EU High Representative Catherine Ashton will chair a meeting of Defence Ministers in the morning and, starting at 15.00, a meeting of Development Ministers.

Proceedings will start with an informal meeting of the Defence Ministers with the NATO Secretary-General on Thursday 9 December at 09.00.

The formal Council session will start at 10.00 and will focus on military capabilities issues, building on the results of the Ghent informal meeting of the Ministers of Defence (23-24 September 2010) and on recent initiatives by member states (mainly the German/Swedish food for thought paper on pooling and sharing and the recent France-UK Defence Cooperation Agreement).

A European Defence Agency (EDA) steering board meeting, chaired by High Representative Catherine Ashton, will be held in the margins of the Council.

Over lunch, Defence Ministers will discuss current military operations (ALTHEA, EUNAVFOR-Atalanta and EUTM Somalia) conducted under the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

Defence Ministers are also expected to adopt conclusions on military capability development covering cooperation - including pooling & sharing, civil-military synergies, EU-NATO cooperation, and potential of the Lisbon Treaty.

In the afternoon session, Development Ministers will exchange views on the Commission Green Paper on EU development policy and then review the development situation in Afghanistan, in the presence of EU special representative Vygaudas Ušackas.

The Council will address recent developments in Haiti. Ministers will discuss the elections, the cholera epidemic as well as the ongoing joint programming efforts for the reconstruction of the country.

Ministers will also discuss mutual accountability and transparency between donors and partner countries, for better aid effectiveness. Finally, they will consider innovative financing mechanisms for development.

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Over dinner, Development Ministers will initiate preparations for the Fourth UN Conference on Least Developed Countries and for the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, both to be held in 2011. In that context they will also briefly touch upon the development aspects of the recent EU-US Summit.

A joint defence/development press conference will be held at ± 18.00.

Press conferences and public events can be followed by video streaming:
http://video.consilium.europa.eu/

Video coverage of the event will be available for preview and download in broadcast quality (MPEG4) on http://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu
SESSION ON DEFENCE

EU- NATO cooperation in capability development

In an informal session Ministers of Defence will discuss EU-NATO relations and in particular EU-NATO cooperation on capability development, in the presence of the NATO Secretary-General, Anders Fogh Rasmussen.

The NATO Secretary-General will debrief on the NATO Lisbon Summit.

Ministers of Defence are expected to underline the need for continued cooperation with NATO regarding the development of military capabilities. They will notably welcome progress made in the fields of counter-improvised explosive device and medical support.

Military Capabilities

Defence Ministers will exchange views on the need for greater pooling and sharing in the field of military capabilities.

At their informal meeting in Ghent last September, Defence Ministers recognised the need to go beyond the current levels of cooperation, by increasing pooling and sharing solutions (in areas such as training, logistics, medical, transport, information/communication) - which is a key means of reducing the impact of budget cuts on European capabilities.

Germany and Sweden recently issued a joint Food for Thought Paper on "Intensifying Military Cooperation in Europe". The goal of this initiative is to preserve and enhance national operational capabilities - with improved effect, sustainability, interoperability and cost efficiency as a result. Cooperation should therefore be brought forward by identifying areas of cooperation, with a view to spending resources in Europe more efficiently and to maintain a broad array of military capabilities to ensure national objectives as well as Europe's ability to act credibly in crises. The paper identifies the following fields might serve as possible areas for increased cooperation: (a) harmonisation of military requirements; (b) research and development; (c) acquisition; (d) training and exercises; (e) command structures and procedures; (f) operating costs.

Defence Ministers are also expected to:
- welcome work done on the "EU civilian and military capability development beyond 2010". (this document will be formally endorsed by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs on 13 December);
- welcome progress made in the area of civil-military synergies in capability development: the Council will underline the potential benefits of developing civil-military synergies in capability development and the added-value of dual use capabilities.
CSDP Operations

Defence Ministers will have an informal lunch (around 12.45) dedicated to the three ongoing military operations of the EU, in presence of the three Operations Commanders: General Mc Coll for EUFOR Althea, General Buster Howes for EUNAVFOR-Atalanta and Colonel Ricardo Gonzalez Elul for EUTM Somalia.

