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- Annual report from the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to the European Parliament

Delegations will find enclosed "Main aspects and basis choices of the CFSP (point G, paragraph 43 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006) - 2012 - Annual report from the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to the European Parliament", as endorsed by the Council on 15 October 2013.

**MAIN ASPECTS AND BASIS CHOICES OF THE CFSP
(POINT G, PARAGRAPH 43 OF THE INTERINSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENT
OF 17 MAY 2006) - 2012**

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PART I: LOOKING BACK AT 2012

Introduction

2012 was an eventful year for the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), proving the added value of the new Lisbon tools in addressing the most pressing foreign policy challenges. From the difficult transition in the Arab world to the events in the Sahel, from the adoption of the Human Rights Strategy to the EU Election Observation missions, the EU has coordinated its response in a genuinely comprehensive manner, deploying a full range of instruments – CFSP and non-CFSP¹ – underpinning its diplomatic efforts with Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions on the ground, targeting humanitarian and development aid to those most in need while collaborating with local and regional partners to ensure progress towards peace and prosperity.

Throughout the year the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the Commission (HR/VP), Catherine Ashton and the European External Action Service (EEAS), in coordination with relevant Commission services, have ensured that the EU in 2012 maintained a genuinely global reach by supporting democracy and development from Myanmar/Burma in Asia to Somalia in the Horn of Africa; and by looking to help immediate neighbours in Ukraine and North Africa and partners further afield such as in Haiti and Pakistan. To be able to do so, the EU has continued to intensify cooperation with its strategic partners in order to build mutual understandings about today's threats and challenges and design mutually accepted responses. At a time when the temptation in Europe to look inwards is apparent, the EEAS, working closely with the Commission, the 27 member states and the European Parliament, has helped keep the EU visible globally and a reliable partner to old and new allies alike.

¹ In order to reflect this approach, this report includes a number of non-CFSP instruments and policies, such as development aid, trade and humanitarian aid, when it is considered relevant and useful to present a more comprehensive picture of the EU external action.

The EU's contribution to global peace and security is particularly evident in a number of areas. First, we marshal a wide range of instruments to tackle important foreign policy challenges in what we refer to as the 'comprehensive approach'. While many have focused on developing such an approach over the last decade, the EU has the tools - and has them in sufficient strength – to make a lasting impact. Second, we are directly involved – and indeed often lead – peace-seeking negotiations. Third, we work closely with – and materially support – international and regional partners to deal with regional challenges where only collective efforts can deliver results – from climate change, and disaster relief to security sector reform. On 10 December, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the European Union, a clear recognition of our strong commitment to global peace, reconciliation, democracy and promotion of human rights.

A few examples of recent EU activity in these three areas illustrate our 2012 agenda:

The HR/VP's commitment to facilitating the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue last year and into 2013 has already led to concrete results: we have made concrete advances on IBM and have appointed liaison officers in Belgrade and Pristina, a remarkable step forward for the parties to the negotiations. Regular meetings between the Prime Ministers as well as, for the first time, a meeting between the Presidents of Serbia and Kosovo* have enabled us to tackle outstanding issues in a co-operative manner. The dialogue continued in 2013 and eventually resulted in the "First agreement of principles governing the normalisation of relations" between the parties in April 2013.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

The EU's engagement in Somalia is a particularly good example of how the EU tackles all dimensions of a crisis using a 'comprehensive approach'. When the Lisbon Treaty was ratified, Somalia was in crisis. Piracy off the coast was sky-rocketing, the Al Shabab militia had pushed the Somali government to the brink of defeat and millions were facing destitution. Today, after a comprehensive effort co-ordinated by the EEAS, which has involved both CFSP and non-CFSP measures such as a maritime and a training mission, diplomatic engagement, assistance to Somalia's neighbouring states, as well as humanitarian assistance, the picture has completely changed. There has been a 95 per cent drop in the incidence of piracy off the country's coast. The Somali government has been able to push back the militias and reconstitute itself as a democratic body for the first time in the country's history. Development is now reaching the majority of Somalis and the region is now better equipped to deter, capture and try pirates. Our commitment was lauded by the Somali president during his visit to Brussels and we look forward to further deepening cooperation with the government and our international partners. To ensure future cooperation, we are convening a conference dedicated to Somalia's future.

Our engagement in Mali is another manifestation of the EU's comprehensive – and successful – engagement. Even before the Malian coup d'état in spring 2012 and the loss of northern Mali to Tuareg and the jihadist forces, the EU developed an integrated regional strategy to the Sahel region aimed at fighting terrorism and ensuring stability and lasting development in this crucial part of Africa. In order to react rapidly to the French deployment of forces and the changing nature of the Malian situation, the EU then sped up the deployment of a European mission to reorganise, train and advise the Malian armed forces (EUTM). We have also encouraged and helped the Malian authorities to develop a roadmap to restore democracy and pursue national reconciliation; and we have offered a renewed and adapted package of development and humanitarian aid. Finally, we supported ECOWAS and the African Union in a deployment of a peacekeeping force to help maintain stability in Mali, until a UN peace-keeping operation was in place. Progress will rely on the Malian authorities, but in 2012 the EU has shown a willingness and ability to provide the necessary support to stabilise the country.

Throughout 2012, in North Africa and the Middle East the EU supported transitions away from authoritarian rule in Egypt, Tunisia, and Libya. The EU sought to ensure a tailor-made approach to each country, including stepped-up financial assistance, the offer for stronger mobility partnerships and the launch of negotiations for Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements for greater market access. An innovative feature of this approach has been the creation of special task forces led by the HR/VP, facilitated by the EU Special Representative for the Southern Mediterranean region and aimed at helping the transitions in Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia. Bringing together all the relevant actors – members of the European Parliament, international, regional, private and public stakeholders – the task forces have made an important contribution to assisting the countries to make progress towards lasting reform and democracy.

The conflict in Syria continued with increasing intensity becoming the central crisis in the region and a foremost political and humanitarian issue for the EU. The EU kept on calling for a political solution to the Syrian crisis and consistently expressed its full support to the efforts of the United Nations and the Arab League. The HR/VP took part in the June international conference in Geneva that agreed a communiqué providing a basic framework for a future political transition, which was not implemented because of subsequent differences in interpretation of what was agreed. The EU accepted the coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces as legitimate representatives of the Syrian people and urged them to work further towards inclusiveness, representativeness and respect of democratic principles. The EU took action by pursuing a policy of restrictive measures against persons responsible for the violent repression against the civilian population, persons benefiting from or supporting the regime and persons associated with them.. In addition, the EU has also provided humanitarian and other assistance to the Syrian population inside the country as well as to refugees in the countries that neighbour Syria, including support to these countries themselves to help them cope with the burden. In international fora, notably the UN Human Rights Council, the EU was a leading force in calls for respecting human rights, achieving accountability and ruling out impunity.

The EU's dedication to support the consolidation of democracy naturally extended to Europe's eastern neighbourhood through the implementation of the Eastern Partnership as well as through continued efforts towards closer political association and economic integration. Negotiations of Association Agreements (AA), including Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTA) have been ongoing with Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan (only AA). The Association Agreement with Ukraine was initialled. Visa facilitation and readmission agreements and visa liberalisation action plans have also been promoted to reinforce people-to-people contacts. These developments are accompanied by expectations of broad reforms upholding the rule of law and fostering democratic stability. The EU provided support through the European Parliament mission led by the former President of Poland, Aleksander Kwaśniewski, and the former President of the EP, Pat Cox, monitoring the court proceedings involving, i.a. former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. The EU has also been pursuing efforts to foster democratic progress in Belarus, but severe deficiencies remained concerning political and media freedom. At the same time, the EU remained committed to making progress on the resolution of protracted conflicts in the region (5+2 talks on Transnistria, Geneva process). We will seek to carry this work forward this year, as we prepare for a landmark Eastern Partnership summit this autumn in Vilnius. Further implementation and progress of the Eastern Partnership in its bilateral and multilateral dimension are crucial for the Union.

A final example of the EU's work in 2012 has been our commitment to mediation and conflict resolution. The EU's efforts to find a solution to the Iranian nuclear issue has probably been the most visible example of such activities. In leading negotiations with Iran on behalf of the E3+3, the HR/VP has engaged in intensive diplomatic efforts to pave the way for a diplomatic solution that meets the international community's concern about the nature of the Iranian nuclear programme. The HR/VP supported by the EEAS has been involved in a major outreach process to garner support for the EU's dual track approach. The continued unity of the E3+3 has been at the core of these efforts.

These are concrete examples of how the EEAS has added value to the work of the 27 Member States and the European Commission. As the 2012 report will show, the EU has even made progress across a much broader range of issues.

Throughout our work, human rights have remained the silver thread running through our policies. The year 2012 was an important year for this work; the EU adopted its inaugural human rights strategy, which will enable us to streamline our human rights work into the EU's bilateral and multilateral engagements; a Special Representative for Human Rights was appointed, the first-ever thematic envoy, to ensure that when the EU speaks out to advocate human rights our voice is heard loudly and clearly around the globe.

A special focus has been granted to the issue of women empowerment and support to women's participation in political processes. The launching in 2012 by the HR/VP of the "Equal Futures Partnership" together with US Secretary of State Clinton and of the initiative "Spring Forward for Women" together with UN Women Director Michelle Bachelet embodies the EU's deep commitment to empower women economically and politically.

Support to civil society has also become a key feature of our engagement, not least in light of the crucial role it played in the Arab uprisings. In this respect, the Civil Society Facility has continued to support national and local civic initiatives and capacity building to strengthen civil society organisations. The newly created "European Endowment for Democracy" will also provide a further avenue to advancing and supporting democracy.

Last year also saw us step up our work on the so-called 'horizontal' challenges, such as the need to ensure the EU's energy security or prevent conflict over water spilling into wars. The HR/VP put energy security and water security on the agenda of the Council and Gymnich and has made support for Europe's access to energy and a peaceful sharing of water resources an essential part of EU foreign policy.

In order to effectively advance our values and interests around the globe, the EU significantly deepened relations with its strategic partners in 2012, in particular by expanding cooperation in the field of foreign and security policy. In addition to the long-established dialogues at all levels with our strategic partners, we now have a regular strategic dialogue with China at the level of the HR/VP as well as high level political dialogues with South Korea, India and Brazil. Our cooperation is deepening in a number of areas, including Human Rights, response to the Arab Spring or police training in Afghanistan. Partners are also increasingly participating in our CSDP missions. Our relations with the US have traditionally been the bedrock of our international engagement and throughout 2012 our cooperation has been particularly active, from the common efforts in the Asia-Pacific to the Western Balkans. The relationship with the Russian Federation also continued to be a priority, not least because of joint challenges in our common neighbourhood but also through sound cooperation on Iran or the Middle East.

2012 also witnessed an increased engagement with regional organisations, from the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to the African Union (AU), from ASEAN to the Organisation of American States. Europe can be all the more effective if it does not act alone, as we have seen over the past year. So it is in our interest not only to bolster links with regional organisations, but embed patterns of cooperation and to offer support, where needed, to increase capacities to act. The EU-LAS cooperation is a particularly good example of our work last year, in which relations strengthened at all levels, from the political (e.g. the EU-LAS Ministerial) to the technical (e.g. EU funded state-of-the-art crisis room). In Africa, the EU has intensified cooperation with the African Union, for example at the Horn of Africa (not least through substantial funding for the AU force AMISOM via the African Peace Facility), or with sub-regional organisations like ECOWAS as recently demonstrated by the close cooperation with ECOWAS in the context of the stabilisation operation AFISMA in Mali.

Great challenges lie ahead for European foreign policy. But the breadth of our work in 2012 and the range of our achievements give confidence that in the coming years the EU will be able to tackle global challenges even more effectively while pursuing our overall goal to safeguard democracy and human rights around the globe.

A. OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES BY REGIONS

1. NORTH AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST AND ARABIAN PENINSULA

Introduction

More than two years since the outbreak of the “Arab Spring”, which started with the popular uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt, the situation in much of the Arab world remained highly fluid, with important differences between the countries and sub-regions concerned. While significant progress was made in promoting democratic reforms (for example elections, stronger role of civil society, increased freedom of expression and assembly) important security challenges remained, such as the worsening crisis in Syria and the evident risk of wider instability through a spill-over to neighbours, and the internal security threats that Libya continued to face even as it proceeded with the long process of state-building. At the same time the cohesion of many Arab countries risked being undermined by new forms of internal political polarisation (not only between secular and Islamist forces, but also with respect to key sections of society, including women, young people, religious and ethnic minorities) as well as by the deteriorating economic situation in several of the countries concerned.

The EU and its Member States actively supported the transition processes initiated in several Arab countries, and offered a multi-faceted response. The EU laid down stepping stones for renewed partnerships, but the pace and extent of progress achieved to date was uneven as partners were sometimes reluctant to embrace the EU offer or were either unable or unwilling to undertake the reforms needed to unlock additional EU assistance. The EU continued to support the Arab countries in their efforts to overcome political and socio-economic obstacles while at the same time assessing the governments emerging from the Arab Spring on the basis of their record. In that context, the EU continued to engage constructively with all new political stakeholders. In order to help build and sustain vibrant democratic societies in Arab countries, the EU and its Member States also supported the work of NGOs.

The EU Special Representative for the Southern Mediterranean region, Mr Bernardino León, has throughout the year endeavoured to enhance EU support to countries in the region, including through coordinating Task Forces. As many of the countries are facing difficulties in their transition to democracy, the EU Special Representative was also, through his frequent visits to the region, encouraging political consensus in order to maintain democratic legitimacy in countries facing political crisis.

Finally, the EU re-launched and revitalised its cooperation with a number of relevant regional actors, i.a. the League of Arab States, the Union for the Mediterranean, the OIC, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union.

BILATERAL RELATIONS

1.1. NORTH AFRICA

1.1.1. ALGERIA

By contrast with many other countries in the region, Algeria was relatively unaffected by the “Arab Spring”. In May 2012, legislative elections were held. Contrary to widespread expectations, the Presidential coalition emerged strengthened while an expected increase in support for Islamist parties failed to materialize. 143 women were elected (approximately 1/3 of membership). At Algeria’s request, the EU sent an EU Election Observation Mission, led by MEP Ignacio Salafranca, to observe the elections. The mission’s report underlined the need to improve transparency and grant political parties systematic access to national Election lists. Implementation of the recommendations produced by the EU Election Observation Mission was raised at the EU-Algeria Association Council meeting in December 2012. The reform agenda which the new Assembly and Government needed to address included constitutional reform, as announced by President Bouteflika in 2011.

The HR/VP visited Algeria on 6 November 2012 where she met with President Bouteflika, Prime Minister Sellal and Minister of Foreign Affairs Medelci and signed three EU-Algeria financing agreements on the protection of cultural heritage, support for reforms in the transport sector and support to youth employment.

1.1.2. LIBYA

In July 2012 the Libyan people went to the ballot box for the first time in decades and elected the members of the transitional Parliament in a broadly peaceful and positive atmosphere. In October 2012 Parliament elected Ali Zeidan as head of the new transitional government, who put improving the security situation on top of the agenda.

Following the agreements reached at the Paris Conference of September 2011, the EU undertook a post-conflict needs assessments in spring 2012 on: integrated border management (IBM) civil society and media. Following the positive reception of the IBM needs assessment report by the Libyan authorities in June 2012, the Council authorised planning for a possible Civilian Border Security CSDP mission in Libya. In order to secure the necessary Libyan political buy-in for this civilian CSDP mission, a Fact Finding Mission was deployed in November 2012 immediately following the formation of the elected Libyan government of PM Zeidan and a Crisis Management Concept was quickly developed². Despite the positive support at Libyan ministerial level for a CSDP border security mission, the Libyan authorities largely recognised that whilst border security is amongst their highest priorities, a lack of interdepartmental coordination and expertise within Libyan government is hampering efforts by the EU and the international community to provide timely support.³ The EEAS also coordinated the elaboration of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aiming at fostering long-term dialogue and mutual cooperation between the Government of Libya and the EU on conflict prevention, crisis preparedness and response, as well as on the fight against organised crime and terrorism.

The EU progressively lifted the autonomous restrictive measures adopted during the 2011 conflict in response to changes on the ground. EU support to the transition process through financial assistance now stands at € 79 million focusing on security, economic recovery, health, public administration, migration, civil society and protection of vulnerable groups.

² Adopted by the Council on 31 January 2013.

³ The Prime Minister's Inter-Ministerial Border Management Committee was later established, being empowered to make decisions and coordinate actions on the ground.

The EU underlined on several occasions throughout the year serious concerns regarding the protection and respect for human rights, notably regarding the situation in detention centers and the deteriorating conditions for migrants. The security situation in the country was subject to close monitoring and was publicly addressed on particularly grave occasions such as the attack against the US consulate in Benghazi or the inter-ethnic clashes in the south of the country⁴.

1.1.3. MOROCCO

In 2012, the new government led by the moderate Islamic Party of Justice and Development continued the reform process, i.a. by extending the basic health care system and adopting a gender action plan. However, progress in terms of effective implementation of the 2011 Constitution was rather limited in 2012. Negotiations for a new EU-Morocco ENP Action Plan for the period 2013-2017 were concluded in November 2012.⁵ The 4th session of the Joint Parliamentary Commission EU-Morocco took place on 16 July 2012 in Rabat. Political and security cooperation and dialogue at the UN was strengthened given that Morocco was a non-permanent member of the UNSC from 1 January 2012. Having held the presidency of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Parliamentary Assembly (PA) for one year, Morocco handed over the presidency to the European Parliament at the 8th session of the UfM PA held in Rabat on 24 and 25 March 2012.

⁴ In November 2012 the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the situation of migrants in Libya(P7 TA(2012)0465). During the debate prior to its adoption, participants underlined that the EU will continue to call on the authorities to ensure respect for internationally agreed human rights standards; at the same time, the EU will continue to support the authorities in meeting their responsibilities under international law. In this regard, it is worth mentioning that the EU is providing a €20 million support package aimed at improving the protection of vulnerable groups including migrants.

⁵ But formal adoption is still pending (as of mid-2013).

The HR/VP visited Morocco on 5 November 2012, where she met with Prime Minister Abdelilah Benkirane and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Saad-Eddine El Othmani. The EU has been actively raising key human rights issues in Western Sahara. The EU consistently reaffirmed its full support for the UN Secretary-General's efforts, commended the work of his Personal Envoy Ambassador Christopher Ross and encouraged the parties to work towards achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which would provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, in agreement with relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

1.1.4. TUNISIA

Following the first democratic elections held on 23 October 2011, the EU has continued to step up its political support to the democratic transition through intense political contacts. The Tunisian Prime Minister Hammad Jebali visited Brussels on 2 February 2012 for his first visit abroad, followed by a second visit on 2 October.

Despite the continuation of the transition to democracy and ongoing debates on the draft Constitution at the National Constituent Assembly, increasing tensions and polarisation have emerged towards the end of 2012.

A political agreement on the text of the Action Plan for a Privileged Partnership was reached in November 2012, in the framework of the Association Council held in Brussels. The Action Plan contains ambitious joint commitments in the area of governance, rule of law and human rights. It also sets the framework for sectoral negotiations in a number of areas, including DCFTA, Open Sky, Partnership for Mobility.

As a follow up to the EU Tunisia Task Force of 23 September 2011, a business advisory council has been set up to contribute to the support to investors. Another follow up to the Task Force was the organisation of a joint seminar in June by the EU, Tunisia and the World Bank to foster the recovery of frozen assets under the CFSP decision.

The CFSP decision imposing restrictive measures against persons responsible for misappropriation of State funds and persons or entities associated with them was extended by one year in early 2012.

1.2. MIDDLE EAST

1.2.1. EGYPT

During 2012, Egypt⁶ continued its democratic transition to which the authorities had committed following the democratic revolution in January 2011, and the subsequent ousting of former President Mubarak. Among the major achievements were, in particular, the orderly organisation of elections, the termination of the state of emergency, the consolidation of power in civilian hands and the launching of a constitutional drafting process. The EU proposed to deploy an Election Observation Mission to monitor the Presidential elections. But in the absence of a formal invitation⁷, the EU deployed only two experts to analyse the election process, which overall was found to be fair and conducted in a peaceful manner.

⁶ The European Parliament adopted on 16 February 2012 a resolution on the recent developments in Egypt (P7_TA(2012)0064) and on 15 March 2012 on human trafficking in Sinai, in particular the case of Solomon W. (P7_TA(2012)0092).

⁷ Which was, however, received in 2013.

The EU-Egypt dialogue resumed at the highest level. President Morsi visited Brussels on 13 September, the HR/VP chaired the EU-Egypt Task Force⁸ on 13-14 November in Cairo – an event which convened top business leaders, ministers and civil society⁹. The European Union committed to provide additional financial support to Egypt worth nearly € 800 million for 2012-2013 (303 million in grants and € 450 million in loans). This is on top of the € 449 million already provided for the period 2011-13. Three financing agreements were signed between the EU and Egypt covering SMEs in rural areas, extension of the Cairo Metro and measures to boost trade. The EU Special Representative for Human Rights, Stavros Lambrinidis, hosted on the 13 November a meeting with more than 40 different civil society organisations to discuss Egypt's transition, including issues such as human rights, NGO registration, freedom of assembly, trafficking, police methods, media freedom, and internet freedom. In addition, the EU's decision in March 2011 to impose restrictive measures against 19 individuals closely associated with the regime of former President Mubarak, was extended for another year in March 2012.

Nevertheless, serious set-backs were noted, such as the dissolution of the People's Assembly, a general lack of progress on human rights and strong concerns on the situation of women. President Morsi's constitutional declaration of 22 November 2012, giving him near-absolute power, the rushed adoption of a draft Constitution by an Islamist-led Constituent Assembly and the President's subsequent call for a constitutional referendum - leading to formal adoption on 25 December with a slight majority but with only 30% of voter participation - sunk the nation into a deeply divisive political crisis between pro-Morsi supporters and the secular liberal opposition, mainly represented by the National Salvation Front.

⁸ The Task Forces constitute a new kind of European diplomacy, mobilising all EU resources, working with both public and private sectors to support the democratic transition through support to institution building, rule of law, good governance, respect for human rights, economic reforms and regional cooperation. Acting as a catalyst, the Task Force is a tool deepening the EU's partnership with the countries in the Southern Mediterranean in a results-oriented and differentiated way, involving all EU institutions while increasing EU visibility.

⁹ The formal dialogue under the ENP, suspended since January 2011, was scheduled to be resumed in late February 2013, through the holding of an Association Committee.

1.2.2. JORDAN

In 2012 the political instability of 2011 continued, with three successive cabinets being appointed. This picture was further complicated by a worsening economic outlook, in an overall context of heightened regional tensions, notably the unrest in Syria. Jordan has played a vital role in providing support and shelter to the ever increasing number of Syrian refugees. The EU provided support through humanitarian assistance and longer terms measures to assist Jordan in coping with this additional burden. More than € 62 million of humanitarian and development assistance was mobilised for Jordan in 2012. EU-Jordan cooperation further expanded. HM King Abdullah visited the European institutions in April. President Barroso and HR/VP paid official visits to Jordan (in October and in June, respectively), both meeting with King Abdullah II and visiting the Za'atari refugee camp (relief centre for refugees from Syria).¹⁰ The EU-Jordan Task-Force meeting of 22 February 2012 represented an additional example of the deepened partnership and enhanced cooperation. In order to support Jordan in the implementation of key reforms in a difficult macro-economic context, the HR/VP announced an additional allocation of € 70 million to support the Election process, assist in reforming the justice system, support efforts in education reform, and help develop the private sector. The Dialogue on Migration, Mobility and Security with Jordan was launched in December.

In spring 2012, as part of the political roadmap, the Jordanian Parliament adopted four key laws establishing an independent Election Commission and a Constitutional Court, a new political parties' law and a new Election law.

¹⁰ Commissioner Georgieva also visited the camp in September 2012.

1.2.3. LEBANON

Throughout the year 2012 Lebanon continued to suffer from the repercussions of the crisis in neighbouring Syria. The growing number of refugees crossing into Lebanese territory, the fragile security situation and sporadic outbreaks of violence posed substantial challenges to Lebanon's internal stability. EU policy focused on preserving stability and national unity in Lebanon, founded on inclusive dialogue and a strong role for public institutions, including the security forces. This was highlighted in the Council conclusions of July and November respectively. Despite the difficult context, bilateral relations between the EU and Lebanon developed intensively, resulting in an agreement on a new ENP Action Plan and high-level visits of Prime Minister Mikati to Brussels in April and the HR/VP to Lebanon in October, where she met i.a. with President Suleiman and Prime Minister Mikati and Speaker Berri. The EU assisted Lebanon in coping with the growing influx of Syrian refugees whose number exceeded 180,000 at the end of the year. Almost €45 million of humanitarian and development assistance was mobilised for Lebanon in 2012.

1.2.4. SYRIA

The year 2012 witnessed an escalation of the Syrian conflict into a full-blown war with military actions spreading to major cities and a death toll exceeding 60,000 by the end of the year.¹¹ The scale of human suffering and the regional and international implications of the war made Syria a primary issue of concern for the EU. In order to support a peaceful solution to the conflict and to promote a political process opening the way to a peaceful, free and democratic Syria, the EU used its tools available, including the policy of restrictive measures. In addition, it mobilised a range of assistance instruments to help cover the needs of the growing number of people/refugees suffering from the conflict and its implications.

¹¹ The European Parliament engaged very actively on the issue of Syria and hosted six plenary debates (February, April, June, July, September, December) on Syria with the HR/VP participating three times (April, June, September). It adopted two resolutions on Syria on 16 February (P7_TA-PROV(2012)0057) and on 13 September (P7_TA-PROV(2012)0351).

The EU remained actively engaged with international partners and in international fora. Two draft UNSC resolutions, calling for a cease-fire and a political transition in February and threatening sanctions in July, were supported by EU Members of the UNSC but vetoed by China and Russia. Also thanks to EU support, UNSMIS, an observer mission in Syria, was established in April in support of the six-point plan of the League of Arab States (LAS)/UN Joint Special Representative (JSR) Kofi Annan, but suspended its operations inside Syria in June given the escalation of violence. In June, at a meeting in Geneva, an "action group" of countries including Russia, China and the US, with the participation of the HR/VP, agreed on principles that would guide a possible transition based on UN Resolutions 2042 and 2043. The meeting communiqué provided a framework for future political transition. Kofi Annan stepped down in August, and was replaced in September by JSR Lakhdar Brahimi. The EU firmly and consistently supported the new JSR throughout his activities. However, no progress was recorded on the implementation of the Geneva plan, largely due to disagreement among the P-5 members of the UNSC, the intransigence of the Assad-regime and the divided opposition.

The Foreign Affairs Council adopted nine sets of Conclusions on Syria in February, March, April, May, June, July, October, November and December 2012. In addition, the European Council adopted its own Conclusions on Syria in December. The Council of 10 December accepted the SOC as legitimate representatives of the Syrian people. The same was done by over 100 nations, members of the "Friends of Syria" Group, including the US. The European Council on 14 December called on the Council "to work on all options to help the opposition and improve the protection of civilians" and expressed the view that "political transition is necessary in Syria towards a future without President Assad and his illegitimate regime". The EU has therefore actively supported a political transition. In the face of a mounting humanitarian and refugee crisis¹²,

¹² On 12 December, the European Parliament held a debate on the EU's preparations for a possible influx of asylum seekers from Syria.

the EU has focused its actions on delivering humanitarian aid to the population in Syria and refugees in the neighbouring countries (up to € 200 million in addition to the funds provided by the EU Member States), as well as non-humanitarian aid, especially to support Syria's neighbours in coping with the burden, and the communities hosting Syrian refugees in particular. The EEAS led several missions related to the Syrian crisis: a visit to Beirut and Damascus in April, with meetings with opposition leaders, humanitarian organisations, UN agencies and members of the international community in Syria; in June, a visit to Ankara and the Kilis camp at the Turkish-Syrian border; an inter-service mission to Amman on 4-5 November 2012 to examine how the EU could continue supporting the Jordanian authorities in their efforts to cope with the pressing and increasing challenges posed in Jordan and in the region by the crisis in neighbouring Syria.

The EU maintained its engagement with different factions of the opposition and called on the SOC to improve its organisational capacity and identify interlocutors on thematic issues. In September, the EU supported the UNHRC in extending the mandate of the UN International Independent Commission of Inquiry on Syria. The EU expressed its deep concern about the widespread and systematic violations of human rights and international humanitarian law and recalled that there should be no impunity for such violations and abuses. The EU stated that, if concerns about war crimes and crimes against humanity are not adequately addressed on a national level, the International Criminal Court should deal with the situation and that the UN Security Council could refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court at any time. The EU called on the UN Security Council to urgently address the situation in Syria in all aspects, including this issue. The EU has adopted numerous rounds of restrictive measures since May 2011. These were substantially strengthened on 15 October 2012, when EU Foreign Ministers approved further listings of regime figures and a number of Syrian entities. On 30 November 2012, the Council decided to renew all restrictive measures against Syria for three months to allow more flexibility given the changes on the ground. The HR/VP issued numerous statements on the developments in Syria over the year.

1.2.5. MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS (MEPP)

The European Union stressed the need for bold and concrete steps towards peace¹³. It reaffirmed its position on the two-state solution as highlighted in the May and December Council Conclusions. The European Union underlined the urgency of renewed, structured and substantial peace efforts in 2012, and its readiness to work with the US and other international partners, including within the Quartet. It affirmed there can be no sustainable peace until the Palestinians' aspirations for statehood and sovereignty and those of Israelis for security are fulfilled through a comprehensive, negotiated peace based on the two-state solution. The Quartet met in April 2012 in Washington and released a statement.

The European Union continued to lend its full support to the HR/VP's efforts to create a credible perspective for re-launching the Peace Process. To this end, the HR/VP visited the region several times throughout the year and stayed in close contact with key stakeholders, including the parties themselves but also the League of Arab States and its Secretary General as well as Jordan, Turkey and Egypt.

The appointment of an EU Special Representative for the Middle East peace process, Mr Andreas Reinicke, from 1 February 2012, provided additional support to the work of the HR/VP, including within the framework of the Quartet where the EU Special Representative acts as the EU Envoy.

¹³ The European Parliament adopted on 15 March 2012 the resolution "Palestine: raids by Israeli forces on Palestinian TV stations" (P7_TA(2012)0093); on 5 July 2012 the resolution "EU policy on the West Bank and East Jerusalem" (P7_TA(2012)0298); on 22 November 2012 the resolution "The situation in Gaza" (P7_TA(2012)0454); and on 13 December 2012 the resolution "The Israeli government's decision to expand settlements in the West Bank" (P7_TA(2012)0506).

