High Representative Catherine Ashton in New York

During her visit to New York, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy attended the high level meeting on the flood emergency in Pakistan, in New York on 19 September. Catherine Ashton recalled that the EU responded swiftly and generously. “Our common contribution to the humanitarian aid efforts presently stands at more than €240 million (EU member states and European Commission combined in cash and kind). This alone represents more than 60% of the initial UN appeal. It is a reflection of the EU’s solidarity with Pakistan in these challenging times” she said.

During her trip, the High Representative also met on 20 September UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and she participated in the meeting of EU Foreign Ministers with the US on 21 September and to the Middle East Quartet. The Quartet expressed its strong support for the resumption of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, which can resolve all final status issues within one year. She also discussed with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States on 22 September the Iranian nuclear issue in the E3+3 framework.

e eas.europa.eu

Chinese delegation visited EUNAVFOR-Atalanta

Busy week for EUNAVFOR. On 16 September, EUNAVFOR Operational Headquarters welcomed a Chinese delegation to discuss ways to strengthen cooperation in the area of operations. “The protection of WFP and AMISOM shipping is EUNAVFOR’s highest priority mission. EUNAVFOR therefore obviously welcomes any assistance that can be provided from any Joint Force or national navy in escorting these vessels” said the Chief of staff.

As the effectiveness of protection measures employed within the Gulf of Aden has increased, pirates have started to operate in previously unused areas. Thus, EUNAVFOR has increased its area of operations to maintain pressure on the pirates and to continue to constrain their freedom of action. In doing so, EUNAVFOR endeavours to ensure that legitimate maritime traffic within the region continues to receive the best protection possible.

In the past few days, the EUNAVFOR ship FS De Grasse disrupted a pirate action group comprising of six boats. Yesterday, the EUNAVFOR ship Galicia also disrupted a pirate action group, thus preventing them from reaching the shipping lanes on the high seas to conduct attacks on vulnerable merchant vessels.

Watch a video statement by Buster Howes, Operation Commander EUNAVFOR-Atalanta

Somalian authorities visited EUTM

Somalia’s new national armed forces Chief of staff, General Ahmed Geedi Jumale, visited the EUTM Somalia headquarters in Kampala on 19 September 2010.

The General and his delegation had accompanied the President of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, during his visit to the Bihanga training camp of Ugandan People’s Defence Forces the day before.

Colonel Elul, the EUTM mission Commander and his deputy, Colonel Bouillaud, discussed with the visitors several issues, notably the selection of the Somali recruits and the reintegration of the first intake in Somalia. The Somali Ambassador expressed his thanks to the mission Commander for his effort and the success of EUTM in achieving its aims in benefit of peace in Somalia.
**Ami Africa is ready for the exercice**

The continental exercise Amani Africa is approaching its culminating point: the conduct of a command post exercise. In order to be well prepared, a strategic planning course was organised from 23 August to 3 September 2010. The Cameroon authorities kindly accepted to host this event at the “Collège Supérieur Interarmées de Défense” in Yaoundé, a recognised regional African strategic training centre. The 10 days training aimed at giving participants a better understanding of the African Union crisis response mechanism. Participants also got acquainted with contemporary peace support operations planning. Amongst other high representatives, Cameroon was represented by the minister of defence, the minister of communication and spokesman of the Cameroon government, the minister of education. They emphasised the importance given to the objectives in the area of peace and security in general set out by the African Union and more especially the important work carried out within the joint African - EU Amani Africa cycle. The course has been jointly organised and conducted by the African Union and the EU.

**EUSEC RD Congo aide les victimes de violences sexuelles**

24 médecins et infirmiers militaires travaillant à Goma et dans les provinces environnantes ont participé à une formation pour favoriser l'intégration et la prise en charge clinique et psycho-sociale des victimes de violences sexuelles. La formation, tenue fin août, était encadrée par les structures militaires de la justice et de la santé. L'activité s'inscrit dans le cadre du mandat de la mission EUSEC RD Congo et de son programme “Genre et Droits de l’Homme contre les violences sexuelles”.

Durant l’atelier, les participants ont travaillé sur les principes d'intervention dans la protection des populations vulnérables. Différents aspects relatifs aux violences sexuelles ont été abordés : causes, facteurs de risque, les différentes conséquences liées à ces violences ainsi que les droits des victimes et la réponse du système judiciaire.

Cette semaine, la mission EUSEC RD Congo a vu son mandat renouvelé pour deux ans, jusqu’au 30 septembre 2012.

Nous reviendrons sur le travail des deux missions EUSEC et EUPOL RD Congo la semaine prochaine, à l’occasion de leur 5 ans de présence dans ce pays.

**Freedom of movement, recent incidents and co-operation discussed at the 20th IPRM meeting**

Representatives from the Georgian Government, the Russian and de facto Abkhaz authorities and EUMM Georgia met on 14 September in Gali for the 20th meeting chaired by the UN under the auspices of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM).

Participants discussed issues concerning the freedom of movement of the local population as well as of goods and transportation across the Enguri river. There was a discussion about recent incidents, with participants noting that there had been a decrease in the number of incidents reported in the period since the last IPRM meeting. There was also an exchange of information about criminal issues in the Gali district and participants agreed to co-operate at an operational level. The release of a Georgian detainee by the Abkhaz authorities from prison was considered a positive confidence building measure. Participants agreed that the next meeting will take place in Gali on 8 October 2010.

**Head of BiH Delegation of ICRC visits EUFOR**

Serge Marmy, Head of the Delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) visited EUFOR Althea HQ at Camp Butmir in Sarajevo on 22 September. The Commander of EUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair, briefed Mr. Marmy on recent activities, in particular the help EUFOR provides to local health institutions. ICRC head underlined the importance of supporting families of missing persons to receive information about their relatives.

**New publications from EU Institute for Security Studies are out: www.iss.europa.eu**

**Upcoming activities**

19-24 September - HR Ashton at the UN General Assembly, New York, and 27-30 September in Washington
23-24 September - Informal meeting of EU Ministers of Defence, Belgium