

EUROPEAN UNION SECURITY AND DEFENCE

CORE DOCUMENTS 2009

Compiled by Catherine Glière

July 2010

Volume X

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compiled by Catherine Glère

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Introduction

2009 marked not only the tenth anniversary of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), but also the beginning of a new era with the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, creating a new impetus for the external action of the EU. The European Union commemorated this landmark anniversary by organising various initiatives, seminars and conferences and by publishing, inter alia, two EUISS books dealing respectively with the first and next ten year of ESDP (European Security and Defence Policy – The first ten years and What ambitions for European defence in 2020?).

‘Ten years ago, ESDP was an aspiration; today, it is a reality on the ground’, Javier Solana, the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, remarked shortly before the end of his mandate. This is amply demonstrated by the important initiatives undertaken by the Union during the past year, whether in deploying operations in Africa (notably in Chad), in Afghanistan, tackling piracy at sea or addressing the issue of capabilities.

With the military operation EUFOR Tchad/RCA, the fifth military operation undertaken by the EU, and the third in Africa after Artemis and EUFOR RD Congo, the European Union deployed 10,000 military personnel, both men and women, drawn from 23 Member States and from three third states, to restore security in the region and create the conditions for a smooth and effective transition: on 15 March 2009, Operation EUFOR Tchad/RDA successfully handed over to MINURCAT, the United Nations operation, in which the majority of Member States contributing to EUFOR participate. This did not mark the end of the Union’s involvement in the region however as the EU continued to be active in Darfur and in the Central African Republic.

Comprising 240 personnel from the 20 Member States of the EU (police officers, security officers and legal experts), the EUPOL Afghanistan mission was deployed both at Kabul and in regional and provincial theatres. During the latter half of the year, it proved to be highly effective in implementing its mandate on the tactical, operational and strategic levels. Furthermore a comprehensive ‘train the trainers’ programme will make it possible to train up to 35,000 officers in the run-up to the provincial elections in 2010.

Another priority for the Union in 2009 was piracy at sea. The resurgence of this phenomenon off the coast of Somalia today poses a serious threat to the free movement of ships (over 25,000 ships a year navigate through these waters) and supplies (more than 30 percent of the European Union’s petrol supplies are transited through the area). The piracy ‘business’ also threatens the aid to more than 40% of the Somali population that is delivered by World Food Programme (WFP) convoys. The EU NAVFOR operation, the EU’s first maritime operation, launched in December 2008 for an initial duration of one

year, attained its minimum operational capacity in February 2009. At the end of the year, it was decided to prolong the operation until 12 December 2010.

In 2009, efforts were made by the European Defence Agency and by the Commission to promote synergies and complementarities in the field of security and defence. In relation to, for example, the issue of the 1,700 helicopters that the Union could use but which are not available when the EU needs them for crisis management operations due to lack of training or to the missions' requirements not having been satisfactorily taken into account, the EDA developed its tactical training programme, which was launched in November.

Two directives have, besides, been adopted by the European Parliament on the subject of defence equipment procurement and intra-Community transfers: the first aims to open up and improve the competitiveness of the defence and security markets by harmonising the rules governing the acquisition of armaments as well as certain sensitive non-military security products. The second aims to increase industrial cooperation, optimise supply chains and generate economies of scale, by creating a streamline licensing system for the transfer of defence-related items within the European Union.

European foreign policy, which was taking its first faltering steps ten years ago, today makes a significant contribution to peacekeeping and international security. At Cologne in 1999, the leaders of the EU demonstrated their commitment to reinforcing the Common Foreign and Security Policy, by appointing Javier Solana, who for a whole decade had been the face and voice of the EU abroad, to the position of High Representative for CFSP. During this time the Union defined, in the context of ESDP (which has now become CSDP – the Common Security and Defence Policy) a security strategy, created a European Defence Agency, addressed the capability deficit, launched 22 civil and military missions on three continents and developed partnerships, most notably with the UN, NATO and the African Union.

However, in order to be able to meet European and international expectations, the Union needs to further improve the efficiency and coherence of its external action. It is therefore vitally important to reinforce solidarity between the Member States, so that the Union can play an even more important role on the world stage in the next ten years. The entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty should allow us to rationalise the instruments at our disposal, notably through the European External Action Service headed by Catherine Ashton, who on 1 December 2009 was appointed High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

Core documents

2009

Russia/Ukraine – Declarations by the Presidency

Brussels and Prague, 2 and 8 January 2009

In January 2009, Russia and Ukraine failed again to agree a price for the supply of Russian gas to Ukraine, following the expiration of the tariff for the transit of Russian gas to Europe on 31 December 2008. Russian gas supplies to Ukraine were cut off on 1 January, while supplies to 16 EU Member States and Moldova were cut off completely from 7 January. Countries in the Balkans experienced a humanitarian emergency, with many people unable to heat their homes, and the dispute also created significant economic problems in Hungary and Slovakia.

DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENCY ON BEHALF OF THE EU ON INTERRUPTION OF RUSSIAN GAS SUPPLY THROUGH UKRAINE

Brussels, 2 January 2009

The European Union calls for an urgent solution to the commercial dispute on gas supplies from the Russian Federation to Ukraine, and for an immediate resumption of full deliveries of gas to the EU member states.

Energy relations between the EU and its neighbours should be based on reliability and predictability. Existing commitments to supply and transit have to be honoured under all circumstances.

The European Union regrets the fact that assurances of the reliability of energy supply have not been met and will continue to monitor the situation closely.

EU DECLARATION ON THE RUSSIA/UKRAINE PROBLEM AND ENERGY SECURITY

Prague, 8 January 2009

1. The present situation caused by interruptions of gas supplies from Russia via the Ukraine creates serious difficulties for a number of EU countries. Given the importance attached to solidarity within the EU, this is a problem for the EU as such. It is unacceptable for the EU to see its citizens and enterprises suffering from gas shortages due to the non respect by both partner countries of their contractual obligations.

2. With the first evidence of gas supply reductions in early January 2009, the EU has undertaken concerted efforts to facilitate the dialogue between Russia and the Ukraine. Both sides have to date shown insufficient determination to solve the problem, which damages their credibility. The EU, however, expects that the current negotiations will bring a quick solution. It urges Russia and the Ukraine to honour their obligations as supplier respectively transit country and to immediately resume normal deliveries to the European market.

3. The EU calls on both parties to accept independent monitoring of the actual flows of gas through the pipelines.

4. A special Energy Council will take place on 12 January in order to look at the situation on the energy market, including monitoring, and to discuss the concrete measures to be taken.

5. The EU also insists on the necessity to create the conditions for a long term solution, based on internationally recognized principles, thus putting an end to regularly occurring crises in the midst of winter.

6. Security of energy supply is a priority for the EU. It involves the responsibility and solidarity of all the Member States. Therefore, the EU will speed up work on the various energy security initiatives mentioned under paragraph 17 of the October EC conclusions. Particular emphasis will be put on priority interconnections both within the EU and with supplier and transit countries, increased transparency, and the developing of crisis mechanisms to tackle temporary supply disruptions. Energy security will be on the agenda of the upcoming General Affairs Councils with a view to reaching decisions at the Spring European Council.

Sudan – Declaration by the Presidency

Brussels, 9 January 2009

DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENCY ON THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PEACE AGREEMENT FOR SUDAN ON 9 JANUARY 2005

The European Union would like to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in Sudan, which is of fundamental importance for promoting peaceful coexistence between Northern and Southern Sudan as well as for peace and stability in Sudan as a whole.

The European Union reaffirms the strategic importance of the implementation in good faith of the CPA and reiterates its conviction that the signatories of the CPA, the National Congress Party and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, must live up to their joint responsibility to advance on the way towards a peaceful and democratic Sudan.

The European Union commends the parties for agreeing on an arrangement for the resolution of the crisis in Abyei and urges them to seek durable and peaceful solutions in all of the 'Three Areas' – Abyei, South Kordofan and Blue Nile in accordance with the CPA.

The demarcation of the North/South border is essential, as well as the settlement of the security arrangements between the parties. Continued positive implementation of the Wealth Sharing Protocol also remains important.

The fifth year of CPA implementation will be marked by a number of vital steps. Of particular significance among these are the stipulated national elections. Peaceful and credible conduct of elections remains of key importance as a vehicle for peaceful transformation of the Sudan as a whole. The passage of the electoral law as well as the establishment of the National Electoral Commission mark important prerequisites in this process. The European Union urges the parties to proceed with the necessary technical and legal preparations in order to establish an electoral environment conducive to the holding of free and fair elections at the earliest convenient time taking into consideration the timetable set by the CPA.

In order to promote the credibility and transparency of the electoral process the European Union is ready to consider deploying a European Election Observation Mission in close coordination with the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS).

The European Union attaches great importance to the work of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC), which proved to be an important mechanism for dialogue between the Sudanese parties and key international partners to the CPA. The European Union underlines its commitment to further strengthen the role of the AEC in ensuring full implementation of the CPA.

A stable and peaceful development of the Sudan requires a durable political resolution of the conflict in Darfur. The Government of National Unity must spare no effort to bring an end to the suffering of the people of Darfur. The European Union strongly supports the role played by the Joint Chief Mediator of the African Union and the United Nations, Djibrill Bassolé, and urges the Government and the Darfur rebel movements to join his effort to find a peaceful settlement of the Darfur crisis. Full deployment of the UNAMID mission is a key factor for

improvement of the security situation and thereby for ensuring that vital humanitarian support can reach the people in need. The European Union urges all the parties to agree on an effective ceasefire and to show full respect for international humanitarian law.

The European Union will remain a committed partner in support of the implementation of the CPA as well in all efforts to bring peace and development to the People of Sudan.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Armenia align themselves with this declaration.

*Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

European Defence Agency – Defence and security procurement

Brussels, 15 January 2009

EDA WELCOMES NEW DIRECTIVE ON DEFENCE AND SECURITY PROCUREMENT

The European Defence Agency welcomes the adoption by the European Parliament on 14 January 2009 of a new Directive on Defence and Security Procurement¹, which recognizes the specific features of the defence and security market.

This initiative is complementary to the EDA's Code of Conduct on Defence Procurement launched in July 2006, which covers contracts placed outside EU internal market directives on the basis of Article 296 of the EC Treaty. This area accounts in practice for the bulk of core European defence procurement.

EDA operates the Electronic Bulletin Board (EBB) portal² on which contracting opportunities are advertised. Governments have so far published around 400 contract opportunities based on open competition worth more than 10 billion.

Both Directive and Code of Conduct are key instruments in the shaping of a more effective EDEM and a stronger European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB).

1. The text, as adopted by the EP, is posted at <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?language=EN&type=TA&reference=20090114&secondRef=TOC>.

2. <http://www.eda.europa.eu/ebbweb/>.

South Africa-European Union Strategic Partnership

Brussels, 16 January 2009

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ FROM THE MINISTERIAL TROIKA MEETING IN KLEINMOND, SOUTH AFRICA

(...)

3. PEACE & SECURITY ISSUES

Zimbabwe

The meeting exchanged views on the current situation in Zimbabwe. Ministers expressed their concern at the prevailing situation and its negative impact both on the Zimbabwean population and on the sub-region.

Ministers in particular expressed concern over the ongoing cholera epidemic, its consequences for the affected both in Zimbabwe and in neighbouring areas. In this regard, they would welcome increased cooperation between the Zimbabwean authorities and the international community.

Ministers expressed grave concern at the ongoing violence and abductions and recognised that a political solution to Zimbabwe's problems is critical to bringing an end to this cycle.

They called on the Zimbabwean parties to act with urgency and cooperate in good faith towards the successful conclusion of the negotiation on the basis of the 15 September Power Sharing Agreement and avoid unilateral decisions which contradict the spirit of the Agreement. Ministers observed that the Agreement can extricate Zimbabwe from its current socio-economic challenges. In this respect, they urged SADC and AU to persist in their efforts supporting negotiations that should reflect the will and choice of the Zimbabwean people as expressed in the 29 March 2008 elections.