The European Union welcomed the cease-fire in the Gaza Strip and Israel on 22 November, which followed several days of intense violence, and commended the efforts of Egypt and all those who engaged in mediation. This tragic escalation of hostilities underlined very clearly the unsustainable nature of the status quo with regard to the situation in the Gaza Strip. Since then, the EU has been in regular touch with all stakeholders to consider how to contribute actively to the effective implementation of this cease-fire.

The European Union expressed its dismay and strong opposition against Israeli plans to expand settlements in the West Bank, including in East Jerusalem, and in particular plans to develop the *EI* area. The EU stated it would closely monitor the situation and its broader implications, and act accordingly. Recalling the Council Conclusions adopted in May, the European Union and its Member States reiterated their commitment to ensure continued, full and effective implementation of existing European Union legislation and bilateral arrangements applicable to settlement products.

On 29 November, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 67/19 "Status of Palestine in the United Nations". The European Union called on the Palestinian leadership to use this new status constructively and not to undertake steps which would deepen the lack of trust and lead further away from a negotiated solution.

The European Union reiterated its call for intra-Palestinian reconciliation behind President Mahmoud Abbas, as an important element for the unity of a future Palestinian state and for reaching a two-state solution. The European Union also reiterated its fundamental commitment to the security of Israel, including with regard to major threats in the region. Since 2005, as part of a wider EU engagement to contribute to resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, two civilian CSDP missions have been deployed:

EUPOL COPPS continued to serve as an essential channel of the overall EU support to Palestinian state-building through its contribution to the reform and development of the Palestinian security and justice sectors. In its capacity as the lead advisory agency of the Palestinian Civilian Police, which is perceived to have reached the highest degree of professionalism and earned the highest level of public trust among all Palestinian security forces, and as a prominent advisor of the criminal justice institutions, the mission worked to advance the priority objectives of the EU-Palestinian Authority relations and helped to ensure that technical conditions for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict remain in place until a political agreement is reached. In order to consolidate the cease-fire, the European Union expressed its readiness to make use of its instruments in support of the parties' efforts, including the possible reactivation – as appropriate – of the **EUBAM Rafah** mission, which underwent a significant overhaul and structural streamlining during the year. The mission maintains its capability and preparedness to redeploy to the Rafah Crossing Point within three weeks in accordance with the mission's revised OPLAN. The mission contributes to situational awareness through liaison and reporting activities. Through EUBAM the EU preserves its ability to understand operational implications of new developments such as the recent Gaza crisis and cease-fire agreement and retains the ability to react in a flexible and rapid manner. The PSC visited Israel and the occupied Palestinian Territory on 11–14 March 2012.

1.3. ARABIAN PENINSULA, IRAN & IRAQ

1.3.1. GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL AND ITS MEMBER STATES

Dialogue with the six GCC members (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates) and with the GCC Secretariat continued at the highest level with the 22nd EU-GCC Joint Council and Ministerial Meeting in Luxemburg in June, and with meetings in New York in the margins of the UNGA in September, and at working level throughout the year¹⁴. On all of these occasions, the two sides discussed EU-GCC relations, key regional issues, and global issues. The HR/VP condemned the use of violence and human rights violations from all sides in Bahrain, and called for an urgent start of a meaningful national dialogue leading to reconciliation and addressing the socio-economic grievances of the Bahraini people. The EU continued preparations for a programme under the Instrument for Stability, to train judges and prosecutors. The EU also closely monitored the human rights situation in the Gulf countries, notably delivering demarches and publishing statements for abolition of the death penalty.

1.3.2. IRAN

The HR/VP, on behalf of the E3 + 3 group (France, Germany, United Kingdom and the US, Russia and China) and based on her mandate from the UNSC, continued to lead international efforts on behalf of the EU to find a lasting and comprehensive diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issue¹⁵. Despite several rounds of talks with Iran in Istanbul (April), Baghdad (May) and Moscow (June), differences between Iran and the E3+3 remained. The need to engage Iran in a meaningful confidence-building process to address longstanding international concerns regarding its nuclear programme, remained as urgent as ever. The HR/VP, supported by the EEAS, has been involved in a major outreach process to garner support for the EU's dual track approach. The continued unity of the E3+3 has been at the core of these efforts.

¹⁴ The European Parliament adopted on 15 March 2012 a resolution on human rights violations in Bahrain (P7_TA(2012)0094). On 26 October 2012 the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the human rights situation in the United Arab Emirates (P7_TA(2012)0400)

¹⁵ The European Parliament adopted on 2 February 2012 a resolution on Iran and its nuclear programme (P7_TA(2012)0024)

Iran's continued refusal to comply with its international obligations and increasing concerns over unresolved issues regarding the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme, resulted in the adoption in September 2012 of a further resolution by the IAEA Board of Governors expressing deep and increasing concerns.

In accordance with the dual track approach, in January 2012 the Council adopted a new round of strong sanctions against Iran, including a prohibition on the import of Iranian crude oil and petroleum products, which came into force on 1 July. Due to Iran's failure to engage seriously in negotiations, the Council decided to impose a further package of strong sanctions in October, to again confirm its commitment to the dual track approach including sanctions.

The EU continued to express its serious concern over the deterioration of the human rights situation in Iran¹⁶. The HR/VP issued numerous statements condemning the high number of executions in 2012 as well as the widespread repression of Iranian citizens, notably human rights defenders and their lawyers, journalists and members of minorities, who faced harassment and arrests. In May 2012 the EU updated its list of Iranian individuals subject to restrictive measures responsible for directing or implementing grave human rights violations, which now includes 78 individuals. The EU will also continue to support the mandate and work of the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Iran, Ahmed Shaheed, a mandate created by the UN Human Rights Council in March 2011.

¹⁶ The European Parliament adopted on 22 November 2012 a resolution on the human rights situation in Iran, particularly mass executions and the recent death of the blogger Sattar Beheshti (P7_TA(2012)0463). On 14 June 2012 it adopted a resolution on the ethnic minorities in Iran (P7_TA(2012)0265)

1.3.3. IRAQ

EU-Iraq relations were further strengthened by the signature of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement on 11 May 2012 by the HR/VP and Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari. The main parts of the Agreement have been provisionally applied since 1 August. The year 2012 also saw continued implementation of the EU-Iraq Memorandum of Understanding on Strategic Partnership in Energy and of the first ever multiannual Country Strategy Paper for assistance to Iraq. The EU continued its focus on targeted development cooperation and long-term capacity building.

The EU continued to follow very closely the human rights situation including by sustained and repeated expressions of concern at the increased use of the death penalty and the situation of persons belonging to minorities. The HR/VP also expressed her concern at the rising tensions between the main political forces and called repeatedly on them and the Government to engage in an inclusive dialogue. She actively pursued the issue of the Camp Ashraf/Hurriya residents, in full support of the efforts made by the United Nations to find a peaceful solution.

EUJUST LEX Iraq is the EU's first integrated Rule of Law mission. After the strategic review of the Mission in spring 2012, the Mission's new and final mandate was approved in June 2012 until December 2013 with a focus on transfer of knowledge and capacity building activities by the Mission to the local counterparts. Despite a challenging security environment and operational constraints, the Mission has maintained an effective mandate implementation in responding to changing needs and circumstances with training projects involving all branches of the Iraqi criminal justice system ongoing in all three locations (Baghdad, Basra and Erbil). By providing specialised courses to high and mid-level Iraqi officials from the criminal justice system, EUJUST LEX Iraq is contributing to a consolidation of security by strengthening the system of rule of law and promoting a culture of respect for human rights in Iraq.

1.3.4. YEMEN

After the signature of the GCC-brokered Transition Agreement, presidential elections were organised. Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, the consensus candidate, was elected and inaugurated in February 2012. Many issues remain at stake and the overall situation in the country remains very fragile but the President and the Transitional Government took important steps notably in the reform of the military and civil security sectors, with the EU actively involved in the latter. The international community and the EU in particular, are important actors in supporting this process. Friends of Yemen and Donors Conferences rallied international support, financially (€ 6bn – EU pledged € 170ml) and politically. The G-10 group in Sana'a (ambassadors of P5, EU and GCC) in close collaboration with the UN special envoy, has accompanied and monitored the transition process closely and will continue to do so.

The EU's close attention on Yemen was also shown through three sets of Council Conclusions and a large number of statements by the HR/VP, in which she expressed support of President Hadi and the transitional Government while warning opponents not to derail the reform process by creating instability and insecurity in the country. In addition, President Hadi visited Brussels in October 2012. He met with Presidents Barroso and Van Rompuy, the HR/VP and Commissioner Piebalgs.

The EU was closely monitoring the human rights situation in Yemen, notably the issue of the juvenile death penalty. The EU also contributed substantially to food security and nutrition and to resolving of other pressing humanitarian needs of people and refugees in Yemen.

1.4. REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

The political changes in the region have highlighted the need for increased regional cooperation, as many challenges – whether political, economic or social – benefit from action at the regional level. Regional organisations are adapting to the new political context and the EU stepped up its engagement with them.

1.4.1. THE ARAB LEAGUE

The EU has given diplomatic support to the efforts of the League of Arab States (LAS) in trying to find a solution to the Syrian crisis. The HR/VP has maintained close contacts with the LAS Secretary General throughout the year and four meetings at senior official level have allowed a structured political dialogue between the two institutions. A second joint EU-LAS Ministerial meeting held in Cairo on November 13 sent a strong signal of a joint commitment to address common challenges. It adopted an ambitious declaration covering a wide range of political subjects and endorsed a joint work programme paving the way for practical cooperation in various fields such as women empowerment, crisis management, humanitarian action, human rights and civil society. In this regard, the European Commission-LAS Malta Liaison Office is an important instrument to implement such projects. At this occasion, the HR/VP inaugurated with the LAS Secretary-General Nabil El Araby a Crisis Room in the LAS headquarters in Cairo partly funded by the EU. The project, which is already operational, aims to create capacity within the LAS to perform effective crisis-related early warning. It also establishes links with the EU's early warning system. The EU also organised a seminar on election observation for LAS officials.

1.4.2. THE ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION

The EU also strengthened its relations with the OIC. For the first time, the HR/VP made a speech at an OIC ministerial meeting (in Djibouti on 15/16 November 2012). Both organisations have held high level and expert meetings, providing ideas for more practical cooperation.

1.4.3. THE UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) is a unique forum of dialogue among 43 EuroMed partners which complements bilateral relations between the EU and its southern neighbours. Also thanks to the initiative of the President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, 2012 marked a revival of the role of the UfM as a catalyst to develop regional dialogues and projects. In March, the Council transferred the UfM Northern Co-Presidency to the EU, giving a new impetus to the work of the organisation, and ensuring the development of sector dialogues and enhanced coherence between EU policies and programmes and the work of the UfM. Since September, Jordan assumed the UfM Southern Co-presidency, reaffirming the full co-ownership and co-piloting of the UfM process. Libya was invited to join the UfM, while Syria suspended its participation. Regular meetings of senior officials allowed for development of a political dialogue and better integration of other dimensions of institutional cooperation. The new Secretary General appointed in March focused on improving the functional competencies of the UfM Secretariat in developing and seeking finance for regional projects and received full support from the EU for this endeavour.

1.4.4. MAGHREB SUB-REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

In the course of the year, the EU participated in two key meetings of the Western Mediterranean Forum (“5+5”): a meeting of Foreign Ministers in Rome in February attended by Commissioner Füle and the Summit in Malta held in October with the participation of President Barroso and Commissioner Füle, in which a Joint Declaration was adopted. At both meetings, the EU underlined possible synergies between the 5+5 and EU bilateral and regional cooperation as well as with the UfM. Informal meetings were also held with the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU). In December a first joint Communication on the Maghreb by the HR/VP and the European Commission outlined ways in which the EU might accompany efforts at closer cooperation and integration between the countries of the Maghreb. It complements efforts at the bilateral level between the EU and the countries of the Maghreb as well as wider regional cooperation.

2. RUSSIA, EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD AND CENTRAL ASIA

2.1. RUSSIAN FEDERATION

2012 saw further developments in EU-Russian relations.

These included Russia's WTO accession¹⁷ and continued implementation of the "Common Steps towards visa free short-term travel of Russian and EU citizens". Progress was made in negotiations on an upgraded Visa Facilitation Agreement. The year saw fruitful discussions under the Migration Dialogue launched in 2011, as well as the entry into force of the Local Border Traffic bilateral agreement between Poland and Russia in July 2012 covering the whole Kaliningrad region and additional border area on the Polish side. Implementation of the Partnership for Modernisation made progress. The independent Civil Society Forum held its third annual assembly in St. Petersburg in October.

Unfortunately some of the effects of Russia's WTO accession were off-set through new and unjustified trade barriers.

Russia has not yet honoured its commitments to modernize the system of Siberian overflight royalties and instead artificially linked this issue to the EU's ETS (Emissions Trading System).

The Brussels-Moscow relationship remained close, also through regular contacts between the HR/VP and Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov. Two EU-Russia Summits, in Saint Petersburg on 3–4 June and in Brussels on 20–21 December, took place in a constructive atmosphere, although yielding little progress in key cooperation areas. Formal political dialogue meetings were held at different levels in 2012. The EU continued to pursue the integration of Russia into the rules-based international system, which the WTO membership underpins.

¹⁷ The European Parliament adopted on 26 October 2012 a resolution on EU-Russia trade relations following Russia's accession to the WTO (P7_TA(2012)0409).

The EU continued to engage with Russia on many of the international issues at the top of the EU's CFSP agenda, such as Syria, Iran, the broader Middle East, Afghanistan, and the protracted conflicts in the common neighbourhood. The EU also continued cooperation with Russia on global issues such as climate change, counter-terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, organised crime, illegal trafficking and energy security. In November 2012 a political dialogue on Counter-Terrorism was launched in Moscow.

Human rights, democracy, the rule of law and domestic developments in Russia gave rise to mounting concerns in 2012.¹⁸ Legislation limiting the scope for civil society in various ways, arrests and investigations of opposition leaders, and doubtful and disproportionate court sentences against activists raised serious doubts about Russia's commitment to the rule of law and the role of civil society as a key driver for modernisation. The circumstances of the death of Sergei Magnitsky in pre-trial detention in 2009 were not clarified. The HR/VP reacted publicly to these worrying developments and on 11 September 2012 delivered a statement before the European Parliament on the political use of justice in Russia. The EU continued to raise these issues in its political dialogue meetings with Russia, including at Summits and at the bi-annual EU-Russia human rights consultations, the latest round of which was held in December 2012.

Implementation of activities under the EU-Russia Partnership for Modernisation launched in 2010 is ongoing. A joint informal work plan was revised and updated in 2012. A fourth progress report was presented for information to the 21 December summit. The partnership was complemented by bilateral modernisation partnerships concluded by twenty-three EU Member States with Russia. Further two were under preparation and eight work plans had been agreed.

¹⁸ The European Parliament adopted on 16 February 2012 a resolution on the upcoming presidential election in Russia (P7_TA(2012)0054); a resolution on 15 March 2012 on the outcome of the presidential elections in Russia (P7_TA(2012)0088); on 13 September 2012 a resolution on the political use of justice in Russia (P7_TA(2012)0352). In addition, on 23 October 2012 the European Parliament adopted a recommendation on the Sergei Magnitsky case (P7_TA(2012)0369). The Magnitsky case was also raised by the President of the European Council in a letter to then President Medvedev. HR/VP has issued several statements expressing EU concerns, on the amendments to the Russian NGO law (10 July), on the sentencing of "Pussy Riot" punk band members in Russia, (17 August), on the new law on treason in Russia (25 October).

Negotiations on a new EU-Russia Agreement made little progress in 2012. The two sides exchanged "positive lists" on possible trade and investment-related provisions of such an agreement. The agreed aim is to conclude a strategic agreement that will provide a comprehensive framework for EU-Russia relations for the foreseeable future and help to develop the potential of our relationship¹⁹.

In external security, good cooperation continued in the context of counter-piracy activities between EU NAVFOR Atalanta and the Russian naval mission deployed off the Somali coast. Russia has been invited to consider conclusion with the Athena mechanism of an arrangement on provision of strategic airlift for EU-led military crisis management operations. Meanwhile, informal exploratory talks on a Framework Agreement for Russian participation in EU crisis management operations continued without substantial progress in 2012. Russia also declined an EU invitation of July 2012 to participate in EUCAP Nestor mission in the Horn of Africa.

The EU's energy relationship with Russia continued to be marked by strong interdependence, as Russia remained the EU's main external energy supplier and the EU the biggest external consumer of Russian hydrocarbon resources.²⁰

¹⁹ The European Parliament adopted on 13 December 2012 a resolution containing recommendations to the Council, the Commission and the European External Action Service on the negotiations of the new EU-Russia Agreement (P7_TA(2012)0505)

²⁰ The EU-Russia Summits on 3-4 June 2012 in St. Petersburg and on 21 December 2012 in Brussels and the EU Russia Permanent Partnership Council on Energy on 13 December 2012 in Cyprus provided useful fora for addressing inter alia energy security issues.

2.2. EASTERN PARTNERSHIP (EaP) – MULTILATERAL²¹

During 2012, the implementation of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) made significant progress both on the bilateral and multilateral track. The EaP pursued an ambitious agenda. The EaP's Warsaw Summit in September 2011 stated the determination to accelerate political association and economic integration and has led to the establishment of the Eastern Partnership Roadmap (15 May 2012). The third Foreign Ministers' meeting of the EaP (held in Brussels 23 July, 2012) stated that the Roadmap constituted a basis for guiding and monitoring the further implementation of the objectives of the EaP defined in the Prague and Warsaw Declarations until the next Summit in Vilnius (to be held on 28-29 November, 2013). Ministers agreed that the next EaP Foreign Ministers' meeting in 2013 would be an occasion to review the implementation of the Roadmap and to discuss the forward-looking development of the EaP in preparation of the next Summit in Vilnius.

The EU is willing to increasingly invest in those partner countries which successfully implement their agreed reform objectives. Last year witnessed first allocations of additional financial support for countries who are leaders of reforms (Armenia, Georgia and Republic of Moldova), including in the areas of democratic reforms, human rights and the rule of law, also under the **Eastern Partnership Integration and Cooperation programme (EaPIC)** which is based upon the 'More for More' approach. However, limited progress in these areas in some other countries poses a challenge for the overall objective of partner countries' political association and economic integration with the EU.

²¹ Partner countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, R. of Moldova, Ukraine.

In the area of **CFSP/CSDP**, the Warsaw Eastern Partnership Summit called for stronger dialogue and cooperation on international security issues, including with a view to partners' possible participation in civilian and military EU-led operations. Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine were invited to participate in some of the recent CSDP missions and responded positively. At the same time, the cooperation between the EU and partner countries, as well as regional cooperation projects and EU assistance programmes, will place greater emphasis on peaceful conflict resolution and confidence building measures.

The work of multilateral platforms continued, providing assistance to partner countries in advancing their reforms. Active contributions, support and expertise for seminars and training programmes were offered by partner countries, EU Member States, EU institutions and international organisations. International financing institutions also provided assistance via various channels.

The multilateral EaP Platform on Democracy, Good Governance and Stability (Platform I), focused mainly on work in the area of public administration reform, asylum and migration, improving the functioning of the judiciary, the fight against corruption, CSDP, support to respect of human rights and the safe management of State borders. The implementation of the activities of the Platform I was supported by the Council of Europe (CoE) under a CoE Facility to cover activities on Election standards, judicial reform, good governance, fight against corruption and cooperation against cybercrime.

Cooperation in the area of **CSDP** saw a step forward as foreseen in the EaP Roadmap. The EaP Workshop on CSDP (held in Brussels 9 November, 2012) highlighted the high degree of interest of all 6 partner countries to engage in regular multilateral consultations on CSDP. The Platform tasked the EEAS to elaborate Terms of Reference for a **CSDP Panel** in the framework of the Platform I.

In the field of **integrated border management** the implementation of projects related to the Flagship Initiative projects helped reaching the EaP Roadmap target of increased effectiveness and security at border crossings and improve the overall effectiveness of the border agencies and customs officers of the partner countries.

The Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-Made Disasters (PPRD)-East Flagship Initiative helped build up the participating countries' capacity for disaster prevention, preparedness and response at local, national and regional levels.

The **Informal EaP Dialogues** (first meeting in Chisinau 5 June, 2012), served as a basis for open discussions among the EaP Foreign Ministers and the EU on relevant issues, including CFSP, Roadmap implementation and sector dialogue²².

2.3. EASTERN PARTNERSHIP (EaP) – BILATERAL

2.3.1 UKRAINE

Overall Ukraine presented a mixed picture in terms of developments on deep and sustainable democracy. Some positive developments, including in the field of legal reform and in the area of freedom of association, remained over-shadowed by the problem of selective justice²³, which continued to figure prominently on the agenda of EU-Ukraine political dialogue. The European Parliament's mission lead by the former President of Poland Aleksander Kwaśniewski and the former President of the EP Pat Cox, which was established in May 2012, supported significantly the EU efforts to monitor the cases of selective justice and ensure adequate medical treatment of i.a. former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

²² The 2nd Informal EaP Dialogue with the sector dialogue on transport shall be held in Tbilisi 12-13 February 2013 and the 3rd in Yerevan, in September 2013.

²³ Joint Statement by HR Ashton and Commissioner Füle of 27 February on the verdict of Yuriy Lutsenko and of 29 August on the judgment by Ukraine's higher specialized court in the case of Yulia Tymoshenko. The European Parliament adopted on 24 May 2012 a resolution on the situation in Ukraine, case of Yulia Tymoshenko (P7_TA-PROV(2012)0221).

The 28 October 2012 Parliamentary elections presented a mixed picture with several shortcomings and constituted deterioration in several areas. Due to trials that did not respect international standards, some opposition representatives were prevented from standing in the Parliamentary elections.²⁴

A Second EU Report on the implementation by Ukraine of the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan was issued in February 2012. The agreement amending the Visa Facilitation Agreement between Ukraine and the EU was signed on 23 July 2012.²⁵ The Association Agreement, including as an integral part a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, was initialled on 30 March 2012.

The Council on 10 December 2012 adopted Council conclusions reaffirming its commitment to the signing of the AA/DCFTA as soon as the Ukrainian authorities demonstrate determined action and tangible progress in the areas specified by the Conclusions (electoral, judiciary and constitutional reforms), possibly by the time of the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius in November 2013²⁶.

2.3.2. REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Negotiations with the Republic of Moldova on an Association Agreement continued to progress dynamically throughout the year, being already completed in 2013. In February 2012, negotiations on a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, to be an integral part of the future Association Agreement, were launched officially and completed in June 2013. In June 2012, the third Commission assessment report on Republic of Moldova's progress in the Action Plan on Visa Liberalisation concluded that this partner country had met all the benchmarks under the first phase of the Action Plan. This allowed the Commission to initiate in November 2012 the assessment of the benchmarks set out under the second – and last – phase of the Action Plan.

²⁴ Joint Statements by HR Ashton and Commissioner Füle of 12 and 29 October and of 12 November on the 28 October Parliamentary elections.

²⁵ Entered into force on 1 July 2013.

²⁶ The European Parliament adopted on 13 December 2012 a resolution on the situation in Ukraine (P7_TA-PROV(2012)0507).

R. of Moldova started to co-operate with the EU in the context of CSDP. A Framework Agreement for R. of Moldova's participation in EU crisis management operations has been concluded on 13 December 2012 and R. of Moldova has been invited to join EUCAP Nestor mission in the Horn of Africa.

The European Union Border Assistance Mission to R. of Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) continued to make essential contributions to the development of border-management procedures that meet European Union standards and serve the legitimate needs of Moldovan and Ukrainian citizens, travelers, and trade, which in turn enhances regional security and supports economic development. EUBAM continued also to help implement a number of key Commission initiatives in the customs, anti-fraud and border management areas, and to provide neutral, technical advice and services to the two sides of the conflict over Transnistria. This contributed in particular to the resumption of fully-fledged rail traffic through Transnistria²⁷.

The EU intensified its efforts to contribute to a settlement of the conflict over **Transnistria**. Official negotiations in the “5+2” format, resumed in 2011, made some progress, notably after the “5+2” agreed by consensus on a comprehensive agenda for negotiations, in April 2012²⁸. The Foreign Affairs Council of September 2012 partially lifted the restrictive measures introduced in 2003 against the Transnistrian leadership, while maintaining close monitoring of the situation of the R. of Moldova-administered Latin-script schools in Transnistria, in order to encourage positive developments. A number of high level bilateral visits reflected the deepening of the EU-R. of Moldova relationship, including the visit of President Timofti to Brussels in April, and of President Barroso to Chisinau in November 2012.

²⁷ Statement by the spokesperson of HR/VP Catherine Ashton on the resumption of freight rail transit through Transnistria, 30 April 2012.

²⁸ Statement by the HR/VP Catherine Ashton on the ‘5+2’ meeting in Vienna on 17-18 April 2012.

2.3.3. BELARUS

Throughout 2012 the EU consistently reiterated its commitment to the policy of critical engagement with Belarus, including through dialogue and participation in the Eastern Partnership. The EU recalled that the development of bilateral relations under the Eastern Partnership was conditional on progress towards respect by Belarus for the principles of democracy, the rule of law and human rights²⁹.

In March 2012 the EU launched in Minsk a new instrument in the relations with Belarus: the European Dialogue on Modernisation (EDoM) with Belarus.³⁰

By March 2012, the EU had designated 243 individuals to a visa ban and assets freeze; imposed an embargo on arms and materials that could be used for internal repression; adopted a restrictive approach to EIB/EBRD lending; and frozen the assets of 32 companies. The package of restrictive measures was consolidated and rolled over in October 2012.

Following the decisions in January and February to broaden the criteria for restrictive measures on Belarus and to designate a further 21 persons, the Belarussian side asked the EU and Polish ambassadors to Minsk to leave for consultations. In reaction, all EU Member States' ambassadors left the country for a period of almost two months.

²⁹ The European Parliament adopted on 16 February 2012 a resolution on the death penalty in Belarus, in particular the cases of Dzmitry Kanavalau and Uladzislau Kavalyou (P7_TA(2012)0063); on 29 March 2012 a resolution on the situation in Belarus (P7_TA(2012)0112); on 5 July 2012 a resolution on Freedom of expression in Belarus, in particular the case of Andrzej Poczobut (P7_TA(2012)0300); and on 26 October 2012 a resolution on the situation in Belarus after the parliamentary elections of 23 September 2012 (P7_TA(2012)0410)

³⁰ There are four working groups functioning in Minsk in the framework of the Dialogue, engaging the representatives of the Belarussian civil society. There have also been several “modernisation” seminars organised by EU Members States in the scope of EDoM. Belarussian authorities have not engaged in the EdoM so far.

The EU has throughout 2012 on numerous occasions expressed its concern regarding the lack of respect for human rights, the rule of law and democratic principles, including in Conclusions adopted by the Council in March and October 2012. In the March conclusions, the EU condemned the execution of Uladzislaw Kavalyow and Dzmitry Kanavalaw and called for Belarus to join a global moratorium of the death penalty. In July, the EU initiated a resolution at the UN Human Rights Council which established a Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Belarus. The EU repeatedly called for the immediate and unconditional release and rehabilitation of all political prisoners. Throughout 2012 three political prisoners were released after having been pressured to sign requests for presidential pardon.

Parliamentary elections took place on 23 September 2012. The OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission concluded that many OSCE commitments including citizens' rights to associate, to stand as candidates, and to express themselves freely were not respected. The elections were not administered in an impartial manner and the complaints and appeals process did not guarantee effective remedy. Despite some improvements, the legal Election framework did not adequately guarantee the conduct of elections in line with OSCE international standards. The HR/VP and Commissioner Füle stated that the elections were yet another missed opportunity to conduct elections in line with international standards.

The Commission's offer of June 2011 to Belarus to start negotiations on visa facilitation and readmission agreements remained without a response by Belarus. Meanwhile EU Member States made optimal use of the existing flexibilities offered by the Visa Code, in particular regarding the possibilities to waive and reduce visa fees for certain categories of Belarussian citizens or in individual cases.

2. 3. 4. SOUTH CAUCASUS

The EU continued to intensify its engagement with the countries of the South Caucasus during 2012. In February 2012, the Council adopted conclusions on the South Caucasus restating its commitment to promoting prosperity, security, democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights, good governance, sustainable development and regional cooperation throughout the South Caucasus, and that it is ready to enhance efforts to support confidence building and peaceful settlements to the conflicts in the region, in close cooperation with all relevant parties. In July 2012, President of the European Council, Herman van Rompuy, visited all three South Caucasus countries.

The EU maintained its strong engagement with **Georgia**³¹ with a view to promoting reforms and intensifying its relations, not least as a result of its commitments relating to the resolution of the 2008 conflict. Negotiations on an Association Agreement continued, and negotiations for a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area between the EU and Georgia, as an integral part of the Association Agreement, were launched in March 2012. The visa dialogue between the EU and Georgia intensified, with preparations for the launch of a Visa Liberalisation Action Plan in early 2013. The EU engaged with the new Georgian government, which took office in October 2012, welcoming Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili and President Mikheil Saakashvili to Brussels in November, followed shortly thereafter by the HR/VP's visit to Georgia. The EU played an important role in assisting the transition and cohabitation process in Georgian politics since the parliamentary election. This included the appointment of a Special Adviser for Legal and Constitutional Reform and Human Rights (Thomas Hammarberg, former Commissioner for Human Rights in the Council of Europe) to work directly with the Georgian government, Parliament, and President, to provide advice on behalf of the EU in the fields of reform of the judiciary, reform of the legal system, and reform of the Constitution, as well as in the fields of law enforcement, the penitentiary system, and human rights.

³¹ The European Parliament adopted on 26 October 2012 a resolution on the elections in Georgia (P7_TA(2012)0411).

In 2012, the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) Georgia continued to play an important role in the region by contributing successfully to stabilisation, normalisation and confidence-building efforts on the ground. The mandate of EUMM Georgia was further extended. The Mission is implementing its current mandate with at least 200 monitors, working on all its core tasks with a focus on the stabilisation and confidence-building measures.

The EU continued to play a leading role in the Geneva International Discussions, co-chaired jointly with the UN and OSCE. The EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia, Ambassador Philippe Lefort, was actively engaged in conflict resolution efforts in the framework of these discussions, addressing the consequences of the 2008 conflict between Georgia and Russia, as well as Georgia's approach towards its break-away regions. The Geneva Discussions cover issues related to security and stability, as well as humanitarian matters, including the situation of Internally Displaced Persons and refugees, and the population affected by the conflict. The EU's efforts on conflict resolution were supported by actions undertaken through the Instrument for Stability; by EU-financed confidence-building and early response activities; and by people-to-people-contacts.