EUFOR Althea:
Ministers are expected to welcome the work of EUFOR Althea in supporting the maintenance of the safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the implementation of the new capacity-building and training tasks of the operation. As a result of the Council Conclusions of 25 January 2010, new non-executive capacity-building and training tasks were launched successfully this year. On 25 October 2010, the Council of the EU confirmed the EU's commitment to a continuing executive military role to support Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts to maintain the safe and secure environment, under a renewed UN mandate; and, building on EUFOR Althea's achievements, to the continuing provision of non-executive capacity-building and training support in order to contribute to strengthening local ownership and capacity. UN Security Council accordingly renewed EUFOR Althea's mandate on 18 November 2010 (UN Security Council Resolution 1948 for a further 12 months.

1,500 troops from 27 EU member states and non-EU contributing states are stationed in the country, backed up by over-the-horizon reserves. The EU will retain an executive military role in 2011. The future of the operation must be considered in the broader political context, including the future reinforced EU presence.

More on:

EUNAVFOR-Atalanta and EUTM Somalia:

- EUNAVFOR-Atalanta
Defence Ministers are expected to underline the important contribution of EUNAVFOR-Atalanta to maritime security off the coast of Somalia by protecting World Food Programme chartered vessels delivering aid to Somalia (88 escorts so far), vessels supplying critical shipments (69 escorts so far) to the African Union peace support operation in Somalia (AMISOM), and other vulnerable vessels, notably in the Gulf of Aden and in the Somali Basin. Ministers will also welcome the possibility for EUNAVFOR to cooperate with INTERPOL for the transmission of pirates personal data.

More on:
EUTM Somalia
The Mission Commander, Colonel Elul, will present to ministers a state-of-play on the activities of
the EU training mission for Somalia. The mission is about to terminate the training of some
900 Somali soldiers. EUTM will then undertake another 6-month training period for a second batch
of 1000 trainees.
The aim now is to ensure that adequate conditions are in place for the return of these soldiers to
Somalia, so that the Transitional Federal Government employs them properly. The EU is fully
committed to make it a success, in very close coordination with its partners, in particular the UN,
AMISOM, Uganda and the United States.

More on:
www.consilium.europa.eu/eutm-somalia

In the margins of the Council:

Steering Board of the European Defence Agency (EDA)

Pooling and sharing will be the key item in the agenda of the EDA Steering Board\(^2\) meeting. In this
regard, the Steering Board will be invited to note the EDA's on-going work on pooling and sharing
and to task the Agency to make proposals (in cooperation with the EU Military Committee) on
pooling and sharing and to support member states in implementing specific projects.

The Steering Board is also expected to encourage member states to come forward with proposals
for pooling and sharing initiatives on an EU basis. Over 70 pooling and sharing activities are
underway in the EDA’s framework. Priority areas requiring member states support include: Air
transport, medical support, CBRN defence, Unmanned Aerial systems, but also multinational
helicopter wing and future naval logistics.

Furthermore, the EDA Steering Board will be called on to approve the appointment of the new
Chief Executive of the EDA.

The Steering Board of the Agency will also approve the following items (A points):
- A decision on EDA Work Programme 2011;
- A decision on Defence Data and Benchmarks;
- A decision on European Framework Cooperation – R&T Joint Investment Programme on
  Force Protection;
- Conclusions on Level Playing Field (broadly understood as a concept focussing an
  European Defence companies and their ability to participate in the wider defence market);
- A decision on EU Radio Spectrum Policy Programme.

Finally, in addition to the note on Pooling and Sharing as above, the Steering Board will be invited
to discuss implications of the Single European Sky (SES) initiative for military aviation and
interface to the Single European Sky Air traffic management Research (SESAR) programme,
welcoming EDA's role in supporting the pMS in the military implementation of SES and SESAR,
and to note EDA report on defence research at European Union level.

\(^2\) Chaired by the High Representative Catherine Ashton in her quality of Head of EDA. The Steering
Board is the decision-making body of EDA, composed of EU Defence Ministers except Denmark, and
the European Commission (only member states have voting rights).
SESSION ON DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Green paper on EU development policy

The Council will discuss how to ensure that EU development policy effectively achieves its objectives, namely the fight against poverty in developing countries and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. The Council debate will be based on the Commission Green paper launching a consultation among stakeholders (16146/10).

