HR/VP Ashton discusses Egypt, Syria and North Korea at the European Parliament

Egypt, Syria, and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) were amongst the foreign policy items on the European Parliament’s plenary agenda this week. MEPs exchanged views with HR/VP Ashton on the situation in these countries as well as the EU’s actions.

On Egypt, Catherine Ashton urged calm, restraint and dialogue by all parties, and emphasized the crucial role of the EU, as a neighbour and a partner committed to support the country’s democratic transition. The HR/VP once again called for an end of violence in Syria and for Bashar-Al-Assad to leave power, and reiterated the EU’s tireless efforts to support the Syrian people in every possible way. She also condemned North Korea’s hostility to its neighbours as well as repeated violations of international law, that make it one of the most isolated countries on the world stage.

For more information please see: Egypt, Syria, DPRK.

EU Naval Force warships assist 2 merchant vessels after freedom from pirates

It has been a busy couple of days early this week for the EU Naval Force (EU NAVFOR), after Spanish EU flagship ESPS Méndez Núnez and ESPS Rayo came to the aid of two tankers. The Royal Grace and the Smyrni were both freed, after being held by pirates for up to a year off the Somali coast.

Recent disruptions by EU Naval Force warships show that pirates are still intent on getting out to sea to attack ships. The pirates’ business model is fractured, but it is not broken, the threat remains. EU Naval Force seeks, where possible, a legal outcome, and over the past 2 months, EU Naval Force has transferred 21 suspect pirates for prosecution - 12 to Mauritius and 9 to the Seychelles.

Early March, the EU also welcomed the retransfer of 12 convicted Somali pirates previously transferred by EUNAVFOR to the Seychelles, from there to the Puntland State of Somalia. The transfer was enabled by agreements between the Seychelles and Puntland, as well as between EUNAVFOR and the Seychelles. The EU thanked the Republic of Seychelles for its leadership and continuing support to the fight against piracy off the coast of Somalia and in the Indian Ocean.

EUAVSEC inaugurates its headquarters and training centre in Juba

On 27 February, the South Sudanese Ministry of Transport authorised the EU’s Aviation Security Mission (EUAVSEC) to use a building at Juba International Airport as a training centre. The key for the building was symbolically handed over to Head of Mission Mr Lasse Christensen by Director General for Civil Aviation Authority, Mr Wonde Ade Kenyi. The week before EUAVSEC had inaugurated its new Headquarters in Juba.

At the inaugural ceremony Mr Lasse Christensen underlined: “Our host nation’s authorities have recognised that it is the responsibility of any nation to provide security for its citizens and guests, and to facilitate opportunities for growth of prosperity for all its citizens. (...) We are proud to support South Sudan in its efforts to achieve this in the field of aviation security.”

L’UE poursuit son soutien à la MISMA au Mali


Plusieurs Etats Membres ont continué à soutenir le transport aérien de personnel et d’équipements de la MISMA vers le Mali.

Chargement d’un avion-cargo C-160, Dakar

Chargement d’un avion-cargo C-160, Dakar
Kosovo Police and EULEX increase police patrols in northern Mitrovica

Due to the recent increase of violent acts that endanger public safety Kosovo Police and EULEX jointly will further increase their police presence in northern Mitrovica. These measures are taken to protect the local community.

The number of joined Kosovo Police (KP) and EULEX patrols, especially during the night, will be increased. KP and EULEX officers might also conduct preventive searches on individuals and vehicles. They are working closely together in their criminal investigations.

Palestinian prosecutors hold sessions on appellate cases

Palestinian prosecutors held a number of EUPOL COPPS funded workshops on 7 March in Nablus, Bethlehem, and Ramallah for around seventy prosecutors. These workshops focused on strengthening the capabilities of prosecutors working on cases in the appellate prosecution courts, as well as those working in the district prosecution.

The workshops provided an opportunity for participants to discuss the practical aspects of appellate and district court procedures. Prosecutors also had an opportunity to share their experiences with their colleagues.

First EDA-Egmont PhD Prize Awarded

The First EDA-Egmont PhD Prize in European Defence, Security and Strategy has been awarded to Dr Benjamin Pohl for his dissertation “But We Have to Do Something – The Drivers behind European Crisis Management Operations”.

The jury especially commends Dr Pohl’s work for asking a “key question” about the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), and answering it in a very persuasive manner.

The Prize is awarded by the European Defence Agency (EDA) in partnership with the Egmont Institute. The aim is to introduce a new award that acknowledges academic excellence while putting it in a European context. The unique partnership enables Egmont to ensure academic substance while the EDA exposes the research to the heart of European policy making.

For more information please see: European Defence Agency

EUPOL RD Congo facilite une campagne sur la police de proximité à Kinshasa

EUPOL RD Congo a facilité une campagne de sensibilisation de la population à la “police de proximité” lancée le 12 mars par la commune de Kinshasa.

Au cours des prochains mois, 155 représentants de la société civile et des leaders communautaires des sept quartiers de la capitale de la RDC feront du porte-à-porte et participeront à des émissions de radio, à des “forums citoyens” et à d’autres initiatives de visibilité publique. L’objectif est de sensibiliser l’ensemble de la population au concept de “police de proximité” et à l’importance du partenariat entre la police et la population pour assurer la sécurité de tous.

L’UE met à jour sa liste commune d’équipements militaires


Pour en savoir plus: EN FR

Upcoming activities:
21 March: The European Defence Agency’s annual conference
22 - 23 March: Informal meeting of EU Foreign Ministers (Dublin)

Posts available in CSDP Missions:
EUAVSEC South Sudan