Following the EU Council's mandate authorising the HR to open negotiations with Georgia on a Framework Agreement for Georgia's participation in EU crisis management operations (FPA), the HR/VP transmitted a formal proposal to the Georgian side, with an official invitation to start negotiations, during her visit to Tbilisi in November 2012.

The EU maintained its strong engagement with **Armenia**³² in order to support the country's reform effort. Negotiations of the Association Agreement progressed well and Armenia started negotiations of a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, as an integral part of the Association Agreement. Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements were negotiated and subsequently initialled on 18 October; the Visa Facilitation Agreement was signed on 17 December.³³ Both agreements are at the stage of ratification. Commissioner Füle visited Yerevan in September, and Commission President Barroso visited Yerevan in December.

Negotiations with **Azerbaijan**³⁴ on energy issues, including on the Trans-Caspian Pipeline progressed well, as did those on visa facilitation and readmission agreements. Association Agreement talks have experienced some delays but both sides are committed to continue the negotiation process in 2013, with the EU emphasising the importance of human rights, democracy, the rule of law, and fundamental freedoms at the core of the political chapters of the Agreement, in addition to enhanced cooperation on a range of multilateral and global issues.

In the context of protracted conflicts, the EU Special Representative actively engaged in extending the EU's support to the conflict settlement process regarding **Nagorno-Karabakh**. The EU worked in close coordination with the OSCE Minsk Group to support their efforts towards a solution for Nagorno-Karabakh. The EU also financed a number of confidence-building measures in support of the peace process, including a study on the “Benefits of peace”.

³² The European Parliament adopted on 18 April 2012 a resolution containing the European Parliament's recommendations to the Council, the Commission and the European External Action Service on the negotiations of the EU-Armenia Association Agreement (P7_TA(2012)0128)

³³ Both agreements are at the stage of ratification.

³⁴ The European Parliament adopted on 18 April 2012 a resolution containing the European Parliament's recommendations to the Council, the Commission and the European External Action Service on the negotiations of the EU-Azerbaijan Association Agreement (P7_TA(2012)0127). The European Parliament also adopted on 24 May 2012 a resolution on the human rights situation in Azerbaijan (P7_TA(2012)0228), and on 13 September 2012 a resolution on Azerbaijan: the Ramil Safarov case (P7_TA(2012)0356).

2.4. CENTRAL ASIA

During the course of 2012, implementation of the EU Strategy for Central Asia intensified further, including through political dialogue and technical cooperation.

The Council approved in June 2012 the latest Progress Report on Strategy Implementation through substantive Council Conclusions. It concludes that the Strategy remains valid and included an outline for future orientations with a focus on actions of key importance for the coming years, including a need to give more attention to security issues in relations, notably given developments in Afghanistan and ISAF withdrawal by the end of 2014 (which could increase security challenges in the wider region).

An EU-Central Asia ministerial meeting was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in November 2012 and was chaired by the HR/VP. The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on the Central Asia Strategy and the corresponding Strategy Review as well as discussions on regional challenges, including the environment and water issues as well as energy cooperation, and international issues. It was agreed to launch an EU-Central High Level Security dialogue at the level of the Political Director to deepen the dialogue on foreign policy issues and to intensify the cooperation on tackling trans-national threats. The HR/VP made bilateral visits to Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan³⁵ during her visit to Central Asia and met in all countries with Presidents and Foreign Ministers to discuss regional and bilateral issues. Human rights issues were raised throughout this visit, including in the meetings with civil society. The EU has furthermore held in-depth discussions in the context of annual bilateral human rights dialogues.

³⁵ The European Parliament adopted on 15 March 2012 a resolution on Kazakhstan (P7_TA(2012)0089) and on 22 November 2012 a resolution containing the European Parliament's recommendations to the Council, the Commission and the European External Action Service on the negotiations for an EU-Kazakhstan enhanced partnership and cooperation agreement (P7_TA(2012)0459).

In the framework of the Rule of Law Initiative, the third EU-Central Asia meeting of Ministers of Justice was held on 6-7 December in Brussels. The ministers reconfirmed the thematic priorities of the EU-Central Asia Rule of Law Initiative, such as Constitutional Law, Administrative Law and Criminal Justice and strengthening of judicial capacity building.

Issues related to border management and regional security issues were discussed during the 10th anniversary meeting of the Central Asia Border Security Initiative (CABSI) meeting in Vienna in April.

Negotiations of trilateral agreement with Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan on a legal framework for a trans-Caspian gas pipeline continued throughout the year.

Patricia Flor was appointed EU Special Representative for Central Asia in June. The EU Special Representative continued to engage with countries in the region on cross cutting and security issues³⁶.

3. WESTERN BALKANS

The Western Balkans remained a top priority for the EU throughout 2012. In December 2012 the Council reaffirmed its unequivocal commitment to the European perspective of the region, which remains essential for its stability, reconciliation and its future. It also highlighted the need for fair and rigorous conditionality, in the framework of the Copenhagen political criteria and Stabilisation and Association process (SAP), which continued to provide the overarching policy framework for relations and negotiations with the countries of the Western Balkans. Regional cooperation and good neighbourly relations remain essential parts of the enlargement process.

³⁶ A particular focus in 2012 were water issues, specifically controversial and large water projects, facilitating dialogue and agreeable solutions. The EUSR also contributed to the review of the EU-CA "Strategy for a new partnership", and endeavoured for the launching of an annual regional security dialogue. She took part in the preparation of the EU-CA Ministerial Meeting in November 2012 and accompanied the HR/VP to four capitals in the region. She promoted a more regional approach to Afghanistan and supported, internally and externally, EU political and programmatic synergies in Central Asia and Afghanistan. She also provided a political impetus to the ongoing Rule of Law platform in the region and promoted human rights, in close consultation with the European Parliament.

Significant progress was achieved in the region with the start of accession negotiations with Montenegro and candidate status for Serbia in 2012, and the successful accession process of Croatia. The EU maintained a decisive engagement on resolving political challenges in the region. It took a strong lead in fostering and facilitating the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina. The EU engaged with Bosnia and Herzegovina's political leaders in order to move forward the EU perspective for this country, launched a high level dialogue with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on a number of priorities of the accession process and remained engaged with Albania. These have helped in reaffirming the EU's engagement in the region, essential for the credibility of the EU perspective.

Belgrade – Pristina dialogue. Following the Serbian elections, the HR/VP has led since October 2012 the EU facilitated dialogue at the level of Prime Ministers of Serbia and Kosovo to normalise their relations. This dialogue produced already in 2012 a number of important and tangible results including IBM implementation, liaison arrangements, protection of religious and cultural heritage and customs collection.³⁷ The Council, in December, while commending both Prime Ministers for their engagement in the Dialogue, recalled that a visible and sustainable improvement in the relations between Serbia and Kosovo was needed so that both could continue on their respective European paths.

Serbia showed increased commitment to fulfil its key EU requirement of ensuring a visible and sustainable improvement of its relations with Kosovo. In the course of 2012, the country agreed on issues related to the fulfilment of political criteria and in the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue on Kosovo's regional representation (which allows Kosovo to participate in regional *fora* on its own). In March 2012, Serbia was granted candidate status.

³⁷ The dialogue continued in 2013 and resulted in the two sides reaching a historic agreement in April on normalization of relations, including in North Kosovo.

To highlight the need for continued efforts by the Serbian leadership to normalise the country's relations with Kosovo, the HR/VP together with the US Secretary of State Clinton travelled to Belgrade and met with President Nikolic and Prime Minister Dacic on 30 October.

The presidential and early parliamentary elections of May resulted in the election of then-leader of the Serbian Progressive Party, Tomislav Nikolic as President and the formation of a new coalition government led by Prime Minister Ivica Dacic. Both President Nikolic and Prime Minister Dacic confirmed Serbia's continued EU integration process as the country's principal policy priority.

In its Conclusions dated December 11, the Council encouraged Serbia to reinvigorate, further develop and implement the reform agenda, particularly in the areas of the rule of law and the independence of key institutions. With a view to a possible decision to open accession negotiations with Serbia, the Council also decided to examine during the first semester of 2013 the progress made by Serbia, including on the normalisation of the relations with Kosovo.³⁸

Kosovo continued to make progress on European integration-related issues, including ensuring a visible and sustainable improvement of its relations with Serbia. Challenges remain, however, notably in the areas of the rule of law, public administration reform, electoral reform, integration of communities and the economy.

³⁸ A positive decision on the start of accession negotiations has been made in 2013.

In 2012, the EU launched several initiatives with Kosovo. In January, the visa dialogue was opened and led to the establishment of a visa roadmap in June. In May, a structured dialogue with the Commission on the rule of law was launched. In October the Commission issued its feasibility study for a Stabilisation and Association Agreement. With a view to a possible decision to open negotiations for a SAA with Kosovo the Council decided in December to examine during the first semester of 2013 the progress made by Kosovo, on the basis of a report to be presented by the Commission and the HR.³⁹

A new EU Special Representative to Kosovo, Samuel Zbogar, was appointed to begin work in February 2012 and the EULEX mandate was extended to June 2014.

The EULEX mission also saw significant progress in its executive mandate with more than 300 verdicts promulgated, many in serious crimes and many involving high-ranking personalities. EULEX prosecutors have been involved in more than 1851 cases. By investigating senior leaders the mission has challenged the perception of impunity. The mission has continued providing advice and support to the local authorities in improving Kosovo's institutional capacity to address the rule of law challenges.

Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2012, the EU continued to implement the strategy and the instruments as set out by the Council Conclusions adopted in March 2011. This engagement, represented on the ground through the work of EU's reinforced presence led by EU Special Representative/HoD Peter Sorensen, helped to overcome the political stalemate which lasted since the 2010 general elections and contributed to the formation of the BiH State Level government in February 2012. New political momentum resulted in the adoption of important EU related legislation, particularly the State Aid Law and the Law on Census.

³⁹ A positive decision of the start of negotiations on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement has been made in 2013.

That positive momentum was, however, lost over the summer, due to divisions within the BiH government coalition and also in view of the then upcoming local elections in October. There was a reshuffle of the Council of Ministers later in November. This helped repair to some extent the damaged relations among the leading political parties, but was not enough to overcome the political stalemate in the BiH Federation government, which continued until the end of the year.

The HR/VP continued to engage on Bosnia and Herzegovina through regular dialogue with BiH leaders, but also through political support to the High Level Dialogue on the Accession Process.⁴⁰ With a view to further reinforcing this engagement, on 30 October the HR/VP, together with US Secretary of State Clinton, visited Sarajevo to strongly encourage the BiH authorities to take the necessary steps to move BiH closer towards the European Union and the Euro-Atlantic structures.

With BiH not being able to achieve progress on the EU agenda, the Council in December regretted the continued political stalemate in BiH and urged BiH to move forward on the EU agenda and to implement the Sedjic/Finci ruling. The Council also called on BiH authorities to undertake the necessary actions to prepare the country for Croatia's accession to the EU.

In 2012, the EU continued to build its comprehensive presence on the ground. The EU Special Representative reinforced his office in Banja Luka and established new local offices in the Brcko District and Mostar.

⁴⁰ The High Level Dialogue on Accession Process (HLDAP) was launched in June with the aim to facilitate the cooperation among BiH political leaders regarding the steps necessary to move forward on the EU path. Within HLDAP the BiH political leaders committed to a road map leading to the implementation of the ECHR ruling, but no progress has been achieved so far.

In June 2012, the EU completed its police mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUPM), the first mission under the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), launched in January 2003. EUPM assisted BiH authorities to create a modern, professional multi-ethnic police force, ready to assume full responsibility for upholding law enforcement according to international standards. Following its closure, the EU has continued to engage in this area via other CFSP tools, particularly through the new Home Affairs and Public Security Section within the EU Special Representative office, and through the programmes of the pre-accession assistance.

EUFOR Althea was reconfigured on 1 September 2012. The operation now has up to 600 troops and is focused on capacity-building and training of BiH Armed Forces while maintaining situational awareness and a credible deterrence to support efforts to maintain or restore the safe and secure environment. On 14 November 2012 the executive mandate of the mission was extended by the UN Security Council for another year.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Following the early parliamentary elections in June 2011, a renewed coalition between Prime Minister Gruevski and the leader of DUI, Mr Ahmeti, was formed and proved stable and functional during 2012, albeit with a Government crisis in August over issues directly related to the conflict in 2001 (including social rights for some veterans). In February and April 2012, two incidents with fatal casualties caused inter-ethnic tensions. The EU delegation, in close contact with the EU Member States and international partners, engaged to help overcome the difficulties and called for effective judicial follow-up. These developments underlined, again, that the Ohrid Framework Agreement continues to be a pillar of political cohesion in the country. Its full implementation and review remain important priorities.

A High Level Accession Dialogue (HLAD) was launched by the European Commission in spring 2012 and ran over three rounds. It served as a catalyst for accelerating reforms, on the basis of high-level, direct engagement between the Government and the Commission. In October, the Commission reiterated its recommendation to open accession negotiations. The Council took note of the recommendation, recognising the progress that had been made. Noting that continuous efforts are needed, the Council urged the reform momentum to be sustained, with continued focus on the rule of law, including as regards freedom of expression, the fight against corruption and on inter-ethnic relations and reconciliation.

The Council recalled that maintaining good neighbourly relations, including a negotiated and mutually accepted solution to the name issue under the auspices of the UN, remained essential. The Council also welcomed the momentum generated by recent contacts/exchanges, following the Greek proposal for a memorandum of understanding. The Council was, moreover, encouraged by recent contacts with the UN mediator Matthew Nimetz. It also noted the contacts between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bulgaria and looked forward to their translation into concrete actions and results. The Commission was tasked with preparing a report by spring 2013 which would assess the implementation of the reforms in the context of the HLAD, as well as steps taken to promote good neighbourly relations and to reach a negotiated and mutually accepted solution to the name issue under the auspices of the UN. On the basis of this report, with a view to a possible opening of accession negotiations, the Council would assess progress during the first semester of 2013.

On 24 December, a dispute broke out in Parliament between the opposition and the Government over the procedure for adopting the 2013 budget. The EU efforts to calm this crisis were ongoing at the end of 2012.

Albania. In November 2011 the EU facilitated an agreement between the ruling Democratic Party and the opposition Socialist Party, laying the basis for cross party cooperation in EU-related reforms. During 2012, this resulted in progress on the key priorities laid out in the Commission's 2010 report. The reform of the Election code, the election of the Ombudsman, and the reform of the immunities were agreed with bipartisan support. Acknowledging progress made, the Commission recommended in October 2012 that the Council should grant Albania the status of a candidate country subject to completion of three key measures in the areas of judicial and public administration reform and revision of the parliamentary rules of procedure. In December 2012, the Council agreed to make a decision on whether to grant the status once the Commission has reported that the three measures have been approved, and stressed the need for further action in the fields of corruption and organised crime. It also underlined the importance of holding the parliamentary elections in June 2013 in line with international standards and called on Albania to avoid statements running counter to good neighbourly relations. The 100th anniversary of the country passed peacefully in November 2012, but resulted in increasing nationalist rhetoric. By the end of the year, the ruling coalition and the opposition had not reached agreement on passing the three laws, as the start of the campaign for the parliamentary elections was drawing closer. Political polarisation between the two main parties continued.

Montenegro. The EU opened accession negotiations with Montenegro on 29 June 2012. The December European Council positively noted Montenegro's progress over the last year and the need to build on the progress made. Particular attention should be paid to further develop a solid track record in the area of rule of law with the aim of sustainable and lasting reform implementation. In December 2012, Montenegro opened and provisionally closed chapter 25 "Science and research".

Croatia. In line with the Accession Treaty of December 2011, the Commission continued to monitor closely Croatia's accession preparations, focusing, in particular, on competition, the judiciary and fundamental rights and justice, freedom and security. A Comprehensive Monitoring Report was presented, along with the rest of the "Enlargement Package", in October 2012 which, overall, confirmed that Croatia's accession preparations were on track and identified a limited number of areas where further progress was needed ahead of accession.

4. TURKEY AND WESTERN EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURS

4.1. TURKEY

Turkey, both as a candidate country and as a key regional partner, continued to be an important interlocutor for the EU, considering its dynamic economy and strategic location. Turkey has been active on Syria, condemning strongly and repeatedly the regime's violence against civilians and providing vital humanitarian assistance to tens of thousands Syrians who fled the country. The EU recognised Turkey's role on Syria and commended Turkish burden-sharing. Turkey continued to be active in its wider neighbourhood and continued to play an influential role in supporting reforms, including with regard to developments in North Africa. Turkey also remained a key regional player in the Middle East, the Western Balkans, Afghanistan/Pakistan, the Southern Caucasus, and the Horn of Africa. In this context, the HR/VP remained committed to further enhancing and reinforcing the political dialogue between the EU and Turkey on foreign policy issues of common interest and met several times with Turkish Foreign Minister Davutoglu.

The EU also greatly appreciated the strong Turkish engagement in CSDP missions and operations, particularly EUFOR Althea and EULEX Kosovo. Turkey expressed interest in principle in future CSDP missions.

The EU continued to support process of internal reform in Turkey and its dynamics, e.g. also in the form of the Positive Agenda that was established in 2012, and welcomed the launching by the Turkish authorities of a peace dialogue with Kurds.

The Council reaffirmed the importance it attaches to EU relations with Turkey and that it is in the interest of both parties that accession negotiations regain momentum soon. Turkey continued to be committed to the accession negotiation process and the political reform agenda, but further considerable efforts towards fully meeting the Copenhagen criteria are required in a number of areas, in particular as regards fundamental freedoms. An active counter-terrorism dialogue between the EU and Turkey is ongoing; progress has also been made towards initiating a dialogue on visa liberalisation between the European Commission and Turkish authorities. The start of such dialogue however depends on the signature by Turkey of a readmission agreement with the EU, which is still pending.

In its conclusions of 11 December 2012, the Council reiterated that Turkey needed to commit itself unequivocally to good neighbourly relations and to the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the United Nations Charter, having recourse, if necessary, to the International Court of Justice. In this context, the Union expressed serious concern and urged Turkey to avoid any kind of threat or action directed against a Member State, or source of friction or actions, which could damage good neighbourly relations and the peaceful settlement of disputes. Moreover, the EU stressed again all the sovereign rights of EU Member States which include, inter alia, entering into bilateral agreements, and to explore and exploit their natural resources in accordance with the EU *acquis* and international law, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

In its conclusions of December 2012 the Council also noted with deep regret that Turkey, despite repeated calls, continued refusing to fulfil its obligation of full, non-discriminatory implementation of the Additional Protocol to the Association Agreement towards all Member States. This could provide a significant boost to the negotiation process. In the absence of progress on this issue, the Council will maintain its measures from 2006, which will have a continuous effect on the overall progress of the negotiations.

Furthermore, Turkey has regrettably still not made progress towards the necessary normalisation of its relations with the Republic of Cyprus. In this regard, the EU called on Turkey to stop blocking the accession of Member States to international organisations and mechanisms.⁴¹ In the December Conclusions the Council also deeply regretted Turkey's freezing of its relations with the EU Presidency during the second half of 2012, the statements made by Turkey in this regard, as well as the non-alignment with EU positions or statements in international fora.

⁴¹ See MD 11485/12.

The Council also recalled that Turkey is expected to actively support the ongoing negotiations aimed at a fair, comprehensive and viable settlement of the Cyprus problem within the UN framework, in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and in line with the principles on which the Union is founded. Turkey's commitment and contribution in concrete terms to such a comprehensive settlement is crucial.

4.2. WESTERN EUROPE

The basis for the EU's relations with these countries is formed by comprehensive cooperation agreements such as the European Economic Area Agreement (**Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein**) or Schengen agreement (the same three plus **Switzerland**)⁴². In December the Commission published its review on the functioning of the EEA Agreement and its Communication on the relations with the Principality of Andorra, the Principality of Monaco and the Republic of San Marino. The Council adopted its bi-annual conclusions on the EU's relations with the EFTA countries and conclusions on the relations with the Principality of Andorra, the Principality of Monaco and the Republic of San Marino.

In the CFSP area, EU cooperation with the EEA/EFTA States was further deepened in 2012 through their alignment with a large number of CFSP declarations as well as through cooperation in certain joint actions. The EU also had regular political dialogues at different levels and in different contexts; with an increase of more informal ones in the margin of important international events.

Concerning CSDP cooperation, Switzerland has expressed its willingness to participate in EUAVSEC South Sudan and EUCAP SAHEL NIGER. Switzerland currently participates in the EU military operation EUFOR Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina (with 19 persons) and in the civilian mission in Kosovo (EULEX) (with 8 persons). Norway participated in EUNAVFOR Atalanta, EULEX Kosovo, EUJUST Lex operations and offered staff to EUCAP Nestor. It is also part of the Nordic Battle Group.

⁴² The European Parliament adopted on 24 May 2012 a resolution on Swiss quotas on the number of residence permits granted to nationals of Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Slovenia, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Hungary (P7_TA(2012)0226).

Norway and Switzerland were admitted in November 2012 to participate in ASEM.

There is very good and close cooperation between the EU and **Norway** in the field of foreign policy, notably on the Middle East (where Norway is the Chair of the Ad-hoc Liaison Committee), the Arab Spring and Arctic issues. Regular dialogues have been taking place in 2012 at all levels. Norway, as Iceland, is a strong supporter of the EU's application for permanent observer status in the Arctic Council. The HR/VP Ashton visited the Arctic, including Norway, in March 2012. Norway remains a key partner in the area of energy security. Presidents Van Rompuy, Barroso and Schulz participated at the 2012 December Nobel Peace Prize Award Ceremony in Oslo on the occasion of European Union winning the Prize in 2012.

Cooperation continued with **Switzerland** in areas such as the South Caucasus, the democratic process in the North of Africa and the Middle East Peace Process. Switzerland actively mediated between Russia and Georgia to unblock the former's accession to the WTO. There is no formalised political dialogue; informal political dialogue takes place at Political Director level. The Swiss President met Presidents Van Rompuy, Barroso and Schulz on 20 March 2012. Also several meetings took place between Swiss Ministers and their Commission counterparts along the year.

Although there is no alignment agreement between the EU and Switzerland, Switzerland continued often aligning itself to EU positions and measures⁴³.

An Administrative Arrangement for cooperation with the European Defence Agency was signed on 16 March 2012.

⁴³ However, Switzerland did not align itself with the reinforcement of the Iranian sanction regime decided by the Council in July 2012 as regards trade of petrol and petrochemical products, and to severing relations with the Iranian Central Bank.

Accession negotiations continued with **Iceland** following the opening of negotiations in July 2010, including the provisional closure of a specific chapter on *Foreign, Security and Defence Policy* in June 2012. By December 2012, twenty seven chapters of Iceland's negotiations had been opened and eleven had been closed.

5. ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

2012 has been a landmark year in the EU-Asia and Pacific relations. An important number of high level visits, the organisation of four summit meetings with strategic partners, the conclusion and good progress in the negotiation of mixed agreements, plus the signing of EU's accession to the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) are some of the highlights of an intensified dialogue and cooperation with the region. This dynamic corresponds to the policy of engagement with a region which hosts four of EU's strategic partners and manages sustained growth rates.

The Joint EU–US statement on the Asia-Pacific region that Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton signed in Phnom Penh on July 12, 2012 demonstrates the importance EU and USA attach to this thriving region and its peaceful and dynamic development. Up to the present day, this document represents the main result in the framework of transatlantic dialogue on Asia-Pacific.

The ASEM 9 Summit (Laos, 5-6th November 2012) has confirmed the interest of European and Asian partners to enhance mutual relations and cooperation in addressing today's challenges. The relevance of this dialogue has been re-confirmed by its attractiveness to more countries on the two continents, with Norway, Switzerland and Bangladesh joining in the process.

The EU continued to actively encourage and responded promptly to the changes towards more democracy in Myanmar/Burma. The response has been comprehensive, engaging more aid and dialogue (including at top level), the suspension of the restrictive measures (with the exception of the arms embargo) and the setting up of an EU Office in Yangon.

EU has consolidated its presence as a security and development actor. For Afghanistan, the EU reconfirmed its long-term commitment. The bilateral relations with the country will be framed by a long-term Cooperation Agreement on Partnership and Development, which will provide the legal underpinning of the EU's engagement with Afghanistan over the coming years. The EU-Pakistan 5-year Engagement Plan has been endorsed in January by the Council, while in June the EU-Pakistan strategic dialogue has been launched. EU has paid particular attention to the territorial and maritime developments in the region. The HR/VP, on behalf of the EU, highlighted the importance of peaceful and cooperative solutions, in accordance with international law.

5. 1. EAST ASIA

5.1.1. Cooperation on security and defence, as well as global and international issues, with **China** has deepened significantly. Highlights of the year were the two Summits held in February⁴⁴ and September. Some of the most important deliverables included: the establishment in April of the 'third pillar' of EU-China relations - the High Level People-to-People Dialogue (complementing the Strategic and the Trade/Economic pillars); the launch in May of the EU-China Partnership on Sustainable Urbanisation; the organisation, also in May, of the first High Level Meeting on Energy; the launch of the EU-China Cyber Taskforce in September, a dialogue on Innovation and agreement to pursue negotiations for an investment agreement. The discussion on international issues, in particular Syria, Iran and the East China Sea, was substantive. Both sides agreed to cooperate more on energy security, nuclear safety, disaster management and relief, as well as food and water security. Human rights concerns were raised during the Human Rights dialogue and seminar and in other exchanges, in conformity with the EU's strategic framework on Human Rights and Democracy⁴⁵.

⁴⁴ Re-scheduled after a last-minute postponement due to extraordinary European Council in October 2011.

⁴⁵ The European Parliament adopted on 14 June 2012 a resolution on the human rights situation in Tibet (P7_TA(2012)0257), and on 5 July 2012 a resolution on the forced abortion scandal in China (P7_TA(2012)0301).

The 3rd round of the EU-China Strategic Dialogue, between the HR/VP and State Councillor Dai Bingguo took place in Beijing in July. The HR/VP also met for the second time with the Minister of Defence, Liang Guanglie. One of the objectives of this visit was to make good use of the strategic partnership in order to find solutions to important international and global issues, especially given China's increasing role on the international stage. To this end, both sides agreed to establish a regular dialogue on security and defence policy, as well as regular contacts between special representatives and special envoys, to organise a High Level Seminar on Security and Defence in 2013 and to enhance exchanges between military staff. These deliverables were also endorsed by the September Summit. Topics such as Iran, Syria, DPRK, South China Sea, and the successful cooperation on counter-piracy were raised. China was invited to consider joining the new EUCAP Nestor and EUAVSEC South Sudan missions.

The EU-China-Africa dialogue on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) met for the first time in December 2012. It was established as a result of a Council Decision in February 2012, in order to tackle the illicit trade and excessive accumulation of SALW.

5.1.2. The year 2012 saw intensive work to prepare a significant upgrade of the EU-Japan⁴⁶ relationship through the negotiation of a Framework Agreement (FA) on political, sectoral and global cooperation and a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Following the conclusion of a thorough and comprehensive scoping exercise, the Council adopted FA and FTA negotiating mandates on 29 November⁴⁷.

⁴⁶ The European Parliament adopted on 13 June 2012 and on 25 October 2012 resolutions on the EU trade negotiations with Japan (P7_TA(2012)0246, P7_TA(2012)0398). The European Parliament also adopted on 16 February 2012 a resolution on the death penalty in Japan (P7_TA(2012)0065).

⁴⁷ The formal launch of negotiations is expected to take place at the 21st EU-Japan Summit in early 2013.

Contacts at leader's level took place on several occasions: Presidents Van Rompuy and Barroso met with PM Noda in the margins of the G8 meeting in Camp David, in Los Cabos (G20) and in the margins of the ASEM Summit in November, in Vientiane.

The visits of seven Commissioners to Japan in 2012 and a number of high level dialogues clearly demonstrated that relations continue to expand on a broad basis, bringing in a number of priority sectors for the EU such as energy policy, maritime and fisheries cooperation, disaster preparedness, food safety, social policy or science and technology and innovation.

On the political and security side, there were a large number of high-level meetings –from the political level to senior officials- which resulted in a broad range of discussions. One important common element was the nexus between sustainable growth, security and development, leaving both sides with a clearer sense of the potential for future EU-Japan cooperation for example on issues such as peace and security in Africa, disaster management and resilience or development policy.

5.1.3. The EU and the **Republic of Korea (RoK)** continued to consolidate their Strategic Partnership through implementing the objectives set out at the 6th Summit held in Seoul on 28 March 2012.

The Second Political Directors Dialogue (HLPD) was held on 12 October 2012, in Brussels and, inter alia, noted the agreement on rules of procedures for regular Human Rights consultations. RoK invited the EU to the first Seoul Defence Dialogue on 14 November 2012, providing an opportunity for an exchange of views on crisis-management operations and the perspective for opening of negotiations for an agreement on the participation of RoK in EU crisis management operations. Following EU invitation RoK indicated its readiness to participate in EUCAP NESTOR mission. Both sides also agreed to restart their dialogue on non-proliferation and disarmament and to upgrade its level and frequency.

Consultations on Middle East and North Africa were held for the first time on 3 December 2012, while a second round of informal consultations between the EEAS and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on policy towards DPRK took place in Seoul on 7-9 June 2012.

The Political and Security Committee received the visit of RoK Unification Minister YU in February 2012.

Under the Framework Agreement, the Joint Committee met in Brussels on 24 September 2012 to review progress in all cooperation areas. An EU-RoK Trade ministerial co-chaired by Commissioner De Gucht and Minister Bark took place on 16 October 2012 in Brussels; it exchanged views about the impact of the Free Trade Agreement and on regulatory and trade liberalisation measures of interest to both sides.

5.1.4. EU's relations with the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** (DPRK) continue to be guided by its policy of critical engagement. In 2012, the EU continued to follow closely the situation in the region and in North Korea in particular. A number of North Korean policies continue to pose serious concerns (in particular non-proliferation issues and human rights violation) and the EU raises these issues at every opportunity with North Korea⁴⁸.

Particularly worrying in 2012 was the carrying out of two rocket tests (a failed one in April and a successful one in December) using ballistic missile technology, in violation of DPRK's international obligations. On both occasions, the HR/VP issued a statement in condemnation of the launch and called on North Korea to refrain from further provocations and choose a path of dialogue with the international community, including in the context of the 6-party talks. On the human rights front, the EU co-sponsored (with Japan) a UN HRC Resolution to express concern at the on-going grave human rights violations in DPRK in March 2012.