Great Lakes Region

Ministers exchanged views on the latest developments in the DRC with a particular focus on the current conflict and instability in the Eastern DRC and called for a ceasefire between the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), the Mai-Mai militia, Le Congrès National pour la Défense du Peuple (CNDP) and Les Forces armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC) in order to allow humanitarian assistance to the growing number of displaced people. They condemned the human rights violations and crimes committed against civilians by all parties, in particular by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). The Parties supported regional, continental and international efforts to find a lasting political solution for peace, stability and development in the Eastern DRC and the Great Lakes Region, based on the Nairobi communiqué and Goma Peace Agreement.

Ministers expressed support for the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions in efforts to secure peace in the DRC and welcomed the renewal of MONUC's mandate for another year, as well as the clear priorities set for the mission by Resolution 1856, including the protection of civilians.

Sudan

Ministers underlined the need for all Parties to urgently engage in an inclusive political process to find a lasting solution to the Darfur conflict and to ensure full respect for humanitarian law and humanitarian access. Ministers welcomed the efforts of the Joint UN-AU Chief Mediator, Djibril Bassolé, and the Qatari sponsored peace initiative. Ministers called upon the Government of the Sudan (GoS) and the Darfur armed groups to commit without delay to a lasting ceasefire and a ceasefire monitoring mechanism with support of the UNAMID. They called for concrete follow-up and implementation of the Sudanese People's Initiative commitments to further peace in Darfur. Ministers agreed to work closely together for an early resolution of the conflict in Darfur and the promotion of long-lasting peace and reconciliation in Sudan as a whole. Ministers emphasised the necessity of putting an end to impunity in Darfur. Ministers underlined the strategic importance of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) for the peace and security of the whole of Sudan and the region. They took note of the progress made in the implementation of the CPA, particularly the appointment of members of the National Electoral Commission. They further expressed their support for the establishment of the Abyei administration in line with the Road Map for the return of Internally Displaced People's and the implementation of the Abyei Protocol. Ministers stressed the responsibility of the parties to the CPA for the full implementation of the peace agreement.

Ministers noted the existing cases before the International Criminal Court (ICC) pertaining to Sudan and the Darfur conflict. The EU stressed the independence of the ICC and its role to promote international justice. South Africa and the EU would work to reduce to a minimum any negative impact there might be, stemming from an approval by the Pre-Trial Chamber of the application by the ICC Chief Prosecutor, on efforts being made towards peace in Darfur.

Somalia

Ministers commended the continued efforts of the UN to bring about peace in Somalia. They stressed their support for the Djibouti Process that remains a viable way to provide peace and security for Somalia. In this regard, they welcomed the signing of the documents on Modalities for the Implementation of the Cessation of Armed Confrontation and a Joint Declaration on Common Political Aims by the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia (ARS) on 26 October 2008. Ministers noted the recent resignation of the President of Somalia and urged all Somalis to pursue an all-inclusive national reconciliation process and in this regard called on all Somali stakeholders to resolve the issues of concern according to the Transitional Federal Charter.

Ministers also expressed support for the strengthening of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and called for more contributions to the mission whose role will be crucial following the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops. Ministers denounced the prevailing piracy situation on Somali shores and welcomed the involvement of the EU and other countries in dealing with piracy in accordance with relevant UNSC Resolutions, and the successful naval missions carried out by Operation Atalanta in December 2008 along the Somali coastline. However, the issue of piracy is part of the continuing political crisis in Somalia, which should be dealt with for the achievement of a long-lasting sustainable resolution to the problem of piracy.

In this regard, Ministers welcomed the establishment of the UN Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia on 14 January 2009 and noted that piracy is a symptom of a wider lack of security and rule of law in Somalia and continues to constitute a threat to regional stability. Furthermore, piracy is symptomatic of the overall situation in Somalia, and they noted that the Group concluded that the prevalence of illegal fishing and toxic waste dumping off the coast of Somalia adversely affects the Somali economy and marine environment.

The parties deplored the humanitarian situation in Somalia and called on the parties to the Somali conflict to take all necessary measures to protect civilians and respect international humanitarian law and human rights.

Middle East Peace Process

Ministers are deeply concerned over continuing violence in Gaza between Israel and Hamas and especially the humanitarian tragedy and the suffering of ordinary citizens. Ministers stressed the urgency of a halt to rocket attacks by Hamas on Israel and an end to Israeli military action. They noted with grave concern the inordinately high casualty rate of women and children in this conflict, as well as the use of incendiary weapons in densely populated areas. Ministers further noted with concern the recent attacks on UN buildings and humanitarian convoy and called for a strict respect for international humanitarian law.

Noting that a dire humanitarian crisis had existed in Gaza even before the latest conflict, Ministers pledged to redouble their efforts to assist the Palestinian people. Only a full and immediate ceasefire will allow the delivery and distribution of the large quantities of humanitarian aid that Gaza desperately needs and for the resumption of basic services.

Ministers strongly believe that a viable Gaza economy is essential for a sustainable peace. In this respect the Parties call on Israel to fully open its border crossings with Gaza to allow the resumption of the flow of commercial goods and people.

Ministers welcomed the adoption of UNSC Resolution 1860 (2009) and urged all parties to implement it fully.

The meeting urged all Palestinian groups to continue with their reconciliation talks to establish a Palestinian Government, fully representative of the aspirations of the Palestinian people.

Both Parties continued to call for the resumption of the negotiation process inaugurated at the Annapolis meeting in 2007 so that its goals can be realised.

Iraq

Ministers recognised progress made in Iraq and urged the Government of Iraq to intensify efforts towards national reconciliation and nation building while they expressed the hope that the Iraqi provincial elections, scheduled for the end of January 2009, would be conducted peacefully and in a free and fair manner, reinforcing democracy and the rule of law.

Ministers noted the approval by the Iraqi Parliament of the Withdrawal from Iraq Act, which governs the presence of foreign forces in Iraq after 31 December 2008.

Ministers agreed to continue to focus their efforts on supporting and promoting a central role for the UN in assisting Iraq in accordance with relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Iran

The Parties exchanged views regarding the ongoing dispute over the Iranian nuclear programme and expressed their commitment towards a peaceful resolution of this issue, within

the context of the UNSC Resolutions and the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Parties reaffirmed the right of all States Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to pursue nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in conformity with the Treaty. Ministers agreed that questions remain over Iran's nuclear programme and called on Iran to fully comply with its obligations, UNSC Resolutions and the IAEA.

Balkans

Ministers recalled the importance of consolidating stability and achieving reconciliation and noted the enhancement of the European perspective in the Western Balkans. In this respect, Ministers recognised the role of the United Nations, the EU and of cooperation with international partners. Ministers welcomed the EU's willingness to step up its involvement in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The EU briefed South Africa on the successful launch of the rule of law mission, EULEX, as part of the efforts to strengthen institutions and the rule of law in Kosovo. Ministers encouraged further focusing on the protection of minorities, the fight against corruption and organised crime, economic reform and the improvement of living conditions.

Middle East Peace Process – Remarks by Javier Solana

Brussels, 21 January 2009

SUMMARY OF REMARKS TO THE PRESS BY JAVIER SOLANA ON THE GAZA CRISIS

Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), told reporters today that it is essential to open up Gaza to allow humanitarian aid to enter. He said that the European Union is engaged at the humanitarian, political and economic levels and is sparing no effort to get relief to those in need and to help ensure that the ceasefire holds and that the peace process itself is taken forward.

The following is an edited summary of Mr Solana's remarks to the press made before the meeting of EU foreign ministers with the Israeli Foreign Minister, Tzipi Livni:

'We are going to have a meeting tonight with Mrs Tzipi Livni and on Sunday we will have a meeting with the foreign ministers of Egypt, Jordan and Turkey. In the days ahead of us we would like very much to wrap up our conversations with all the important players in the region. The Palestinians will also be having dinner with us on Sunday.

I would like to say that the ceasefire is still fragile and every effort must be made to ensure that it is solid, durable and lasting.

I would also like to say that it is very important that Gaza is opened. That means that the crossings are opened and the help that the international community wants to give can reach all those in need. First, the basic elements of humanitarian relief must be provided. Further on, reconstruction will also be important. This is an appeal that is made to everybody. The European Union is committed to helping. It is committed politically, to maintaining, with all our means, the ceasefire. It is committed to helping economically and it is committed, for the future, to two important dynamics, firstly, inter-Palestinian dynamics, and secondly a real peace process, which must not be forgotten. The situation will not be stable until a final settlement is achieved. All efforts have to be made in that direction. We, the EU, will spare no effort and I hope that the rest will do the same.'

Responding to questions from reporters, Mr Solana said the EU was ready, as always, to provide humanitarian aid, under any circumstances. We had done so already and we would never fail to do so. Secondly, Mr Solana said he very much hoped that there would be improvements in the inter-Palestinian situation that would facilitate the process of humanitarian help and reconstruction. This was very important. Mr Solana hoped very much that moves towards Palestinian unity would be possible because that would be very important for the peace process.

Asked about cooperation between the EU and Arab world on humanitarian aid for Gaza, Mr Solana said it was difficult to imagine that cooperation between the EU and the Arab countries could be deeper than it already was. Whilst it was true that there had been divisions amongst the members of the Arab League, common positions had emerged at the meeting in Kuwait two days previously and he was pleased to see that pledges for reconstruction aid had come out of the meeting. He hoped very much that those pledges would be translated into reality.

Asked about Israel's security concerns, the border crossing points and the kidnapped Israeli soldier, Gilad Shalit, Mr SOLANA said that the EU's position had been clear from the outset. The EU Troika, he and President Sarkozy had been to the region, from the very beginning, to call for a ceasefire, in order that we could begin deploying humanitarian aid. Now we had the ceasefire and we hoped it would be maintained and that humanitarian aid would be deployed. But for that Gaza had to be open. He would be asking that of Mrs Livni this evening. Mr SOLANA said he had had a long telephone conversation with Mrs Livni and he hoped that today's meeting would be constructive and positive. The question of Corporal Shalit had always been on the agenda for everybody.

Asked about deploying the Rafah border mission, Mr Solana said: *'Our decision on that has been taken already. We have said we are ready to return to Rafah and even to extend the mission if that is agreed by the parties and we are asked to do it. On that there is no reservation by the European Union. We are willing to do whatever is necessary in that direction, with monitors in Rafah and in other places. Rafah is probably the most important one and the sooner it is done the better. For that, the ceasefire has to be maintained, along with the withdrawal of Israel, which is taking place today. Now we have to really get to work, probably with Egypt, to see how fast this can be done. The opening of Gaza is a must.'*

'We are offering whatever is necessary if there is agreement between the parties. On Rafah, I hope there will be an agreement because we have done it already, following the agreement of 2005 on access and movement. Under that agreement, the only thing that was really done all the way to the end was the presence of EU monitors. Other parts of the agreement were never complied with, so what we say is credible, it has been done already and it will be done again if necessary. The second thing is for the Palestinians to come to an agreement. That is not for us to do. It is an agreement between the Palestinians that is needed and we will cooperate with the Palestinian government.'

External Relations Council

Brussels, 26 January 2009

MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council discussed the latest developments in Gaza, notably the humanitarian repercussions, ways to make the current ceasefire permanent and the longer-term perspective of the peace process.

The discussion was enriched and inspired by recent EU meetings with Israel, the Palestinian National Authority and other partners. Following the Council meeting, High Representative Javier Solana left for the Middle East.

After the debate, the Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council welcomes the cessation of hostilities in the Gaza Strip and calls on all parties to make the current ceasefire permanent through the full implementation of the UNSC Resolution 1860. Noting the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza, the issues which should be addressed without any delay include a sustained halt of rocket launches towards Israel, the urgent opening of the Gaza crossings on a regular and predictable basis and an effective mechanism to prevent arms and ammunition smuggling to the Gaza Strip.

