP officers and Prosecutors to Sweden that focused on effective cooperation and division of powers between the two institutions in a modern European criminal justice system which resembles the Palestinian one.

Handling and storage of seized items, improved the on-call system for prosecutors, arrests and house searches, use of delegation of powers for criminal investigation, intelligence-led policing and surveillance were some of the items on the programme. Both parties agreed on joint conclusions that will result in a memorandum of understanding.

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