⁴⁸ The European Parliament adopted on 24 May 2012 a resolution on the situation of North Korean refugees (P7_TA(2012)0229).

5.1.5. In 2012 the EU and **Mongolia** continued to develop bilateral relations in view of the expected Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) signature. Both sides continued to intensify cooperation in areas such as public sector capacity building, governance and rule of law, adoption of EU norms and standards, vocational education and training, SME (Small and Medium Enterprises) development as well as governance issues related to Mongolia's rapidly expanding mining sector. The EU supported Mongolian OSCE membership (November 2012) and followed with interest a growing Mongolian engagement in regional and international affairs (Community of Democracies Chairmanship).

5.2. SOUTH-EAST ASIA

5.2.1. Throughout the year, the EU continued efforts to step up its engagement with **ASEAN**. At the 19th EU-ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting held on 26-27 April in Brunei Darussalam, the two sides adopted a new Plan of Action to Strengthen the ASEAN-EU Enhanced Partnership 2013-2017 which aims to broaden and intensify relations, in particular in the political and security area. On 12th July, the HR/VP attended the 19th ARF (Asean Regional Forum) Ministerial meeting and EU-ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference (PMC), during which she signed the Protocol of Accession of the EU to TAC (Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia). The Treaty is a non-aggression and cooperation agreement between ASEAN Member States and their partners. It is also a pre-condition for membership of the East Asia Summit.

In January 2012, an EEAS mission was conducted to ASEAN (Jakarta) in order to explore the possibility of strengthening EU-ASEAN cooperation in the field of crisis response. Following this mission, the EU submitted to ASEAN concrete proposals aiming at enhancing EU-ASEAN cooperation on crisis response. These proposals were welcomed by the 19th EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting. In this regard, ASEAN and the EU decided to forge closer cooperation and coordination on disaster risk reduction and management at the global and regional levels⁴⁹. An EEAS mission visited **Malaysia** on 25-26 November 2012 with the objective of exploring ways to strengthen bilateral EU-Malaysia cooperation on crisis response, in the framework of the EU-ASEAN initiative.

On 27 June and 11 July respectively, the HR/VP co-signed new Partnership and Cooperation Agreements (PCAs) with the Foreign Ministers of Vietnam and the Philippines. The two PCAs provide a platform to upgrade and develop bilateral relations on a broad range of areas, including security, human rights, disaster management, science and technology and education.

While maintaining the strategic objective of a region-to-region Free Trade Agreement (FTA), the EU continued bilateral FTA negotiations with ASEAN countries and wrapped up negotiations with Singapore on 16 December. Significant progress was achieved in FTA negotiations with Malaysia and FTA negotiations with Vietnam were formally launched on 26 June.

⁴⁹ ASEAN and the EU have decided in particular:

- to establish a regional network of information sharing and early warning systems for emergency situations.
- to strengthen the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for humanitarian assistance and disaster management (AHA Centre)
- to work together in order to strengthen, upon request, national disaster management mechanisms in the different ASEAN countries
- to promoting exchanges of experience and knowledge in civilian-military cooperation on disaster risk reduction and emergency response.

In line with the commitment of the two regions to take forward their engagement, the year saw an intense flow of EU high-level visits to South-East Asia. In early November, European Council President Van Rompuy visited Vietnam and Cambodia⁵⁰ while European Commission President Barroso visited Myanmar/Burma and Thailand. The two Presidents attended the 9th ASEM Summit on 5-6 November in Vientiane (Laos).

EU participation in the Jakarta International Defence Dialogue in **Indonesia**, on 21-23 March offered an opportunity to develop promising contacts with the defence community from the ASEAN/ARF partner countries, including with Indonesia and Vietnam.

5.2.2. EU engagement with Myanmar/Burma picked up markedly during 2012, in response to the changes towards more democracy in the country which emerged after the new government took office in 2011⁵¹. In recognition of the progress made toward democratisation and national reconciliation, the EU suspended for one year the restrictive measures against Myanmar/Burma with the exception of the arms embargo and the embargo for equipment that may be used for repressive purposes. On 23 April, the Council issued conclusions outlining the new EU policy on Myanmar/Burma. The visits of Commission President Barroso and the HR/VP to the country illustrated the new turn in the bilateral relations and were instrumental in stepping-up the EU's engagement in the country (the HR/VP opened an EU Office in Yangon and President Barroso inaugurated the Myanmar Peace Centre). An EEAS mission visited Myanmar/Burma on 21-25 November 2012 to explore ways of strengthening EU-Myanmar/Burma cooperation in the field of crisis response and met with senior political and military officials. Myanmar/Burma authorities expressed their appreciation of the presence of the EEAS mission, seen as sign of stronger EU-Myanmar/Burma relations in crisis response. The EEAS mission also visited four IDP camps in Rakhine State (Sittwe area). However, a number of challenges remain, including on-going fighting in the Kachin State and intercommunal tensions in the Rakhine State. The EU was the main sponsor of the UNGA resolution on the situation of the human rights in Myanmar/Burma which was adopted at the end of 2012, for the first time by consensus.

⁵⁰ The European Parliament adopted on 26 October 2012 a resolution on the situation in Cambodia (P7_TA(2012)0402).

⁵¹ The European Parliament adopted on 20 April 2012 a resolution on the situation in Myanmar/Burma (P7_TA(2012)0142); on 13 September 2012 a resolution on persecution of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar/Burma (P7_TA(2012)0355); and on 22 November 2012 a resolution on the situation in Myanmar/Burma, particularly the continuing violence in Rakhine State (P7_TA(2012)0464).

5.2.3. High level political contacts took place also with **Indonesia**. The quality of the last Political Directors' dialogue and the Senior Officials Meeting held back-to-back in Brussels in December 2012 attest to a maturing and deepening relationship, in line with Indonesia's increasing importance at regional and international level. Both sides expressed a willingness to cooperate more closely or, at the very least, exchange experience such as in the area of security and defence. In this regard, it should be noted that the first ever high level staff-to-staff talks on security and defence issues took place in spring 2012 in Jakarta, and in Autumn in Brussels.⁵² Maritime security and counter-piracy were singled out as a common challenge and a potential area to share experiences and cooperate. Both sides expressed confidence that exchanges of experience and training in this field, as well as in peacekeeping, could lead to fruitful cooperation.

5.3. SOUTH ASIA

5.3.1. The efforts aimed at strengthening the political and strategic dimension of the EU-**India**⁵³ strategic partnership continued throughout 2012. Both the EU-India Summit and the Ministerial meeting were held at the beginning of the year; this gave the HR/VP the opportunity to travel to India and hold a number of high-level meetings. The 2nd Foreign Policy Consultations took place in Brussels in July, providing an opportunity for useful exchanges on regional and global issues as well as on security cooperation. The 6th Security Dialogue at Political Directors' level took place in Brussels at the end of July; it confirmed the strong interest of both sides in cooperating on security-related issues such as counter-terrorism, cyber-crime and cyber-security, piracy and non-proliferation. It was agreed at this occasion to launch a dedicated dialogue on-proliferation and disarmament in order to build mutual understandings in this field.

⁵² This promising dialogue continued in Jakarta in Spring 2013.

⁵³ The European Parliament adopted on 13 December 2012 a resolution on caste discrimination in India (P7_TA(2012)0512).

5.3.2. Afghanistan

The implementation of the transition process in the fourth tranche of provinces has begun in December 2012 meaning that, when completed, 87 percent of the population will live in territories under the control of the Afghanistan National Security Forces. The gradual draw-down of ISAF troops, to be completed by the end of 2014, has continued.

The security situation remained tense with numerous suicide and insider attacks as well as a pattern of violence aimed at influential religious, tribal and community figures as well as local and central governmental bodies. In May, the Council reiterated the long-term commitment of the EU to Afghanistan, pledging to at least maintain levels of assistance beyond the end of transition in 2014 and to support Afghan efforts to strengthen civilian policing and rule of law. These commitments formed the basis for the EU's undertakings at the sequence of international conferences held in Chicago, Kabul, Bonn and Tokyo, which put in place a comprehensive agreed international framework to support increased security and development in Afghanistan beyond transition. Two negotiation rounds were carried out with the Government of Afghanistan on a long-term Cooperation Agreement on Partnership and Development, which will provide the legal underpinning of the EU's engagement with Afghanistan over the coming years. The double-hatted Head of Delegation/EU Special Representative Vygaudas Usackas continued to play an important role in coordinating and strengthening EU presence on the ground, as foreseen in the EU Action Plan on Afghanistan and Pakistan.

During 2012, **EUPOL Afghanistan** continued to support Afghan counterparts across its three programmatic pillars (institutional reform of the Ministry of Interior, professionalization of the Afghan National Police and linking police with the justice sector), in close cooperation with international partners. The transition of security responsibility to the Afghan National Security Forces had a direct impact on EUPOL's field presence during 2012, resulting in the closure of a number of field presences. In line with the transition process and in order to ensure sustainability of achievements, the mission placed particular attention on increasing Afghan ownership and capacity of the Ministry of Interior and the Police. In this regard, EUPOL further focused on train-the-trainers courses and on permanent key Afghan institutions such as the Staff College and the Crime Management Centre. As an outcome of a strategic review of the mission in 2012, Member States decided to extend EUPOL until the end of 2014, with the same functional focus and to concentrate EUPOL presence outside Kabul in fewer locations.

5.3.3. 2012 saw the launch of the EU-**Pakistan**⁵⁴ strategic dialogue in June 2012 during a visit by the HR/VP to Islamabad. The dialogue is based on a new political framework – the EU-Pakistan 5-year Engagement Plan – which was endorsed by the Council on 23 January. Purpose of the Plan is to improve EU cooperation with Pakistan under a broad political framework and to expand relations to include a full range of issues, including security, democracy, governance, human rights, socio-economic development, trade and energy. In preparation for a possible observation of parliamentary elections expected to be held in the spring of 2013, the EU fielded an exploratory Election assessment mission from 18 October to 6 November 2012. Council conclusions on Pakistan in June 2012 underline EU commitments to support Pakistan pre-and post-elections, but also EU concerns with the need for Pakistan to intensify efforts for political, economic, fiscal and energy reform. Emergency autonomous trade preferences against the background of unprecedented and devastating floods in Pakistan entered into force in November 2012 and will remain in force until December 2013. The EU continued to work with Pakistan in addressing human rights issues through dialogue and cooperation. The political dialogue at Political Directors' level held in December in Brussels provided a further opportunity to deepen the dialogue on foreign and security policy. It was agreed at this occasion to launch a local Human Rights dialogue as well as a dedicated dialogue on proliferation and disarmament. In the field of combating terrorism, the EU-Pakistan counter-terrorism dialogue was launched in January 2012.

5.3.4. The EU expressed concern about political violence in **Bangladesh** and continued the dialogue with the government and other relevant actors on health and safety issues in factories serving the EU market. EU key priorities remained support to democratic institutions, poverty alleviation, social inclusion, treatment of refugees and ethnic minorities and the fight against climate change. The EU has pursued these themes through its development cooperation programmes and through political dialogue, including at the highest level. It has worked together with Bangladesh to secure ambitious outcomes in international climate change negotiations.

⁵⁴ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on 26 October 2012 on the discrimination against girls in Pakistan, in particular the case of Malala Yousafzai (P7_TA(2012)0401).

5.3.5. The EU co-sponsored a resolution promoting reconciliation and accountability at the UN Human Rights Council in March 2012, calling upon **Sri Lanka** to implement the constructive recommendations of its own Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission, take all necessary steps to address alleged violations of international law and present a comprehensive action plan detailing the steps the government has taken. Human rights issues were also raised at the Universal Periodic Review, in November 2012. In parallel, the EU and Sri Lanka have worked out options for improved cooperation in various technical areas, and the EU has been active in the field of post-conflict reconstruction through its development assistance.

5.3.6. The **Maldives'** young democratic system was severely tested in 2012. After weeks of opposition-led protest and a police mutiny, the first democratically elected President, Mohamad Nasheed, resigned in February 2012, to be replaced by former Vice-President Waheed as President. In a Declaration on behalf of the EU the HR/VP called upon political parties to engage in a process of political dialogue with a view to the consolidation of the democratic process and presidential elections, now scheduled for the second semester of 2013.

5.4. PACIFIC

5.4.1. Building on the visits of President Barroso in September 2011 and of the HR/VP in October 2011, the EU and **Australia** continued exchanges and dialogues with a view to expanding cooperation in foreign affairs and security issues, crisis management, development assistance and global issues such as climate change or energy. Following the adoption of the EU-Australia Framework Agreement mandate in October 2011, good progress has been made in negotiations in the course of 2012.

The EU-Australia Political Dialogue on Asia was held on 27 July in Canberra with detailed exchanges on developments in the broader Asia-Pacific region, where both parties have converging views and many shared interests and where Australia welcomes greater EU engagement. The EU-Australia Security/Strategic Dialogue at Political Directors' level was held on 7 November in Canberra (including consultations with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Deputy National Security Advisor, the Office of National Assessment, and the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation) with an extensive agenda covering inter alia security issues in the Asia Pacific, Myanmar/Burma, Indonesia, Fiji, PNG, Iran, Syria, Egypt, MEPP, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Counter-Terrorism, Non-Proliferation and Cooperation in Crisis Management.

The EU invited Australia to take part in EUCAP NESTOR and EUAVSEC. Negotiations on a Framework Participation Agreement for Australia's participation in crisis management operations advanced well. Once concluded, this should provide a platform for enhanced participation of Australia in CSDP operations.

5.4.2. New Zealand. Exchanges on matters of geopolitical importance and of mutual interest were held in course of the year, notably consultations between the EEAS Chief Operating Officer and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet in Wellington, as well as with the Foreign Minister and the Trade Minister in Auckland, and the first EU-New Zealand informal Security Talks at Political Directors' level, including consultations with the Minister of Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the New Zealand intelligence services.

New Zealand continued to play a substantial role as a CSDP contributor. A Framework Agreement for the participation of New Zealand in EU crisis management operations was signed on 18 April 2012, at the occasion of the meeting of Foreign Minister Murray McCully with the HR/VP in Brussels. New Zealand was invited to take part in EUCAP NESTOR.

Having served in a valuable role in EUPOL Afghanistan since 2007, in September 2012 New Zealand announced it was ending its deployment of Police Officers by the end of the year and also withdrawing the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team upon the completion of transition in their area of operation.

5.4.3. Fiji. The EU continued to monitor closely the democratisation agenda and the launch of the constitutional process in 2012. The EU decided to extend the so-called appropriate measures (under Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement and Article 37 of the Development Cooperation Instrument) for further 12 months but as a first – still cautious – signal, agreed to start 11th EDF programming discussions with Fiji, whilst reiterating calls to lift remaining restrictions relating to the respect of democratic principles, rule of law, human rights, and fundamental freedoms.

5.4.4. 10 years after independence of **Timor-Leste**, 2012 saw presidential and parliamentary elections successfully carried out - a milestone in the country's progress towards stable democracy. The EU deployed an Election Observation Mission and a European Parliament delegation to observe parliamentary elections. The EU deemed both Election processes peaceful, inclusive and transparent

5.4.5. Following the turbulent but ultimately successful national elections in 2012, **Papua New Guinea** has accomplished a generational change of leadership while restoring political stability. The new Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Peter O'Neill, has embarked on a number of new initiatives such as putting greater emphasis on education, health services and anti-corruption measures.

6. AFRICA

In Africa, the EU focused on strengthening its strategic Partnerships with the African Union and South Africa, working through DEVCO to achieve the EU's development objectives with our African partners by implementing "The Agenda for Change", and by working with regional and international organisations to resolve country specific crises through a comprehensive and regional approach, in which human rights and governance-related issues have featured prominently. In particular the year saw ever closer cooperation between the EU, AU and UN in several places. Somalia, where the EU has been heavily engaged through Operation Atalanta, the EUTM and funding AMISOM for several years, saw real progress following the implementation of the EU's Horn Strategy (adopted late 2011), the London conference in February, and coordinated international support for the end of the transition. The EU also supported AU efforts in Sudan, which made some progress though the situation remained very fragile. In the DRC, Guinea Bissau and Mali, the EU was heavily involved in responding to escalating crises. Preventive diplomacy in other countries of the Sahel, Guinea and Malawi prevented a deterioration of the situations there, and EU Election Observation Missions played important roles in Sierra Leone, Senegal and Zambia. The signature of a Joint Way Forward with Angola marked a new level of relationship with that fast-growing country.

6.1. EU-AU

The EU and the African Union (AU) continued their dialogue and cooperation on political and security matters. The Political and Security Committee of the EU and the Peace and Security Council of the AU held on 29 May their 5th Joint Consultative meeting in the context of implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, at a time marked by continued challenging developments in the Horn of Africa and grave political, security and humanitarian crises in some parts of West Africa. The discussions, which focused on Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan, Guinea Bissau, Sahel and Mali, reaffirmed the commitment of both sides to enhance their joint efforts towards crisis prevention and resolution. Both sides reiterated their commitment to increase coordination on global issues, to continue cooperation on the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and recognized the need for predictable, flexible and sustainable funding for AU-led peacekeeping operations.

Under the African Peace Facility (APF), the EU renewed in 2012 its support to the APSA with a view to strengthen the synergies between the AU and RECs/RMs, the capacities of the African Continental Early Warning System, the functioning of mediation structures such as the Panel of the Wise, and the operationalization of African Standby Forces, as well as to support African strategic, policy, implementation and management capacities. The EU continued to provide significant financial support (€167 million) to two African Peace Support Operations: the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Mission of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) for Consolidating Peace in the Central African Republic (MICOPAX). Through the Early Response Mechanism (ERM), the EU supported the African mediation efforts in the implementation of the "Roadmap for Ending the Crisis in Madagascar" and the initiative of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to engage in a pre-election peace campaign in Kenya.

The EU Special Representative to the AU, Mr. Gary Quince, continued to proactively engage with the AU and its Member States, notably by liaising with the AU Peace and Security Committee and in supporting the implementation of the African Peace and Security Architecture. He also contributed to the implementation of the EU human rights policy in the African Union, which is of crucial importance given the momentum in the implementation of the African Governance Architecture.

6.2. WEST AFRICA

6.2.1. The implementation of the EU Strategy for Security and Development in the **Sahel** continued throughout the year, with a review demonstrating concrete progress and delivery in all the four main strands: (i) development, good governance and internal conflict resolution; (ii) political and diplomatic; (iii) security and rule of law; (iv) countering violent extremism. The adoption and implementation of the Strategy was timely, though adjustments are necessary to account for developments in Mali and elsewhere in the Sahel. The primary focus of the Strategy continued to be on **Mali, Mauritania and Niger**, and further expansion was actively considered, given the continued relevance of the challenges affecting the region.

6.2.2. In January 2012 rebel forces intensified operations in the north of **Mali**⁵⁵, reinforced with equipment smuggled from neighbouring countries. In March, a coup d'état brought down the civilian government and accelerated the crisis in the country. Subsequently, armed groups took control of the whole north of the country, leading to a stalemate which lasted for the rest of 2012. Since the beginning of the crisis in Mali, the EU stood by the country, actively supporting regional organisations (ECOWAS and African Union) in their efforts to find a solution, and repeatedly reiterating, including through several Council Conclusions, its full support for Mali's territorial integrity and a political settlement of the crisis through dialogue with non-terrorist interlocutors. At the same time the EU has firmly and consistently supported a civilian transition leading to elections as rapidly as possible. Cooperation with Mali was put on hold after the coup, with resumption linked to progress in the transition process.⁵⁶ The EU was also fully involved in the adoptions of three landmark UNSC Resolutions (2056/12, 2071/12 and 2085/12) which established the support of the International Community for democracy, rule of law and integrity of Mali. The EU was also actively mobilized to confront the humanitarian crisis in the Sahel, quickly delivering large amounts of aid to the populations at risk.

⁵⁵ The European Parliament adopted on 20 April 2012 a resolution on the situation in Mali (P7_TA(2012)0141), and on 14 June 2012 a resolution on the human rights and the security situation in the Sahel region (P7_TA(2012)0263).

⁵⁶ Development cooperation resumed in 2013.

In this context and as part of its continued commitment to addressing the security challenges in the Sahel, the EU undertook a new CSDP mission, the "EUCAP Sahel/Niger", aiming at improving the capacities of Niger Security Forces (Gendarmerie, Police nationale, Garde nationale) to fight terrorism and organised crime in an effective and coordinated manner. After due approval of the Crisis Management Concept and the Council Decision, EUCAP Sahel/Niger was launched in July 2012 and went on to deploy some 50 international police and military experts. In addition, the EU continued preparations for another major CSDP operation, the EU Training Mission to Mali (EUTM), an integral part of the EU's comprehensive approach to the situation in Mali and the Sahel under UNSC Resolution 2085/12.

6.2.3. The new Administration of **Nigeria**⁵⁷ was confronted by a violent re-emergence of terrorism, as Boko Haram continued its violent extremist campaigns. Terrorism continued to be a most serious security problem with a range of terrorist attacks on state authorities, Christians and moderate Muslims, which were condemned by the HR/VP and by the major stakeholders in the International Community. The security situation was a central issue during the third ministerial meeting of the Nigeria-EU Joint Way Forward in Abuja in February 2012. A result of the meeting was the establishment of the local dialogue on peace, stability and security.

6.2.4. In August 2012, **The Gambia** broke a 27-year moratorium on the death penalty when nine prisoners on death-row were executed in secret. Following international condemnation, the moratorium was restored several weeks later and there have been no executions since. The episode served to highlight the deterioration in human rights in The Gambia in 2012. The EU continued to address the governance and human rights situation in The Gambia with the authorities with the support of regional actors, notably the African Union. Several statements of the HR/VP, her spokesperson and local statements were issued in 2012 on the key issues urging The Gambia to respect its international commitments.

⁵⁷ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on 15 March 2012 on the situation in Nigeria (P7_TA(2012)0090).

6.2.5. In **Côte d'Ivoire**, the celebration of legislative elections and the delivery of former President Gbagbo to the International Criminal Court were important steps towards reconciliation. However, violence and tensions continued to affect the country. The EU continued to support the post-crisis stabilisation, justice and reconciliation; restrictive measures were progressively lifted. Both President Van Rompuy and President Barroso as well as Commissioner Piebalgs visited Cote d'Ivoire in 2012, reciprocating President Ouattara's previous visit to Brussels. These visits were a further opportunity to reiterate EU support for democracy, development, justice and reconciliation in Côte d'Ivoire, including through impartial justice and reform of the security sector.

6.2.6. Following the coup d'Etat in April 2012, cooperation with **Guinea Bissau**⁵⁸ was suspended and has remained frozen since. Only humanitarian aid and support directly delivered to the population are currently active. The EU immediately condemned the coup and urged restoration of civilian rule, and imposed restrictive measures on those responsible. The UNSC Resolution 2048/12 subsequently reiterated that call and imposed UN sanctions. The EU is actively coordinating with the AU, UN, ECOWAS and CPLP (Community of Portuguese Language Countries), to find a democratic consensual solution to the crisis. Security Sector Reform (SSR), renewal of the military hierarchy and non-interference of the security forces in civilian matters are pre-requisites for any lasting solution, which must also include democratic elections and strict respect for human rights.

6.2.7. In **Guinea**, following progress in the transition to democracy, the EU was able to lift the remaining obstacles for the signature of the National Indicative Programme under the 10th EDF (European Development Fund), which took place in December 2012. Pending milestones include the holding of long-overdue legislative elections in September 2013. Furthermore, an arms embargo is still in effect. 5 persons presumed responsible for the violent events in September 2009 remain under EU sanctions.

⁵⁸ The European Parliament adopted on 13 June 2012 a resolution on the military coup in Guinea-Bissau (P7_TA(2012)0247).

6.3. EAST AFRICA

6.3.1. Horn of Africa. In 2012, the EU actively sought to implement its Strategic Framework for the Horn of Africa, in further pursuit of the comprehensive approach of its actions in the region. The EU Special Representative for the Horn of Africa, Alexander Rondos, and the EU Special Representative for Sudan and South Sudan, Rosalind Marsden, contributed to these efforts.

The EU has contributed to improving the situation in **Somalia**, which has been at the heart of instability in the Horn of Africa region for a long time. It continued to provide political and security support to Somalia and the African Union for AMISOM⁵⁹. The EU took a lead role in assisting the end of the Transition in Somalia in September 2012, particularly through the efforts of the Nairobi-based EU Somalia Mission and the EU Special Representative for the Horn of Africa. In response to the new political situation, the EU adapted its comprehensive approach to Somalia to work more directly with the Somali Federal Government and in support of Somali priorities. The EU contributed to developing Somalia's own security forces and successfully trained Somali Security Forces through its military mission EUTM Somalia based in Uganda in 2012⁶⁰. EUTM-trained troops re-deployed in Somalia form the core of the Somali National Armed Forces and played a critical role in improving the security situation in Somalia, alongside AMISOM, by late 2012. In August 2012, the HR/VP visited Mogadishu to demonstrate the EU's commitment to Somalia's post-transition process and to underline the EU's commitment to better governance, development and security in the country.

⁵⁹ The EU continued its significant support to AMISOM through its African Peace Facility (APF), with over €150 million additional funds for AMISOM troops, following adoption of UNSCR 2036 which significantly increased the troop ceiling, bringing the total contracted APF contribution to AMISOM to €411 million. The EU has therefore contributed to improving the security situation in Somalia in support of African troops.

⁶⁰ Until now, the EU has contributed to the training of around 3000 Somali soldiers. The training also covered international humanitarian law and human rights, as well as the protection of civilians, including specific protection needs of women and children.

A wide range of development cooperation projects and four CSDP operations and missions (EUNAVFOR Atalanta, EUTM Somalia, EUCAP Nestor and EUAVSEC at Juba Airport), currently going on in the Horn, contributed significantly to achieving the objectives of the Strategic Framework. The EU Operations Centre was activated in March 2012, to support the planning and facilitate coordination EU CSDP missions and operations (with the exception of EUAVSEC) under the guidance of the Political and Security Committee (PSC).

Conducting its mandate until December 2014, the naval operation EUNAVFOR Atalanta allowed the safe delivery of food aid by World Food Programme ships, escorting more than 120 commercial vessels to Mogadishu, Somalia. A similar number of vulnerable vessels have been protected delivering supplies to the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). EUNAVFOR Atalanta successfully contributed to reducing piracy attacks during the first semester of 2012. In addition to military actions at sea, the Operation was given a mandate to disrupt pirates' logistic dumps on Somali shores from March 2012, thereby disrupting the "business model" of piracy. In addition, the EU contributed to a wide range of actions against piracy through partnerships with the UN, the International Contact Group on Piracy and the International Maritime Organisation⁶¹.

To strengthen the sea-going maritime capacities of Djibouti, Kenya, Tanzania and the Seychelles, and the rule of law sector, initially in the Somali regions of Puntland and Somaliland, by supporting the development of a Coastal Police Force, a new civilian CSDP mission on Regional Capacity Building in the Horn of Africa (EUCAP Nestor) was launched in July 2012. EUCAP Nestor has an initial geographic focus on Djibouti, Kenya, the Seychelles and Somalia.

⁶¹ Moreover, transfers of suspected pirates (or armed robbers at sea) for prosecution from EUNAVFOR ships to countries suffering from piracy - and ready to prosecute suspects - remain necessary to put an end to impunity in the Indian Ocean. The EU continued to transfer suspected pirates to countries with which bilateral agreements remain in place –the Seychelles and Mauritius – and provided support to judicial structures in these countries. The EU contributed to tackling the financial flows of piracy. Investigations on piracy suspects are on-going in a number of EU Member States and coordination between prosecutors and law enforcement staff has already shown encouraging examples of success. Hosted by Europol, a Dutch-German Joint Investigation Team for following financial flows started work in January 2012. Europol and Interpol have been closely cooperating in collecting and analysing data on piracy cases and modalities are worked on to improve their ability to receive relevant information from EUNAVFOR.

6.3.2. Despite the signing of a package of agreements in Addis in September 2012, the EU remains concerned about the lack of progress in resolving outstanding CPA (Comprehensive Peace Agreement) issues between **Sudan and South Sudan** and delays in the implementation of the agreements. The security situation and resulting humanitarian crises in Blue Nile, Southern Kordofan⁶², Darfur and Abyei remained a particular focus for the EU. In cooperation with the AU, UN and international partners, the EU Special Representative for Sudan and South Sudan continues to be at the fore of the EU's efforts to support the negotiation process between both states as well as internal developments in Sudan and South Sudan⁶³.

The first visit of President Kiir to Brussels in March 2012 was a milestone in developing a close and long-term partnership with South Sudan ranging from development cooperation to peace and security. In addition to pioneering Joint programming of EU development assistance for South Sudan, the EU has launched the EUAVSEC mission in October 2012 to strengthen security at Juba International Airport.

6.3.3. In **Kenya** preparations for the March 2013 elections intensified in 2012, a first test of Kenya's new constitution, the new Election framework and reformed judiciary. Having gone through a major reform process, these elections will be decisive for the country and the region. The EU attaches great importance to them and has been gearing up its support to their preparations. In August 2012 the HR/VP travelled to Kenya to express her determination to support Kenyan efforts to foster a credible Election process. In October, an EU exploratory mission went to the country to assess the conditions for the deployment of an EU EOM⁶⁴.

⁶² The European Parliament adopted a resolution on 15 September 2011 on Sudan: The situation in Southern Kordofan and the eruption of fighting in Blue Nile State (P7_TA-PROV(2011)0393).

⁶³ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on 13 June 2012 on the situation in Sudan and South Sudan (P7_TA(2012)0248).

⁶⁴ The EOM was deployed to Kenya from January 2013 on to make a thorough and comprehensive assessment of the election process thereby enhancing its transparency.

6.3.4. Madagascar⁶⁵ remained an "Article 96 of Cotonou" country. However, thanks to positive political developments (roadmap signed under South Africa Development Community/SADC mediation), the appropriate measures in force were amended in December 2011 allowing the EU to give its conditional backing to the ongoing transition process. In December 2012 these measures were prolonged until the Council determines that credible elections have taken place and the constitutional order is restored.

6.3.5. Ethiopia managed its transition from 14-years leadership of Meles Zenawi by appointing, in line with the Constitution, the former deputy-prime minister, Hailemariam Desalegn, as prime minister in September 2012. The new leadership arrangements resulted from last November's cabinet reshuffle will be tested at the EPRDF (Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front) Congress in March 2013 and at the local elections expected in April. The country continues to play an important role for stability in the region, with Prime Minister Hailemariam being the new AU Chairman as of January 2013. In addition to the pioneering European Business Forum launched in May 2012, the EU has recently adopted together with Norway and the Ethiopian Government a joint programming strategy for mutual, development cooperation in the country.