2. The Council fully supports the Egyptian initiative and efforts to achieve a lasting ceasefire. The European Union, in close coordination with Egypt and other partners, is examining options and intends to support the sustainability of the ceasefire including through assistance on border management. At the same time the Council expresses the European Union's readiness to reactivate the EU Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM Rafah), as soon as conditions allow, and to examine the possibility of extending its assistance to other crossing points as part of the overall EU engagement in the region. The EU welcomes the commitment of the United States to contribute to stopping arms smuggling to Gaza and is prepared to identify ways to cooperate in such efforts.

3. The European Union deeply deplores the loss of life during this conflict, particularly the civilian casualties. The Council reminds all parties to the conflict to fully respect human rights and comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law and will follow closely investigations into alleged violations of international humanitarian law. In this regard it takes careful note of the statement by UNSG Ban Ki-moon to the Security Council on 21 January.

4. Gravely concerned by the critical humanitarian situation on the ground, the EU calls for the unimpeded provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance to the suffering people of Gaza. The European Union is ready to step up its already substantial emergency aid contribution and it will continue to strongly support the United Nations Relief and Works Agency and other international agencies in their efforts. The Council condemns the shelling of UNRWA infrastructure in Gaza. The EU is also prepared to work towards rehabilitation, reconstruction, the sustainable economic recovery and future economic development of the Gaza Strip. This will only be possible if the Gaza crossings are open for humanitarian assistance, commercial goods and persons. The EU supports the idea of convening an international donors' conference in Egypt. Donor efforts need to be closely coordinated with the AHLC. All future assistance will be carried out on the basis of a specific needs assessment.

5. In response to the current crisis the European Union will focus its support and assistance on the following: immediate humanitarian relief for the population of Gaza, prevention of illicit trafficking in arms and ammunition, sustained re-opening of crossing points on the basis of the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access, rehabilitation and reconstruction and the resumption of the peace process. The EU will take forward this agenda in close cooperation with its Quartet partners and regional actors and in line with its wider approach to the region including its state building efforts. To this end the EU is developing a Work Plan.

6. The Council strongly encourages inter-Palestinian reconciliation behind President Mahmoud Abbas which is key for peace, stability, and development and supports the mediation efforts of Egypt and the Arab League in this respect.

7. Reaffirming its conclusions of 8 December 2008, the European Union is convinced that an end to the current crisis must be followed by renewed and urgent efforts by the Israeli and Palestinian parties as well as the international community to establish an independent, democratic, contiguous and viable Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, living side by side with Israel in peace and security. This can only be brought about by the urgent and successful conclusion of the peace process. The European Union reiterates its commitment to work vigorously with the other Quartet members and Arab partners and looks forward to a strong and committed participation and cooperation of the new US Administration. The EU reiterates its commitment to a comprehensive and regional approach to the resolution of the Israeli-Arab conflict. It supports all efforts deployed to achieve stability, peace and security in the region. The Council reiterates that the Arab Peace Initiative offers a solid and appropriate basis for progress in this direction.

(...)

Abkhazia and South Ossetia – Declaration by the Presidency

Brussels, 6 February 2009

DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENCY ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ON RUSSIAN PLANS TO BUILD UP ITS MILITARY PRESENCE IN ABKHAZIA AND SOUTH OSSETIA

The European Union is seriously concerned about the plans announced by the Russian Federation to build up its military presence in the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia without the consent of the Government of Georgia. Among other things, this applies to Russian plans to construct a naval installation on the coast of Abkhazia.

The EU would consider the implementation of such plans to be a serious violation of the principle of Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, to which the EU is strongly committed. Any military build-up in Abkhazia and South Ossetia would be in contradiction with the spirit of the August and September 2008 ceasefire agreements and jeopardise stability and security in the region by further increasing tensions.

The EU expects Russia to act in a responsible manner and to continue to implement all its commitments. The EU also calls on Russia to use all relevant international fora, in particular the talks in Geneva, to discuss security matters.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and Azerbaijan, align themselves with this declaration.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

Javier Solana – Address to the Munich Security Conference

Munich, 7 February 2009

I would like to start by thanking the Munich Security Conference, and the German government, for the invitation. The 'Wehrkunde' has a special place in the international calendar. This is even more relevant this year. For we are also meeting at the start of a new US administration. A full team of top US leaders is with us today.

There are many urgent problems that demand our attention. They are captured in the rather ambitious title of our session, NATO, Russia, Oil and Gas and the Middle East: the future of European security.

Let me first focus on the last element – European security as such. We tend to believe that security inside Europe is largely 'completed'. Of course we know many threats remain. But we see them as coming from other parts of the world: the Middle East, Africa, South Asia. Or we think that they are really global in nature: climate change, non-proliferation and poverty.

And it is fair to say that no other region in the world has anything that comes close to our security structures: a sophisticated blend of rules and institutions. Their most important feature is their comprehensive character: cooperation in all the three baskets of hard security, economy and human rights. That was a vision that we have to retain and that we have still to fully achieve.

Moreover, it is quite clear that among the three pillars of the pan-European security order – the US, Europe, Russia – one of them feels uncomfortable in it. For whatever reasons. But President Medvedev's proposals are a clear signal in that respect. It is in all our interest to analyse why and see what can be done. Let me begin with the "diagnosis".

Last year we had a real war between two OSCE countries. The war in Georgia was a massive breach of a core principle we hold dear: the non-use of violence to settle conflicts. Other, not-so-frozen, conflicts simmer and could erupt into violence. The EU and NATO still keep 20 000 people deployed in the Balkans. Security and stability in that part of our continent are not yet self-sustaining.

At the start of the year we saw, yet again, a major gas dispute between our most important supplier and our most important transit partner. To people across Europe trying to keep warm, this did not look like a purely commercial dispute. Several treaties and agreements, take the CFE Treaty or the Energy Charter, are not functioning as they should.

The economic crisis is encouraging some to follow the dangerous way of protectionism, as if we had learnt nothing from history. Certainly, no 'new Cold War' is in the making but all this is taking place against a wider backdrop of distrust. There is a paradox in all this. Never before have so many people worked to promote overall European security. Countless meetings are held in every conceivable format: bilateral and multilateral, formal and informal, among governments and with those outside. But although we meet often, that does not mean more trust among us.

And there is an apparent contradiction: in recent years, co-operation between the US, Europe and Russia on some of the most difficult global issues has been positive. Take Iran, the Middle East Peace Process or non-proliferation and terrorism. Of course I hope this continues. And that it will be expanded to the financial crisis and climate change. But, closer to home, things have been more difficult. No wonder: many times it seems easier to be strategic partners than good neighbours. We need both things.

With Russia we share a continent and a history. But our respective memories are very different. Take the 1990s. For us, these were years of liberation and integration. But for many Russians, these were years of decline. To try to understand that mindset is not the same as condoning the actions that follow that logic. For us, the idea of Russia feeling threatened is absurd. But for Russia, apparently, they may feel like that.

Russia should understand how small countries feel vulnerable beside a giant neighbour. And that in today's world it is not a good sign if you have difficult relations with many of your neighbours. All of us should ask whether it makes sense to still have people and resources geared towards planning for conflict scenarios among us, rather than towards addressing common threats together. At a time of financial crisis, these questions are even more relevant.

Now, President Medvedev's proposals. They are still to be explained further. But the underlying ideas deserve to be taken seriously. And engagement in a debate is in itself a road to build trust. Some principles underpinning European security are non-negotiable: that we do it with the US; that countries are free to choose their alliance; and that we reject notions such as spheres of privileged influence.

Russia knows all this. Just as it knows that there are many elements we can work with: the primacy of international law is one. Calls for legally binding instruments and more transparency are good too. Not just in political and military terms, but also for energy and gas.

We should engage in this discussion. And we should have a positive agenda which is about more than 'let's preserve what we have.' I think that we should seriously look at how we develop 'a Helsinki Plus' rather than a 'Helsinki II'. The latter might be very difficult to achieve and we should concentrate our efforts on developing further what 'Helsinki' has achieved already.

What we have has produced unparalleled results in terms of peace and security. It is immensely valuable – but not perfect. Our goal should be that all three pillars of European security – Europe, US and Russia – feel comfortable with and attached to whatever order we have.

The advent of a new US administration offers new opportunities. Let me close with one final thought: for all the talk of rising powers and Asian centuries, we should not forget the centrality of the US, Europe and Russia as the leading players for global security.

Those three agreeing is often a necessary, even if it's not a sufficient condition to get things done around the world. That is another reason to 'secure our base'. That means these three pillars working as much as possible together on security across our own Continent.

And a very final word, on a fundamental issue, related as well to the security of Europe, which is the Middle East. We have an obligation to get seriously engaged in finding a lasting peace. We are going to face many difficulties. But, more than ever, we have to go beyond crisis management and enter into conflict resolution. We can and we should.

Thank you very much.

Middle East Peace Process – Address by Javier Solana to the European Parliament

Brussels, 18 February 2009

Mr President, this is the first time that I have appeared before you this year, 2009. It is a great pleasure to be here and I hope that the good cooperation we have had in the past will continue this year.

The war in Gaza ended a month ago, on 18 January, and I think you would agree with me that it feels like yesterday. The scale of the suffering and destruction was immense and it has left us all with a bitter taste in our mouths. The humanitarian situation today remains heart-breaking. We need to find urgent solutions to get aid in and to reduce the level of suffering of the people.

At the same time, we need to do all we can to end the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians and between Israel and the Arab world. In fact, Mr President, the parameters of the solution are well known, and have been known for some time. What matters now is the political will to implement it among Israelis and Palestinians, among Arabs and the wider international community.

The European vocation for peace in the Middle East remains as strong as ever. Our commitment to the creation of a viable and independent Palestinian state, living side by side with Israel, is total. It is at the heart of our Middle East policy. All our actions have this strategic objective in mind. We will give our firm backing to all who want a peaceful solution to the many challenges across the Middle East region.

This House – Parliament – knows just how difficult and how intractable the situation may seem. Too often the region has been plagued by cycles of violence, rising extremism and economic hardship. At the same time, the conditions for Europeans and Americans to work together in the search for peace in the Middle East are probably better than ever. I have just returned from Washington where I had good discussions with a number of people there in the Obama administration. I have the assurance from them that the strong commitment that has been expressed is a reality. We are willing and ready to work with them towards achieving success in this conflict.

The appointment of Senator Mitchell as US envoy has given the people in the Middle East and his friends renewed hope. We know him. We have worked with him. I had the privilege of working with him in 2001 on the famous report and, just recently, I have had the opportunity to work with him in the region.

I hope very much that these changes will lead to a new approach, one that provides the parties with a greater say in how they manage their affairs. We know that solutions and proposals should be locally inspired. But, at the same time, deeper international engagement remains essential.

This is why the Arab Peace Initiative is so crucial. This initiative is the collective expression of the Arab world on how they could help to end their conflict with Israel. It is their response to the issue that has held back their development and their integration into our global world. It remains, and should remain, on the table.

We have just had important elections in Israel. Of course, it is for the Israeli people, their political leaders, to decide on the composition of their new government. From our side, we hope that the new prime minister and government will be solid interlocutors for peace talks.

Needless to say, the same applies to the Palestinians. They, too, have to get their house in order, including through reconciliation. As everybody knows, we strongly encourage intra-Palestinian reconciliation behind President Abbas and all the efforts by Egypt and the Arab League in that direction. This will be a key to peace, stability and development.

As I said, I know that this Parliament has been deeply preoccupied with the crisis in Gaza, and so have we all. Let me use this occasion to highlight some of the most important international efforts, which focused on trying to end the violence and easing the plight of all civilian populations.

Egypt's role in resolving the situation in Gaza, and indeed with the Palestinians themselves, remains crucial. We hope their efforts will soon lead to a durable and sustainable ceasefire, to the opening of the crossings for all goods and persons, and some sort of intra-Palestinian agreement. Without this, it will be difficult – not to say impossible – to rebuild Gaza.

