EU and Somalia to organise a ‘New Deal for Somalia Conference’ in September

The EU and the Federal Government of Somalia will host “The New Deal For Somalia Conference” in Brussels on 16 September. The international conference aims to endorse the “New Deal Compact” that will commit the Somali people and their international partners to a set of key priorities and new support for the reconstruction of Somalia over the next 3 years. This Compact is a milestone in the “New Deal for fragile states” framework which commits both national and international partners to jointly deliver on the most critical political, security and socioeconomic priorities.

When announcing the conference, HR/VP Catherine Ashton said: “The situation in Somalia has been transformed over the past year. There is now a real atmosphere of activity, emerging governance and hope. It is therefore more important than ever that the international community makes good on its promises of support for the Somali people.”

Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud stated: “All Somalis must seize this opportunity to galvanise international support to aid our recovery. We have this one chance to ensure that over the next three years we build on the momentum of progress and remove any threat of a return to anarchy and conflict. I hope the world will attend to pledge their support to secure this fast emerging success story.”

The EU is pursuing a comprehensive approach towards Somalia, encompassing political support, development aid, and contributing to a secure environment through its three CSDP missions: the EU Naval Force, the EU Training Mission Somalia, and the EUCAP Nestor. The EU is also providing financial support to the African Union peacekeeping mission, AMISOM.

Preliminary work towards the compact to be endorsed at conference in September has started: On 24 June a delegation of the Somali Federal Government flew from Mogadishu to the EUNAVFOR ship, NRP Alvares Cabral in order to meet with EU officials. The delegation was accompanied by the EU Special Envoy to Somalia, Michele Cervone d’Urso, the Operation Commander of the EU Naval Force, Rear Admiral Bob Tarrant and the Head of Mission for EUCAP Nestor, Admiral Jacques Launay. The Somali representatives and the EU delegation discussed ways to help strengthen maritime security and economic development in Somalia.

New Defence Procurement Gateway

The European Defence Agency (EDA) launched a new section on its website dedicated to defence related business opportunities and information. This new “Defence Procurement Gateway” allows European governments, industry and academia to easily access information related to defence procurement at EU and national levels. As a part of the EDA’s task to enhance transparency in the European Defence Equipment Market, the web-based tool also includes an industry directory (“Yellow Pages” section) serving as a platform for European defence industry to market its knowledge and expertise in the defence domain.

EUSEC RD Congo soutient le contrôle biométrique au sein des forces armées

Près de 10,500 jeunes soldats de deuxième classe des Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC) ont signé leur premier contrat de 7 ans renouvelable une fois. C’était à l’issue de la campagne de contrôle biométrique qui a eu lieu du 3 au 21 juin dans les quatre centres d'instructions de Kindu, Kamina, Mura et Kitona. Dans le cadre de la modernisation de l’administration, des ressources humaines et du budget, EUSEC RD Congo accompagne également les FARDC dans le processus de maîtrise des effectifs. Cet appui au contrôle biométrique de nouvelles recrues venues de toutes les provinces de la RDC, va permettre à chaque élément de recevoir sa carte d’identité militaire.

Cette opération a reçu le soutien logistique des ambassades de Belgique et France ainsi que de la Mission de l’Organisation des Nations unies en RDC.
**EUTM Mali: Départ du bataillon Waraba**

Le bataillon « Waraba » a quitté le camp de Koulikoro le 22 juin en vue de son déploiement au Nord du Mali, à l’issue de 10 semaines de formation au sein de la mission « EUTM Mali ». Fort de 700 hommes et plus de 80 véhicules, le bataillon Waraba a été accompagné par soixante militaires européens de la EUTM Mali jusqu’à Sikasso. Il doit rejoindre dans un premier temps la ville de Gao et sera désormais accompagné par un détachement d’assistance opérationnelle français appartenant à la force SERVAL lors de ses opérations au Nord du Mali. Le second bataillon malien est arrivé à Koulikoro et commence aujourd’hui sa formation.

**DSG Helga Schmid visits EUPOL COPPS**

The Deputy Secretary General of the European External Action Service (EEAS), Helga Schmid, visited the EU Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL COPPS) in Ramallah, on 2 July, as part of a wider visit to the Middle East. She paid tribute to the Mission “for its significant performance in terms of contributing to building Palestinian institutional capacity”. EUPOL COPPS helps the Palestinian people develop credible, professional, fair and equitable criminal justice institutions. Ms Schmid met with Palestinian Chief of Police, Major General Hazem Attallah, and attended a selection of exercises and drills performed by the Special Police Force.

DSG Schmid co-chaired the Informal Strategic Dialogue with Israel, which discussed regional and strategic issues - including Iran, the Middle East peace process, Syria and other Southern Neighbourhood countries, China and Russia – as well as bilateral matters. She met senior Israeli and Palestinian interlocutors, including the Israeli National Security Advisor, General Yaacov Amidror, Special Advisor to PM Netanyahu, Yitzhak Molcho, Palestinian Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa and Chief Negotiator, Saeb Erekat. She had talks with Quartet Representative Tony Blair and UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Robert Serry. She also met the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Forum and leading Palestinian women, including the Minister for Tourism and the Mayor of Bethlehem.

**Appointments and extensions:**

On 3 July, the Council extended the EU police mission for the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL COPPS) and the EU border assistance mission for the Rafah crossing point (EUBAM Rafah) until 30 June 2014. Kenneth Deane (UK) will continue as the Head of Mission for EUPOL COPPS and Gerhard Schlaudraff (Germany) has been appointed as Head of Mission for EUBAM Rafah on 9 July.

**Upcoming activities:**

9 -10 July: HR/VP Ashton in Moldova, Serbia and Kosovo

22 July: Foreign Affairs Council

**Posts in CSDP Missions**

- EUCAP Sahel Niger (deadline 12 July 2013)
- EUPOL COPPS (deadline 19 July 2013)
- EUBAM Rafah (deadline 26 July 2013)

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**EUPOL Afganistan: Conference on Community Policing**

EUPOL Afghanistan supported the first conference on community policing ever in Kabul, on 25 June. National and international police officials and experts had the opportunity to discuss ways to build the vital trust and confidence between police and local communities.

Afghanistan’s Minister of Interior, General Ghulam Mujtaba Patang said at the conference, that the Police-e-Mardume (PeM) programme, initiated with the objective of law enforcement and community policing, is currently underway in eight of the country’s 34 provinces, where it is already part of the central policing structures. The Afghan Government plans to extend the programme to the country’s remaining 26 provinces.

Earlier this year, the Ministry of the Interior developed a 10-year strategy for the Afghan National Police. This plan seeks to transform the Afghan police from a force more accustomed to a traditional fighting and counter-insurgency role into a service focused on law enforcement and community policing.

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