Le Conseil désigne le nouveau président du Comité militaire de l’UE

Le Conseil a désigné le 23 janvier le général d’armée aérienne Patrick de Rousiers (France) comme président du comité militaire de l’Union européenne (CMUE) pour une période de trois ans à partir du 6 novembre 2012. Le général Patrick de Rousiers remplacera le général Håkan Syrén (Suède).

Le CMUE est l’organe militaire le plus élevé mis en place au sein du Conseil. Il est composé des chefs d’état-major des armées des États membres, qui sont habituellement représentés par leurs délégués militaires permanents. Le CMUE fournit au Comité politique et de sécurité des avis et des recommandations sur l’ensemble des questions militaires au sein de l’UE.

Curriculum vitae du général Patrick de Rousiers

The Council approved the general concept for a possible new CSDP mission to support airport security at the Juba international airport. This kicks off operational planning for the mission. The actual start of operations is subject to a separate Council decision.

The aim of this civilian CSDP mission would be to raise security standards at the Juba airport to internationally accepted standards. This would allow unimpaired international air traffic and prevent the airport from becoming a target for terrorism. In particular, the mission would contribute to training of security services, provide advice and assistance on airport security as well as support the coordination of security activities.

This CSDP mission is part of the EU’s comprehensive approach to helping South Sudan become a viable and prosperous state. The airport is an important lifeline for the capital of landlocked South Sudan and a hub for economic development of the world’s youngest nation.

The mission would last initially for one year and could start as of summer 2012. Deployment is subject to a formal invitation by the South Sudan authorities, further operational planning – particularly the provision of sufficient personnel – as well as satisfactory security conditions.

Read the factsheet
More on EU-South Sudan relations

Spain to prosecute pirates over attack on EU NAVFOR flagship

Following receipt of the evidence package, the Spanish judicial authorities have announced that they will prosecute the six Somali suspected pirates who attacked the EU NAVFOR flagship, the SPS Patiño, on 12 January.

The suspected pirates have been transferred to Spain on 21 January and are now on remand, awaiting prosecution by the Audiencia Nacional, a specialised high court.

The suspects attacked the SPS Patiño in the vicinity of Mogadishu, following the successful escort of a World Food Programme ship carrying humanitarian-aid into Somalia. They attempted to climb onboard having fired light-calibre weapons into the superstructure. The embarked detachment of Spanish Marines returned fire in self-defence, the ship’s seaking helicopter was launched to track the skiff and the occupants surrendered.

More

EDA Annual Conference 2012 – Defence cooperation in a time of financial challenge

The European Defence Agency will hold a high level conference on 31 January 2012, to generate new thinking and the political momentum necessary for refocusing defence cooperation.

High Representative Catherine Ashton, who heads the Agency, will participate along with around 250 senior decision makers from Ministries of Defence, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Member States’ Armed Forces, NATO and defence industry.

The conference is expected to generate European thinking on such issues as models for enhanced defence collaboration, the strategic priorities for the defence technological and industrial base, as well as measures to increase the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the defence marketplace.

It will be used as a sounding board for concrete proposals for more effective use of defence resources, which will be presented to the Defence Ministers when they next meet in the Agency’s Steering Board, in Spring 2012.

Further information
EUSEC RD Congo sécurise les dépôts d’armes et de munitions de l’armée à Kinshasa


EUPOL Afghanistan trains female police officers

“Stop the vehicle! Get out of the car immediately!” The driver of the vehicle steps out of the car and is directed to the side of the road. Everything feels very real, though the arms are plastic and the events take place in the courtyard of a police station in central Kabul.

The scene is part of a junior course for Afghan female police officers provided by EUPOL Afghanistan, which covers the legal and theoretical basis of the policing profession, leadership skills and practical application of skills.

The course was developed in cooperation with NATO training mission, the German police, and the Afghan Interior Ministry. In Afghanistan, women officers make up less than one per cent of the elite police force, but the Ministry has set a target of recruiting 5,000 women officers by 2014. The feedback on this course, both from the students and the trainers, has been very positive and there has already been interest for it to be delivered outside of the capital.

EU NAVFOR warship FGS Lübeck releases Indian dhow and crew

After three days of persistent pressure, FGS Lübeck has forced Somali pirates to release an Indian dhow with 15 Indians held as hostages.

The EU NAVFOR warship relocated the dhow, which had been involved in a pirate attack earlier on 17 January. It established control of the situation to allow the Enrico Ievoli, an Italian tanker pirated in December 2011, to rendezvous with the Indian dhow and to transfer injured suspected pirates.

Subsequently, FGS Lübeck released the crewmembers of the Indian dhow and denied the suspect pirates the use of the dhow as a mother-ship. Throughout the action the safety of the hostages was the primary consideration.

EUPOL COPPS participates in incident management training for Palestinian Police

Palestinian Civil Police and EUPOL COPPS devised together a training course on information gathering and incident management for Palestinian police officers, in a joint venture to enhance Palestinian policing operations. Palestinian Major Nael Omar and EUPOL COPPS Expert Andrew Udall gave the first such training to 20 frontline officers at the new Jericho police training college last December.

The course covers a variety of police tasks, including the appropriate response to various types of major incidents, and the introduction of an information gathering model for the correct assessment and management of the incident, “The capture of this information is vital in determining the correct policing response. It allows both officers at the scene and the commander in the operations room to make important tactical decisions that will facilitate the effective management and subsequent resolution of the incident”, explains Udall. A number of similar workshops will be organised over the next six months for front line officers and operations room staff.

Upcoming activities

24 - 26 January - Catherine Ashton travels to the Middle East
4 - 6 February - Catherine Ashton participates in the Munich Security Conference

Les avis exprimés ne peuvent en aucun cas être considérés comme une position officielle du Service européen pour l’action extérieure.

The views expressed are not to be taken in any way to represent the official position of the European External Action Service.