We are looking forward to welcoming positive announcements on the ceasefire. The day before yesterday there were good meetings, and let us hope that they will continue today and in the future so that a ceasefire may be called, without delay. As you know, Egypt will also host an important conference on reconstruction on 2 March and we expect all the international community to make a commitment there. The European Union, too, played its role. We immediately expressed our willingness to contribute in concrete ways to a durable ceasefire. We also stated our readiness to re-dispatch our monitors to the Rafah crossing-point, in accordance with the agreement that we signed in 2005. We are ready to operate at Rafah, or at any other crossing-points where help is needed or requested.

Several European countries also expressed their readiness to help the interdiction of illegal trafficking, in particular arms smuggling, into Gaza. The activities of the European Parliament in response to the crisis have been significant and are part and parcel of the European Union's overall reaction to the crisis.

As far as the United Nations is concerned, we can warmly commend UNRWA for its work and perseverance and underline that the European Union will continue to support all its efforts.

But it is clear that no single country or organisation can tackle the conflicts in the Middle East alone. The very nature of the difficulties demands multilateral solutions. The Quartet will have a crucial role to play in the months ahead. The new US Administration, in cooperation with us, has confirmed its intention to make full use of the Quartet.

The terrible events in Gaza should also force us to take a more strategic and long-term look at Gaza. The Gaza Strip constitutes an integral part of the Palestinian territory occupied in 1967 and, without any doubt, will be part of a Palestinian state. Gaza needs to become economically and politically viable. Gaza needs to become part of a political solution.

The immediate priority remains to secure a durable and fully respected ceasefire and to allow for the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid. We need to see the opening of the crossings for humanitarian assistance, for commercial goods and for people, on a regular and predictable basis.

As you know, the diplomatic fall-out of the Gaza conflict in the wider region has been very significant: indirect talks between Syria and Israel have been suspended; Mauritania and Qatar have suspended ties with Israel; a withdrawal of the Arab Peace Initiative was threatened.

Arab divisions, as you know, have deepened. Without Arab unity it will be very difficult to make progress in Gaza and in the wider Middle East peace process. Peace in the Middle East

requires a united Arab world. The upcoming Arab League summit will be crucial to restore Arab unity, in particular behind the Arab Peace Initiative.

In the coming months, we will also have elections in Iran and in Lebanon. On 12 June, the Iranians will vote for a new President. We have repeatedly stated our deep respect for Iran and our desire to forge a completely different kind of relationship with this country. This is clearly in everyone's interests. But to achieve that, we need trust and that trust must be restored.

Let me conclude by saying that 2009 will be critical for the Middle East. We are possibly at a threshold. We can choose to pursue the same policies in the same manner, knowing that they will lead to the same results – the results that we know today. On the other hand, we can try to work with energy, with determination, to adjust our policies, to adjust the way we set about achieving results.

We have to work on both crisis management and conflict resolution – there is no doubt about that. However, the time has come to focus decisively on conflict resolution. It is the only way to end this endless sequence of death and destruction.

Mr President, thank you very much.

Democratic Republic of Congo – Declarations by the Presidency

Brussels, 20 February 2009

DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENCY ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN PROVINCE ORIENTALE, DRC (LRA)

The European Union (EU) takes note of the agreement between the DRC and Uganda to extend the joint military action against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which started on December 14. The EU is appalled by the brutal killing by the LRA of more than 800 Congolese civilians, including numerous women and children in Province Orientale, DRC. The EU urges the LRA to cease its attacks on civilians, disarm immediately and unconditionally.

The EU calls on the countries involved in the military operation against the LRA to protect the civilian population and to cooperate closely with the MONUC allowing it to fully implement its mandate in particular with respects to the protection of the population.

The EU furthermore takes note of the large number of IDP's, some 160 000 people in the region as a consequence of the fighting and urges the countries to cooperate with humanitarian organisations to minimise suffering.

The EU recalls the obligation of all state parties to the Rome statute to fully cooperate with the ICC and contribute to the execution of the ICC arrest warrants issued, including those issued against the LRA leadership.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and Armenia align themselves with this declaration.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENCY ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN EASTERN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The European Union is closely following developments in the East of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), including increased cooperation between the DRC and Rwanda.

The European Union considers that this increased cooperation between the two countries creates new prospects for a concerted and sustainable solution to the crisis in Eastern DRC.

The European Union encourages the full integration of combatants of the *Congrès National pour la Défense du Peuple* (CNDP) and other organised armed groups in the DRC's armed forces (FARDC), which constitutes an important step towards a lasting peaceful solution.

The EU calls on the FDLR to disarm immediately and to return to Rwanda. The EU urges all parties to take into full consideration the humanitarian situation of the civilian population

and to comply with applicable provisions of international humanitarian law. The EU takes note in this respect of the commitment by the Congolese authorities to protect the civilian population and facilitate humanitarian assistance. The EU underlines the need to associate MONUC with the planning of operations in order to allow MONUC to implement its mandate, in particular with respect to the protection of the population and underlines the importance for FARDC and foreign troops legally present in the DRC, to fully respect MONUC's mandate.

The EU reiterates its support to regional cooperation in the Great Lakes Region as an important means to consolidate ongoing efforts aimed at solving the persistent crises in the DRC.

Further to addressing economic and political challenges, a sustainable peace requires, inter alia, broad reconciliation and the fight against impunity. In this context, the EU also calls on all stakeholders to cooperate with the International Criminal Court.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Armenia align themselves with this declaration.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

General Affairs and External Relations Council

Brussels, 23-24 February 2009

(...)

IRAQ – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

‘1. The Council welcomes the holding of provincial elections in Iraq on 31 January 2009 and congratulates the people of Iraq for having successfully expressed their democratic will. The elections were well organized and conducted in a competitive and generally peaceful environment with freedom of expression widely respected across the country. The elections are an important step towards a consolidation of the democratisation process and reconciliation.

2. In this context, the Council commends the work by the Independent High Electoral Commission supported by UNAMI, with technical and financial support from the European Community, in organising these elections with a challenging timetable. The EU will examine the possibility of providing similar support for future elections.

3. The Council underlines the importance of using the outcome of these elections to make further progress on improving the lives of the Iraqi people as well as on national reconciliation in Iraq. In this context, it encourages the new Provincial Councils to respond to the expectations of the Iraqi people by delivering inter alia much needed basic services and related investment.

4. The experience gained from these elections will hopefully contribute to further consolidation of the democratisation process, including the country’s legislative and constitutional framework, and to laying a solid foundation for Iraq’s next set of elections. The EU, in cooperation with its international partners, will continue to support Iraq in its efforts to build a secure, stable, democratic, unified and prosperous country where human rights are respected and reiterates its commitment to the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Iraq.’

SRI LANKA – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council condemned the attack by two Tamil Tigers planes on Sri Lanka’s capital, Colombo, on 20 February, which caused many casualties.

It also adopted the following conclusions:

‘1. The EU has been following closely developments in Sri Lanka. The EU is deeply concerned about the evolving humanitarian crisis and vast number of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) trapped by the fighting in northern Sri Lanka, as well as the continuing reports of high civilian casualties. To prevent the loss of civilian life, the EU stresses the need for the provisions of international humanitarian law and the principles of the laws of war to be respected by parties to a conflict. The EU calls on the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE to comply with these laws.

2. The EU calls for an immediate cease-fire thereby providing for the establishment of full and unrestricted access, allowing humanitarian aid to be safely delivered and allowing civil-

ians to leave the conflict area. The EU condemns the LTTE's use of violence and intimidation to prevent civilians from leaving the conflict area.

3. The EU urges the Sri Lankan Government to ensure that the temporary camps for IDPs and the screening process for access to them are in compliance with international standards and that independent monitoring be allowed. The UN, the ICRC, and other humanitarian organizations need to have full access to these camps. These above conditions must be met for the EU to be in a position to provide the required humanitarian assistance.

4. The EU remains convinced that the long standing conflict in Sri Lanka cannot be resolved by military means. A military defeat of the LTTE will only reemphasize the need to find a political solution in order to ensure a lasting peace. The EU recalls the Co-Chairs Statement issued on 03/02/09 and reiterates its intention to send a Troika as soon as possible.

5. The EU calls on the LTTE to lay down its arms and to renounce terrorism and violence once and for all, end the inhuman use of child soldiers and forced recruitment, and participate in a political process to achieve a just and lasting solution. The EU calls on the authorities of Sri Lanka to engage in an inclusive political process, which addresses the legitimate concerns of all communities.

6. The EU remains deeply concerned about grave violations of human rights, in particular the cases of enforced disappearances, extra-judicial killings as well as harassments, intimidations, attacks on the media and human rights defenders and the climate of impunity. The EU calls on the Sri Lankan authorities to take decisive action to tackle human rights abuses, to guarantee press freedom and to disarm paramilitary groups in Government controlled areas. The EU views with concern the draft 'Prohibition of Forcible Conversions' bill.

7. The EU underlines the importance of the Sri Lankan authorities to cooperate in the GSP+ investigation into the effective implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Torture and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.'

EU CODE OF CONDUCT ON ARMS EXPORTS

The Council adopted an updated version of the common list of military equipment covered by the EU code of conduct on arms exports (6432/09).

(...)

AFGHANISTAN

The Council discussed the directions for EU policy in the coming months regarding Afghanistan. The debate focused in particular on the planned Afghan elections in August, the EU's policy and its cooperation with other partners, in particular the US, as well as EU activities such as the EU's police mission to Afghanistan (EUPOL Afghanistan). After the debate, the Presidency summarised the discussion along the following lines.

Ministers agreed that now was the right time to examine urgent options for increasing European support to the people and government of Afghanistan. The process of reviewing the EU's contributions in Afghanistan should focus on both short and long-term perspectives.

Ministers recognised the challenges and opportunities facing Afghanistan over the next 12-18 months, particularly the forthcoming elections, which are essential to the further polit-

ical development of Afghanistan and the legitimacy of the next government. Ministers underscored that the EU had an important role to play in both funding the elections and deploying a substantial election observation mission across the country.

Ministers highlighted the EU's support for the coordinating role of the UN's assistance mission in Afghanistan, including in the elections.

Ministers reiterated their commitment to expand the EUPOL police mission as part of the EU's strategy. They underscored the importance of ensuring that EU efforts complemented those of other international actors. Apart from EUPOL, the EU should be open to identifying other areas where it can offer an added value, including on governance and the rule of law.

Ministers agreed on the importance of the broader regional context and the importance of positive engagement by neighbouring countries and other stakeholders in Afghanistan. The regionally-owned approach should better address some of the challenges, particularly on counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics and trade.

Ministers reiterated their strong resolve to find, together with the US, ways of ensuring a common approach to effectively implementing solutions conducive to building a stronger and safer Afghanistan.

The EU already makes a substantial collective contribution to Afghanistan. Since 2001, the EU (European Community and member states combined) has been one of the key donors supporting development in Afghanistan. Collectively, it pledged EUR 8 billion for reconstruction during the 2001-10 period. Contributions made public at the London conference in spring 2006 by the member states and the Commission accounted for EUR 2 billion. The Commission has pledged EUR 700 million for Afghanistan from 2007 to 2010, and the member states currently provide about half of ISAF troops (26 000 troops).

MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

The Council discussed the situation regarding the Middle East peace process, following the Israeli parliamentary elections held on 10 February.

The discussion focused on preparations for the international conference in support of the Palestinian economy for the reconstruction of Gaza which will be held in Sharm el-Sheikh (Egypt), on 2 March in particular the input of the EU as a co-sponsor of the conference.

Ministers stressed that substantial pledges of assistance should be mobilised, and above all that life in Gaza should be brought back to normal as quickly as possible. A number of messages will also be sent to the conference: humanitarian relief for the people, support for Egypt and its ongoing mediation efforts, support for a resumption of the bilateral negotiations and confirmation of the Arab Peace initiative.

The EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), Javier Solana, announced that he will be travelling to Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Israel and the Palestinian territories from 24 to 28 February 2009, a few days before the conference.

(...)

