Catherine Ashton visits Tripoli and opens EU Delegation

High Representative Catherine Ashton visited Tripoli on 12 November, to officially inaugurate the Delegation of the European Union to Libya. “This is much more than a building; it is a symbol of our determination to stand with the people of Libya into the future”, she said during the ceremony.

Catherine Ashton met with the Chairman of the National Transitional Council (NTC), Mustafa Abdul Jalil, and discussed a number of issues, in particular the building of democracy, security and borders, support for the wounded and disabled and the issue of Libyan frozen assets. She was also the first foreign dignitary to meet with the newly appointed Prime Minister, Abdurrahim al-Keib. With her Libyan interlocutors, she recalled that the EU wants to be in the forefront of offering new assistance.

In Tripoli, she also spoke at the first Libyan Women’s Rights Forum, where she underlined that “democracy and women’s rights go hand in hand”.

The EU has supported the Libyan people in their quest for freedom since the beginning of the crisis. Catherine Ashton opened an EU office in Benghazi on 22 May. She sent a team to Tripoli on 31 August, after the capital was liberated, to prepare for the opening of an EU Delegation.

In recent months the EU has provided more than €155 million in humanitarian support and mobilised EU civil protection teams and assets to alleviate the plight of civilians both in Libya and at its borders. The EU and its Member States are already assisting the transitional authorities in tackling urgent issues, such as the proliferation of arms, helping the development of civil society and capacity building. The EU is also ready to provide assistance in the post-conflict stage, together with the United Nations and other international partners. We have readied ourselves to allow for the rapid deployment of assessment teams once requested to do so by our Libyan partners, in areas including communications, civil society, and border management, and have already deployed experts in those fields and in security and procurement. As our relationship deepens, the EU will be able to make use of all the possibilities provided for in our Neighbourhood Policy. It is committed to standing by the Libyan people throughout the transition process and beyond.

EU support to Libya

3124ème Conseil des affaires étrangères


Le Conseil a adopté un cadre stratégique pour la Corne de l’Afrique, destiné à guider l’action européenne pour la paix, la stabilité et la prospérité dans la région. Il a ensuite procédé à un échange de vues sur un nouveau rapport de l’Agence internationale de l’énergie atomique concernant le programme nucléaire iranien, et a adopté des conclusions sur l'Iran, exprimant son inquiétude croissante à propos de ce programme et de l’absence de progrès dans les efforts diplomatiques.

EUPOL RD CONGO: l’UE soutient la sécurisation du processus électoral en RDC

Ce jeudi 10 novembre, au Commissariat Général de la Police nationale congolaise (PNC), la délégation de l’UE en RDC et la France ont officiellement remis 26 véhicules, 750 radios portatives, 60 radios mobiles et 20 stations fixes à la Légion nationale d'intervention (LENI, ex-Police d'intervention rapide) de la PNC.

Cette donation s’inscrit dans le cadre plus vaste de l’appui de l’Union européenne à la sécurisation du processus électoral en RDC, par le biais de sa Délégation à Kinshasa, de ses Etats-membres et de la mission de police européenne EUPOL RD Congo.

Plus d’infos
EUFOR ALTHEA supports Mine Risk Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Mines Information Coordinating Cell (MICC) of EUFOR in cooperation with the NGO “Stop Mines” organized a five-day Mine Risk Education (MRE) Instructor course. 47 new MRE instructors from organisations including the Armed Forces of Bosnia & Herzegovina, and the Civil Protection Agency (Republika Srpska), were certified to conduct MRE training and contribute to the future efforts to raise awareness about the landmine and unexploded explosive ordnance (UXO) threats in BiH.

According to the mine victim statistics of BHMAC (Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre) the number of victims in the period 2006 – 2011 was 214, 11 of which were younger than 18 years of age. EUFOR has contributed to the MRE-program since the beginning of the Operation ALTHEA in 2004. Since then, MRE helped to decrease the number of mine victims in the recent years significantly (from 63 in 2008 to 12 in 2011).

EU NAVFOR warship FGS KÖLN disrupts pirate group

On 4 November 2011, following a coordinated search and detection by a French Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance aircraft, the German warship FGS KÖLN, operating as part of the EU NAVFOR, disrupted a pirate action group comprising a whaler and skiff, 50 nautical miles off the coast of Tanzania.

On detection, the suspect pirates jettisoned their pirate equipment overboard and were stopped. They were transferred onboard FGS KÖLN and the two pirate boats were sunk, preventing their use against merchant shipping in the area.

EU NAVFOR Somalia is a counter-piracy taskforce operating in the area of the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean responsible for repressing acts of piracy and for the safe escort of ships carrying World Food Program aid and vessels of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Additionally, EU NAVFOR monitors fishing activity off the coast of Somalia.

BIH Police Officials in study visit to EUROPOL

Facilitated by the Regional Support Officer for South East Europe, a delegation of high-level police officials from Bosnia and Herzegovina visited Europol on November 7-8. They took part in an intensive program on the current legal framework of Europol, its new internal reorganisation and its key functionalities and capabilities.

The programme, which had been carefully tailored to the needs of the visitors, was comprehensive and facilitated by a broad spectrum of Europol representatives. Particular focus was on Europol strategy towards South East Europe and the Western Balkans and the operational projects currently covering the region.

EUTM SOMALIA in “Operation CRESTED STAR II”

From the 1st of November 2011 over a seven day period, European Union Training Mission in Somalia (EUTM Somalia) personnel have been involved in the support of Operation ‘Crested Star II’. This encompasses the necessary actions for the rotation of the Somali soldiers trained by EUTM Somalia, both into and out of Mogadishu.

This operation mainly involved the transportation of the 869 trained Somali men and women back to Mogadishu. These had been trained in Uganda since the beginning of February 2011. On the return flights to Uganda, 619 new Somali trainees were brought to Uganda, and will soon start their military training for the next 6 months.

More
Photos

Upcoming activities
15-17 November – Catherine Ashton travels to Caucasus (Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia)
17-18 November - Catherine Ashton participates in the Permanent Partnership Council, Moscow, Russia