6.4. CENTRAL AFRICA

6.4.1. Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)/ the Great Lakes region. In the aftermath of the DRC Presidential and Legislative elections (November 2011), the EU has called for further efforts in order to ensure greater accountability and credibility regarding the subsequent phases of the Election cycle (provincial, local elections)⁶⁶.

⁶⁵ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on 9 June 2011 on the situation in Madagascar (P7_TA-PROV(2011)0270).

⁶⁶ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on 13 June 2012 on the monitoring of elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo (P7_TA(2012)0252) and a resolution on 13 December 2012 on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (P7_TA(2012)0511).

However, as from mid-2012, the political and security situation has been overshadowed by the M23 rebellion, the crisis in eastern DRC and subsequent diplomatic initiatives aimed at restoring peace (International Conference Great Lakes Region/Kampala, UN framework agreement). In this regard, the Council adopted conclusions on DRC/Great Lakes in June, November and December, stressing deep preoccupation for the situation in the Kivus and condemning the rebellion. The Council also appealed for a constructive regional cooperation, while encouraging a solution for the crisis based on dialogue and focussed on tackling the root causes of the conflict at regional and DRC levels. In the same vein, President Van Rompuy (September, October) and the HR/VP (July, November) expressed EU's concerns and recommendations.

In the DRC two CSDP missions on Security Sector Reform (SSR) are currently deployed: EUSEC RD Congo and EUPOL RD Congo. In September 2012 the mandate for both missions was extended until 30 September 2013, a period to be followed by a final transition phase of twelve months with the aim of handing over their tasks.

EUSEC RD Congo provides advice and assistance on defence reform (as part of SSR) in the DRC with the aim of assisting the Congolese authorities in establishing a defence apparatus, acting under democratic control, capable of guaranteeing the security of the Congolese people⁶⁷. The mission also assists the Congolese with the development of logistical capabilities and carries out activities to prevent human rights violations, including sexual violence.

⁶⁷ The key activities of the mission are: support at strategic level of the Congolese Defence Ministry and Military Staff, including support to the General Inspectorate; modernisation and consolidation of administrative and management of human resources; revival of the training system through support to the General Command on Military Schools and development of a comprehensive training policy.

In 2012, EUPOL RD Congo continued supporting SSR in the field of policing and its interface with the justice system, by means of monitoring, mentoring and advisory action, assisting the Ministry of Interior and Security and the *Police Nationale Congolaise* in the implementation of the Police Action Plan (Plan d'Action Triennal Actualisé) and the related legislative framework. In coordination with local and international efforts, the mission also contributes to the enhancement of the operational capacity of the police through mentoring, monitoring and advising as well as training activities. It also supports the fight against impunity in the fields of human rights and sexual violence, developing a partnership with UNICEF to strengthen its activities in the area of child protection, and the reinforcement of the interaction between the Police and the Judiciary.

6.4.2. Reports of **Rwandan** support to the M23 militia in eastern Congo were contained in the findings of the UN Group of Experts in June and December 2012. In this regard, the Council adopted conclusions on DRC/Rwanda in September stressing the need for Rwanda to cease all support to and condemn explicitly M23, to commit to respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the DRC, to continue to cooperate with the UN Group of Experts and to engage constructively with the DRC and the region towards a sustainable political solution addressing the root causes of the conflict.

6.4.3. The situation in the **Central African Republic (CAR)** remained complex with little progress in the peace process. However, all political stakeholders resumed direct talks and engaged into a series of discussions to consensually adopt a draft bill reforming the electoral code. The EU pursued its reinforced political dialogue with the CAR authorities. The EU kept its focus on the continuation of national reconciliation and consolidation of peace in the country, also by supporting the ECCAS (Economic Community of Central African States)-led African peace-support operation in the CAR (MICOPAX) and/or by mobilising additional funding in support of demobilisation operations within the framework of the on-going DDR (disarmament, demobilisation, reintegration) programme.

6.5. SOUTHERN AFRICA

6.5.1. The EU and **South Africa** held their fifth annual Summit on 18 September 2012 in Brussels. The Summit was the culmination of a year of intense political dialogue and deep policy cooperation activities. These included the 4th bilateral Political and Security consultations on 30 April in Brussels, the 13th Joint Cooperation Council on 17 July in Pretoria and the 11th Ministerial Policy Dialogue attended by the HR/VP and South African Minister of Foreign Affairs M. Nkoana Mashabane on 24 August in Pretoria. All these events allowed to make momentous progress in the partnership, and to gradually strengthen political dialogue on foreign policy issues. Fruitful dialogues on sectoral policies continued to take place in a wide range of domains from trade to development cooperation, environment, energy, climate change, education, mobility, science and technology.

On 19 November the Council formally established a human rights dialogue between the EU and South Africa, to be held on an annual basis and cover relevant human rights, democracy and rule of law issues⁶⁸.

⁶⁸ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on 13 September 2012 on South Africa: massacre of striking miners (P7_TA(2012)0354).

6.5.2. Angola. After President José Manuel Barroso visited officially Luanda in April 2012, the "Angola-EU Joint Way Forward (JWF)" has been signed in July 2012. It paves the way for an ambitious political partnership and enhanced cooperation. Conformingly the parties held extensive discussions on the Great Lakes conflict. The EU appreciated the Angolan efforts in Guinea-Bissau aiming the demilitarisation of politics and the fight against narcotraffic. Angolan general elections in August 2012 – for which the EU mobilised an "Expert Mission" and financed civil society projects aiming at electoral freedom and transparency – were considered overall successful by international observers present. The EU Election Expert Mission noted some shortcomings within the election process and expressed its readiness to support Angolan authorities to ensure that these concerns are effectively addressed in future elections.

6.5.3. Malawi. Following the death of President Bingu wa Mutharika, the EU supported actively respect for a constitutional handover of power leading to former Vice-President Joyce Banda taking over as President on 7 April. President Banda has taken many positive steps to strengthen good governance and to restore public confidence since taking up office. The new government undertook a complete overhaul of the economic policies and corrected the significantly deteriorated human rights situation in the country. The EU recognised President Banda's commitment to social justice, human rights and encouraged her to maintain the ambitious new policies to stabilise the economy (adoption of IMF programme in August 2012) and set the course for sustainable economic growth in the long run. In November 2012, President Banda participated in the European Development Days and met with HR/VP Ashton. EU Budget support disbursements have been resumed in 2012. In November 2012, a Constitutional Amendment Bill 2014 was passed to hold tri-partite elections (Presidential, Parliamentary and Local)⁶⁹.

⁶⁹ Tripartite Elections will pose significant logistical, managerial and financial challenges. The EU observed the last two general elections in Malawi in 2004 and 2009 and sent an election observation follow-up mission in December 2012 to assess progress and take stock of preparations for the 2014 elections.

6.5.4. Regarding **Zimbabwe**, the EU in February 2012 decided to remove 51 individuals and 20 entities from its visa ban and asset freeze list. The EU also committed to review its development policy in six months and to conduct a comprehensive review of measures. In July 2012, the EU subsequently decided to suspend the application of Article 96 (Cotonou Agreement) restrictions on development cooperation and launched the preparations for a Country Strategy Paper in the framework of the next European Development Fund. This enables the EU to work directly with and through the Government of Zimbabwe. In July the EU also stressed its readiness to further adjust its policy on measures as progress is made by the political parties along the SADC roadmap. In this regard a peaceful and credible referendum on the constitution would represent an important milestone in the preparation of democratic elections that would justify a suspension of the majority of all EU targeted restrictive measures against individuals and entities. With regard to the Kimberley Process (KP) the EU again played a leading role in building consensus on the way forward with regard to the Marange diamond fields in Zimbabwe. The decision reached at the KP Washington Plenary in November to lift the special monitoring measures with respect to the Marange mining area in Zimbabwe, was a positive step forward. This recognises the significant progress that Zimbabwe has made to improve KP compliance. The EU appreciates the contribution of Civil Society Coalition representatives and welcomes Zimbabwe's willingness to sustain efforts on KP compliance to enhance revenue transparency.

6.5.5. President Barroso paid an official visit to **Mozambique** in July 2012 to strengthen bilateral relations, discuss future EU-Mozambique cooperation and multilateral issues, in particular cooperation with the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) and the Lusophone African Countries and Timor-Leste (PALOP-TL). Barroso met with the President of Mozambique Guebuza, with the Parliament Speaker Macamo and with members of the government.

7. AMERICAS

7.1. US and CANADA

7.1.1. The **United States (US)** remains the EU's most important global strategic partner. Contacts between the HR/VP and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton were frequent and close throughout the year. The HR/VP also met often with US National Security Adviser Tom Donilon. The year was marked by strong and effective EU-US cooperation on foreign policy at all levels in EEAS. There has been close co-ordination of assistance to the reform process in North Africa and the Middle East, on the political and humanitarian situation in Libya, as well as sanctions vis-à-vis Iran and Syria, in addition to a substantive dialogue on the long-term outlook for the region. Iran remained a key issue for cooperation through the E3+3 process and reinforced sanctions. The EU has been in close touch with US authorities to ensure that our respective sanctions legislations are as well aligned as possible. The EU and the US extended humanitarian assistance to Syrian refugees. There was also joint engagement at high level in the Balkans, aiming particularly to normalize relations between Kosovo and Serbia. On 30-31 October, the HR/VP and Secretary Clinton jointly visited Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Kosovo in a well co-ordinated engagement in the region. Through its participation in the Eastern Partnership Information and Coordination Group as well as the Donors' Meetings on Belarus, the US supported the EU policy of promoting democratic and market reforms in the EU's Eastern neighbourhood. The EU and the US cooperated closely on Ukraine, Belarus and Georgia before and after parliamentary elections in these countries⁷⁰. There was a full programme of political dialogue meetings at all levels. The US so-called "rebalancing" towards Asia opened up opportunities for joint work in the region, particularly in South, South East and North Asia. A substantive dialogue and cooperation marked the field of development, where the EU and the US focused on resilience and food security, the future of the Millennium Development goals, as well as links between security and development. Given the shared challenge of finding fresh sources of growth and jobs, the EU and US continued to seek opportunities to forge a closer economic relationship⁷¹. In its interim report, released on 19 June, the High-Level Working Group

⁷⁰ E.g. the joint HR/VP–Secretary Clinton op-ed on Ukraine published on 24 October in the *The New York Times*.

⁷¹ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on 23 October 2012 on trade and economic relations with the United States (P7_TA(2012)0388).

on Jobs and Growth recognized that a comprehensive transatlantic trade and investment agreement is the instrument that has the greatest potential for supporting jobs and promoting growth and competitiveness across the Atlantic. Energy security through the diversification of gas and oil supply sources and routes was the subject of the EU-US Energy Council meeting on 5 December in Brussels. The discussion also focused on the pursuit of decarbonisation and increasing energy efficiency. The EU and the US cooperated effectively in the field of crisis management, as the US is involved directly in the CSDP crisis management operation in Kosovo (EULEX) and supported EU efforts in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa. The excellent collaboration between naval forces in the Indian Ocean (Combined Task Force 151 and Atalanta) should also be noted. In its input to the EEAS's CSDP partnerships review, the US indicated a desire to see EU-NATO relations strengthened. There was also a good cooperation in the field of justice, freedom and security. Further progress was made on the negotiations of a data protection “umbrella” agreement in the area of law enforcement, acknowledged by a joint EU-US ministerial statement issued on 21 June. On 1 July, the new EU-US Passenger Name Record agreement came into force. The joint launch at ministerial level of a Global Alliance Against Child Sexual Abuse Online on 5 December evidenced a shared commitment to combat cybercrime.

7.1.2. EU-Canada relations were dominated in 2012 by a set of high-profile negotiations, in particular on upgrading the 1976 Framework Agreement, which both sides wish to see completed in 2013, as well on a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement. The new Strategic Partnership Agreement will enshrine, in a legally-binding instrument, political dialogues, common commitments and shared values on human rights, democracy, rule of law, non-proliferation, promotion of the ICC and counter-terrorism. It will also frame existing cooperation in international peace and security issues. Very substantial progress was also made on the negotiations of a new Passenger Name Record agreement, the conclusion of which is expected in 2013. In 2012, the EU maintained a full programme of political dialogue with Canada. The HR/VP received Foreign Minister John Baird in Brussels on 18 April. Canada continued to contribute to EU CSDP missions in Afghanistan and the Palestinian Territories. There was strong cooperation on issues such as sanctions against Iran and Syria.

7.2. LATIN AMERICA and THE CARIBBEAN

MULTILATERAL

7.2.1. BI-REGIONAL RELATIONS (LAC)

Relations with Latin America and the Caribbean continued to strengthen in 2012. Further progress was made in implementing the results of the 2010 Madrid Summit: the Association Agreement with Central America and the Trade Agreement with Colombia and Peru were signed⁷². The EU-LAC Foundation is now operational and implementing activities in accordance with its work plan. The Latin America Investment Facility continued to prove a particularly effective instrument to support investment in the region, and a similar instrument, The Caribbean Investment Facility (CIF), has been launched for the Caribbean. The implementation of the Madrid Action Plan continued. Nevertheless, EU-Mercosur negotiations for an Association Agreement slowed down during 2012. Efforts are being made to reinvigorate them.

Preparations for the **Santiago Summit** of EU and LAC Heads of State and Government were pursued⁷³.

⁷² The European Parliament adopted on 13 June 2012 a resolution on the EU trade agreement with Colombia and Peru (P7_TA(2012)0249) and on 11 December 2012 a resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of the Agreement establishing an Association between the European Union and its Member States, on the one hand, and Central America, on the other (P7_TA(2012)0478). In addition, the European Parliament adopted on 12 June 2012 a resolution on defining a new development cooperation with Latin America (P7_TA(2012)0235), and on 24 May 2012 a resolution on the possible withdrawal of Venezuela from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (P7_TA(2012)0227).

⁷³ The Summit, held on 26/27 January 2013, was the seventh summit since the inaugural EU-LAC Summit of 1999, but the first with CELAC - the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States - as EU counterpart. It was an opportunity to convey a strong signal of EU political commitment to Latin America and the Caribbean; to highlight the extent of our economic inter-dependence; to underline the important contribution that EU investments are making to the region's economic and social development; to stress the importance of resisting protectionism and of maintaining a stable and transparent regulatory framework in order to continue attracting such investments; to promote the importance of the Multi-Party FTA with Peru and Colombia, of the Association Agreement with Central America, the new Joint Strategy with the Caribbean and the need to advance Mercosur negotiations; to support regional integration in the Latin American continent; to agree on a far-reaching joint Declaration and on the addition of two new sectors (gender and investment) to the EU-CELAC Action Plan while exploring, during the review of the EU-CELAC Action Plan, possible incorporation of additional chapters covering areas of bi-regional interest, such as Higher Education, Public Security, and Food Security and Nutrition.

The **EU–LAC structured dialogues on migration and drugs** continued through High Level and technical meetings.

Two rounds of negotiations for the **EU-Mercosur** Association Agreement were held, one in Brussels and one in Brasilia, leading to incremental progress. After the Brasilia round, both parties agreed to discuss the issue at political level during the EU-CELAC Summit of Santiago in January 2013.

In a context of increasing violence, security and justice were the top priorities of the EU's political dialogue and cooperation with **Central American** countries during 2012, both at bilateral and regional levels. The EU made use of different cooperation instruments to address this problem, supporting reforms in the areas of security, justice and human rights, as well as policies on social prevention of violence, particularly among the youth. Moreover, the EU contributed to the fight against the illicit accumulation and trafficking of firearms in Central America and neighbouring countries.

Pursuing and strengthening political dialogue with the Caribbean region remained a priority, and a political dialogue between the EU and the Forum of the Caribbean Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific states (CARIFORUM) took place in 2012.

The Joint Caribbean-EU Partnership strategy for which the outline was agreed during the EU-CARIFORUM Summit in 2010 was finalised and adopted by CARIFORUM and EU Member States in November 2012. The strategy highlights the importance of the EU and the Caribbean region joining forces on the international scene on matters of mutual interest. Security is one of the main areas of common interest and a security sector programme aimed at capacity building in regional security organisations and crime prevention has been launched, funded from the regional programme to the tune of € 10 million.

7.2.2. EURO-LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (EuroLat) EuroLat continued to provide a significant input to bi-regional policy definition and closely followed up developments in Latin America and the EU. Meetings of the Executive Bureau and the Committees on political, economic and social affairs were held during 2012. These meetings allowed for close dialogue on key issues for the EU-LAC strategic partnership, including global economy, Free Trade/Association Agreements, migration and security-related matters. They also helped the preparations of the VI EuroLat Plenary Assembly, that took place on 23/25 January 2013 in Santiago de Chile.

BILATERAL

7.2.3. BRAZIL⁷⁴. In 2012, the High Level Political Dialogue intensified significantly with two Ministerial meetings, one in Brazil during the HR/VP's visit on 6-7 February 2012, and one in New York on 25 September 2012 in the margins of UNGA. During the year, the President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso and 7 European Commissioners visited Brazil. The political dialogue at Political Directors' level took place for the first time in Brasilia and provided a further opportunity to deepen the dialogue on foreign and security policy. Regular consultations on human rights have continued and produced concrete results such as the agreement to strengthen coordination and joint work in the Human Rights Council and the commitment to implement triangular cooperation actions aiming at supporting third countries' implementation of the Universal Periodic Review's recommendations. The EU and Brazil jointly pursued work on the implementation of the Joint Action Plan 2012-2014. The number of ongoing dialogues, with the opening of new areas such as on General UN matters and on Drugs under the heading Peace and Security - has reached 30. In September, the Director of the Crisis Management and Planning Directorate participated in the IX Forte de Copacabana International Security Conference in Rio. He also met with high-level officials to establish a more regular dialogue on security, defence and crisis management, and to pursue the negotiations in view of concluding a Framework Participation Agreement to facilitate future participation of Brazil in EU-led crisis management operations.

⁷⁴ The annual Summit did not take place in 2012 due to conflicting agendas of the Presidents, and was postponed to January 2013, side by side to the Santiago EU-CELAC Summit. The 2013 Summit will be maintained and is provisionally pinpointed for October.

7.2.4. MEXICO. The HR/VP's first official visit to Mexico in February 2012, coupled with the EU-Mexico Joint Council, set the basis for the further strengthening of relations with this like-minded strategic partner. 2012 witnessed increased EU-Mexico coordination to promote shared positions on issues such as climate change and economic liberalisation, notably in the context of the G20. At the EU-Mexico Summit on 17th June in Los Cabos, Presidents Van Rompuy, Barroso and Calderon discussed security, multilateral issues, notably the economic crisis, and the possible review of the Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement. The third session of the high-level bilateral dialogue on human rights was held in October 2012, with particular focus on Mexico's efforts in addressing its internal challenges and the reforms undertaken by the federal government in compliance with its international obligations. The dialogue was chaired on the EU side by the EU Special Representative for Human Rights, Stavros Lambrinidis.

7.2.5. VENEZUELA. General Elections took place on 7 October in a peaceful manner and incumbent President Hugo Chavez won the contest over challenger Henrique Capriles with a wide margin. The EU was not invited to deploy an Electoral Observation Mission.

7.2.6. PARAGUAY. On June 22, the Paraguayan Congress, following an impeachment process, ousted President Fernando Lugo. Vice President Federico Franco was sworn in as President. This created tension at regional level and Paraguay memberships in UNASUR and MERCOSUR were suspended. In December 2012, following a request of the Paraguayan Government, the HR/VP decided to deploy an Electoral Observation Mission to the General Elections scheduled for April 2013.

7.2.7. CUBA. Following a discussion on the future of EU-Cuba relations at the FAC of 19 November 2012, the HR/VP concluded that she would instruct services to start drafting negotiating directives in view of an eventual future Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Cuba.. Human rights questions were raised with the Cuban authorities at all levels both in Brussels and in Havana.

7.2.8. HAITI. In 2012, the EU has continued to deliver on its pledge to support Haiti's reconstruction and economic recovery. About 85% of the € 522 million pledged at March 2010 New York donors' conference have been committed. The appointment in May 2012 of Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe and the establishment of a new Government have marked a relative stabilization of the political situation. The EU supports the programme of political and administrative reforms launched by President Martelly aiming at the consolidation of democratic mechanisms, rebuilding the Haitian administration's capacities and a more effective utilisation of EU and international aid. The visit of Commissioner Piebalgs to Haiti in March 2012 and of President Martelly to EU Institutions in November 2012 underpinned a renewed and strengthened EU-Haiti dialogue both in the cooperation and political domains. At the October 2012 UNSC's debate on the security situation in Haiti, the EU welcomed the report of the UN Secretary General on MINUSTAH, which provides, inter alia, for a gradual transfer of MINUSTAH's competences to the Haitian authorities, framed in a process of consolidation of democratic stability and security.

7.2.9. SURINAME. In 2012, the political dialogue, required according to the Art 8 of the Cotonou Agreement, was launched covering a series of issues including human rights, economic crisis, and development cooperation.

7.2.10. ANDEAN COUNTRIES. In **Colombia**, formal peace talks launched in October between the government and the FARC are offering the best prospect in years to put an end to the country's five decade-old conflict. The EU is supporting the peace process politically (HR/VP statements in August and September). It has also expressed its readiness to assist the implementation of a possible peace agreement. Peace would not only help Colombia to realise its development potential but would also bring security and stability in the wider region. In December, the HR/VP issued a statement expressing concern about the extension of military criminal jurisdiction in Colombia. The multi-party trade agreement with Colombia and **Peru** is expected to have positive security impacts. It will generate new opportunities for sustainable development, and contribute to the governments' efforts to improve social cohesion and fight illegal activities in mining or drugs trafficking: a major security concern in the region. Progress towards adoption of the agreement (signed in June, approved by the European Parliament in December) has given further impulse to the relationship with both countries. The Peruvian President Humala visited the EU institutions for the first time in June. Social conflicts in the mining sector have intensified in Peru and **Bolivia**, and the challenges related to the management of natural resources have become a key item on the agenda of policy dialogues with the Andean countries. In **Bolivia**, the EU is supporting the adoption of a new law on consultation. In the Northern border of **Ecuador** the EU is contributing to actions on crisis prevention and conflict management as well as the protection of the rights of vulnerable people. The visit by President Pinera of **Chile** in November was an opportunity to mark ten years of successful implementation of the Association Agreement and discuss possibilities to deepen relations further in areas such as crisis management and climate change. Chile continued its participation in EUFOR ALTHEA. Progress was made in negotiating a framework agreement aimed at facilitating Chile's participation in EU crisis management operations ("Framework Participation Agreement"). Finally, the EU has continued cooperating closely in the fight against drugs and narco-trafficking with the Andean region, holding specific policy dialogues meetings with the **Andean Community** as well as Bolivia and Peru (November) and supporting the implementation of anti-drugs policies with its cooperation programmes.

B. ADDRESSING THREATS AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES

1. NON-PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (WMD) AND THEIR MEANS OF DELIVERY / CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS

Non-proliferation and disarmament continued to be an integral part of the EU's foreign policy in 2012 contributing to the effective implementation of the European Security Strategy⁷⁵.

Using the new opportunities provided by the Lisbon Treaty, efforts have been undertaken to further strengthen coordination between EU institutions as well as between EU institutions and Member States, and with third countries and international partners. Priority was given to bringing together all instruments and tools at the disposal of the EU to ensure complementarity and consistency.

Specifically, the EU continued to support universal accession to relevant international treaties and instruments as well as their full and effective implementation. The EU also continued to promote the inclusion of clauses on the non-proliferation of WMD, as well as on small arms and light weapons (SALW) into agreements between the EU and third states. In 2012, negotiations on agreements including WMD and SALW clauses were undertaken with Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Brunei, Canada, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, and MERCOSUR.

⁷⁵ The EU's engagement across the spectrum of activities in this field was based on a set of strategic documents: The 2003 European Security Strategy; the 2003 EU Strategy against the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and the 2008 New Lines for Action in combating the proliferation of WMD and their delivery systems; the 2005 EU Strategy to combat the illicit accumulation and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and the 2008 Common Position on conventional arms exports.

1.1. NON-PROLIFERATION OF WMD

1.1.1. Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) In 2012, the EU focused its efforts on actively pursuing the implementation of the Action Plan adopted by the 2010 NPT Review Conference, and reported to the NPT Preparatory Committee (Vienna, 30 April – 11 May 2012) on the activities conducted in that regard. Four EU statements were delivered, as follows: a general statement and three specific statements focused on the three pillars of the NPT: non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Two EU working papers were presented: one with regard to the implementation of the NPT 2010 Review Conference conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions, and one on peaceful uses of nuclear technology. It organised through the CFSP-funded EU Non-proliferation Consortium of Think tanks a second successful "Track 2" EU Seminar in November 2012 on the WMD Free Zone in the Middle East⁷⁶, bringing together nearly 140 participants from the EU, countries of the region, third countries as well as relevant international organisations, to contribute to the process leading towards the "Helsinki" Conference to be convened by the UN Secretary General, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The efforts undertaken by the EU regarding Iran and DPRK are outlined in the respective chapter of Section A of this report.

⁷⁶ (Council Decision 2012/422/CFSP of 23 July 2012).

1.1.2. Comprehensive-Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) The EU continued to promote the entry into force of the CTBT and to further support the activities of the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO). A new Council Decision was adopted on 13 November 2012⁷⁷ to provide additional financial support through the CFSP budget of around €5.2 million to the CTBTO, geared to strengthen the monitoring and verification capacities of the Preparatory Commission. Financial support was complemented and underpinned by intensified diplomatic action⁷⁸. An EU statement was delivered at the Sixth Ministerial Meeting in support of the CTBT (New York, 27 September 2012).

1.1.3. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) The EU also continued to provide support through various instruments to the IAEA in Vienna⁷⁹. In 2012, it provided additional financial support to the IAEA project of a Low-Enriched Uranium Bank with €20 million through the Instrument of Stability (IfS), and announced its readiness to further support this project under preparation through the CFSP Budget. The EU also contributed an additional amount of €5 million to the modernisation of the IAEA Safeguards Laboratory in Seibersdorf (Austria). The primary aim of the support provided to the IAEA is to make sure that when nuclear activities are undertaken by third countries, the highest standards of nuclear safety, security and safeguards are met. The EU and its Member States therefore also contribute to “peaceful uses” activities in the energy and non-energy fields, partly through the IAEA, with approx. €150 million every year. Close cooperation was also maintained between the EU and IAEA on the Iranian nuclear issue.

⁷⁷ 2012/699/CFSP.

⁷⁸ Political dialogues, demarches, statements delivered at the informal meeting of the UNGA Plenary celebrating the International Day against Nuclear Tests and at the Ministerial Meeting organised by the "Friends of the CTBT" and the Article XIV Coordinators in September 2012 in New York.

⁷⁹ The EU remains a key donor to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund for the benefit of more than 80 countries in Africa, Middle East, Latin America and Asia, with more than 30 mil € contributed since 2004.

1.1.4. The EU continued to pursue the universalisation of the **Chemical Weapons Convention** (CWC) and to promote new activities in support of specific projects. A new EU Council Decision in support of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) activities was adopted on 23 March 2012. The EU started working towards a common position in view of the Third CWC Review Conference scheduled for April 2013, underlining the need for complete destruction of all chemical weapons as fast as possible, effective national implementation and total universalisation of the CWC and expressing deep concern about the threat for international peace and security by chemical weapons in Syria.

1.1.5. Following the 7th Review Conference of the **Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention** (BTWC) that took place in Geneva from 5 to 22 December 2011, and on the basis of a formal Common Position adopted by the Council on 18 July 2011, the EU actively engaged in the 2012-2015 inter-sessional programme by delivering EU statements and presenting working papers on Assistance and Cooperation (article X), and on measures to mitigate risks coming from scientific and technological advances. The EU also adopted a new Council Decision in support of BTWC on 23 July 2012 and continued to be actively engaged in supporting improvements in bio-safety and bio-security.

1.1.6. Export control As regards export control processes, the EU in 2012 continued to support the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1540, 1673 and 1810 through a 2008 Council Joint Action which aims at strengthening the skills and capacities of third countries' state officials. Over the last 5 years the EU outreach programme for Export Controls on Dual Use, financed under the IfS long-term instrument, has promoted export control activities within 28 countries with a contribution of € 17 million with the clear target in slowing down the spread of WMD.

1.1.7. To ensure the continuation of work under the 2008 Council Decision in support of the **Hague Code of Conduct (HCoC) against the Proliferation of Ballistic Missiles**, the Council agreed on a new Decision in support of HCoC (essentially outreach to non-subscribing states) and the broader fight against missile proliferation. Based on this decision, the EU organised an outreach event for signatory and non-signatory States in New York in the margins of the UNGA First Committee on 17 October 2012.⁸⁰

1.1.8. Under the Instrument for Stability, in its CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear) risk mitigation component, the creation of **CBRN Centres of Excellence** in targeted regions has progressed well and the first Centres are being established in: 1. North Africa (Algiers), 2. Atlantique Façade (Rabat), 3. Middle East (Amman), 4. South East Europe – Southern Caucasus – Republic of Moldova – Ukraine (Tbilisi), 5. South East Asia (Manila), 6. Sub-Saharan Africa (Nairobi), 7. Central Asia (Tashkent) and 8. Gulf Cooperation Council Countries and have started their work. Their remit is to strengthen regional and international cooperation on all chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risks independent of their origin⁸¹.

1.1.9. The EU continued its work on a draft International Code of Conduct enhancing confidence-building and transparency in **outer space activities**, through intensified consultations with third countries.

⁸⁰ The EU had also started to plan the organisation of events that took place in early 2013 such as a commemoration in Vienna of the 10th anniversary of the signing of the HCoC.

⁸¹ The UN Security Council has recently welcomed the establishment of these Centres (UNSC Presidential Statement 19 April 2012).

1.2. CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS

1.2.1. Export control Member States' export control policies on conventional arms continued to be guided by the Council Common Position of December 2008, which defines common rules governing the control of exports of military technology and equipment. The Council Working Party on conventional arms exports (COARM) carried out over 2012 a review of the Common Position. The preliminary assessment of the review confirmed the appropriateness of the Common Position to promote the convergence of EU Member States' arms export policies and identified implementation-related work strands that will be worked out in the coming months. The Council and the EEAS continued in 2012 to develop an in-depth dialogue with the European Parliament and with civil society on export controls policies.

Over the past years, the EU has allocated significant diplomatic and financial resources to outreach activities with a view to encouraging responsible and transparent arms export controls systems in third countries. In November 2012, the EU committed itself to fostering such outreach activities with the adoption of Council Decision 2012/711/CFSP of 19 November 2012 that allocates €1.86 million to this purpose over 2013 and 2014.