European Defence Agency – Space-based earth surveillance and satellite communications systems

Brussels, 5 March 2009

NEW EDA PROJECT ON SPACE-BASED EARTH SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

The EDA Steering Board has agreed to approve a project for the next generation European military earth observation satellites. This Multinational Space-based Imaging System (MUSIS) project has been launched by six European Union Member States: Belgium, Germany, Greece, France, Italy and Spain. The project has now become an EDA Category B project and will be open to participation of other EDA participating Member States, if their proposed contribution is acceptable to the existing contributing Members.

The Agency's Capability Development Plan (CDP) considers space-based imaging capacities essential for ESDP missions. The MUSIS project aims at establishing a multinational space-based imaging system for surveillance, reconnaissance and observation to ensure continuity of services from the current French Helios II, German SAR LUPE and Italian Cosmo-Skymed and Pléiades systems, from 2015-2017 onwards.

'Space-based related assets are critical to improve European military capabilities, including for information-gathering. The approved project will be critical to ensure this capability in the longer-term and I welcome very much the initiative of the six EU Member States to bring it to EDA', Javier Solana, Head of the Agency, said.

One of the roles for EDA will be to seek synergies with earth observation programmes on the civilian side, in particular with the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) programme of the European Commission.

'This is another example of how EDA is proving its added value, not only in bringing together participating Member States' efforts, but connecting at the same time military to civil space agendas. We will liaise with the Commission and the European Space Agency to ensure complementarity of research and technology, and to seek other synergies', Alexander Weis, EDA's Chief Executive said.

Brussels, 6 March 2009

EDA TO ESTABLISH A EUROPEAN SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS PROCUREMENT CELL

The European Defence Agency is preparing the establishment of a Procurement Cell to coordinate the EU Member States' orders of commercial satellite communications services. Satellite communications are essential for ESDP crisis management operations. However, the military have to compete on a market dominated by civilian users (some 80%). Coordinating and combining EU Member States' orders for satellite communications services will ensure better access to such services at competitive prices.

The European Satellite Communications Procurement Cell will be a three-year pilot project (2010-2012) in order to gain practical experience with centralising commercial SATCOM procurement at the EU level. The Cell's activities could reach a business volume of at least

€30 million per year. A central booking office would initially be hosted at EDA's premises. It would manage the technical and financial aspects of the requests and orders placed by the Member States with the capacity and service offers by satellite operators and telecom companies. After the end of the pilot period (2012) the SATCOM Procurement Cell activities are intended to be transferred to an appropriate entity for permanent operations for the EU Member States.

The SATCOM Procurement Cell proposal was discussed at the Steering Board in Capabilities formation, which met on 6 March under the chairmanship of Major-General Pierre Hougardy, the Belgian Capability Director. *'This is a major step in European collaboration under the roof of EDA to get better and cheaper access to commercial satellite communications services for our military crisis management operations'*, Hougardy said.

Capability Directors of EDA's participating Member States also discussed the follow-on work to the Capability Development Plan, in particular the progress made with the 12 selected priorities. For most of these priorities the required activities have been identified, which will form the basis for commitments to collaborative capability improvement within the EU. *'We are moving from theory to practice. Some Member States have already signed up for projects related to these priorities. Others might do this for future projects. I see increased willingness to improve European capabilities in areas like helicopters, CBRN defence, Counter-Improvised Explosive Devices and Logistics'*, said Alexander Weis, EDA's Chief Executive.

European Defence Agency – Address by Javier Solana

Brussels, 10 March 2009

In 2009, the EDA's Annual Conference ('Helicopters – Key to mobility') was organised to enhance the support for EDA's work on helicopters, to generate concrete activities and indicate possible solutions. Javier Solana, Head of the EDA, delivered the following address.

OPENING ADDRESS BY JAVIER SOLANA

This year we celebrate the European Security and Defence Policy's tenth anniversary.

Has ESDP achieved what European leaders expected when they launched it in June 1999 at the Cologne Summit? ESDP has indeed delivered positive results. We began in the Balkans. Since then, the European Union has contributed to security in four continents. ESDP is one part of a tool kit of instruments that the European Union can deploy to bring stability to turbulent regions.

Our military and civilian missions operate in sometimes inhospitable terrain: from our police reform mission in Afghanistan and the monitoring mission deployed in Georgia, to the Security Sector Reform mission in Democratic Republic of Congo, our military operation EUFOR in Chad and in the Central African Republic, or the counter-piracy naval operation in the Gulf of Aden, EU NAVFOR Atalanta.

Helicopters are thus essential to our operations because they offer tremendous flexibility, mobility and the capability to respond quickly. Let me give you some examples from our current missions.

In Chad helicopters are essential to allow us to operate in the remote, vast and difficult terrain. The area of operations is more than half the size of France. The seasonal rains make ground movement impossible. Helicopters allow us to survey the terrain, to supply our troops with water and ammunition, and they are vital for medical evacuation. When refugees came into southern Chad from Central African Republic recently, helicopters enabled EUFOR to rapidly secure the area and transport UNHCR personnel to the area.

In the Gulf of Aden, the area of operations of EU NAVFOR covers 3000 miles of coastline. Helicopters launched from our frigates give us the capability to cover large areas quickly. The arrival of helicopters at attempted pirate attacks has a strong deterrent effect.

Despite the importance of helicopters, we have a significant shortfall in their availability. This is a problem for NATO and the European Union alike.

The European Defence Agency has made a quick start to improve the availability of helicopters for ESDP. This follows the proposals launched by France and the United Kingdom at their bilateral summit in March last year. We are all aware that there is no shortage of helicopters in Europe. Inventories are high in numbers but the problem is that they are not deployable outside Europe in sufficient numbers. Third state partners assist in our ESDP operations. We are grateful to them for their contributions, but we must not be dependent on them for key capabilities such as helicopters.

The Agency is producing short and longer term solutions.

In the short term, European-level training will help to adapt the skills of helicopter pilots not yet trained to fly in more challenging environments, such as deserts and mountains. Initial

training of Czech helicopter crews will take place this spring.

For the medium term, the Agency is looking at options for upgrading existing assets, in particular the Mi-type helicopters. Hundreds of which are in the inventories of Central and East-European countries. European helicopter industries will have to be closely involved to provide upgrade packages at reasonable cost. Many of them are represented here today.

For the long-term, beyond 2020, the French-German project for the Future Transport Helicopter offers an excellent opportunity for wider participation in Europe. I hope this project comes to EDA soon. It also offers potential for transatlantic cooperation. The market for such an expensive heavy transport helicopter is simply too small in Europe alone. Combining forces would strengthen the helicopter industrial base, both in Europe and in the United States.

Today's conference on helicopters comes at the right moment. The EDA project offers huge potential for

- European cooperation
- for close EU-NATO coordination
- and for transatlantic cooperation.

We need all these three elements. Why?

European defence cooperation is the answer to fragmentation and duplication of efforts in Europe. The scale of improving the Member States' capabilities will exponentially grow if we do more together. The costs will be lower through economies of scale. It also supports the realisation of a true European defence industrial base.

EU and NATO are cooperating at the political level and coordinating at the operational level in the field. On capability improvement the Agency and NATO work closely together to improve the Member States' capacities. This is beneficial to both sides. Helicopters are a good example. NATO is focussing on addressing immediate needs for Afghanistan, while EDA is working on more structural solutions.

With the arrival of the new American administration there are new opportunities for EU-US cooperation. We should use them. European and American security can only gain from closer cooperation. The regular EU-US dialogue should be used to the maximum extent. I have tasked EDA to establish a substantial dialogue with the US to explore concrete opportunities for transatlantic partnership.

ESDP is entering its second decade. I am optimistic, despite the economic crisis. Defence cannot stay outside the European integration processes anymore. It is politically desirable and economically necessary.

Let me say a word on the future. Increasingly, the distinction between civilian and military will become less relevant. The focus will be more on whether a mission is executive or not. We are currently reorganising our strategic planning capability in this way. We are exploring how the development of our capabilities can be used for both civilian and military purposes. We must continue to work dynamically and creatively in this direction.

I wish you all a very fruitful conference. Thank you.

Javier Solana – Speech at a conference at the École militaire

Paris, 11 March 2009

DISCOURS DE JAVIER SOLANA À L'OCCASION DE LA CONFÉRENCE DE L'ÉCOLE MILITAIRE SUR « LA FRANCE, LA DÉFENSE EUROPÉENNE ET L'OTAN AU XXI^{ÈME} SIÈCLE »

Chers amis,

Trois évènements nous réunissent aujourd'hui : l'anniversaire de l'Alliance atlantique bien sûr, mais aussi le 10^{ème} anniversaire de la PESD et le retour de la France dans les structures militaires de l'Alliance.

Au-delà des célébrations officielles, nos discussions ici à Paris doivent nous permettre de réfléchir aux défis auxquels doivent faire face l'Union européenne et l'OTAN. Je vois trois défis principaux.

Premier défi : assumer le monde tel qu'il est. Le monde semble plus instable et donc moins prévisible. Les crises qui le secouent semblent plus complexes. Une crise dans le Caucase, en Asie centrale ou au Moyen-Orient a un impact direct sur le système international, son économie, sa sécurité et ses ressources énergétiques. Son règlement ne peut se concevoir que dans une équation globale.

Mais je ne crois pas à l'idée d'un monde qui va plus mal et à la théorie de crises sans issues. La guerre du Kippour ou la révolution iranienne ont eu elles aussi un impact global. Les crises des missiles, à Cuba ou ailleurs, n'étaient pas moins complexes il y a quelques décennies. Aujourd'hui le besoin de gouvernance globale est plus fort parce que la globalisation a bouleversé les cadres nationaux et les relations traditionnelles entre Etats. Les capacités d'un Etat à prévenir et plus encore à régler une crise sont exsangues. Aucun Etat ne peut seul dans le monde actuel faire mieux avec moins de ressources.

En clair, le choix de la mutualisation des efforts est inévitable. Le choix des alliances et des unions est le seul possible. Ceci m'amène au deuxième défi : assumer les conditions de la relation entre l'Alliance et l'Union européenne.

L'efficacité d'une alliance se mesure à la complémentarité des partenaires qu'elle réunit. Mais le partage de responsabilités qu'elle implique n'est acceptable que si chacun dispose de sa pleine autonomie.

Ces règles valent pour un Etat. Elles doivent régir également les relations entre l'Alliance atlantique et l'Union européenne. Les deux organisations sont engagées sur des théâtres communs, leurs Etats-membres et leurs forces confrontés aux mêmes dangers.

Mais la vocation des deux organisations est différente. L'une reste une alliance militaire transatlantique; l'autre est une union politique d'Etats européens partageant la même ambition de faire de cette union un acteur global, disposant d'une palette unique d'instruments d'intervention extérieure, allant de l'assistance humanitaire et de l'aide au développement à la gestion de crise civile et militaire. Tantôt l'une, tantôt l'autre répond le mieux aux besoins d'une situation selon le contexte politique et stratégique.

Aujourd'hui, l'évolution de la position française vis-à-vis de l'OTAN doit permettre d'assu-

mer cette réalité. En ce sens le mouvement français est particulièrement bienvenu. Fini le temps des soupçons infondés ou des lignes rouges artificielles.

Chacun est d'accord pour considérer que nous avons besoin d'une OTAN forte et d'une PESD forte à l'intérieur de l'Union européenne. Chacun est d'accord pour travailler au renforcement d'une relation mature et équilibrée entre les deux organisations. Le succès des opérations qu'elles conduisent en dépend.

C'est là le dernier défi : pour assumer nos ambitions et nos obligations, il nous faut être capables de répondre aux exigences de l'action.

Les accords de Berlin plus nous l'ont permis dans les Balkans. En Bosnie, nous sommes ainsi passés d'une force OTAN soutenue par les Européens à une force européenne disposant des moyens et des capacités de l'OTAN. Le progrès fut majeur.

Depuis l'Europe de la défense s'est formidablement développée. Le Traité de Lisbonne en prend acte très solennellement. Sur le terrain, l'Union européenne a été capable de déployer avec succès des missions militaires autonomes, au Congo ou au Tchad par exemple. Aujourd'hui il faut aller plus loin.

