EU External Relations

In the run up to the European Council of 16 September, the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, expressed his views on the EU’s external relations and relations with strategic partners.

Verdict for the first EUNAVFOR case in Kenya

EUNAVFOR welcomes the first judgement in a Kenyan prosecution in connection with the interdiction of a pirate group by an EUNAVFOR warship. The conviction involved seven Somali men accused of acts of piracy. The presiding chief magistrate delivered the verdict at the Mombasa law courts on 6 September, sentencing the seven Somali men accused to prison sentences of five years as from the judgement date. The conviction relates to the attack on the FGS Spessart on 29 March 2009.

EUNAVFOR has to date transferred 9 groups of suspected pirates comprising 75 individuals to the Kenyan authorities for prosecution in the Kenyan national courts.

EULEX: Searches and arrests related to organised crime and smuggling

On 15 September, EULEX Police and Kosovo Customs, under the supervision of an EULEX prosecutor, carried out several searches Kosovo wide in four companies and the private residences of seven suspects. The searches were made in connection with an ongoing investigation into organised crime, suspicion of smuggling of fuel, tax evasion and misuse of economic authorization. Following the searches, the EULEX prosecutor from Pristina District Court authorized the arrest and police detention of five suspects. The searches were duly authorized by a pre-trial judge of the District Court of Pristina.

The 10th issue of the Common security and defence policy newsletter is out

Among the features in this issue: training of Somali soldiers in Uganda and counter piracy in the Gulf of Aden, the Lisbon Treaty and the new ground for CSDP, and the EU’s response to the Haiti earthquake. The newsletter also focuses on EULEX Kosovo.

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EU Military Staff contributes to the EU disaster response effort following the Pakistan floods

Following the recent floods in Pakistan, the support of the EU Movement Planning Cell (EUMPC) was requested on 18 August, to assist in the transportation of humanitarian supplies to the stricken area. The EUMPC is a cell within the EU Military Staff, which has the peacetime role to provide support to the EU Monitoring and Information Centre (EU MIC) that resides within the Directorate General Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection of the EU Commission. The role of the EUMPC, formalised in the aftermath of the Tsunami in 2004, is focused on the provision of military movement and transportation support to the MIC’s disaster response effort, for which the MIC has the lead across the EU.

Relief supplies had been pledged to the MIC by EU member states and other non governmental organisations, in response to specific requests by state and non state actors on the ground in Pakistan. The EUMPC therefore contacted nominated military movement and transportation representatives in EU capitals, seeking offers of strategic lift to make available to the MIC. The EUMPC then operated as an interface between Czech Republic and Finland and the respective aircraft operators on the one side, and the MIC on the other, in order to coordinate the cargo with the available lift, within the priorities set out by the MIC.

The process was characterised by a very effective level of civilian/military cooperation between the EUMPC and the MIC, a relationship which can now be used further in support of this current, or future disaster response operations.

Le numéro 10 de la newsletter Politique de sécurité et de défense commune est sorti

Au sommaire de ce numéro, notamment, la mission de formation des soldats somaliens en Ouganda et la lutte contre la piraterie dans le Golfe d’Aden, le Traité de Lisbonne et les avancées en matière de PSDC et la réponse de l’UE au tremblement de terre en Haïti. La newsletter vous emmène également au Kosovo avec la mission EULEX.

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Upcoming activities

15 September - HR Catherine Ashton will attend the launch of the Transatlantic trends report, Brussels
16 September - European Council - External relations of the EU and Economic governance, Brussels
17-24 September - European Security and Defence College Pilot course on peacebuilding, Austria
23-24 September - Informal meeting of EU Ministers of Defence, Belgium

EUPOL Afghanistan: Election training for the Afghan police

Based on the experiences from last year’s elections, EUPOL Afghanistan agreed to provide training for the Afghan national police before the upcoming parliamentary elections. The training developed therefore follows again the “Train the Trainers” concept. In August, EUPOL trained more than 200 police officers/Afghan trainers who in second stage will then pass on their knowledge to another 10 Afghan police men each. This cascading effect should finally lead to the training of up to 30,000 police men and women who will contribute to guaranteeing free, fair and safe elections.

With the support of UNDP and the independent election commission, EUPOL developed a manual and a booklet for the training while UNDP provided 40,000 copies of the booklet in Dari and Pashto for all police attending the training and/or involved in providing security for the elections. In close cooperation with the ministry of the Interior’s training department EUPOL conducted courses in Kabul, Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif which included all elements needed to make police aware of international standards for elections.

Inauguration du Centre de Commandement européen de transport aérien

Le Commandement européen de transport aérien (EATC en anglais pour European Air Transport Command) a été inauguré le 1er septembre 2010 à Eindhoven, aux Pays-Bas. Ce Commandement va permettre aux Etats membres participants (pour le moment Allemagne, Belgique, France, Pays-Bas) de partager leurs moyens de transport aériens.

Le commandement de l’EATC sera en mesure de programmer et de conduire des missions de transport à compter du 31 décembre 2010 et devrait atteindre sa pleine capacité opérationnelle en juillet 2013. Pour ce début d’exercice, c’est le général allemand Jochen Both qui dirige l’EATC pour une durée de deux ans.

Voir la vidéo

EUPOL Afghanistan

EUTM Somalia: Nearly 200 Somali recruits have completed the first training module

The four-month long non-commissioned officers training module, which was followed by 192 Somali recruits, ended on 4 September. The training has covered topography, weaponry, communications, tactics, techniques and procedures at the level needed for a Section leader.

Additionally, relevant time was used to teach leadership and basic knowledge about Human rights, the law of armed conflicts and the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia structures, notably the TFG defence forces. The training period included a one week specific fighting in built-up areas sub-module.

EUTM Somalia

Entretien de la Fondation Robert Schuman avec Arnaud Danjean sur la PSDC

Le président de la sous-commission “Sécurité et Défense” du Parlement européen a accordé un entretien à la Fondation Robert Schuman sur le développement de la Politique de défense de l’Union européenne.

Read the complete interview

Le Président du Comité militaire de l’UE se déplace en Russie, en France et en Croatie

Pour en savoir plus sur ces différentes visites, visitez la page dédiée au Comité militaire de l’UE.