Over 2012, the EU was fully involved in the negotiation of an **Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)**⁸², actively participating in the Preparatory Committee of February 2012 and the Diplomatic Conference of July 2012. The EU was also particularly active in carrying out intensive outreach efforts worldwide.⁸³

⁸² The European Parliament adopted on 13 June 2012 a resolution on the negotiations on the UN Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) (P7_TA(2012)0251).

⁸³ Under Council Decision 2010/336/CFSP, supporting the ATT negotiation process, three regional seminars were organized in 2012 in cooperation with UNIDIR (UN Institute on Disarmament Research) in Nairobi, Kenya, for Eastern and Southern African countries (February 2012), in Beirut, Lebanon for Middle East countries (March 2012) and in Belgrade, Serbia, for European and Caucasus countries (April 2012) Morocco, in February 2011), in the Americas and Caribbean (in Uruguay, in April 2011), and Eastern Asia and Pacific (in Indonesia, in June 2011).

1.2.2. Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) In 2012, the EU actively participated in the 2012 Review Conference on the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW (PoA) and submitted a Working Paper with specific recommendations for the Review Conference to strengthen the implementation of the PoA.⁸⁴ During the negotiations on the draft outcome document of the Conference, the EU promoted, in particular, the need to further improve efforts to counter the risk of diversion of SALW (inter alia through increased use of Interpol's illicit arms records and tracing management system), to enhance transfer controls on SALW and ammunition, to fully integrate a gender perspective into the implementation of the PoA, and to enable peace support operations to effectively contribute to the fight against the illicit trade in SALW. The EU continued to fund the development of tools and techniques to counter the illicit trade of SALW by air, activities of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs to implement the UN PoA, as well as assistance to the management of stockpiles, collection, registration and destruction of surplus SALW and ammunition in the Western Balkans. The EU also adopted a new Council Decision in support of activities to reduce the risk of the illicit trade in, and excessive accumulation of, SALW in the OSCE region.

1.2.3. Anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions In 2012, the EU adopted a Council Decision in support of the implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan, which is supporting efforts to implement victim assistance and mine clearance aspects of the Action Plan and also promoting the universalisation of the Convention. The EU took part in the various meetings of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention and the **Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)** throughout 2012.

⁸⁴ The EU Working Paper on the Outcome of the 2012 Review Conference on the UN Programme of Action was agreed on by the FAC in July 2012.

2. CONFLICT PREVENTION AND MEDIATION

Council Conclusions on Conflict Prevention of June 2011 highlighted three specific areas: strengthening early warning capacities and bridging the gap with early action; strengthening EU's mediation capacities and conflict analysis tools; and building/ intensifying partnerships with non-governmental and international organisations and relevant institutions.

In implementing these actions, the EEAS services have endeavoured to adopt a comprehensive approach, by placing the expertise on conflict prevention closer to the CSDP structures, and by ensuring complementarity with EU crisis response and crisis management structures, with relevant Commission services, and working closely with partners, including UN, regional organisations, civil society and academia.

Within this framework, the following activities have been undertaken in 2012:

- Provision of operational support to EU delegations in some twenty countries. This has included advice on conflict prevention, peace-building and mediation; identification and deployment of experts, for example, in support of the Yemeni National Dialogue Preparatory Committee, and advice on the establishment of a Myanmar Peace Centre; conflict analysis, for example, to understand the impact of Boko Haram on wider stability in Northern Nigeria; and support to mediation capacity, for example, by bringing together different mediation actors working on Mali.
- Further work on enhancing EEAS mediation support capacity, funded by a pilot project financed from the EU budget on the initiative of the European Parliament. In this context, a study was commissioned from independent consultants to provide input to developing the EU's mediation support capacity, including assessing the proposal to establish a European Institute for Peace and elaborating a proposal for strengthening the mediation support capacity of the EU.

- Focus on building systems, tools and culture to identify i) countries at medium to long-term risk of violent conflict, and ii) options for early action to address these risks. The aim of this early warning system is not to predict where the next crisis will occur, but to identify where there are risks of future conflict, and ensure timely upstream responses are put in place.
- Development of a "light touch" conflict analysis methodology that allows rapid diagnostics of conflict risks and possible EU responses.
- Strengthening joint work between relevant EEAS and Commission Services on preventing conflicts, via informal inter-service structures such as the Conflict Prevention Group and the SSR Informal Inter-service Working Group.
- Strengthening the network of contacts on conflict prevention and peace-building, inter alia, with civil society (through the Civil Society Dialogue Network), and with relevant UN bodies - UNDP, UNDPA (via regular exchanges of views by videoconference).

3. TERRORISM

Building upon the European Union Counter Terrorism Strategy and Action Plan, it was agreed that the EU should prioritise the threats emanating from Pakistan, Horn of Africa and Yemen and the Sahel. Subsequently, strategies and action plans for these countries were agreed.

Political Dialogues on Counter Terrorism with key partners of the EU have continued in 2012 under EEAS leadership. Specific dialogues were held with the UN, the United States, Russia, Turkey, Pakistan, India and Saudi Arabia. Terrorism related issues were also discussed in a range of other EU dialogue meetings including foreign policy security dialogues. The EEAS participated fully in the review of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy (GCTF) in New York in June 2012 and the High-Level Meeting on Countering Nuclear Terrorism convened by the UN Secretary-General in September 2012.

The GCTF continued the process of a closer cooperation of its 30 founding members (29 countries plus the EU) which started in 2011. As announced by the HR/VP at the GCTF Ministerial meeting in Istanbul in June, the EU will support the establishment of the International Institute of Justice and the Rule of Law - Tunisia. The International Centre of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism (Hedayah) was inaugurated in Abu Dhabi at the last Ministerial meeting of the GCTF on 13-14 December 2012. The inaugural meeting of the GCTF Horn of Africa region working group, co-chaired by the EU and Turkey, took place in Dar es Salaam on 8-10 February 2012 with a wide participation of the countries from the region and international and regional organisations.

The January 2012 Counter Terrorism (CT) political dialogue with India was followed by the 6th EU-India Security Dialogue on 25 October 2012. In the latter meeting, both sides agreed that experts should start implementing the conclusions agreed in the CT political dialogue, such as mutual legal assistance and extradition, counterfeiting of currency, counter radicalisation, enhanced judicial cooperation and tracking of financial flows.

In February 2012, the Council adopted the EU-Pakistan 5-year Engagement strategy. Under this plan, both sides committed to a comprehensive cooperation on CT and in a number of related areas⁸⁵.

⁸⁵ The Engagement Strategy was followed by the adoption of the EU CT / Security Strategy on Pakistan, which outlines the position of the EU and its Member States on CT cooperation with Pakistan. The CT Strategy contains two action plans: a Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) action plan and a Rule of Law action plan, which are currently being drafted.

Given the developments in Mali and the risk of the creation of a terrorist sanctuary in the North, as well as spill-over risks to other countries of the region, the Sahel has become an even greater priority for the EU. EUCAP Sahel, the civilian CSDP operation in Niger launched in July 2012, is the first CSDP Mission to have CT included in its mandate.

The EU is also exploring how to cooperate with the regional organizations, such as the League of Arab States. The EU-LAS ministerial in November 2012 adopted an Action Plan which includes counter-terrorism cooperation, including on criminal justice.

The Commission has continued to implement projects on Counter Terrorism under the Instrument for Stability (IfS), in particular the Civilian Capacity Building for Law Enforcement (CCBLE) project in Pakistan, and projects in the Sahel and South-East Asia. Identification missions took place to identify CVE projects in Pakistan and the Horn of Africa, as well as other projects in the Horn.

The EU and its Member States held a semi-annual dialogue with the US Department of State Legal Adviser on counter-terrorism and international law, in which international legal principles applicable to the fight against terrorism are discussed. The dialogue has the objective of furthering an improved mutual understanding of our respective legal frameworks, and developing common ground from which we can work more effectively in combating terrorism.

4. ORGANISED CRIME

Serious and organised crime remained on the agenda of EU political dialogues with many countries, regional and international organisations. EU-funded assistance programmes and CSDP missions helped in translating political orientations into practice. These actions also seek to complement the EU(internal) Policy Cycle for Organised and Serious International Crime 2011-13 as well as the new upcoming Policy Cycle 2014-2016.

The Cocaine and Heroine Route programmes, funded by the Instrument for Stability, continued building law enforcement capacities and international linkages along their respective 'routes'. This included a new pilot project on trafficking in human beings in four countries on the 'Heroin Route' (Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, R. of Moldova and Turkey), also in support of the new EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012–2016 and the related definition of priority countries and regions⁸⁶.

The €16.5 million Critical Maritime Routes programme covers 17 coastal countries of the West Indian Ocean, South East Asia and the Gulf of Guinea. It enhances the information sharing capacities and enforcement functions of coastal states to achieve safer and more secure maritime traffic by inter alia countering piracy and armed robbery at sea. A number of new actions were contracted in 2012, including training of coastguards in the Gulf of Guinea in a bid to curb pirate attacks off the western coast of Africa.

⁸⁶ Under the Cocaine Route Programme, three Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces are now operational in Cape Verde, Senegal and Togo supporting the fight against organised crime on the cocaine route (36 countries covered in West Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean). A new project was also launched for the set-up of a regional police information system in West Africa with Interpol and a new commitment towards the prevention of the diversion of drug precursors (Latin America). These programmes are part of the balanced integrated EU approach to drugs, as reconfirmed in the new EU Drugs Strategy 2013-2020.

5. CYBER SECURITY

Preparations for the Communication on an EU Cyber Security Strategy (adopted in February 2013) were taking place throughout 2012, including first steps towards capacity-building in third countries and international outreach.⁸⁷ The EU participated actively in the preparation of the Second International Conference on Cyberspace held in Budapest. The HR/VP spoke at the event, underlining the importance of an open and free Internet while intensifying the fight against cybercrime and other cyber threats. Similar topics were also raised by the EU in the first EU-China Cyber Task-Force meeting in September in Beijing. The second EU-India cyber security and cybercrime consultations took place in October in Delhi.

6. ENERGY SECURITY

In 2012, the Commission worked closely with the EEAS on the implementation of the follow-up actions outlined in the Communication of the Commission in association with the HR/VP on security of energy supply and international cooperation (September 2011)⁸⁸, in line with the Council Conclusions of November 2011 on strengthening the external dimension of the EU energy policy.⁸⁹

⁸⁷ The European Parliament adopted on 12 June 2012 a resolution on critical information infrastructure protection – achievements and next steps: towards global cyber-security (P7_TA(2012)0237) and on 22 November 2012 a resolution on Cyber Security and Defence (P7_TA(2012)0457).

⁸⁸ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions On security of energy supply and international cooperation - "The EU Energy Policy: Engaging with Partners beyond Our Borders", COM(2011) 539 final, 07.09.2011.

⁸⁹ Council conclusions on strengthening the external dimension of the EU energy policy - *3127th TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS and ENERGY Council meeting - (Energy items) - Brussels, 24 November 2011*. The European Parliament adopted a resolution on 12 June 2012 on Engaging in energy policy cooperation with partners beyond our borders: A strategic approach to secure, sustainable and competitive energy supply (P7_TA(2012)0238).

On 5 December 2012 the fourth meeting of the **EU-US** Energy Council took place in Brussels (following up from the previous meeting in Washington in November 2011). The agenda was structured around the triple mandate of the Energy Council, namely energy security, energy policy and energy technology with a strong focus on the repercussions of the ‘US shale gas/oil revolution’, energy developments in the EU's neighbourhood and the energy policy and technology areas where the EU and the US could co-operate. The EU was clear about its energy interests and the broader global challenge of climate change. Among other issues, close co-operation with the US on Iran sanctions in 2012 was seen by both sides as a good example of co-ordinated energy diplomacy.

The EU's energy relationship with **Russia** continued to be marked by strong interdependence, as Russia remained the EU's main external energy supplier and the EU the biggest external consumer of Russian hydrocarbon resources. On 7 December 2012 the launching ceremony of the Southstream project took place and Gazprom finalised this year negotiations with Serbia, Hungary, Slovenia and Bulgaria. On October 2012 the second Nordstream gas line was inaugurated aiming to carry up to 55 billion cubic metres of Russian gas to European consumers annually. The European Commission decided to open formal proceedings to investigate whether Gazprom might be hindering competition in Central and Eastern European gas markets, in breach of EU antitrust rules. Finally, based on an EU mandate in February 2012 negotiations also started on agreements between EU-Russia and **Belarus** on the management of electricity networks in the Baltic region.

Ukraine joined the Energy Community on 1 February 2011 and since February 2012 has made certain progress on delayed energy sector reform in line with Energy Community Treaty, notably by taking steps toward unbundling Naftogas. The strengthening of energy transport links remained an important area in the EU strategy for Central Asia. In 2012, work advanced in the implementation of the September 2011 European Union mandate to negotiate a legally binding treaty between the EU, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan to build a Trans Caspian Pipeline System. A positive development in this direction was the signature by Turkey and Azerbaijan on 28 June 2012 of the Inter-Governmental Agreement for the construction of TANAP (trans-Anatolian pipeline) to take gas from the Eastern Turkish border to the Western Turkish border, providing for stable transit across the whole country.

In 2012, the EU improved bilateral relations with **Iraq**, signing on 11 May 2012 the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement and it now intends to strengthen cooperation particularly in the area of energy, helping Iraq to harness its enormous potential. Some projects are already underway, such as establishment of an EU-Iraq Energy Technology Centre.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE AND SECURITY

2012 saw continued implementation of the Council Conclusions of July 2011 calling for a strengthened EU climate diplomacy and prioritising three strands of action including addressing the nexus between climate change, natural resource scarcity and international security through preventive diplomacy and dedicated cooperation measures⁹⁰. Focus has been maintained on advocacy actions to continue to raise awareness on climate security challenges in bilateral and regional political dialogues, for instance with the US, as well through participation of EEAS and EU Military Staff in dedicated policy events. EEAS also engaged in the climate security work of the AFET/SEDE committee of the European Parliament. Continued support has been extended to climate security risk analysis and management in vulnerable regions and countries, including through support to applied research and dialogue at the regional level as, for instance, in the framework of the multi-disciplinary research project on “Climate Change, Hydro-Conflicts & Human Security - CLICO” dealing with climate and water security hot spots in the Sahel and the Mediterranean/Middle East. Furthermore, with support from the Instrument for Stability, a new 3 year regional programme was launched in 2012 with countries in Eastern Europe, the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia. The work is conducted through the ENVSEC (Environment and Security Initiative) consortium that brings together the OSCE and different UN agencies. Activities focus on local risk assessments, political outreach and capacity building in partnership with governments and civil society stakeholders of the region.

⁹⁰ The European Parliament adopted on 22 November 2012 a resolution on the role of the Common Security and Defence Policy in case of climate-driven crises and natural disasters (P7_TA(2012)0458).

8. WATER SECURITY

In 2012, water security acquired greater attention. A strategic discussion on water security took place in September 2012 in the Gymnich meeting (of the EU Foreign Ministers and the HR/VP) in Paphos (Cyprus). There was agreement that addressing the root causes, particularly climate change and demographic and economic development pressures, are at the heart of the international and European efforts to deal with the challenge of water. But there was also agreement that water is a major factor for tensions and conflicts and for international security and therefore the EU was urged to develop greater engagement on conflict prevention efforts on regional and transboundary water basins and to promote collaborative and sustainable water management arrangements.

To understand better the current engagement of EU and Member States on water security and as a stepping stone for developing a clearer foreign policy engagement, a water security mapping exercise was launched at the end of 2012 with the participation of the EU and Member states with the aim to obtain a snap-shot on "who does what". The mapping exercise is expected to be concluded in early 2013.

In September 2012, in the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York, the HR/VP together with Secretary of State Clinton and the United Nations chaired a Water Security event in which there was wide agreement about the importance of water for stability and development as well as for peace and security and agreed to step up joined efforts to address the challenges of water security.

On 25 June, the Council in the Strategy Review of the EU Central Asia Strategy for a new Partnership, which was adopted by the European Council in 2007, reaffirmed that Environment/Water are key areas for action in the EU engagement in the region. In 2012 the EU water security engagement in Central Asia was further advanced, including through the visit to the region by the HR/VP in November 2012.

C. CONTRIBUTION TO A MORE EFFECTIVE MULTILATERAL ORDER

The EU maintained its unequivocal support to multilateralism, as reaffirmed in the Lisbon Treaty, recognising that global challenges require global solutions. On the delivery of EU statements in International Organizations, the General Arrangements, adopted by the Council on 22 October 2011, were applied in practice throughout 2012, thus contributing to the delivery of such EU statements. A coherent EU appearance in multilateral forums remains a priority.

1. UNITED NATIONS

The EU continued its internal efforts to improve the practical application of the modalities of UN General Assembly resolution 65/276 on the participation of the EU in the work of the UN, adopted in May 2011. The EU made full use of the provisions of Resolution 65/276 and actively participated in the UN General Assembly, its committees, its working groups, in international meetings and conferences convened under the auspices of the General Assembly and in United Nations conferences. EU action contributed in further ensuring in practice the modalities and application of the Resolution.

In its priorities for its work at the UN⁹¹, the EU reaffirmed its overall aim of ensuring a strong and efficient UN at the apex of the international system.

⁹¹ The European Parliament adopted its recommendation to the Council of 13 June 2012 on the 67th session of the United Nations General Assembly on 13 June 2012 (A7-0186/2012). The Council adopted, the EU Priorities for the 67th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its meeting on 23 July 2012 (doc. 12851/12).

In the field of peace and security, the implementation of the Responsibility to Protect continued to be a major priority for the EU at the UN. The EU continued to work on the implementation of the concept in EU instruments and policies. In the field of crisis management, the EU and the UN remained engaged in systematic work on how the EU can further support UN peacekeeping, and the EU continued its support to UN peacebuilding, in particular the UN Peacebuilding Commission. The EU contributed to a positive outcome of the first ever UN General Assembly High-level meeting on the rule of law at the national and international levels in September 2012. On this occasion, the EU and its Member States made pledges in a wide range of areas aiming at strengthening the rule of law at the international and national level both within the EU as well as externally providing support to third countries. Most pledges should be implemented by 2014 or 2015.

Human Rights are covered in detail elsewhere in this report, and in this context, it is sufficient to recall that the promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law remained a silver thread throughout the EU's action at the UN throughout 2012. The EU successfully worked for support for the UNGA 67 resolution on death penalty as well as for the EU's country initiatives on human rights situations in the Third Committee and continued to engage strongly on key priorities such as freedom of religion or belief with third countries with the aim to reaffirm and develop further the *acquis* of EU-tabled UNGA and Human Rights Council (HRC) resolutions.

In the field of sustainable development, key priority issues were the follow-up to the Rio+20 outcomes and the preparation of the post-2015 development framework. It is crucial to ensure that these two processes are not separate tracks, but that they are brought together in a single, comprehensive framework. The EU worked to ensure a coherent and focused discourse across the UN bodies and fora with regard to initiatives related to governance, including global economic governance, follow-up to the Rio+20 outcome and post 2015 development framework. As part of the Rio+20 follow up the EU supported the adoption of the UNGA Resolution strengthening and upgrading the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). Combating climate change also remained the key objective for the EU at the UN.

The EU also promoted the reform of the UN System. It remained committed to ensuring that UN financial resources are managed efficiently and effectively, according to the principles of budgetary discipline and coherence and in conformity with the highest international standards, as well to the strengthening of field level effectiveness.

2. OSCE

The EU particularly supported the strengthening of the OSCE across the conflict cycle (from early warning to post-conflict rehabilitation), including through the work of the High Commissioner on National Minorities and OSCE field missions. The EU appreciated the OSCE efforts to revive and advance the 5+2 negotiations on the settlement of the conflict in R. of Moldova and recognised the progress towards a final Transnistria settlement in the talks. The EU also attached great importance to progress in the OSCE's Human Dimension, including the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the Representative on Freedom of the Media. Cooperation with the OSCE was developed further in the areas of media freedom, human rights, and addressing transnational threats, including on issues related to border management and security and cyber security.

The EU continues to value highly the role of the autonomous OSCE institutions in monitoring the implementation of commitments by the participating OSCE states and assisting them in improving their record in this respect. This includes election observation throughout the OSCE area. The EU contributed to reaching an agreement on the OSCE role in facilitating participation in the Serbian elections by residents of Kosovo.

The EU contributed actively to the dialogue on the future of European security, including through the discussions on the Helsinki+40 process, and the OSCE's work on strengthening and modernising arms control and confidence and security building measures.

However, despite major efforts by the Chairmanship and the constructive EU engagement it did not prove possible to achieve progress in all three dimensions of the OSCE during 2012. The EU deeply regretted the failure to adopt decisions in the human dimension during the Dublin Ministerial Council of December 2012 and expressed disappointment that it was not possible to agree on issues relevant to the Forum for Security Cooperation.

3. COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The EU pursued its cooperation with the Council of Europe (CoE) in line with the Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations, notably in the ENP area (with special focus on the Eastern Partnership and Southern Mediterranean dimension), and the Western Balkans, on democracy, rule of law and human rights. It continued to enjoy in particular good cooperation with the Council of Europe on justice and home affairs issues in the framework of the implementation of the EU “Stockholm Programme”, as well as in the rule of law and democracy areas, by means of a close cooperation with the Venice Commission on constitutional reform and electoral law issues. Effective cooperation has been established between the EU Special Representative for Human Rights and his Council of Europe counterparts, such as the Human Rights Commissioner. The € 4 M Facility for the Neighbourhood East launched in 2011 is addressing issues of justice reform, cybercrime and anti-corruption. Implementation of the Joint Programme “Strengthening democratic reforms in the Southern Neighbourhood” started at the beginning of 2012 in Morocco and Tunisia, followed by Jordan after contacts at political and technical levels led to agreements on cooperation. Negotiations for EU accession to the European Convention of Human Rights resumed on the basis of EU proposals, after a one-year pause necessitated by EU internal debate on the 2011 draft agreement reached at technical level.

D. PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW

2012 was a year of significant change for the EU's human rights policy. By adopting the EU Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy on 25 June, the EU reaffirmed that human rights are not only at the heart of its founding principles but are the silver thread running through its actions.

A EU Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy

The **Strategic Framework**⁹² provides that “the EU will promote human rights in all areas of its external action without exception”. It sets out principles, objectives and priorities, all designed to improve the effectiveness and consistency of EU's human rights policy as a whole over the next ten years⁹³. It provides an agreed basis for a truly collective effort, involving EU Member States and the EU Institutions alike. The Strategic Framework also anchors a commitment to genuine partnership with civil society.

The Strategic Framework was an agreed EU approach in response to new global challenges. The **Joint Communication** of December 2011 of the European Commission and the HR “*Human Rights and Democracy at the Heart of EU External Action – towards a more effective approach*”⁹⁴ spells out the need for coherence in mainstreaming human rights into external policies. The Communication affirms that on human rights and democracy, the EU must be principled when it comes to the norms and values it seeks to uphold, creative in the ways it does so, and absolutely determined to achieve concrete results.

⁹² Council Conclusions on Human Rights and Democracy; 3179th Foreign Affairs Council meeting, Luxembourg, 25 June 2012.

⁹³ The European Parliament adopted on 18 April 2012 a resolution on the Annual Report on Human Rights in the World and the European Union's policy on the matter, including implications for the EU's strategic human rights policy (P7_TA(2012)0126). On 13 December 2012 it adopted a resolution on the Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World 2011 and the European Union's policy on the matter (P7_TA(2012)0503) as well as a resolution on the review of the EU's human rights strategy (P7_TA(2012)0504).

⁹⁴ Joint Communication by the HR/VP and the EC “Human rights and democracy at the heart of the EU external action – towards a more effective approach; COM(2011) 886 final.

The Framework is complemented by an **Action Plan** which brings together 97 actions under 36 headings, covering the period until 31 December 2014. One of the commitments of the Action Plan is that the EU should present its performance in meeting its objectives in its annual report on human rights and democracy in the world.

Human rights throughout EU policy

As part of the new human rights package, the appointment of an **EU Special Representative on Human Rights** this year is designed to contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Framework and the Action Plan, and to enhance the effectiveness and visibility of EU policy⁹⁵. Mr Stavros Lambrinidis took office in September 2012 and has already begun to make his voice heard, particularly with regard to the EU's strategic partners, countries in our neighbourhood and countries in transition. He chaired human rights dialogues with Mexico and the African Union; worked to develop relations with Russia and Egypt; participated in high level events such as the first UN Forum on Business and Human Rights and the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting; and met with Human Rights Defenders, MEPs and Member State Representatives. He championed the EU's work in human rights areas such as gender, Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB), and Freedom of Expression.

2012 was a busy year for the EU in seeking to further embed human rights in its own actions, as foreseen in the Framework. All 140 delegations and offices, together with the 15 CSDP missions and operations, now have nominated **human rights and democracy focal points** in place. In 101 countries, liaison officers for human rights defenders have also been nominated. Human Rights focal points are also now in place in each geographic managing directorate, aiming at consistent mainstreaming of human rights in the work of the entire EEAS.

⁹⁵ The European Parliament adopted on 13 June 2012 a resolution on the EU Special Representative for Human Rights (P7_TA(2012)0250).

The Commission's **Inter-Service Group on Human Rights** saw renewed levels of activity in connection with work on the Strategic Framework and the Action Plan. It met on a number of occasions throughout 2012, bringing together the EEAS and Commission DGs, proving its value by ensuring coherent action between all the different services dealing with human rights issues.

An innovation in 2012 was the creation of a high level **Contact Group on human rights between the European Parliament, the EEAS and the Commission**. This too was set up in the context of work on the Strategic Framework and the Action Plan. Following its initial meeting on 16 April 2012, it showed its value as a forum for regular exchanges between MEPs and senior EEAS officials on human rights issues. As a result it has continued to meet since adoption of the Strategic Framework and the Action Plan, and it is now considered an important channel for communication.

This year witnessed an increased commitment on the part of the EU to form partnerships with **civil society**. Civil Society Organisations are systematically consulted on all programming and are now closely involved in policy making such as in the drafting of human rights guidelines and the elaboration of a Comprehensive Approach to UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

The EU's actions in this field are extremely important as 2012 saw a shrinking of the NGO space. Civil Society Organisations increasingly face severe and varied restrictions on freedom of expression and association placed on them by governments that seek to silence their voices and stifle their actions.

To assist their cause, the **EIDHR** (European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights) supported human rights defenders, civil society and other actors in over 100 countries in 2012. For the period of 2014-2020 the European Commission in its draft Regulation proposed to make € 1.4 billion available to bolster their efforts further, though negotiations continue as regards the exact budget and its scope.

October's **Commission Communication on ‘the roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe’s engagement with Civil Society in external relations’**⁹⁶ firmly commits the EU to provide more support to civil society organisations in partner countries, so that they can fully play their role in the delivery of social services, transparency, good governance advocacy, and contribute to policy making. A mapping exercise is currently on going so as to be able to increase the effect of EU actions.

October also saw the creation of the **European Endowment of Democracy (EED)** designed to support pro-democracy defenders struggling for democratic transition in the European neighbourhood and beyond.⁹⁷ It is designed to complement the already existing instruments including the EIDHR. The EED's added value will come from rapid and flexible support for actors who are not yet supported, or who are insufficiently covered or have difficulties in obtaining support from the existing EU instruments; the most obvious cases being civil society organisations, movements and individual activists acting in favour of a pluralistic multiparty system regardless of their size or formal status.

What matters most, however, is what goes on beyond the rhetoric and reports emanating from the Institutions; it is whether the EU's policies and plans are improving the human rights situation on the ground.

Promoting the universality of human rights

Throughout 2012, the EU reaffirmed its commitment to the promotion and protection of all human rights, whether civil and political, or economic, social and cultural. To this end, the 14th Annual **EU NGO Forum** on Human Rights held in December, brought together over 200 committed human rights defenders, activists and policy makers determined to turn common interests into common action. The Forum examined the role of regional mechanisms in promoting universality, with active participation from representatives from international and regional human rights mechanisms from all over the world.

⁹⁶ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2012:0492:FIN:EN:PDF>

⁹⁷ The European Parliament adopted on 29 March 2012 a resolution to the Council on the modalities for the possible establishment of a European Endowment for Democracy (P7_TA(2012)0113).

The EU continued to work at the UN level to promote the universality of human rights. It encouraged the ratification of key international human rights treaties and continued to stress the need to integrate human rights, governance, democracy, rule of law into the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDG) framework.

Acknowledging the universal nature of human rights is important to deal with challenges which do not respect national borders. 2012 was characterised by the evolution of new, and the worsening of existing, **human rights crises** worldwide, be it the spread of repressive laws through certain countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, or the sustained security crisis in the Sahel. The situation in Mali deteriorated sharply in 2012 when the coup d'état and the activities of extremist armed groups led to gross human rights abuses. The entire region was affected with political turmoil, terrorist activity, drug trafficking and arms smuggling spilling over borders and threatening peace and security.

Faced with restrictions on the space for Human Rights defenders and NGOs, as well as continuing gender inequality, the EU deployed its full range of instruments in support of people in need.

Human rights in all EU external policies

The EU promoted human rights in all areas of its external action in 2012 without exception. During 2012, the EU continued to ensure that the human rights clauses were inserted in political framework agreements, with industrialised and non-industrialised countries alike, and that appropriate linkages were made with free trade agreements. This remained the case, even where it was not easy to reach agreement with the partner country. Such clauses were inserted in 2012 in agreements with Iraq, Vietnam, Central America and the Philippines⁹⁸.

⁹⁸ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on 14 June 2012 on the cases of impunity in the Philippines (P7_TA(2012)0264).

Under the **Common Security and Defence Policy**, pre-deployment training modules on human rights, child protection and gender were further developed in cooperation with training institutes from EU member states and with civil society and will be fully in use in 2013.

Implementing EU priorities on human rights

Throughout 2012, the EU continued to reaffirm its opposition to the **death penalty** and used all diplomatic tools at its disposal to advance the cause of worldwide abolition. The movement towards abolition is one of the top priorities identified in the Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy.

To mark the World/Europe Day against the Death Penalty on 10 October, the EU and the Council of Europe issued a joint statement reaffirming their opposition to the use of capital punishment in all circumstances, and their commitment to the abolition of the death penalty worldwide. EU Delegations around the world commemorated the occasion by organising numerous seminars, press conferences, exhibitions and events.