Comme je vous le disais, l'Union européenne et l'Alliance atlantique sont appelées à partager de nouveaux théâtres. Au Kosovo ou en Afghanistan. Aux côtés des missions de l'OTAN, l'Europe a déployé là-bas des missions autonomes et elle a l'ambition d'y utiliser tous ses outils d'action extérieure. Le respect de cette autonomie et la transparence de la collaboration seront les clefs du succès de notre action commune. C'est pour cela qu'il nous faut encore, de façon très pragmatique, mettre au point certains arrangements techniques essentiels entre l'Alliance atlantique et l'Union européenne.

Tous ici présents nous sommes conscients de ce besoin. Tous, nous sommes d'accord pour trouver les solutions nécessaires. Et personnellement je suis convaincu que le retour de la France à l'OTAN va donner l'impulsion attendue.

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Le retour de la France dans les structures militaires de l'OTAN doit en effet aider à relever les défis que je viens de décrire. Il doit contribuer à donner à la coopération entre l'OTAN et l'Union européenne l'efficacité nécessaire pour prévenir et régler les crises du monde moderne. Il doit permettre de développer le pragmatisme qu'imposent les impératifs de l'action.

Il doit aussi s'accompagner naturellement du renforcement de la PESD. La dernière Présidence française de l'Union européenne l'a montré : l'engagement dans l'Europe de la défense reste là et continue de se renforcer.

Je pense bien connaître, et l'Alliance atlantique, et l'Union européenne. J'ai accompagné personnellement leur évolution depuis ces quinze dernières années. Je crois aujourd'hui que le retour de la France à l'OTAN ne remet rien en cause. Il doit simplement faciliter et accompagner le mouvement essentiel que les Européens ont amorcé à Saint-Malo.

Encore une fois, le choix de la mutualisation des efforts est nécessaire. C'est là le choix d'une coopération équilibrée et soucieuse d'efficacité que sont prêts à assumer les Etats-membres de l'Union européenne. Je vous remercie.

Informal meeting of the Defence Ministers – Remarks by Javier Solana

Prague, 12-13 March 2009

MILITARY OPERATIONS

EUFOR ALTHEA

A strong EU presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina is essential. That is why we are working on arrangements for a reinforced EU Special Representative. EU preparations and planning for the future reinforced EU presence after the closure of the Office of the High Representative (OHR) are well on track.

I welcome the planning undertaken by the Operation Commander on the evolution of ALTHEA towards a non-executive and capacity-building operation corresponding to the needs of the Bosnian army.

EUNAVFOR ATALANTA Somalia

Operation ATALANTA is now in its fourth month. It is making an effective contribution to the deterrence of acts of piracy off the Somali coast. To date, 15 World Food Programme (WFP) vessels have been escorted, allowing the delivery of 81 000 tonnes of food aid. Other vulnerable vessels are also protected, on a case-by-case basis, including, in the near future, ships supplying the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

I wrote very recently to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to confirm that we are ready to help provide protection at sea for vessels chartered by the United Nations.

An Internet site, created in consultation with the naval community, is operated by the Headquarters at Northwood. With this site, better protection can be provided at sea as commercial vessels can notify the Headquarters of their intention of transiting the Gulf of Aden.

The EU naval operation is being conducted in the broader context of an unprecedented mobilisation by the international community. Other countries and other organisations also have a military presence in the Gulf of Aden. This multiple presence allows for greater efficiency, provided of course pragmatic cooperation with the EU's naval force is established. The EU coordinates with other countries within the region and outside it and with international organizations engaged in combating piracy.

Several third countries will be participating directly in Operation Atalanta. Norway will supply a frigate in August for six months and the Swiss Government has stated its readiness, subject to the Swiss Parliament's agreement, to contribute special forces, legal experts and a medical team. Ukraine and Croatia have also expressed their interest.

As we all know, the legal aspects of the mission are crucial to its effectiveness. There must be continuity between the military action and the judicial treatment of the alleged pirates once they have been arrested by our naval units.

The EU has an agreement with Kenya on the handover and prosecution of pirates. This will help greatly to improve the deterrent effect of the fight against piracy by demonstrating that pirates can no longer count on impunity.

Piracy is also the result of the absence of rule of law in Somalia. A faint hope of possible progress on the political front has emerged with the recent election of President Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed. We have a long-term approach and accordingly we are employing all EU instruments to complement our military action and provide a more complete, overall contribution to the eradication of piracy, in particular by contributing to local capacity building.

EUFOR TCHAD/RCA

EUFOR Tchad/RCA will hand over to the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) on 15 March 2009, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions and as planned from the outset. The mission is a success. The transition has been planned in full coordination with the UN. This operation is a good example of how closely we work with the United Nations. Over the past year, more than 10 000 soldiers from EU Member States have been deployed in this mission. I would like to thank very much all the countries that have taken part, as well as Generals Nash and Ganascia for their leadership.

On the ground, EUFOR Tchad/RCA has contributed in practical terms to the protection of civilians in danger, the local population, refugees and displaced persons. It has facilitated the work of the humanitarian aid organisations and paved the way for MINURCAT.

It is not only the mission itself that has been a success but also the transition. Several EU countries will continue contributing to MINURCAT. We can be very proud of what has been achieved. Beyond the provision of security and support to the UN, we have here an example of how a comprehensive approach to a given crisis can look.

We have to progress further and draw the lessons from this operation, unique in various aspects. Let me also remind you that the end of EUFOR does not mark the end of the EU's commitment to the region. We will continue to be active on the political and diplomatic fronts in the region, to advance the political process in Chad and, above all, the peace process in Darfur. In addition, the European Commission will continue its actions in the humanitarian and development fields.

CIVILIAN OPERATIONS

We are at an important stage in the evolution of the European Security and Defence Policy. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Member States' decision at the European Councils in 1999 to launch the ESDP. We currently have nine civilian missions under way simultaneously – more than ever before. Owing to time constraints, I will focus on a selection.

Let us start in our immediate neighbourhood with **EULEX Kosovo**. We launched our biggest ever civilian ESDP mission in Kosovo last year with around 3,000 personnel. The mission is advising and mentoring across the full spectrum of rule-of-law reform in combination with certain executive elements.

EULEX became operational on 9 December 2008 and we are now deployed throughout Kosovo. The mission has already been tested and responded well. We are deployed alongside NATO. Coordination with KFOR works well in theatre but informal arrangements are not sufficient.

Over the past 10 years, ESDP has become a global provider of security. We have demonstrated that we are able to operate in hostile environments. We launched **EUPOL Afghanistan** to strengthen the rule of law and help stabilize the country after the war. Police reform in Afghanistan is crucial for stability. The mission works very closely with Interior Minister Atmar and the Afghan authorities in the implementation of their priorities for police reform. Afghanistan needs more than just robust policing capabilities. It also needs 'traditional' law-and-order policing that can provide safety for the population.

Last year the EU decided to double the size of **EUPOL Afghanistan**. EU Member States and contributing states should continue to make every effort to reach 400 personnel before the end of this spring.

EUJUST LEX/Iraq is an important tool for rebuilding the criminal justice sector in Iraq and promoting stability and human rights. So far, 2 000 key Iraqi officials and decision makers from the police, judiciary and penitentiary have been trained. The mission is highly valued by the Iraqi authorities and we are currently examining possibilities for EUJUST LEX to carry out activities also in country in Iraq, in the second half of 2009.

One of our key Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) priorities has been to look for solutions in the Palestine-Israel conflict and to work towards a two-state solution. To this end, we launched two missions which remain as relevant as ever following the war in Gaza.

The **EU Police Mission in the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL COPPS)** is working on police and criminal-justice reform. The progress made with the Palestinian police is very impressive.

The Rafah crossing point has a special meaning for Gaza and the flow of humanitarian aid and people. The EU has reinforced its **Border Assistance Mission at Rafah Crossing Point in the Palestinian Territories (EUBAM Rafah)** to enable it to react swiftly to any request to provide a third-party presence at the crossing point.

Each ESDP mission is a tailored response to a very specific security problem. In response to the armed conflict between two members of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) last year – Georgia and Russia – we showed that we can respond rapidly and decisively. In deploying over 300 personnel on the ground to be operational in Georgia in less than a month, we achieved what some thought impossible. For the **EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM Georgia)** we deployed both political and stabilisation capabilities. We have made a difference there and EUMM has been an essential component supporting the Geneva negotiation process. We need to continue our active engagement, whilst upholding the principle of Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, to which the EU is strongly committed.

The EU's added value lies in our flexibility to combine both civilian and military capabilities in crisis management. We already have successful examples, including our **Security Sector Reform** missions in **Congo** and **Guinea-Bissau**.

Probably no organisation is better placed than the European Union to provide a tailored, rapid response. Collective multilateral action is the way forward. The challenges we face require collective action which is cheaper through collective financing. With scarce resources, and in the current economic crisis, we have to develop the right capabilities to meet our challenges, we must be cost-effective in doing so and we must ensure that the result is greater flexibility and interoperability.

(...)

CAPACITÉS MILITAIRES

Je reste convaincu que la Politique européenne de Sécurité et de Défense (PESD) ne fera pas d'avancées sans un développement significatif des capacités. En novembre et décembre de l'année dernière vous avez pris des décisions qui ont confirmé le niveau d'ambition de l'Union européenne nous permettant d'agir ensemble là où nous le jugeons nécessaire pour répondre aux demandes croissantes adressées à l'UE, dont certaines, et non des moindres, ont été simultanées – et pourraient l'être à nouveau. Les déclarations que vous avez agréées ont été suivies d'actions concrètes, que ce soit dans le cadre de l'Agence européenne de Défense ou par des initiatives multinationales comme la « European Carrier Group Interoperability ».

Nous nous sommes fixé un rendez-vous au Conseil des ministres de mai afin d'évaluer les progrès accomplis. Je suis convaincu que d'ici là nous serons en mesure de constater les premières améliorations et les premiers résultats.

ERASMUS

The 'European initiative on the exchange of young officers, inspired by Erasmus', launched under the French Presidency, will contribute to our interoperability. The Implementation Group started its work in February 2009, working under the umbrella of the European Security and Defence College. I am very grateful to the Czech Presidency for hosting a seminar in Brno from 20 to 22 April 2009 to further support the practical implementation of the initiative.

While it is too early to make an assessment of the potential progress, the success of this initiative very much depends on the active contribution and relevant participation of each individual Member State. My intention is to report to you in May on the progress.

EU-NATO COOPERATION

The 'Berlin Plus' arrangement works well. Our EUFOR ALTHEA operation illustrates this. We also have to ensure a sound basis for adequate cooperation in the theatres where we are both engaged. Our people on the ground deserve it.

EU-UN COOPERATION

We work successfully side-by-side in several theatres. Lessons learned from EUFOR in the Democratic Republic of Congo resulted in practical measures that were extremely useful in planning for the excellent transition from EUFOR Tchad/RCA to MINURCAT. This handover takes place this weekend.

We are also strengthening our cooperation in the areas such as support to African capacity-building, security sector reform and early warning.

General Affairs and External Relations Council

Brussels, 16 March 2009

(...)

EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

EUFOR Tchad/RCA – Council Conclusions

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. In accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1778 (2007), 1834 (2008) and 1861 (2009), the transfer of authority between EUFOR Tchad/RCA and MINURCAT took place, as planned, on 15 March 2009, one year after the declaration that EUFOR had achieved its initial operating capability.

2. The Council welcomes the fulfilment of EUFOR's mandate and underlines the exemplary cooperation between the European Union and the United Nations from the launching of the operation to its successful handover. It stresses that the planning of this transition was carried out smoothly in order to avoid a security vacuum. Lessons will have to be learned from that cooperation, but can already serve as a basis for future collaboration.

