**HR Ashton to chair Foreign Affairs Council on 20 June**

The Foreign Affairs Council meets on Monday, 20 June in Luxembourg. It will discuss Sudan and is expected to endorse the EU’s comprehensive approach to Sudan ahead of South Sudan’s declaration of independence on 9 July.

The Council will have a broad discussion on the EU’s neighbourhood, in response to the European Neighbourhood Policy Strategic Review presented by the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European Commission.

Ministers will discuss the situation in Belarus, following the latest harsh sentences imposed on opponents of the regime, and in Albania, focusing on the need to finalise the election process, step up reform efforts and look to its European perspective.

The Council will also discuss the Southern Neighbourhood, in the light of the latest developments in Syria, Libya and Yemen, in particular.

The High Representative will lead a discussion over lunch on the Middle East Peace Process and report on her recent trip to the region over the weekend. The discussion is likely to focus on the efforts to convene a meeting of the Quartet with the aim of re-launching peace negotiations.

The Council will also adopt conclusions on Conflict prevention.

**EUPOL COPPS train PCP officers on tactical negotiations**

On 16 June, EUPOL COPPS advisors gave an introductory training course to police officers on tactical negotiations and communication drills that are crucial in dealing with people in crisis situations.

The training in the West Bank city of Al-Bireh targeted 25 police officers from different units of the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP) and selected senior management officers. The same negotiation tools are also applicable to daily police work.

Police training advisors presented the best methods in conducting negotiations techniques with suspects in cases such as hostage taking, domestic violence and kidnapping.

Deputy head of PCP’s training department Lieutenant Colonel Abdel-Hakim Abulrub said: “It is a very useful course. It tackled the main basic rules of tactical negotiations. We do need an indepth course so that our officers could master such tactics.”

Read the press release

**Rear Admiral Duncan Potts appointed Operation Commander of EUNAVFOR Somalia**

The Political and Security Committee decided to appoint Rear Admiral Duncan Potts Operation Commander of the EU Naval Force Atalanta Operation combating piracy off the Somali coast.

Rear Admiral Potts will take up his duties on 1 August 2011 when the Decision enters into force and the mandate of the current Operation Commander, Major-General Buster Howes, expires.

Read the decision in the EU Official Journal

www.eunavfor.eu

**EULEX Kosovo: searches related to corruption at Ministry of Community and Returns**

A joint Kosovo and EULEX Police team has carried out searches at the Ministry of Community and Returns (MCR), at a company called ‘Fimex’ in Pristina and at two private addresses. The searches took place in the context of an investigation into corruption with regards to certain tenders between 2007 and 2009. Materials were seized during the searches.

The charges in the case relate to misappropriation in office, accepting bribes and giving bribes.

The searches were authorised by a EULEX pre-trial judge of the District Court of Pristina and an EULEX special prosecutor was present at the scene in the MCR in order to provide oversight, to ensure the effective gathering of evidential material and to provide a full and proper explanation to persons present at the scene.

The joint investigating KP/EULEX is under the supervision of a EULEX prosecutor of the Special Prosecution Office (SPRK).

www.eulex-kosovo.eu
EUSEC RD Congo : les FARDC prêtes à former des unités dans la lutte contre les violences sexuelles

La dernière session de formation des formateurs des officiers et sous-officiers des Forces Armées de la RDC (FARDC), pour la réduction de l’ampleur des violences sexuelles a pris fin le 7 juin 2011. Organisée à Kisangani, cette session clôturé la série de trois formations, dont les deux autres ont eu lieu à Bunia et à Bukavu, au cours desquelles 100 officiers et sous-officiers ont été formés et 26 commandants sensibilisés sur les violences sexuelles et les outils disponibles pour les réduire. Les stagiaires et leurs commandants vont, à leur tour, transmettre leurs connaissances aux unités où ils servent, pour qu’un total d’environ 2000 membres des FARDC soit formé. Cette activité a pour objectif d’appuyer le Service d’Éducation Civique et Patriotique du Ministère de la Défense Nationale et des Anciens Combattants pour le renforcement de l’éthique, la morale et la déontologie des militaires. > Lire la suite

EUPOL RD Congo : deux unités de police de lutte contre les violences sexuelles au Nord et Sud-Kivu formées aux investigations techniques


Le dernier numéro du bulletin d’EUPOL RD Congo

EUNAVFOR warship sinks pirate skiffs

On the morning of 10 June, the EUNAVFOR German warship FGS Niedersachsen detected a suspected pirate action group whilst conducting a routine patrol in the Southern Somali Basin. The pirate action group, which is suspected of carrying out a number of attacks on merchant vessels in the area, consisted of a fishing dhow and 2 attack skiffs. Small arms and rocket propelled grenades were also seen on board.

To remove the dhow’s ability to launch further attacks, the warship opened fire on the 2 attack skiffs sinking them in the process. Without attack skiffs, it is highly unlikely that the suspected pirates could successfully board a vessel. This disruption has undoubtedly hampered pirate action and avoided highly probable attacks on merchant shipping and vulnerable vessels in the area.

> Read further

EUISS debate: the Arab democratic wave

Following the extraordinary events that have been unfolding across the Arab world, the EU Institute for Security Studies has opened an online debate to discuss the implications of the Arab democratic wave for EU foreign policy. The EUISS has invited academics, policymakers, think tankers and other influential voices from a variety of backgrounds including from North Africa, the Middle East and Europe to contribute to this pluralistic online debate. The latest articles include:

- Décisions et espoirs par Sami Kamil
- Don’t forget Syria by Álvaro de Vasconcelos

** Other recent EUISS publications:
- The Western Balkans and the EU: ‘the hour of Europe’

Upcoming activities

16 - 19 June - HR travels to Jordan, Egypt, Israel and Palestine
20 June – HR chairs the Foreign Affairs Council and Western Balkans forum (Luxembourg)
23 - 24 June - European Council, Brussels
27 June - European Defence Agency: Countering Improvised Explosives Devices (CIED) basic search course, Rome