The EU continued to raise its opposition to the death penalty in all relevant forums, in particular at the UN, the OSCE and the Council of Europe. Through extensive lobbying and outreach, the EU together with the Member States actively participated in the cross-regional alliance promoting UN General Assembly Resolution 67/206 (21 December 2012) reaffirming the call for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty. The resolution was adopted with 111 votes in favour, 41 against and 34 abstentions, an unprecedented number compared to similar resolutions in 2007, 2008 and 2010.

Efforts continued on creating new **Human Rights Guidelines**, as well as developing the existing ones. These are practical tools designed to help EU representations in the field better advance human rights policy. Work began on the FoRB guidelines and transforming the LGBTI⁹⁹ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex) toolkit into guidelines; the Guidelines to EU Policy towards third countries on torture and other cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment were also revised. In a similar vein, the Guidance Note on Disability and Development was also updated in 2012.

Children occupied a prominent position in the EU human rights priority list. Numerous child focused projects were financed in more than 50 countries through the Investing in People Programme and the EIDHR. Among these, the EU launched the implementation of 15 projects against child labour, worth approximately € 11.1 million.

2012 saw the EU conducting a global lobbying campaign to promote the ratification of the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the rights of the child and the ILO (International Labour Organisation) Convention 182 on the worst forms of child labour. A further 18 ratifications of the various instruments were secured.

⁹⁹ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on 5 July 2012 on violence against lesbian women and the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons in Africa (P7_TA(2012)0299).

Gender¹⁰⁰ issues were prominent on the 2012 agenda. The EU continued to promote women's rights actively through human rights dialogues and consultations with partners. The Second Implementation Report on the EU Plan of Action on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development was prepared and adopted in November 2012. The report includes concrete examples of mainstreaming of gender in the EU's geographical instruments. Also on the subject of empowerment, in September, the EU and 12 co-founding members committed to the Equal Futures Partnership aiming to achieve women's political participation and economic empowerment as priorities.

The EU continued to show leadership in the implementation of its 'Comprehensive Approach' to the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 on women, peace and security. It was active on the issue of women, peace and security in more than 70 countries this year with its support amounting to approximately € 200 million for the development and the implementation of national action plans, funding for non-governmental organisations, and training for governmental agencies¹⁰¹.

The EU adopted a human rights-centred and gender-specific approach in its EU **Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012-2016**, adopted in June 2012. The Strategy pursues a comprehensive approach focusing on prevention of trafficking, prosecution of criminals, protection of victims and partnerships with the various stakeholders, including civil society.

¹⁰⁰ The annual meeting of CSDP Human Rights and Gender Advisors took place on 15 June 2012 in Brussels. Advisors from almost all missions and operations presented their work and discussed three themes in particular: training and resources, working with civil society and internal/organisational issues including relations with Headquarters. All CSDP civilian mission planning documents include clear references to HR/gender, peace and security issues; 50% of mandates include the same clear references and 60% of missions report on this; 60% of CSDP civilian missions have designated gender advisors or focal points particularly dealing with gender aspects of crisis management.

¹⁰¹ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on 2 February 2012 on women's situation in war (P7_TA(2012)0028).

As regards **freedom of expression online and offline**¹⁰², the EU repeatedly condemned restrictions on freedom of expression and access to the Internet, as well as the arrest of bloggers, in the framework of its bilateral relations with third countries (Iran, Syria, China, Egypt, Libya, Vietnam) and in multilateral forums. In June, the EU played a key role in ensuring the unanimous adoption by the Human Rights Council of the first resolution to protect freedom of speech on the internet which was spearheaded by Sweden.¹⁰³ Through its "No Disconnect Strategy", the EU continued to provide ongoing support to Internet users, bloggers and cyber-activists living under authoritarian regimes.

Education

Education was one of the key horizontal issues that featured at the Gymnich meeting (Paphos, 7-8 September 2012), The HR/VP introduced education as a horizontal issue of key importance that should be reflected in our comprehensive approach to foreign policy. Soft power tool potential to transform societies was emphasised as something which should be at the centre of our foreign policy. This particularly applies to conflict prevention, interventions in conflict areas as well as countries undergoing transitions. Concern was expressed at the low participation rate of women and young girls in the education system and the need to focus resources on education infrastructure was underlined.

Working with bilateral partners

Throughout 2012, the EU sought to have impact on the ground through dialogue and tailor made approaches.

¹⁰² The European Parliament adopted a resolution on 11 December 2012 on a Digital Freedom Strategy in EU Foreign Policy (P7_TA(2012)0470).

¹⁰³ A/HRC/20/L.13 The promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet: <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/G12/147/10/PDF/G1214710.pdf?OpenElement>

30 dedicated **human rights dialogues** and consultations were held during the year, where issues of concern were raised with partner countries. Seminars with civil society also took place in Brazil, Georgia, Indonesia and Mexico in parallel with the human rights dialogues. Numerous statements and declarations were delivered by the HR/VP and the EEAS during 2012 with behind-the-scenes diplomatic efforts being employed in many other instances.

140 **human rights country strategies** were received from the EU Delegations and circulated to Member States and the first 48 strategies were endorsed by the Council in November. While it must be acknowledged that the validation process has proven to be lengthy, all strategies have been prepared by EU Heads of Mission and are already being implemented, with the first implementation reports due in early 2013 based on the assessment of situation on the ground.

Working through multilateral institutions

There is no better forum than the **United Nations** to ensure that universal human rights are recognised as just that – applying to every woman, man and child, wherever they may live.

The EU maintained its level of engagement in the UN human rights forums in 2012. The three **Human Rights Council** Sessions of the year were very successful from the EU's perspective¹⁰⁴. The EU tabled resolutions on Syria, Myanmar/Burma, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (with Japan) and Belarus together with thematic resolutions on freedom of religion and belief and rights of the child (with GRULAC, the Latin American and Caribbean group). It actively supported many more, including resolutions on freedom of expression, Sri Lanka, Iran, Eritrea, Cote d'Ivoire and Somalia. The EU initiated the creation of a new country mandate and a Special Rapporteur for Belarus and supported the new Special Rapporteur for Eritrea. The EU, supported by member States, lent full support to the work of the Commission of Inquiry on Syria and has secured the necessary mandate extensions as well as a strong call for ensuring accountability and preventing impunity. Women's human rights dominated among thematic issues and during the 20th session, the EU co-organised with Brazil a well-attended side-event on women human rights defenders.

¹⁰⁴ The European Parliament adopted on 16 February 2012 a resolution on Parliament's position on the 19th Session of the UN Human Rights Council (P7_TA(2012)0058).

During the 67th Session of the **General Assembly in New York**, all EU initiatives were approved with strong support. The cross-regional initiation against the death penalty was adopted with the largest support to date, both in terms of votes as well as co-sponsorship affirming the world-wide trend towards abolition. Following a good process with the country concerned, consensus was achieved on a resolution on Myanmar/Burma which acknowledges progress but also lists remaining areas of human rights concerns for future work. The text on DPRK was adopted without a vote and an initiative on Syria, introduced by a broad coalition of countries under Arab lead, including some EU Member States, achieved record support. A comprehensive resolution on human rights in Iran was presented with EU support and adopted with a good result. The EU's yearly resolution on freedom of religion or belief was again adopted by consensus. The session also adopted a resolution on the rights of the child with a focus on indigenous children and approved the first ever UNGA resolution calling for an end to the harmful practice of female genital mutilation - an African initiative the EU supported strongly – as well as texts calling for the elimination of all forms of violence against women and the end of extra-judicial executions.

This year the EU continued to work closely with **regional partners** around the globe, such as the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) the African Union as well as the League of Arab States and engaged with the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). For the first time, EU Priorities for cooperation with the Council of Europe in 2012-13 were adopted, with a link to the Council of Europe biennial Programme of Activities. The EU and CoE have implemented an increasing number of joint programmes within the fields of rule of law, democracy and human rights, reaching in 2012 the figure of € 101 million (co-financed at an average level of 89% by the EU).

The EU working together

2012 was marked by the intensification of cooperation between the EU Institutions.

The Nobel Peace Prize was collected on Human Rights Day, 10 December, by Presidents Van Rompuy, Barroso and Schulz. It was decided to use the funds received under the Nobel Prize to fund projects providing education to children affected by armed conflict.

The prize is a great recognition of past achievements, but also focuses the spotlight on the need for all Europeans – EU Institutions, Member States and 500 million citizens – to work together and redouble our efforts to promote and protect human rights not just within our borders, but worldwide.

Democracy and Rule of Law

Democracy and the rule of law form an integral part of the EU's human rights policy. In 2012, the EU continued to vigorously support electoral processes around the globe by sending **Election Observation Missions** (EOMs) and **Electoral Expert Missions** (EEMs) as well as providing electoral assistance, and support for domestic observers. In total, the EU deployed 13 EOMs and EEMs during the course of 2012. These missions contributed to the support to democracy in the EU's neighbourhood (EOM in Algeria, Electoral Assessment Team in Libya, and EEM in Egypt), witnessed the transfer of power to the opposition (EOM and EEM in Senegal, EEM in Mexico), and the consolidation of democracy in fragile states (EOM to Timor-Leste and Sierra Leone).

Efforts were stepped up to ensure a systematic follow up to recommendations from the EU's election missions. All Council geographical working groups were involved, and instructions were sent to all EU Delegations. In December, as part of these efforts, the EU deployed a first Electoral Follow-Up Mission to Malawi with the task of studying the progress made in electoral reforms and the impact of EU EOM recommendations.

The momentous breakthrough for democracy and human rights during 2011, especially in the Southern Neighbourhood, was followed in 2012 by much more sobering experiences and challenges, underlining that it takes more than one election for deep democracy to take hold.

The turbulent nature of the political process in Egypt demonstrates the fragility of transition and how much consolidation is still required. The link between the exercise of political and civil rights and the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights was clearly shown - as it plays out in political systems that are (or are not) able to deliver on the well-being of citizens including women and members of minorities.

The EU Task Forces with Tunisia (2011), Jordan (2012) and Egypt (2012) were organised to give much needed political and economic support to these countries in their democratic transitions. In this way, the EU showed its readiness to be a true partner, but only where respect for human rights and democratic principles is ensured.

During the year, the EU sought to use all its instruments, from political dialogue, via development cooperation to sanctions in the pursuit of the full enjoyment of human rights and democracy. Work continued on more coherent approaches to democracy support as a follow up to the December 2009 Council Conclusions.¹⁰⁵ A consolidated joint report on the implementation of the democracy support action plans in nine pilot countries was adopted in October. The lessons learned are designed to inform the launch of a second generation of countries in early 2013.

Democracy and the rule of law are necessarily intertwined with **development**. In 2012, the EU pushed ahead with its EU policy on future development cooperation, the Agenda for Change¹⁰⁶, which stresses the need to support a **human rights based approach to development** and to ensure that development processes are inclusive. The “Budget Support Guidelines”¹⁰⁷ have also set human rights, governance and democracy as a core focus of the EU development cooperation.

¹⁰⁵ Council Conclusions on Democracy Support in the EU’s External Relations – Towards Increased Coherence and Effectiveness (doc. [16081/09](#))

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/09/st16/st16081.en09.pdf>

Council Conclusions on Democracy Support in the EU’s External Relations – Towards Increased Coherence and Effectiveness (doc. [16081/0916081/09](#))

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/09/st16/st16081.en09.pdf>

¹⁰⁶ Council Conclusions on Increasing the Impact of EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change” (3166th Foreign Affairs Council Meeting, Brussels, 14 May 2012).

¹⁰⁷ Council Conclusions “The Future Approach to EU Budget Support to Third Countries”; 3166th Foreign Affairs Council Meeting, Brussels, 14 May 2012.

On 22 and 23 November 2012 a "Rule of Law seminar for CSDP mission experts" was held in Brussels. It was the first time that CPCC (Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability) organised such an event around the theme of rule of law. The seminar addressed the problems that CPCC faces in its ten missions in Europe, Africa, Near and Middle East, in which it contributes to further developing the rule of law. CPCC provided a forum to exchange views, to discuss and to create a network of stakeholders and experts for follow-up actions in this field¹⁰⁸.

In 2012, the EU continued to sustain and enhance its engagement to reinforce the rule of law through its CSDP missions, including in particular EULEX Kosovo, EUPOL Afghanistan, EUJUST Lex Iraq and EUPOL COPPS (occupied Palestinian territory - oPt).

E. MORE EFFECTIVE, CAPABLE AND COHERENT CRISIS MANAGEMENT THROUGH CSDP

In 2012, three new civilian missions were launched: EUCAP NESTOR to support regional maritime capacity building in the Horn of Africa and Western Indian Ocean states; EUAVSEC South Sudan to help strengthen security at Juba International Airport and EUCAP Sahel Niger to improve the capacities of Niger Security Forces to fight terrorism and organised crime. Furthermore, planning for CSDP action in Mali and Libya was also underway towards the end of 2012.

¹⁰⁸ The seminar gathered for two days almost 60 people representing five different missions (EUJUSTLEX IRAQ, EULEX KOSOVO, EUPOL AFGHANISTAN, EUPOL CONGO, EUPOLCOPPS), other EU institutions, the UN, Member States, NGOs, training centres and researchers.

On 14 December 2012 Heads of State and Government sent a strong signal in favour of strengthening the EU's capacity to act as a security provider, with the adoption of procedural conclusions on CSDP to prepare the European Council discussion on security and defence CSDP scheduled in December 2013. With a view to this debate, the European Council - reiterating its commitment to enhance CSDP as an essential element of the EU's comprehensive approach - invited the HR (through the EEAS and the EDA) as well as the Commission to report by September 2013 on their respective proposals and actions to strengthen CSDP and improve the availability of civilian and military capabilities. In that regard the European Council identified three priorities: (i) increase the effectiveness, visibility and impact of CSDP; (ii) enhance the development of defence capabilities; (iii) strengthen Europe's defence industry.¹⁰⁹

1. MORE CAPABLE

1.1. Concepts for CSDP activities

The development of EU concepts continued to be a timely and important effort as the need for EU capability development grew in 2012 not least due to the launch of three new missions. Concepts are essential tools serving as guidelines and manuals for CSDP action in various areas. Reviewing old concepts and developing new ones based on the lessons learned from the EU's own crisis-management missions as well as experiences of other international actors, contribute to improved and speedier planning of new missions and operations. Lessons, in turn, are derived mainly from the EU's own experiences, and they are validated and implemented through new or updated concepts. Some of the most important conceptual work include the launching of the review and revision of the concept for "ESDP Border Missions in the framework of Civilian Crisis Management" and the development of a "Concept for Maritime Security Operations"¹¹⁰.

¹⁰⁹ The European Parliament adopted on 22 November 2012 a resolution on the implementation of the Common Security and Defence Policy (P7_TA(2012)0455). It also adopted on 22 November 2012 a resolution on the EU's mutual defence and solidarity clauses: political and operational dimensions (P7_TA(2012)0456).

¹¹⁰ The European Parliament adopted on 10 May 2012 a resolution on maritime piracy (P7_TA(2012)0203).

1.2. Civilian and military capabilities

CIVILIAN CAPABILITIES

In 2012, important steps have been taken to further develop the civilian capabilities for CSDP. However, as the EU continues to deploy more diverse and complex missions, often in hostile environments and requiring a wide range of expertise, further work remains necessary.

In reply to a Council tasking of December 2011, EEAS established a Multi-annual Civilian Capability Development Plan, building on the work conducted under the two Civilian Headline Goals, to establish a lasting framework for CSDP civilian capability development by harnessing the different work strands for development of civilian capabilities and structure a sequence of reporting and political guidance.¹¹¹

In September 2012, a fourth high-level seminar on facilitating the deployment of civilian personnel to CSDP missions was held¹¹² and focused on overcoming shortfalls in civilian CSDP missions in the area of rule of law. Civilian capabilities were also given high political visibility in 2012 through discussion by Security Policy Directors. This practice will continue throughout 2013.

Throughout 2012, much progress has been made towards finalization of the Goalkeeper software environment, aimed at helping Member States' Authorities establish their rosters of civilian personnel and exploit training opportunities offered across Europe¹¹³, in order to facilitate the deployment of civilian capabilities for CSDP missions.

¹¹¹ The Council tasking of December 2011 is contained in the CSDP - Council Conclusions (doc. 17991/11). On the work conducted under the two Civilian Headline Goals, see: Final Report on the Civilian Headline Goal 2008 (doc. 14807/07) and Final Report on the Civilian Headline Goal 2010 (doc. 16817/10).

¹¹² The four seminars (June 2009, July 2010, July 2011, September 2012) took place in Brussels and were aimed at high-level representatives of all national Ministries and Services responsible for the actual secondment of personnel to civilian CSDP missions. The respective seminar reports are at doc. 12018/09 (2009 seminar), doc. 14201/10 (2010 seminar), doc. 16109/11 (2011 seminar) and doc. 15337/12 (2012 seminar). Member States' progress in facilitating the deployment of civilian personnel to CSDP missions was reported to the Council in November 2009 and December 2010 (see docs. 15842/09 and 16989/10, respectively). A third progress report is due to be released in early 2013.

¹¹³ The latest Goalkeeper progress report is at doc.12312/12. A fourth Goalkeeper progress report is expected to be released in April 2013.

Work is ongoing in the framework of strengthening ties between CSDP and Freedom, Security and Justice (FSJ) to raise awareness in the internal security community of the personnel needs of civilian missions, through a number of actions with the engagement of Member States, EU internal security agencies, and EU institutions.

Also, at the end of 2012 the rapid deployment of future CSDP missions was greatly enhanced by the establishment of a CSDP warehouse, whose main objective will be to quickly supply missions with equipment essential for their rapid deployment and operability.

Finally, in Autumn 2012 the procurement rules applicable to missions operating in crisis countries have been relaxed by the Commission (in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Financial Regulation): this has ensured that CSDP missions can fulfil their needs in terms of equipment and services more easily.

MILITARY CAPABILITIES

In its November Conclusions the Council reiterated its call to retain and further develop military capabilities for sustaining and enhancing CSDP – which underpin the EU's ability to act as a security provider, in the context of a wider comprehensive approach. Cyprus organized various events on military capabilities bringing the topic to the forefront of discussions at all levels in the second part of 2012.

Following the 2011 update of the EDA Capability Development Plan (CDP), a new review is under preparation for 2014, addressing both its substance and structure.

The achievements in EU Military Capability Development conducted under the guidance of the European Military Committee were presented in a Single Progress Report on the Development of EU Military Capabilities (SPR).¹¹⁴ Among the major achievements reported were the area of Pooling & Sharing (with a focus on Training and Education), Cyber Defence, military involvement in the Single European Sky, concepts development, and logistic support for CSDP operations. Main current shortfalls reported are related to the reduced level of support to the EU Maritime and Air Rapid Response mechanisms, a delay in the short-term development of the EU Operations Wide Area Network, and the persisting vacancies in the EU Battlegroups' roster that might potentially reduce the EU military rapid response capability.

Regarding the review of shortfalls, in its November Conclusions the Council emphasised the need to focus military capability development on filling gaps and meeting new requirements for CSDP. It invited the EUMC to review in 2013 the military capability shortfalls and priorities, as input to the Capability Development Plan of the European Defence Agency (EDA) that aims at informing national decisions on defence investments for capability development.

Pooling and sharing

The twin-track approach of developing collaborative projects while making European defence cooperation more systematic and sustainable in the long run has continued to be the basis for EU efforts. In that regard, the EDA Steering Board adopted the voluntary "Code of Conduct on Pooling and Sharing" comprising concrete actions to mainstream cooperation in national decision-making processes. Progress was also made on the Pooling and Sharing projects supported by EDA. Indeed, significant steps were taken during the course of 2012, notably in the areas of Air-to-Air Refuelling (signature of a Letter of Intent on the "Implementation a European Strategic Multi-Role Tanker Transport Initiative), Helicopter Training (signature of a Technical Arrangement about the Helicopter exercise programme), Counter Improvised Explosive Devices training, Medical Field Hospitals, Maritime Surveillance, Satellite Communications (Procurement Cell), and Diplomatic Clearance (signature of a Programme Arrangement concerning Diplomatic Clearances for participants' military transport aircraft in their respective national airspace or territory).

¹¹⁴ Single Progress Report on the Development of EU Military Capabilities from November 2011 to October 2012 (doc 15476/12, dated 25 October 2012).

The preparatory work of the Commission Task Force on Defence Industry and Market was welcomed by the Council in its November Conclusions, encouraging the European Commission and the EDA to work closely with Member States towards a more competitive and transparent defence market in Europe and a stronger European defence industry, and to stimulate synergies in dual use research and technology (including in areas such as Unmanned Aerial Systems, Cyber, Maritime Security, Space and Energy and Environment).

1.3. Lessons learned and best practices in civilian and military CSDP

The system for learning lessons across civilian and military dimensions of CSDP is being reinforced. On 30 November, EEAS presented a package of documents entitled "Lessons learned: improving the product". It was welcomed by Member States. Among the documents was a draft concept for lessons and best practices in civilian CSDP, which puts increasing emphasis on ensuring concrete implementation of lessons and the transformation of experience into best practices, to provide positive models.

Also part of "improving the product" were two common civilian/military reports: the first ever annual common civilian-military lessons and best practices report and a thematic lessons report on civilian-military CSDP support to Security Sector Reform (SSR). SSR is one of the key areas of intervention by the EU in support of international peace and security. The reports were presented by CMPD and welcomed by PSC. A report was also presented on lessons for CSDP from the EC-funded police training programme EUPFT 2008-2010. The recommendations from these reports will guide work on lessons and best practices over 2013.

A shared civilian and military lessons and best practices database in CSDP was also set up in 2012 to facilitate the sharing of lessons knowledge, experience and best practices between crisis management practitioners. This all-important exercise involves all stakeholders (Council, EEAS, Commission departments): the debate about lessons learnt has been carried over in 2013 when a roadmap on factual improvements will be presented by the EEAS and the Commission to the Council for approval.

1.4. Training and exercises

Considerable efforts were carried out in 2012 both at the EU and Member State levels in order to meet the overall objectives and improve the CSDP training across all categories of personnel working on CSDP matters or deploying to CSDP missions and operations.

The EEAS organised in May 2012 for the first time a meeting bringing together Heads of Training units and training experts from CSDP Missions and Operations, from EU institutions and the main training providers in the crisis management area. The event facilitated networking among these three main groups of stakeholders, including discussion of best practices in in-mission training activities – including their link with pre-deployment training – and increasing awareness of training support instruments available at the EU level. This meeting was highly attended and much appreciated by participants. It will become an annual event.

Important training activities addressed inter alia issues such as preparation of potential future senior mission leaders for CSDP missions and operations, strategic mission planning and mainstreaming gender issues into CSDP operational activities.

The further development of the Comprehensive Approach was enhanced by the conduct of three strategic focused Operational Planning Courses by the EUMS with attendance drawn from across the EU institutions. The EUMS and the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) successfully conducted their first jointly run Orientation Course. The ESDC also collaborated closely with the EU Police College (CEPOL) and the Commission project "Europe's New Training Initiative for Civilian Crisis Management", which organises inter alia pre-deployment training for several civilian CSDP missions.

A proposal to strengthen the ESDC and to link it more closely with the EEAS was prepared by the EEAS and the Commission in 2012.

Reflecting the post Lisbon environment, the EEAS conducted, for the first time, a crisis management exercise: "Multi Layer 2012", which exercised all three layers of decision making¹¹⁵ in a CSDP response to a fictional crisis. Further value was derived from this exercise by the testing of elements of the proposed new crisis management procedures and the EEAS Crisis Response System. Lessons from this exercise will inform the review and the revision of the EU Exercise Policy and Concept to be completed in 2013.

2. MORE EFFECTIVE

2.1. Cooperation with partners in crisis management

PARTNER COUNTRIES

Efforts were intensified to further pursue substantial dialogue and cooperation with third countries, including strategic partners, and to develop relations with new partners. A set of recommendations has been approved by the Member States to improve and deepen co-operation with partners on CSDP, which will need further follow-up. The EU pursued its dialogue with the non-EU European NATO members, other countries which are candidates for accession to the EU, as well as with several other important partners, including the US, Canada, China, Japan, Russia and Ukraine, and with the EU neighbours to the East and the South.

During 2012, 14 countries (Albania, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Iceland, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Norway, New Zealand, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the US) participated in 9 of the CSDP missions and operations (EUFOR ALTHEA, EUJUST LEX Iraq, EULEX Kosovo, EUPM BiH (mandate ended on 30 June 2012) , EUPOL COPPS, EUPOL Afghanistan, EUNAVFOR ATALANTA, EUTM SOMALIA, EUSEC RD Congo). Fruitful interaction with several other partners continued in the context of anti-piracy activities.

¹¹⁵ The three levels of decision making that took part in the exercise were: the Political Strategic - the Military Strategic and Operational levels.

In the course of 2012, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, New Zealand and Republic of Moldova concluded with the EU agreements in order to establish a framework for their participation in EU crisis management operations ("Framework Participation Agreements"). FPA negotiations with Georgia and the Republic of Korea have been launched.

2.2. International organisations

EU-NATO

In 2012, in the framework of the close EU-NATO cooperation in crisis management in the "Berlin Plus" arrangements for the CSDP operation EUFOR Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to work smoothly and efficiently.

When it appeared that the planning on Mali could lead to the launch of a new EU military operation, full transparency was ensured with non-EU European Allies, both bilaterally and in the agreed formats.

The EEAS participated in the NATO crisis management exercise CMX 12 as an observer.

In line with the mandate given by the European Council of September 2010, the implementation of the concrete proposals forwarded to the NATO Secretary General in 2011 , continued in 2012 with:

- Staff-to-staff contacts have now developed in many areas, of crisis management- New formats of staff-to-staff meetings at high level have contributed to enhance transparency and complementarities on topics of common interest, not least as regards areas where both organisations operate side by side.
- Briefings on topics like cyber defence or counter-terrorism by EU staff to NATO working parties have been reciprocated by briefings on the same topics by NATO Staff to EU working parties; this has allowed exchanges of views which was welcomed by Member States and nations in both organisations.
- Furthermore, regarding defence capabilities, productive cooperation has continued between the EU and NATO staffs on Pooling and Sharing and Smart Defence projects in order to ensure coherence, mutual reinforcement and non-duplication.

EU-UN

On 3 July 2012 the PSC endorsed the "Plan of Action to Enhance EU CSDP Support to UN Peacekeeping". In autumn 2012 the EU started the implementation of the Plan of Action. The focus in the first phase was directed at those actions which are a top priority for the UN as well as the EU, and which have a relatively short time frame for their implementation.

The 12th meeting of the EU-UN Steering Committee on Crisis Management took place in Brussels on 2 February 2012. It was the first Steering Committee since the creation of EEAS, and also the first meeting after a two-year pause. The agenda touched upon African crises such as South Sudan; DRC and Somalia, but also discussed new arrangements for the functioning of the Steering Committee and Civilian Capabilities. A further meeting was held on 26 November in New York and focused again on developments in Africa: Mali, Somalia and the DRC. Planning and human rights in peacekeeping/crisis management were also discussed.

A Joint Declaration on a Partnership for combating maritime piracy and armed robbery in the Western Indian Ocean was signed in May 2012 by the HR/VP and the Secretary General of IMO (International Maritime Organization).

Furthermore, a 'Capacity Building Coordination Group' has been created in the context of the Contact Group on Piracy off the coast of Somalia bringing together the major organisations responsible for the implementation of the vast majority of the capacity building activities in the Western Indian Ocean. Their work is facilitated by a commonly accessible international database listing all relevant capacity building activities in this region.

2.3. EU Satellite Centre (EUSC)

The year 2012 continued the trend of an increasing role of the EU Satellite Centre (EUSC) in CSDP. By providing analysis of satellite imagery in countries and regions in conflict, SATCEN supports the decision making process for the launch and conduct of CSDP missions and operations. Satellite imagery analysis on the situation in Syria contributed to shaping the EU position. The monitoring of possible proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the development of missile capabilities supported the political negotiation with Iran.

The ongoing crises in North Africa and the Middle East have contributed to the increase in tasks to the Centre. In total the SATCEN worked on 84 new tasks, resulting in more than 800¹¹⁶ products. The EEAS and also EU Member States benefit from this support.

In 2012, EUSC demonstrated its capability to support in near real-time a UN operation on the ground in Syria, UNSMIS. The monitoring of the crisis in Syria constituted the greatest single workload for the Centre, resulting in over 300 products. During this period of time the EUSC worked in crisis mode (extended working hours, shift work and opening during weekends).

The EUSC capability is increasingly well-recognized and the number of demands from international organisations (UN, AU, NATO) is growing steadily. The EUSC represents a unique capability for the EU as a security provider that can support missions or operations of EU partners in a timely manner.

¹¹⁶ 2011: EUSC delivered around 600 products.

On the 14th September 2012, the HR/VP presented a report to the Council on the functioning of the European Union Satellite Centre. The report emphasises that the Centre has clearly demonstrated the validity and quality of its work. However, it also notes that recent crises have strained the operational capacities of the Centre in terms of resources, both human and financial.

3. MORE COHERENT Civil-Military Synergies

The promotion of synergies in developing civilian and military capabilities amongst Member States is intended to build a more comprehensive EU operational capability in conflict prevention and crisis management. This work encompasses a wide range of actions leading to, inter alia, the facilitation of dual use of civilian or military capabilities, new training packages for personnel deploying to theatres of operations, synergies in logistical support, better interoperability between civil and military elements, better sharing of tools and compilation of lessons learned from operations, and more coherent reporting on capability development.

In July 2012 a report on the outcomes of those work plan actions was submitted to PSC for consideration.¹¹⁷ Work is ongoing to prioritise the actions and to enhance the effectiveness of the process.

¹¹⁷ "Promoting Synergies between the EU Civil and Military Capability Development - Progress report on the outcomes of the work plan until the end of first semester 2012" (doc 12586/12, dated 16 July 2012).

PART II: 2012 CFSP REPORT FORWARD LOOK

Supporting longer-term democratic change in the Southern Neighbourhood will continue to be a key goal for EU external action, building on the implementation of the Partnership for Democracy and Shared Prosperity, agreed in 2011, and the more-for-more approach which has been mainstreamed into the European Neighbourhood Policy. The so-called Task Force approach bringing together the EU, governments of the region, IFIs and a vast array of local non-state stakeholders and private sector representatives will be further developed. Transitions are complex processes. The EU should maintain and where necessary step up its engagement in the process, including in critical moments and over the long term.

Recent worrying developments, especially in Egypt, underscore challenges ahead in the region, which require considerable political attention. The on-going, rather complex, transitions in Tunisia and Libya will also require further engagement. Transition support will need to take into consideration a differentiated approach, partners' objective needs, local cultural traditions and values, but must also be firmly rooted in incentivising key EU values, e.g. democracy, human rights and inclusiveness.