Since the eight Millennium Development Goals were agreed in 2000, the EU and its Member states have doubled the amount of their official development assistance, providing a total of EUR 49bn in 2009, accounting for 56% of global aid.

Given ongoing fiscal consolidation efforts in a large number of developed countries, donor budgets may come under pressure. It is against this background that Development Ministers will reflect on how to ensure that EU development policy has a high impact and provides value for money.

In its Green Paper the Commission has proposed four subjects of discussion:

- how to ensure a high impact of EU development policy for poverty reduction;
- how to facilitate inclusive growth in developing countries, a prerequisite for meeting the Millennium Development Goals;
- how can sustainable development improve the growth potential in developing countries;
- how to achieve durable results in the area of agriculture and food security.

The views of ministers would inform Commission proposals for modernising European development policy, expected in the second half of 2011.

Afghanistan

The Council will exchange views on the EU’s development policy approach to Afghanistan in the presence of EU Special Representative in Afghanistan, Vygaudas Ušackas. Ministers will review the current security-related and political constraints to development in this country.

In October 2009, the EU adopted a Plan for Strengthening EU Action in Afghanistan and Pakistan. It represents the EU’s renewed commitment to increase the effectiveness of EU assistance, by channelling its resources in support of the strategic development priorities of the Afghan Government.

In 2010, the EU has enhanced its coordination. By merging the EUSR and delegation offices the EU combined its substantial development assistance with a growing political weight in Afghanistan.

The EU is one of Afghanistan’s largest donors. The EU, i.e. Commission and Member states, channel on average 1 billion EUR into Afghanistan per year.

In 2010 the European Commission funded a 33 million EUR humanitarian aid package to provide assistance mainly to conflict and disaster affected populations. Bilaterally, Member states have provided over 80 million EUR in humanitarian assistance this year.

**Haiti**

Ahead of the first anniversary of the earthquake (12 January), the Council will take stock of the ongoing reconstruction efforts as well as assess the current situation on the island, marked by the cholera epidemic and the recent elections. It will also take note of the state of play of the joint Commission/Member states programming document.

The EU and its Member states jointly pledged 1.235 billion EUR in support of Haiti’s reconstruction at the donor conference on 31 March in New York. The EU’s share of this pledge amounts to 460 million EUR and was later increased to 522 million EUR. The Commission has already committed a total of 326 million EUR to concrete reconstruction projects, out of which 61 million EUR have already been disbursed. Priorities for the remaining finance are currently being discussed by the Member states, the Commission and the Haitian authorities.

The Pan-American health organisation (PAHO) estimates that the cholera epidemic could affect as many as 400.000 people at its expected peak in the next months. By 4 December, more than 93 000 cases of cholera had been reported, with 2 120 deaths. According to UN reports, 24 non-governmental organisations provide cholera relief services.

The EU reacted promptly to the epidemic. In their joint efforts, the EU and its Member states have so far mobilised more than EUR 18.5m to face the cholera outbreak. Despite these efforts and substantial in-kind contributions from the Member states, additional support will be needed, to avoid a major humanitarian crisis.

Presidential and legislative elections took place in Haiti on 28 November. The EU contributed EUR 5m to the cost of the elections. Preliminary and official results are expected for 7 and 20 December respectively. A possible second round of presidential elections will be held on 16 January 2011. A smooth transition without risk of violence is of utmost importance for Haiti to continue with the reconstruction efforts.

**Transparency and mutual accountability in development aid**

The Council will discuss mutual accountability and transparency between European donors and partner countries. The Council is expected to adopt without discussion conclusions on that topic which will add a fourth chapter to the existing EU operational framework on aid effectiveness.

Also on aid effectiveness and transparency, ministers will hold a brief open debate that would feed into preparations of the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, which will take place in December 2011.

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4 Daily updates on the epidemic can be downloaded from the website of the Haitian ministry of public health and population: [http://www.mspp.gouv.ht](http://www.mspp.gouv.ht)
Innovative financing mechanisms

The Council will have a brief discussion on innovative financing sources and mechanisms for development.