



## EU Security and Defence news

The e-newsletter on EU Common Security and Defence Policy activities

### Eastern Partnership summit: enhancing CSDP cooperation



**At the Eastern Partnership summit in Vilnius on 28-29 November the EU and its Eastern neighbours discussed Common Security Defence Policy (CSDP).**

Through the Eastern Partnership, the EU supports political and economic reforms in the partner countries, while offering them gradual integration into the European economy, greater mobility for citizens and closer political ties.

In Vilnius, participants highlighted the importance of strengthening multilateral and bilateral security dialogue and practical CSDP cooperation. A CSDP Panel was launched to facilitate dialogue on developments concerning CSDP, including on CSDP crisis management operations and exercises.

High Representative Catherine Ashton and the Foreign Minister of Georgia, Maia Panjikidze, signed a Framework Participation Agreement providing Georgia with the legal basis and practical means to engage in EU-led crisis management operations. Georgia has been invited to participate in three new EU CSDP operations and responded positively, showing its readiness to engage alongside the EU in contributing to global security. Georgia is the second Eastern partner to sign such an agreement, after the Republic of Moldova, and the launching of negotiations with other partner countries is under consideration.

The EU also welcomed the contribution by Ukraine of a frigate to the EU-led operation EUNAVFOR Atalanta as of January 2014 as well as its commitment to contribute to EU Battlegroups in 2014 and 2016.

[Joint Declaration of the Eastern Partnership Summit \(Vilnius, 28-29 November 2013\)](#)

[Press release: EU and Georgia sign Framework Agreement on participation in EU crisis management operations](#)

### Preparing the European Council on Security and Defence



**In view of the European Council of 19-20 December which is expected to provide a new steer for the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), the Council has over recent weeks studied High Representative Catherine Ashton's report and the**

**Commission's communication on the defence sector.**

In this context, the Council has agreed on 25 November a set of comprehensive and ambitious [conclusions](#) on the CSDP. The discussion was based on the High Representative's [report on CSDP](#) issued in October and on July's [Commission communication](#) on the defence sector.

The Council stresses that the EU is called on to assume greater responsibilities as a security provider. Security threats are changing and current financial constraints affect the development of future capabilities. More than before, security and defence matter. CSDP plays a strong role as part of the EU's comprehensive approach to conflict management, but more cooperation among Member States is needed. In addition, the defence sector is a driver for jobs, growth and innovation.

Three main priorities have been identified:

**1. Improving the effectiveness, visibility and impact of the CSDP:** this goes in particular through practical improvements aimed at speeding up the deployment of civilian missions, increasing the usability of EU Battlegroups, facilitating equipment support as a complement to training and advice, and facing emerging security challenges such as cyber, maritime, border management. The EU should also continue to work with all its partners, both in crisis management and in capability development.

**2. Enhancing the development of capabilities:** the Council welcomed the work of the European Defence Agency on launching collaborative projects for the capabilities of the future. A systematic, longer-term approach to cooperating during all steps in the capability development cycle is called for together with synergies with other EU policies, i.e. on dual use capabilities and technologies.

3. **Supporting the European defence industry:** the Council supports the need for a more integrated, sustainable, innovative and competitive European defence industry and calls for further efforts to strengthen it. A particular focus should be put on greater access of SMEs to the defence market, the development of harmonised industrial standards and measures to increase mutual recognition of military certification, as well as the importance of research and development for retaining defence expertise, innovation and competitiveness.

EU leaders will provide political guidance on the way ahead at the European Council of 19-20 December.

See special page on December European Council:

### Les ministres de la Défense s'engagent sur quatre projets capacitaires



**Le 19 novembre, les ministres de la Défense réunis en formation de Comité directeur de l'Agence européenne de défense (AED) sous la présidence de Catherine Ashton, ont approuvé quatre projets de coopération en matière**

**capacitaire et les feuilles de route connexes.**

Ces projets visent à remédier à des lacunes européennes importantes dans les domaines suivants:

- [les moyens de communication par satellite publics](#) ;
- [les systèmes d'aéronefs pilotés à distance](#) ;
- [le ravitaillement en vol](#) ;
- [la cyber-défense](#) .

"La discussion des chefs d'État et de gouvernement lors du prochain Conseil européen est d'une importance capitale pour la défense européenne. Nous avons besoin de la reconnaissance au plus haut niveau politique que la défense – compte tenu de la diversité des menaces et défis – est une priorité. Au regard des contraintes financières d'aujourd'hui, cet effort de défense doit être pleinement efficace, ce qui implique la coopération ainsi que la recherche de synergies", a déclaré Claude-France Arnould, Directrice exécutive de l'[AED](#).

[Plus d'information sur le site de l'AED](#)

### Exercice de contrôle de zone pour le bataillon Sigui



**La mission EUTM Mali a organisé l'un des derniers exercices de formation pour le bataillon « Sigui ».**

Du 18 au 20 novembre la mission de l'UE EUTM Mali a organisé à Koulikoro un exercice d'entraînement

aux opérations de contrôle de zone. Cet exercice destiné au bataillon « Sigui » des Forces armées maliennes avait un double objectif:

- Eprouver la capacité des soldats à mettre en place des points de contrôle et d'observation;
- Conduire des patrouilles en véhicule et à pied dans des zones tant urbaines qu'ouvertes.

Les trois jours d'entraînement ont été ponctués de nombreux scénarios de crise que les unités ont dû résoudre (incidents de point de contrôle, embuscades, infiltrations de nuit, prise d'un bâtiment, etc.).

Cet exercice était une des dernières étapes de la formation du bataillon « Sigui » avant l'exercice final et l'achèvement de leur formation sous la responsabilité d'EUTM Mali.

Pour en savoir plus, consultez le site de [EUTM Mali](#)

### Claude-France Arnould prolongée à la tête de l'AED



Sur la recommandation de Catherine Ashton, le Comité directeur de l'Agence Européenne de Défense a décidé de prolonger le mandat de Claude-France Arnould comme Directrice exécutive de l'Agence pour une année supplémentaire, jusqu'au 15 janvier 2015. Mme Arnould avait pris ses fonctions en janvier 2011 pour un mandat initial de trois ans.

### Upcoming activities

**5 December:** Meeting of the Serbia-Kosovo Dialogue

**16-17 December:** Foreign Affairs Council and General Affairs Council

**19-20 December:** European Council

CSDP website - EU Security and Defence on

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