Syria will remain a major challenge for the foreseeable future. The EU is set to continue its engagement, working closely with its international partners, particularly the League of Arab States and the United Nations, seeking ways to help in launching a political process toward an end of the crisis, and committed to continue assisting the victims of the humanitarian crisis and neighbouring countries of Syria.

The need for progress on the Middle East Peace Process remains a matter of urgency, also against the backdrop of increasing difficulties to safeguard the two-state solution and the growing radicalisation in the region, following the changes started by the 2011 Arab Spring. As a Member of the MEPP Quartet, the EU will continue to push actively for getting the parties back to the negotiating table, with the aim of reaching a sustainable settlement based on two states living together in peace and security. It is worth further exploring with partners possibilities to implement the Arab Peace Initiative. Regional contacts will be particularly important. The ending of an escalation of tensions in September 2012 demonstrated the constructive role Egypt can play in defusing dangerous regional situations. Dialogue with Cairo needs to be sustained at an intensive level to this end.

Continued EU engagement in the Eastern neighbourhood will remain crucial, including through the Eastern Partnership. The key event of 2013 will be the Vilnius Eastern Partnership Summit in November. The EU will monitor Ukraine's progress towards meeting conditions outlined by the Foreign Affairs Council in December 2012 for the signing of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement/Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area and its entry into force, including the possibility of provisional application of parts of the Agreement. Furthermore, the EU will seek to foster a process of political association and economic integration with the most advanced Eastern European countries, possibly including through initialling AA/DCFTAs with the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia by the time of the Vilnius Summit. On protracted conflicts, the EU will work closely with the Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship in order to further progress towards a sustainable settlement to the Transnistrian conflict, and in the context of the Geneva talks on the conflicts in Georgia as well as in the context of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict resolution efforts.

Attention will continue to be devoted to ensuring coherence between the multilateral track of the EaP and regional cooperation initiatives (e.g. Black Sea Synergy).

The Western Balkans will continue to be a priority, and in particular the implementation of the HR/VP-brokered Serbia-Kosovo agreement, on which the EU has invested considerable efforts and resources. This is a crucial step towards the overall objective of normalization of relations between the two sides, which is a necessary pre-condition for further progress in their respective European paths. The next milestone in their EU path is the opening of accession negotiations for Serbia, and negotiations for a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Kosovo. The continued central role of the EU in the future Serbia-Kosovo relationship remains both essential and advantageous, given the EU perspective for the Western Balkans and the unique leverage that stems from this.

The membership of Croatia will also deepen the relationship the EU has with the region, and will provide opportunities for further engagement with other members of the former Yugoslavia. It is to hope that the recent entry of Croatia to the EU as well as the progress of Serbia will in particular encourage Bosnia-Herzegovina to make some real progress on its own path towards the Union.

In terms of major threats to regional and global security, Iran will remain a key priority, given its nuclear activities continue to expand and consequently international concerns remain high. There is an urgent need to make progress on finding a negotiated solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. The HR/VP, together with the E3 +3, continues to lead intensive diplomatic efforts to engage Iran in a process of substantial talks to restore international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme. In accordance with the dual-track approach of diplomatic engagement and pressure, EU restrictive measures will remain in place until Iran creates the conditions to bring these sanctions to an end by complying with all its international obligations, including full implementation of UNSC and IAEA Board of Governors Resolutions.

North Korea's nuclear ambitions and bellicose posture will remain a key threat to security in the Far East, in particular with regard to key regional partners, Republic of Korea and Japan. The EU will continue to be a leading player in reducing regional tension, and will actively support the UNSC in pressing Pyongyang to cease its activities and abide by its international obligations, while maintaining its policy of critical engagement, including restrictive measures, with the DPRK.

Partnerships and partnering will continue to be a key cornerstone in the EU's external action, building on the prioritisation of Strategic Partners by the HR/VP at the beginning of her mandate. Like-minded states, in particular the United States, but also other countries such as Canada, will continue to be crucial to help deliver key EU objectives on the global stage. For example, co-operation has been especially developed with the United States over Iran's nuclear programme, and also on the Western Balkans. With the second Obama administration in place, the excellent working relationship between the HR/VP and Secretary Kerry will be instrumental for even deeper cooperation. The EU-US relationship will also be strengthened by the launch of the negotiation of the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) whose significance goes well beyond economic topics.

With Russia we will continue to develop our bilateral relationship. A number of outstanding issues remain on the table, but the overall direction is clear and we need to continue efforts to removing outstanding obstacles in the fields of trade, energy and visas to mention a few. Continued efforts will also be made to broaden foreign policy cooperation, including in our common neighbourhood and the protracted conflicts.

Engaging the new Chinese leadership will be essential, building on existing co-operation and dialogue on security issues, including on combating piracy off the Somali coast. North Korea's recent missile and nuclear tests will also put additional onus on the relationship with China, as it will on the EU's Strategic Partnership with the Republic of Korea.

The intensification of regular and informal foreign and security dialogues will also be pursued with other key partners (e.g., Egypt, Pakistan, Indonesia, Morocco) in order to increase concrete cooperation and build mutually acceptable responses to international challenges.

In responding to challenges, the EU has at its disposal a uniquely wide range of external relations policies and tools – diplomatic, security, defence, financial, trade, development and humanitarian. This is arguably the EU's main strength as an external relations actor. The EEAS and the Commission will continue to promote a comprehensive approach to external relations, in close cooperation with the Member States and the European Parliament. As part of this work, the HR and the Commission will put forward a proposal on further enhancing a comprehensive approach to crisis management situations and for all stages of a conflict cycle – from early warning and conflict prevention, crisis response and management to recovery, peace building and long term development efforts.

The process of restoration of security and stability in Mali will occupy an important place in EU comprehensive activities in the Sahel region. The EU training mission in Mali (EUTM Mali) will help improve the military capacity of the Malian Armed Forces in order to allow, under civilian authority, the restoration of the country's territorial integrity. In parallel, the EU will continue to work with international actors, including ECOWAS, in order to provide support for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and eventual further stabilisation measures. Insecurity and terrorism in Nigeria will also be the subject of increased co-operation with the Government. Piracy and organised crime, including drugs and other trafficking, will be addressed through an EU support programme to a new West and Central African strategy for the Gulf of Guinea to be finalised by regional Heads of State during 2013. The EU will also closely monitor and support the implementation of the Roadmap for the Political Transition in Guinea-Bissau.

The HR/VP and the EEAS will remain significantly engaged in the Horn of Africa. In line with the November 2011 strategic framework, the EU will continue support for mitigating the region's insecurity and tackling the causes of its instability. The EU will stay committed to assisting positive developments in Somalia. The ongoing CSDP missions and operations (EUNAVFOR ATALANTA, EUTM Somalia, EUCAP NESTOR, EUAVSEC) and support to the African Union Mission for Somalia (AMISOM) remain an important component of this. The EU will continue supporting efforts to build democracy, security and prosperity in Kenya, which held parliamentary elections in March 2013. It will also pay special attention to the evolution of Ethiopia's domestic and external policies. The EU will continue to focus its efforts on Sudan and South Sudan, in particular as regards implementation of agreements and progress on outstanding issues, such as Abyei and borders.

The EU will foster a strategic approach to the recurrent problems in the Great Lakes Region and contribute to finding a sustainable solution to the security challenges in the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. A strategic framework for the Great Lakes Region will thus be developed with the objective of supporting a coherent EU approach regarding the multiple roots of the crisis (at regional, DRC and local/Eastern DRC levels). Efforts will be undertaken to safeguard the achievements of the EUPOL and EUSEC after mission closure in September 2014. The collaboration with African and international partners, in support of UN initiatives to bring lasting stability to Eastern DRC, will also be continued. With regard to Central African Republic the EU will maintain the support to the transition process and the restoration of rule of law and security.

Missions and operations will continue to be at the heart of CSDP. More than 5000 staff were deployed as part of CSDP missions or operations at the start of the year, further augmented by the launch in 2013 of EUTM Mali and EUBAM Libya.

In December 2013, the European Council will discuss CSDP, on the basis of the December 2012 tasking. The EC identified the three following clusters: increase the effectiveness, visibility and impact of CSDP; enhance the development of defence capabilities and strengthen Europe's defence industry. Preparatory discussions are likely to dominate the various ministerial meetings throughout the year.

Outreach to partners will continue, both by actively promoting participation in CSDP missions and operations, regular security and defence dialogues, and the organisation of joint seminars with strategic partners in line with the relevant PSC recommendations. Such discussions also offer further opportunities to debate strategic thinking and projection of the EU as a global actor.

The importance of Asia has been growing over the past years, with increasingly strong inter-dependence between Europe and Asia. Building on the considerable intensity of relations in 2012, including numerous high-level visits, the EU will work to maintain this positive momentum in 2013. The EU will continue to foster deeper relations with Asian regional organisations, including ASEAN and further consolidate and expand its co-operation with China, India, Japan and South Korea. The EU will work towards defining and communicating its positions on key security challenges in the region. In this context, defining the EU's policy to the South China Sea is of particular importance. On the institutional front, every effort will be made to maintain a good pace in negotiations on various agreements with the countries of the region.

In Southeast Asia, special attention will be given to Myanmar/Burma, where a process of democratisation has started. In the course of 2013, the EU Delegation will also be raised to full Ambassadorial level. The issue of inter-ethnic conflicts in Myanmar/Burma will remain a focus.

In South Asia, Afghanistan remains a key challenge, and the EU is committed to providing long-term support to the country, also in the context of the 2014 transition. The EUPOL mission has been extended until the end of 2014 to support Afghan counterparts. Preparation for transition in Afghanistan brings also new impetus to relations with Central Asian countries.

Pakistan remains a key factor in the region. Implementation of the five-year EU Pakistan Engagement Plan, agreed in early 2012 will be continued. Particular attention will be given to parliamentary elections expected to be held in the first half of 2013, including through election observation. The EU will pursue close and continuing contacts with the new government of Pakistan.

The Santiago Summit of the EU and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in January 2013 was an opportunity to convey a strong signal of EU political commitment to Latin America and the Caribbean based on an equal-to-equal partnership. The review of the Action Plan (2013-2015) decided in Santiago with the inclusion of two new chapters on gender and on investment will help to broaden the scope of bi-regional cooperation. The EU will make the best of the potential of its contractual frameworks with most key Latin American partners or sub-regions (expected provisional entry into force of the trade chapter the EU-Central America Association Agreement and of the Free trade agreement with Peru and Colombia), not only in the economic domains but to increase cooperation to target global challenges like security, fight against organised crime, climate change), especially in international fora where Latin America countries role is growing and EU and Latin America positions mostly converge. The deepening of our relations with strategic partners like Mexico and Brazil will still constitute a key objective, as well as reinforcement of our ties with countries willing to upgrade their relations with the EU, like Chile and Colombia and new dynamic regional integration initiatives.

Guiding the EU's external action is the Union's strong value base, founded on the principles of human rights, the rule of law and good governance. The implementation of the EU's Human Rights Strategy will be a key focus mainstreamed into the EU's external relations. The role of the EU Special Representative for Human Rights will be central in this context.

In the area of non-proliferation and disarmament, the key priorities will focus on achieving tangible progress towards international consensus on a new Code of Conduct for activities in Outer Space, providing EU support for the entry into force and effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), sustaining the holding of Senior Official Meetings between the EU and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and an enhanced EU engagement with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. At the same time, the adoption of a number of Council Decisions will be sought to ensure financial EU support for priority projects, such as the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund and Low-Enriched Uranium Bank, the Small Arms and Light Weapons security and stockpile management in Libya and its broader region, the ATT promotion, the EU Non-Proliferation Consortium. Efforts will be strengthened to ensure an active EU role at the UNGA First Committee, the IAEA Board of Governors and General Conference, as well as the current NPT review cycle.

Ongoing efforts to provide strategic and operational expertise to conflict prevention, mediation or peace building actions will be further systematized and consolidated, and capacity within the EEAS to address conflict- and fragility-related issues (*outreach, awareness raising, training, knowledge*) will be enhanced and further mainstreamed - particularly through conflict analysis and early warning and mediation support. The organization of the 'EU as a Peace-maker' Conference in May 2013 contributed to these objectives. Partnerships with key counterparts (*including civil society and relevant international and regional organisations*) will be strengthened. The Instrument for Stability will continue to contribute to conflict prevention, peace-building and mediation efforts.

The major part of the EU's continuing global effort to counter terrorism will be addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. This means dealing with a wide spectrum of phenomena including social, economic and political exclusion, conflict and lack of good governance through integrated regional strategies and in dialogues with Strategic Partners. At the multilateral level, the EU will promote the implementation of the UN Counter-terrorism Strategy and relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. It will also promote a coordinated counter-terrorism approach within the UN system as a whole, and maximise the potential of other multilateral frameworks such as the Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF) and the G8 Roma-Lyon Group. For the foreseeable future CT efforts will concentrate on South Asia (notably Afghanistan, Pakistan), the wider Horn of Africa region (i.e., including Yemen), and the wider Sahel region (including West Africa most notably Nigeria). Depending on developments in the threat to the EU, greater counter-terrorism support and attention may need to be paid to emerging threats, wherever they originate.

The EU also has increasingly used restrictive measures as a foreign policy tool. Targeted, legally robust regimes of restrictive measures which meet clear political objectives remain a credible instrument in order to promote the values the EU stands for. The EU will review its policy on restrictive measures regularly.

Last but not least, the EEAS will continue strengthening its engagement in some of the central global challenges of our times such as energy and climate security as well as water diplomacy. Working together with the Commission, the Member States and the European Parliament, the EEAS will continue pursuing a comprehensive approach in response to these challenges. Concrete efforts will include making the EU foreign policy more 'energy sensitive' by further integrating energy in political dialogues and by fully engaging EU delegations in energy diplomacy, while on climate change, work will be intensified mainly regarding preparations for the 2015 global climate change agreement as well as more systematically addressing the link between climate change, natural resource scarcity and international security through preventive diplomacy and dedicated cooperation measures. Finally, water is rapidly emerging as a major challenge on international security and in 2013 the aim is to finalise the EU water security mapping exercise as a stepping stone for developing a more comprehensive EU water diplomacy with a more proactive engagement in transboundary water challenges around the world.

ANNEX I: CFSP budget 2012**19.030101 EUMM Georgia**

2012/503/CFSP EUMM Georgia	20,900,000
subtotal:	20,900,000

19.030102 EULEX Kosovo

2012/291/CFSP EULEX Kosovo	111,000,000
subtotal	111,000,000

19.030103 EUPOL Afghanistan

2012/391/CFSP EUPOL Afghanistan	56,870,000
subtotal:	56,870,000

19.030104 Other crisis management measures and operations

2012/389/EUCAP NESTOR	21,213,310
2012/312/CFSP EUAVSEC South Sudan	12,500,000
2012/324/CFSP EUPOL COPPS	8,633,550
2012/372/CFSP EUJUST LEX IRAQ	27,150,000
2012/332/CFSP EUBAM Rafah	980,000
2012/392/CFSP EUCAP Sahel Niger	8,700,000
2012/514/CFSP EUPOL DR Congo	6,750,000
2012/515/CFSP EUSEC DR Congo	11,000,000
2012/698/CFSP CSDP warehouse	4,312,234
subtotal:	101,239,094

19.0302 Non-proliferation and disarmament (4)

2012/121/CFSP Activities to promote EU-China-Africa dialogue and co-operation on conventional arms controls	830,000
2012/166/CFSP Support of activities of OPCW - EU Strategy against Proliferation of WMD	2,140,000
2012/281/CFSP International Code of Conduct on Outer Space Activities	1,490,000
2012/421/CFSP Support of Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC)	1,700,000
2012/662/CFSP OSCE - Small Arms and Light Weapons	890,000
2012/662/CFSP UNDP - Small Arms and Light Weapons	790,000
2012/422/CFSP WMD Free Zone II	352,000
2012/423/CFSP Missile proliferation (HCOC II)	930,000
2012/699/CFSP Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO V)	5,185,028
2012/700/CFSP Cartagena Action Plan 2010-2014 (AP Landmines II)	1,030,000
2012/711/CFSP Control of Arms Exports (COARM Outreach)	1,860,000
subtotal:	17,197,028

19.0304 Emergency measures 0

19.0305 Preparatory and follow-up measures

External audits, legal services and assessments	167,731
Preparatory measures for potential CSDP Mission in Libya	415,000
subtotal:	582,731

19.0306 European Union Special Representatives

2012/39/CFSP EUSR in Kosovo	2,410,000
2012/33/CFSP EUSR for the Middle East peace process	1,300,000
2012/255/CFSP EUSR in Afghanistan	300,000
2012/331/CFSP EUSR in Afghanistan	6,380,000
2012/327/CFSP EUSR for the Southern Mediterranean	945,000
2012/325/CFSP EUSR for Sudan and South Sudan	1,900,000
2012/328/CFSP EUSR for Central Asia	1,120,000
2012/330/CFSP EUSR in Bosnia and Herzegovina	5,250,000
2012/326/CFSP EUSR for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia	2,000,000
2012/329/CFSP EUSR for the Horn of Africa	4,900,000
2012/390/CFSP EUSR to the African Union	680,000
2012/440/CFSP EUSR for Human Rights	712,500
subtotal:	27,897,500
Total:	335,686,353.00

ANNEX II: Overview of legal acts in the CFSP area (sanctions) 2012¹¹⁸**Afghanistan / Taliban**

Council Implementing Decision 2012/167/CFSP of 23 March 2012 implementing Decision 2011/486/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against certain individuals, groups, undertakings and entities in view of the situation in Afghanistan (*OJ L 87, 24.3.2012, p. 60*)

Council Implementing Decision 2012/334/CFSP of 25 June 2012 implementing Decision 2011/486/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against certain individuals, groups, undertakings and entities in view of the situation in Afghanistan (*OJ L 165, 26.6.2012, p.75*)

Council Implementing Decision 2012/393/CFSP of 16 July 2012 implementing Decision 2011/486/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against certain individuals, groups, undertakings and entities in view of the situation in Afghanistan (*OJ L 187, 17.07.2012, p. 52*)

Council Implementing Decision 2012/454/CFSP of 1 August 2012 implementing Decision 2011/486/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against certain individuals, groups, undertakings and entities in view of the situation in Afghanistan (*OJ L 206, 2.8.2012, p.11*)

Council Implementing Decision 2012/745/CFSP of 3 December 2012 implementing Decision 2011/486/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against certain individuals, groups, undertakings and entities in view of the situation in Afghanistan (*OJ L 332, 4.12.2012, p. 22*)

Council Implementing Decision 2012/809/CFSP of 20 December 2012 implementing Decision 2011/486/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against certain individuals, groups, undertakings and entities in view of the situation in Afghanistan (*OJ L 352, 21.12.2012, p. 47–48*)

¹¹⁸ This list concerns CFSP Decisions imposing restrictive measures only. The implementation of the measures falling within the scope of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union also requires the preparation of a Council Regulation or Council Implementing Regulation as appropriate.

Belarus

Council Decision 2012/36/CFSP of 23 January 2012 amending Decision 2010/639/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Belarus (*OJ L 19, 24.1.2012, p. 31*)

Council Implementing Decision 2012/126/CFSP of 28 February 2012 implementing Decision 2010/639/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Belarus (*OJ L 55, 29.2.2012, p. 19*)

Council Implementing Decision 2012/171/CFSP of 23 March 2012 implementing Decision 2010/639/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Belarus (*OJ L 87, 24.3.2012, p. 95*)

Council Decision 2012/212/CFSP of 23 April 2012 amending Decision 2010/639/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Belarus (*OJ L 113, 25.4.2012, p. 11*)

Council Decision 2012/642/CFSP of 15 October 2012 concerning restrictive measures against Belarus (*OJ L 285, 17.10.2012, p. 1*)

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Council Decision 2012/158/CFSP of 19 March 2012 amending Decision 2011/173/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (*OJ L 80, 20.3.2012, p. 17*)

Democratic Republic Congo

Council decision 2012/811/CFSP of 20 December 2012 amending Decision 2010/788/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic Republic of the Congo (*OJ L 352, 21.12.2012, p. 50–53*)

Cote d'Ivoire

Council Implementing Decision 2012/74/CFSP of 10 February 2012 implementing Decision 2010/656/CFSP renewing the restrictive measures against Côte d'Ivoire (*OJ L 38, 11.2.2012, p. 43*)

Council Implementing Decision 2012/144/CFSP of 8 March 2012 implementing Decision 2010/656/CFSP renewing the restrictive measures against Côte d'Ivoire (*OJ L 71, 9.3.2012, p. 50*)

Council Decision 2012/371/CFSP of 10 July 2012 amending Decision 2010/656/CFSP renewing the restrictive measures against Côte d'Ivoire (*OJ L 179, 11.7.2012, p. 21*)

Egypt

Council Decision 2012/159/CFSP of 19 March 2012 amending Decision 2011/172/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Egypt (*OJ L 80, 20.3.2012, p. 18*)

Council Decision 2012/723/CFSP of 26 November 2012 amending Decision 2011/172/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Egypt (*OJ L 327, 27.11.2012, p. 44*)

Eritrea

Council Decision 2012/632/CFSP of 15 October 2012 amending Decision 2010/127/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Eritrea (*OJ L 282, 16.10.2012, p. 46*)

Republic of Guinea (Conakry)

Council Decision 2012/149/CFSP of 13 March 2012 amending Decision 2010/638/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the Republic of Guinea (*OJ L 74, 14.3.2012, p. 8*)

Council Decision 2012/665/CFSP of 26 October 2012 amending Decision 2010/638/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the Republic of Guinea (*OJ L 299, 27.10.2012, p. 45*)

Guinea Bissau

Council Decision 2012/237/CFSP of 3 May 2012 concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies threatening the peace, security or stability of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau (*OJ L 119, 4.5.2012, p. 43*)

Council Decision 2012/285/CFSP of 31 May 2012 concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies threatening the peace, security or stability of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and repealing Decision 2012/237/CFSP (*OJ L 142, 1.6.2012, p.36*)

Council Implementing Decision 2012/516/CFSP of 24 September 2012 implementing Decision 2012/285/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies threatening the peace, security or stability of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau (*OJ L 257, 25.9.2012, p.20*)

Iran (WMD-regime)

Council Decision 2012/35/CFSP of 23 January 2012 amending Decision 2010/413/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Iran (*OJ L 19, 24.1.2012, p. 22*)

Council Decision 2012/152/CFSP of 15 March 2012 amending Decision 2010/413/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Iran (*OJ L 77, 16.3.2012, p. 18*)

Council Decision 2012/169/CFSP of 23 March 2012 amending Decision 2010/413/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against Iran (*OJ L 87, 24.3.2012, p. 90*)

Council Decision 2012/205/CFSP of 23 April 2012 amending Decision 2010/413/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Iran (*OJ L 110, 24.4.2012, p. 35*)

Council Decision 2012/457/CFSP of 2 August 2012 amending Decision 2010/413/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Iran (*OJ L 208, 3.8.2012, p. 18*)

Council Decision 2012/635/CFSP of 15 October 2012 amending Decision 2010/413/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Iran (*OJ L 282, 16.10.2012, p. 58*)

Council Decision 2012/687/CFSP of 6 November 2012 amending Decision 2010/413/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Iran (*OJ L 307, 7.11.2012, p. 82*)

Council Decision 2012/829/CFSP of 21 December 2012 amending Decision 2010/413/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Iran (*OJ L 356, 22.12.2012, p. 71–77*)

Iran (human rights regime)

Council Decision 2012/168/CFSP of 23 March 2012 amending Decision 2011/235/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities in view of the situation in Iran (*OJ L 87, 24.3.2012, p. 85*)

Council Decision 2012/810/CFSP of 20 December 2012 amending Decision 2011/235/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities in view of the situation in Iran (*OJ L 352, 21.12.2012, p. 49–49*)

Iraq

Council Decision 2012/812/CFSP of 20 December 2012 amending Common Position 2003/495/CFSP on Iraq (*OJ L 352/54, 21.12.2012, p.54*)

Republic of Moldova

Council Decision 2012/170/CFSP of 23 March 2012 amending Decision 2010/573/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the leadership of the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova (*OJ L 87, 24.3.2012, p. 92*)

Council Decision 2012/527/CFSP of 27 September 2012 amending Decision 2010/573/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the leadership of the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova (*OJ L 263, 28.9.2012, p.44*)

Myanmar/Burma

Council Decision 2012/98/CFSP of 17 February 2012 amending Decision 2010/232/CFSP renewing restrictive measures against Burma/Myanmar (*OJ L 47, 18.2.2012, p. 64*) (NA)

Council Decision 2012/225/CFSP of 26 April 2012 amending Decision 2010/232/CFSP renewing restrictive measures against Burma/Myanmar (*OJ L 115, 27.4.2012, p. 25*)

Somalia

Council Decision 2012/388/CFSP of 16 July 2012 amending Decision 2010/231/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Somalia (*OJ L 187, 17.7.2012, p. 38*)

Council Decision 2012/633/CFSP of 15 October 2012 amending Decision 2010/231/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Somalia (*OJ L 282, 16.10.2012, p. 47*)

Syria

Council Implementing Decision 2012/37/CFSP of 23 January 2012 implementing Decision 2011/782/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Syria (*OJ L 19, 24.1.2012, p. 33*)

Council Decision 2012/122/CFSP of 27 February 2012 amending Decision 2011/782/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Syria (*OJ L 54, 28.2.2012, p. 14*)

Council Implementing Decision 2012/172/CFSP of 23 March 2012 implementing Decision 2011/782/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Syria (*OJ L 87, 24.3.2012, p. 103*)

Council Decision 2012/206/CFSP of 23 April 2012 amending Decision 2011/782/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Syria (*OJ L 110, 24.4.2012, p. 36*)

Council Implementing Decision 2012/256/CFSP of 14 May 2012 implementing Council Decision 2011/782/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Syria (*OJ L 126, 15.5.2012, p. 9*)

Council Decision 2012/322/CFSP of 20 June 2012 amending Decision 2011/782/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Syria (*OJ L 165, 26.6.2012, p. 45*)

Council Implementing Decision 2012/335/CFSP of 25 June 2012 implementing Council Decision 2011/782/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Syria (*OJ L 165 26.6.2012, p. 80*)

Council Decision 2012/420/CFSP of 23 July 2012 amending Decision 2011/782/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Syria (*OJ L 196, 24.7.2012, p. 59*)

Council Implementing Decision 2012/424/CFSP of 23 July 2012 implementing Decision 2011/782/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Syria (*OJ L 196, 24.7.2012, p. 81*)

Council Implementing Decision 2012/478/CFSP of 16 August 2012 implementing Decision 2011/782/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Syria (*OJ L 219, 17.8.2012, p. 21*)

Council Decision 2012/634/CFSP of 23 July 2012 amending Decision 2011/782/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Syria (*OJ L 282, 16.10.2012, p. 50*)

Council Decision 2012/739/CFSP of 29 November 2012 concerning restrictive measures against Syria and repealing Decision 2011/782/CFSP (*OJ L 330, 30.11.2012, p. 21*)

Common Position 2001/931/CFSP

Council Decision 2012/150/CFSP of 13 March 2012 amending Decision 2011/872/CFSP updating the list of persons, groups and entities subject to Articles 2, 3 and 4 of Common Position 2001/931/CFSP on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism (*OJ L 74, 14.3.2012, p. 9*)

Council Decision 2012/333/CFSP updating the list of persons groups and entities subject to Articles 2,3 and 4 of Common Position 2001/931/CFSP on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism and repealing Decision 2011/872/CFSP (*OJ L 165, 26.6.2012, p. 72*).

Council Decision 2012/686/CFSP of 6 November 2012 amending Decision 2012/333/CFSP updating the list of persons, groups and entities subject to Articles 2, 3 and 4 of Common Position 2001/931/CFSP on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism (*OJ L 307, 7.11.2012, p. 80*)

Council Decision 2012/765/CFSP of 10 December 2012 updating the list of persons, groups and entities subject to Articles 2, 3 and 4 of Common Position 2001/931/CFSP on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism and repealing Decision 2012/333/CFSP (*OJ L 337, 11.12.2012, p. 50–52*)

Tunisia

Council Decision 2012/50/CFSP of 27 January 2012 amending Decision 2011/72/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities in view of the situation in Tunisia (*OJ L 27, 31.1.2012, p. 11*)

Council Decision 2012/724/CFSP of 26 November 2012 amending Decision 2011/72/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities in view of the situation in Tunisia (*OJ L 327, 27.11.2012, p. 45*)

Zimbabwe

Council Decision 2012/97/CFSP of 17 February 2012 amending Decision 2011/101/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Zimbabwe (*OJ L 47, 18.2.2012, p. 50*)

Council Implementing Decision 2012/124/CFSP of 27 February 2012 implementing Decision 2011/101/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Zimbabwe (*OJ L 54, 28.2.2012, p. 20*)

ANNEX III: Declarations and Statements in 2012

In 2012 a total of 597 statements and declarations were issued, including:

- **HR Declarations on behalf of the EU:** reflect the official position of the EU and are issued under the HR's authority with prior consultation of the Member States. Where no such official position exists, these Declarations are agreed by Member States within the Council. Third countries can align when invited.
- **HR Statements:** used most frequently to respond to events requiring quick EU reaction and issued under the HR's authority without formal consultation of the Member States.
- **Statements by the Spokesperson of the HR:** used often for quick EU reaction in cases when the personal involvement of the HR is not necessarily required.
- **Local EU Statements:** used in the context of a specific local/regional issue.

Breakdown per category

Category	Number (% share in brackets)
HR Declarations	62 (10%)
HR Statements	253 (42%)
Spokesperson's	200 (34%)
Local statements	82 (14%)
Total	597

Geographic breakdown

Region	Percentage
Africa	18%
Asia	15%
Eastern Europe / Western Balkans	19%
Latin America	5%
North Africa	16%
Middle East / Gulf	19 %
Multi-lateral / North America	8%

Thematic breakdown

Category	Number (% share in brackets)
Human Rights	151 (25%)
Elections / Reform	96 (16%)
Conflict / stabilisation processes	151 (26%)
Security incidents	53 (9%)
Congratulations / condolences messages	24 (4%)
Non-proliferation	7 (1%)
Other	111 (19%)
Total	597

Joint statements

A total of 25 HR statements were made jointly with other Commissioners:

Commissioner Füle	21
Commissioner Piebalgs	1
Commissioner Reding	
Commissioner Georgieva	1
Commissioner de Gucht	1
Commissioner Rehn	1
Total	25