Foreign Affairs Council addresses BiH, Libya and the MEPP

EU High Representative Catherine Ashton chaired the Foreign Affairs Council on 10 October.

Of particular interest to the Common Security and Defence Policy were the conclusions adopted on Bosnia and Herzegovina, which confirmed the EU’s readiness to continue at this stage an executive military role for Operation Althea under a renewed UN mandate. It agreed that Operation Althea will be reconfigured with reduced forces based in Bosnia and Herzegovina and focussing on capacity-building and training while also retaining the means to contribute to the national authorities’ deterrence capacity. A credible reserve force will be based over the horizon with regular in-country reconnaissance and rehearsal.

The Council then examined the latest events in the Southern neighbourhood and adopted, among others, conclusions on Libya. On the latter, Catherine Ashton said: “I hope we are now witnessing the end of the resistance from the Gaddafi loyalists and an end to the loss of life”. She insisted on the EU’s comprehensive approach to the crisis: “We are already taking a strong role in supporting the National Transitional Council, easing sanctions now and making more assets available in line with their requests, working closely under UN coordination with the needs assessment and making sure that we are able to offer support on everything from democracy building to security sector reform”.

Ministers also discussed the Middle East Peace Process. The Council adopted conclusions expressing its full support to the efforts of the High Representative for a resumption of direct negotiations between the parties under the terms and within the timeframe outlined in the Quartet statement of 23 September. “We discussed how to move forward on the action points within the statement and how to continue to engage with the Israeli and Palestinian partners to resume substantive negotiations as soon as possible”, Catherine Ashton explained.

The Council also adopted conclusions on Syria, and Yemen, and reinforced sanctions towards Iran and Belarus.

Also read the Foreign Affairs Council press release and the Remarks by Catherine Ashton at the press conference following the Foreign Affairs Council.

Un navire de l’opération EUNAVFOR sauve cinq pêcheurs somaliens

Le 4 octobre, le navire FGS Köln est venu en aide en plein océan Indien à cinq pêcheurs somaliens qui étaient à la dérive dans leur baleinier en panne depuis neuf jours.

Les pêcheurs ont été repérés par un avion de la patrouille maritime et de reconnaissance espagnole qui opérait dans le cadre de l’opération EUNAVFOR contre la piraterie, et le navire de guerre allemand FGS Köln a parcouru plus de 100 milles pour leur prêter assistance.

Embarqués à bord du FGS Köln, qui leur a donné de la nourriture et de l’eau, ils ont été ramenés vers la côte somalienne. Cet incident démontre la polyvalence de la présence militaire fournie par la mission EUNAVFOR, qui lutte efficacement contre la piraterie, et la réactivité des équipages de la patrouille espagnole et du FGS Köln qui ont sans doute sauvé la vie des pêcheurs.

Plus d’infos sur : www.eunavfor.eu

EUPOLCOPPS concludes training for police dealing with juveniles

The Palestinian Civil Police and EUPOL COPPS concluded on 6 October a three-week training programme for police dealing with juveniles on best practices to handle offences carried out by minors at the new Jericho police training school. This programme was funded by the Representative Office of the Netherlands, the EU Representative Office and UNOPS.

The 32 participants from all West Bank districts were trained on child psychology, provisions of torture, defensive tactics, legal aspects of cases involving juveniles, first aid, and interrogation techniques. Eleven out of the thirty-two participants were female police officers.

More news at: www.eupolcoppes.eu
Six arrests and 14 searches in EULEX-organised crime investigation

On 5 October, EULEX police officers from the Organised Crime Investigation Unit carried out a search and arrest operation, related to a major investigation into alleged corruption and procurement fraud. The alleged fraud relates to procurement procedures at Kosovo police and business suppliers of police weapons and ammunition. Due to this alleged fraud, the Kosovo Police budget has suffered losses that could amount to millions of euros, which make Kosovo police the primary victim in this affair.

Six arrests were made, following the authorisation by a EULEX pre-trial judge: three business employees, two officers from Kosovo police and one employee from the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The investigation is being led by a EULEX Prosecutor from Kosovo's special prosecution office.

More news at: www.eulex-kosovo.eu

Theatre Play “Trust your police” sponsored by EUPOL-Afghanistan enthuses Afghan children

The Theatre Play “Trust your police”, sponsored and co-produced by the police mission EUPOL Afghanistan, is travelling throughout the provinces and always finds an enthusiastic audience. After the first show in Kabul in July and the two performances in Bamyan during the Silk Road Festival in September, “Trust your police!” was performed at the Aschiana Orphanage on 21 September (photo) and will shortly be played in Jalalabad during the Kid’s Festival Afghanistan.

On the initiative of EUPOL, the well-known Afghan actress and film director Saba Sahar wrote the play and produced it with her own theatre company of 14 actors.

The play, which shows the kidnapping of two boys and their eventual release, illustrates the changes in the Afghan police following the training, mentoring and monitoring by EUPOL and other international partners. Panicking kidnappers, who first consider bribing the police, give up the idea when they find out that officers have been trained and monitored by EUPOL, and all actors gather under the slogan “Trust your police”.

This much needed trust is growing slowly in a country where every day policemen die fighting insurgents. EUPOL Afghanistan will accompany the Afghan national police on this stony road in future too.

More news at: www.eupol-afg.eu

Prolongation des missions et opérations

La mission d’observation de l’Union européenne en Géorgie (EUMM Georgia) a été prolongée jusqu’au 14 septembre 2012.

Plus d’infos sur : www.eumm.eu


Plus d’infos sur : www.eupol-rdc.eu

Nominations et prolongations

Le mandat de M. Andrzeje Tyszkiewicz en tant que chef de la mission d’observation EUMM Georgia a été prorogé jusqu’au 14 septembre 2012.

Plus d’infos sur : www.eumm.eu

Le général de brigade László Huszár a été nommé chef de la mission intégrée "État de droit" de l’Union européenne pour l’Irak (EUJUST LEX-IRAQ) à compter du 1er octobre 2011.

Plus d’infos sur : www.consilium.europa.eu/eujust-lex