3. The Council notes that, throughout its mandate, EUFOR has made a tangible contribution towards protecting civilians in danger, and in particular refugees and displaced persons who have been profoundly affected by the neighbouring crisis in Darfur. EUFOR, in observance of its mandate, has acted in an impartial, neutral and independent manner. In helping to improve overall security in its operational area, EUFOR has also facilitated the activities of humanitarian workers. It has contributed towards protecting the staff of the United Nations and humanitarian organisations, thereby enabling relations of trust to be established with the latter. Moreover, the EUFOR patrols have helped to deter attacks against the civilian population in the operational area. Security in the area has also been improved through the establishment of the Chadian 'Détachement Intégré de Sécurité' (DIS) supported by MINURCAT.

4. In addition to the 23 Member States, three third countries (Albania, Croatia and Russia) have taken part in this operation; up to 3,700 men have been involved in what was the first autonomous military operation of this scale, conducted in a particularly wide area under difficult overall conditions. The lessons from an experience of this kind need to be learned.

5. The Council welcomes the global and regional approach which has been followed by the European Union in planning and conducting this operation. The actions of EUFOR in the framework of the ESDP in the political and diplomatic fields, on the one hand, and in the humanitarian and development fields, on the other, have been both complementary and coordinated, thereby maximising the EU's impact on the ground.

6. The Council would point out that EUFOR's redeployment does not mark the end of the European Union's involvement in Chad, in the Central African Republic or in the region as a whole. Around 2,000 soldiers currently serving under EUFOR will in future come under the MINURCAT banner, which further underlines European support to UN peacekeeping operations. Moreover, the European Union will remain active at a political and diplomatic level in Chad, in the Central African Republic and especially in Sudan, where the implementation of

the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the Darfur peace process is crucial to the stabilisation of the region. The European Union will also continue to be active in the region in the field of humanitarian and development activities.'

(...)

WESTERN BALKANS – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council had an exchange of views on Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On the basis of a joint letter from High Representative Javier Solana and Commissioner Olli Rehn, the Council discussed the recent developments in the country. It also welcomed the appointment of Ambassador Valentin Inzko as EU Special Representative/High Representative and discussed the continued planning for a reinforced EU presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

After the discussion, the Council adopted the following conclusions:

'The Council reiterated its full support to the European perspective of Bosnia and Herzegovina and called upon the local political leaders to engage thoroughly and with stronger determination on the necessary reform agenda in order for the country to make substantial progress on its way towards the European Union. The Council encouraged Bosnia and Herzegovina to continue fully implementing the Interim Agreement. Remaining deeply concerned about the overall political situation in BiH, the Council called upon BiH's political leaders to refrain from nationalist rhetoric and unilateral actions.

The Council reconfirmed its readiness for a transition from the Office of High Representative to increased local ownership, supported by a reinforced European Union presence, as soon as the conditions are met. The Council acknowledged the progress of the EU preparations, presented by the SG/HR and the Enlargement Commissioner, for its strengthened engagement in Bosnia and Herzegovina under a reinforced, double-hatted EUSR/Head of the Commission Delegation.

Recalling its conclusions of 10 November 2008, the Council urged Bosnia and Herzegovina to maximise its efforts to complete fulfillment of the five objectives and two conditions set by the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board. To this aim, the Council strongly encouraged continuation of the Prud/Odzak process, urging that the widest possible consensus be found and called for the commitments undertaken in this context to be rapidly translated into further progress and concrete legislative results.

The Council appointed Ambassador Valentin Inzko as EU Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina and welcomed his appointment as High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Council commended the former EU Special Representative and High Representative Miroslav Lajčák for his outstanding efforts and commitment to Bosnia and Herzegovina and its European future.

The Council noted that, despite the challenging political environment, the security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained stable. The Council welcomed the progress on the preparatory work for a possible evolution of Operation ALTHEA. The Council agreed to keep this work under regular review so that a decision on the future of the operation could be taken once the necessary conditions had been met. In this context, the Council reiterated that the possible evolution of operation ALTHEA would need to take political developments into account. The Council noted that cooperation with NATO on operation ALTHEA was continuing to work smoothly.'

SUDAN – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council discussed the consequences of the International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrant for President Al-Bashir and expressed serious concerns about the current humanitarian situation in Sudan after several international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have been expelled from the country.

After the discussion, the Council adopted the following conclusions:

‘The Council recalls the declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union following the Government of Sudan’s decision to expel 13 international humanitarian NGOs and revoke the licenses of three local NGOs. It reiterates its call upon the Government of Sudan to reconsider their decision urgently, and ensure that humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable people in Sudan be continuously guaranteed, guided by the principles of human rights and international humanitarian law.’

BELARUS – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

In line with the Council’s decision on Belarus last October, the Council evaluated the developments in the country and decided on the direction of EU policy, in particular on the further suspension of the visa-ban sanctions and the extension of restrictive measures.

After the discussion, the Council adopted the following conclusions:

‘1. The Council welcomes that certain positive steps have been taken by Belarus following the Council’s decision on the temporary suspension of the travel restrictions imposed on certain officials of Belarus in October 2008. The Council also welcomes the increased high-level EU Belarus dialogue, including bilateral contacts, and the intensified technical cooperation initiated by the Commission, as a way of building mutual understanding and providing an opportunity to address the parties’ concerns and issues of common interest. The Council also welcomes and further encourages the continuation of Belarus’ cooperation with OSCE/ODIHR on electoral legislation.

2. Nevertheless, the Council continues to be concerned about the human rights situation in Belarus and the recent cases of violation in this area. The Council stresses the importance for Belarus to address the concerns raised in this regard and to continue moving forward, through progressive substantial steps, in the areas identified in the Council Conclusions of 13 October 2008. In this context, the Council looks forward to the launching of a Human Rights Dialogue with Belarus in the near future.

3. In order to encourage the adoption and implementation of further concrete measures towards democracy and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the Council – while deciding to extend for one year from the date of the Council the restrictive measures provided for by Common Position 2006/276/CFSP, as extended by Common Position 2008/844/CFSP – has decided to maintain the suspension of the application of the travel restrictions imposed on certain officials of Belarus, in accordance with the terms set out in Council Common Position 2008/844/CFSP, for a nine months period. By the end of the nine months period, the Council will conduct an in-depth review of the restrictive measures taking into account the situation in Belarus, and provided that there are further positive developments, it will be ready to consider the possibility of lifting the restrictive measures.

At any time, the Council may decide to re-apply the travel restrictions if necessary, in the light of the actions of the Belarusian authorities in the sphere of democracy and human rights.

4. The European Union remains ready to deepen its relations with Belarus subject to progress made by Belarus on the path towards democracy, human rights and rule of law and to assist Belarus in attaining these objectives. The European Union underlines the importance of all the principles and commitments made by Belarus in the framework of the OSCE. The European Union will intensify its cooperation with Belarusian civil society in order to support the development of a democratic and pluralist environment.'

AFGHANISTAN – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council discussed the situation in the country and adopted the following conclusions:

'1. The Council considers that the challenges facing Afghanistan and the broader region require a renewed international engagement. The EU will play a major role in this. It therefore reaffirms its long-term commitment to working with the people and government of Afghanistan for the stability, reconstruction and development of their country. The EU will look urgently at how to enhance and improve its engagement. The Council stresses the overriding importance of Afghan ownership and the continuing need for a comprehensive approach from the EU and its international partners, including on the inter-connected challenges of development, counter-narcotics, good governance and security. The Council recalls its conclusions of 26 May 2008 and underlines the urgency of fulfilling the commitments undertaken at the London Conference in 2006 and the Paris Conference in 2008.

2. The Council attaches the greatest importance to the holding of free and inclusive elections in Afghanistan. The Council welcomes the confirmation by the Independent Election Commission that Presidential and provincial elections will be held in August 2009. It is now up to the Afghan authorities, all the political parties and other stakeholders to work for transparent, fair and credible elections, in order to ensure that the next Afghan Government has legitimacy and a strong mandate. The Council confirms the EU's willingness to play a prominent role in supporting the elections throughout the country, working alongside the Afghan Government and the UN. In this regard, the EU will provide substantial financial assistance and, subject to security and other conditions being met, deploy an electoral observation mission.

3. The Council is committed to the improvement of governance and the rule of law in Afghanistan. It reiterates the EU's commitment to significantly enhance capacity building in the justice and rule of law sectors. Protection and support of human rights, the fight against corruption and impunity are central to good governance. The Council looks to the Afghan authorities to uphold the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution of Afghanistan and under international law. The Council underlines the importance of freedom of expression and a diverse media in Afghanistan and in this regard calls upon the Afghan government to pass the media law approved by the Lower House of Parliament.

4. The Council confirms its commitment to assist police reform in Afghanistan also through its civilian ESDP mission EUPOL. The EUPOL is an essential contribution to the establishment of a competent and legitimate Afghan national police force which is crucial for the long term stability of Afghanistan. The Council underlines that the decision to substantially increase the size of the mission is being implemented.

5. With a view to further enhancing the impact of EU policy in Afghanistan, the Council recognises the importance of increasing the EU's coherence and visibility including by working towards a single EU representation.
6. The Council fully supports the role of UNAMA and its Head, Mr Kai Eide and stands ready to further support UNAMA in its coordinating efforts. The Council agreed long term development of Afghanistan demands not only more assistance, but also greater aid effectiveness, transparency and better coordination including more use of Afghan systems where possible.
7. The Council will address the challenges facing Afghanistan in the context of a wider regional approach. Fostering stability in Afghanistan is in the interest of all countries in the region and the international community. The Council stresses the importance of cooperation by all these countries so as to ensure sustainable development in Afghanistan and the wider region. The improvement of the bilateral relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan is essential and the Council stands ready to actively contribute to this process. In this regard it underlines the EU's intention to play a greater role in supporting Pakistan in the development of the rule of law, stability and security and looks forward to the ad hoc EU/Pakistan summit. The Council recalls the regional dimension of the mandate of the EUSR in Afghanistan, in particular as regards Pakistan. The Council looks forward to practical results from the upcoming Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) to be held in Islamabad. The Council welcomes the forthcoming international conference on Afghanistan to be held in the Hague on the 31 March.
8. The Council welcomes the recent visit of the Vice President of the United States J. Biden to the EU. The Council looks forward to continued cooperation with the new US administration in a renewed commitment to Afghanistan and the wider region. ‘
(...)

ANNEXE – EUFOR TCHAD/RCA – FACTSHEET

March 2009

Operation background

From 28 January 2008 to 15 March 2009, the European Union conducted the military bridging operation EUFOR Tchad/RCA, in accordance with the mandate given by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1778 (25 September 2007).

This operation, deployed in Eastern Chad and in the North East of the Central African Republic, came within the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). The operation was conducted with the agreement of the Chadian and Central African governments.

In conducting this operation, the EU stepped up its longstanding action in support of efforts to tackle the crisis in Darfur as part of a regional approach to that crisis.

The United Nations took over from EUFOR with effect from 15 March 2009 in both Chad and the CAR, in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1834. To prepare for this transfer of responsibilities, there has been close cooperation between EUFOR and the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), which was also set up by Resolution 1778. It has the task of helping to maintain order in the refugee camps, and amongst the concentrations of displaced persons in close proximity to the border with Darfur.

Mandate and objectives

EUFOR Tchad/RCA coordinated closely with the multi-dimensional United Nations presence in the East of Chad and in the North East of the CAR in order to improve security in those regions. More specifically, the EU operation had the following objectives:

- to contribute to protecting civilians in danger, particularly refugees and displaced persons;
- to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and the free movement of humanitarian personnel by helping to improve security in the area of operations;
- to contribute to protecting UN personnel, facilities, installations and equipment and to ensuring the security and freedom of movement of its staff and UN and associated personnel.

Operational parameters

EUFOR Tchad/RCA has been a demanding operation, in particular with respect to the situation on the ground, the vast area to be covered and the logistical constraints.

The operation reached its Initial Operational Capability on 15 March 2008. When completely deployed, it had included up to 3700 troops.

It was the most multinational military operation conducted in Africa by the EU so far, with 14 EU Member States present in the field, 18 in theatre, and 22 at the Operations Headquarters (OHQ), which was located at Mont Valérien (France).

The EU Operation Commander was Lt General Patrick Nash (Ireland). The EU Force Commander was Brigadier General Jean-Philippe Ganascia (France).

FAITS ET CHIFFRES

Theatre: **Chad and Central African Republic**

Headquarters: **OHQ : Mont-Valérien (Paris)**

Rear FHQ : N'Djamena. FHQ : Abéché

Starting date: **January 2008 (COI 15 March 2008)**

Operation Commander: **General Patrick Nash (Op.Cdr.)**

Mission strength: **3 700**

Budget: **EUR 119,6 millions (common costs)**

Contributing states: **23 EU Member States (OHQ),
18 in theatre, 3 third States**

The deployment included a rear Force Headquarters (FHQ) at N'Djamena, an FHQ at Abéché and three battalions stationed respectively in the eastern Chad areas of Iriba (North), Forchana (Centre) and Goz Beida (South), as well as a detachment in Birao (Central African Republic).

EUFOR Tchad/RCA had an appropriate mandate allowing the use of armed force if necessary. It was independent, impartial and neutral.

A comprehensive EU approach

The establishment of EUFOR Tchad/RCA formed part of a comprehensive package of enhanced EU commitment to a solution to the crisis in Darfur. All EU instruments – diplomatic, political and financial – are being mobilised in support of this effort. The main components, all interlinked, comprise:

- increased support for African Union (AU) and UN efforts to revitalise the political process with a view to finding a lasting solution in Darfur;
- speeding up the full and effective deployment of the AU/UN hybrid operation (UNAMID) in Darfur;
- increased mobilisation to finance humanitarian aid, but also to secure humanitarian access.

In this regard, the European Union, through the European Commission, is supporting the MINURCAT. Through the Instrument for stability, the European Commission has made a contribution of EUR 10 million to MINURCAT's fund to finance its training, equipment and support programme for the deployment of Chadian police and gendarmes with responsibility for the security of the refugee camps and displaced persons sites in eastern Chad.

The European Community is also providing substantial funding for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of return zones for displaced persons, particularly through reconstruction, mediation and administrative capacity-building action, which is necessary to improve security in the areas covered by the EU/UN mission.

In Chad, the objective of the Accompanying Programme for Stabilisation (provided for the period 2008-2012) is to facilitate the transitional phase between emergency and development programmes by helping to establish the conditions for the voluntary and permanent return of displaced persons and refugees. The 10th European Development Fund (EDF) is to devote almost EUR 300 million to Chad for the period 2008-2013

In the Central African Republic, the Accompanying Programme for the North-Eastern CAR launched its first activities in November 2008, and the 10th EDF provides for EUR 137 million for the CAR for the period 2008-2013.

First assessment of the operation

EUFOR has improved the level of security in its area of activity

To secure the area, EUFOR carried out a large number of patrols (more than 3000 short range patrols and over 440 long range) and large-scale operations in areas where it did not have permanent camps. The presence of Russian helicopters (since December 2008) has increased the mobility of the force. Around 500 air missions have been carried out.

In addition, EUFOR's activities included the disposal of 348 unexploded items of ordnance, abandoned war debris, thereby literally saving lives and limbs. Similarly, while medical care for the local population was not its primary task, EUFOR's assistance included over 3000 local medical consultations and 65 local surgical interventions which played a key role in demonstrating EUFOR's goodwill and concern for the local community.

By helping to raise the overall level of security, EUFOR enabled MINURCAT to become operational over the whole area of action. For example, EUFOR has escorted United Nations

convoys and carrying out operations around secure sites where MINURCAT is being deployed, to help it get established.

The improvement in the security situation, and the action undertaken to provide assistance and reconstruct return zones for displaced persons, have allowed the voluntary return of at least 10 000 people in 22 villages.

EUFOR has facilitated humanitarian assistance

The security provided by EUFOR has helped the work of humanitarian organisations, with which EUFOR regularly coordinates its activity.

The humanitarian assistance provided by the European Commission (ECHO programme) to refugees, displaced persons and host communities in Chad amounted to EUR 30 million in 2008. ECHO's activity includes the fields of healthcare and water treatment, food aid and food security, protection, emergency shelters and education. The humanitarian effort also includes the CAR, where more than 200 000 people have been directly helped in 2007-2008.

The European Union's continuing commitment

EUFOR'S mandate has ended, but the European Union remains fully committed in Chad and the CAR. A number of Member States and third countries will remain on the ground in the MINURCAT framework (Ireland, Austria, Finland, Poland, France, Albania, Croatia and Russia). Around 2000 men serving under EUFOR came under the MINURCAT banner.

Moreover, the EU will remain active at a political and diplomatic level in Chad, in the Central African Republic and especially in Sudan, where the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the Darfur peace process is crucial to the stabilisation of the region. The EU is committed to a political solution to the Darfur conflict and to an improvement of the relations between Chad and Sudan, particularly through the activities of the EU Special Representative for Sudan.

Despite the end of the EUFOR operation, the European Union's assistance to Chad and Central African Republic will continue.

European Council

Brussels, 19-20 March 2009

PRESIDENCY CONCLUSIONS

(...)

II. Energy and climate change

Enhancing the Union's energy security

24. Energy security is a key priority which needs to be enhanced by improving energy efficiency, diversifying energy suppliers, sources and supply routes, and promoting the Union's energy interests vis-à-vis third countries. In order to deliver on energy security, the EU collectively, as well as each Member State, must be prepared to combine solidarity with responsibility. In that light, the European Council endorses the broad initiatives set out in the Second Strategic Energy Review (SER) and further refined in the Council (TTE) conclusions of 19 February 2009. In particular, it agrees on the following:

- Energy infrastructures and interconnections must be developed. To that end, the Commission, in cooperation with Member States, is invited to rapidly present the detailed actions required to realise the priority areas identified in the SER¹. These actions are without prejudice to other agreed priority energy projects. Looking to the longer term, the Commission is invited to present early in 2010 its proposal for a new EU Energy Security and Infrastructure Instrument.
- The recent gas crisis has demonstrated the urgent need to establish adequate crisis mechanisms in the EU as well as to work to obtain clear guarantees from suppliers and transit partners that supplies will not be interrupted. The Council should examine by the end of 2009 the forthcoming Commission proposals to revise legislation on the security of gas supply. This should include an appropriate crisis mechanism ensuring the preparedness of all actors, including the energy industry, transparency and prior information through the development of EU and regional plans for security of supply; solidarity among Member States through the development of regional plans; and improved assessment and coordination through the redefinition of the threshold for deciding actions at Community level.
- The promotion of energy efficiency can make a major contribution to energy security. The European Council therefore calls on the Council to agree, before the end of the year, on the proposals contained in the Energy Efficiency Package. It invites the Commission to rapidly propose a revision of the Energy Efficiency Action Plan.
- An efficient, liberalised and well connected internal energy market is a prerequisite for an effective policy on energy security. Therefore the European Council calls on the Council and the European Parliament to conclude an agreement on the third package for the Internal Energy Market before the parliamentary recess.

1. Southern Gas Corridor, a diverse and adequate LNG supply for Europe, effective interconnection of the Baltic region, the Mediterranean Energy Ring, adequate North-South gas and electricity interconnection within Central and SE Europe and the North Sea and North West Offshore Grid.

- ▶ Stressing the importance of diversifying sources, fuels and routes of energy supply, the European Council underlines the increasingly important part played by energy in the EU's external relations. It invites the Commission to present by the end of the year proposals for concrete action on the development of the Southern corridor including a mechanism to facilitate access to Caspian gas. It is of particular importance for the EU and its Member States to continue delivering consistent messages ('speaking with one voice') to supplier and transit countries.
- ▶ The European Council also recalls the need to make the best use of its own energy resources, including renewables, fossil fuels and, in countries which choose to do so, nuclear energy.

Preparing the Copenhagen Conference on climate change

25. The European Union remains committed to playing a leading role in bringing about a global and comprehensive climate agreement in Copenhagen in December 2009 designed to limit global warming to below 2°C. To this end, the European Council recalls the EU's commitment to a 30% emission reduction as its contribution to such an agreement provided that other developed countries commit themselves to comparable emission reductions and that advanced developing countries contribute adequately according to their responsibilities and respective capabilities. The Council conclusions of March 2009 set out in more detail the efforts the EU expects from developed and developing countries, including the need for the overall target for developed countries to be distributed in a manner that is fair and ensures the comparability of efforts.

26. The European Council emphasises the importance of building a global carbon market, including a reformed Clean Development Mechanism.

27. Significant domestic and external sources of finance, both private and public, will be required for financing mitigation and adaptation actions, particularly in the most vulnerable developing countries. The European Union will take on its fair share of financing such actions in developing countries. Future discussions on generating financial support should focus on, *inter alia*, different approaches, including a contributory approach based on an agreed scale, market-based approaches based on auctioning arrangements or a combination of these and other options.

28. The European Council will further discuss these issues at its June meeting. The European Council underlines the need to explore in more detail international financing mechanisms. It will determine well in advance of the Copenhagen Conference 1) the EU positions on main approaches for financing mitigation, adaptation, technology support and capacity building, 2) the specifics of the EU's contribution and 3) principles of burden sharing among Member States. This will be done on the basis of concrete proposals by the Commission. In this context, the European Union will pay special attention to the needs of the most vulnerable developing countries.

III. European Neighbourhood Policy

Eastern Partnership

29. Promoting stability, good governance and economic development in its Eastern neighbourhood is of strategic importance for the European Union. In line with the Commission

communication of 3 December 2008, the European Council welcomes the establishment of an ambitious Eastern Partnership and adopts the Declaration annexed to these conclusions. It calls for all necessary preparations to be made for the Eastern Partnership launching summit with the partner countries on 7 May 2009.

30. The Eastern Partnership will promote stability and prosperity among the EU's Eastern partners covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy. The European Council commits, on the terms set out in the declaration, to a deeper bilateral engagement and to a new multilateral framework involving the EU, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, aiming at accelerating reforms, legislative approximation and further economic integration.

31. The European Council further calls on the Commission as well as the current and incoming Presidencies to advance speedily with the practical implementation of the Partnership together with the partners and requests the Commission to submit in due course a report on the first year of implementation of the Eastern Partnership.

Union for the Mediterranean

32. The European Council reiterates its will to strengthen its partnership with its southern Mediterranean partners. It calls for the resumption of the implementation of the projects identified at the Paris Summit. In this connection it is important to accelerate work on the establishment of the Union for the Mediterranean permanent secretariat in Barcelona.

IV. EU – US Relations

33. The European Council was informed by the Presidency of the state of play of preparations of the informal EU-US Summit that will be held on 5 April 2009 in Prague. The European Council reaffirms the strategic importance of transatlantic relations. It agrees that economic issues, energy security and climate change and the strategic approach towards the area between the Mediterranean Sea and the Caspian Sea should in particular be discussed.

V. Treaty of Lisbon

34. The European Council was informed of the state of play on implementing its conclusions of December 2008 on the Treaty of Lisbon. It will revert to this issue at its June 2009 meeting.

35. As a point of information, the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic reported about the state of ratification of the Lisbon Treaty in the Czech Republic. After the judgment of the Czech Constitutional Court on 26 November 2008, the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament has authorised this ratification on 18 February 2009¹ and the Senate will debate this subject in the coming weeks.

(...)

1. On this occasion, the Czech Parliament recalled that the implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon, when it enters into force, will have to respect general principles of law, including the principle of non-retroactivity and the principle of subsidiarity.

EUMM Georgia – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 23 March 2009

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2009/294/CFSP AMENDING JOINT ACTION 2008/736/CFSP ON THE EUROPEAN UNION MONITORING MISSION IN GEORGIA, EUMM GEORGIA

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 14 thereof,
Whereas:

- (1) On 15 September 2008, the Council adopted Joint Action 2008/736/CFSP on the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia, EUMM Georgia⁽¹⁾, with a financial reference amount of EUR 31 000 000.
- (2) On 25 September 2008, the Council adopted Joint Action 2008/759/CFSP amending Joint Action 2008/736/CFSP on the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia, EUMM Georgia⁽²⁾, in order to increase the financial reference amount to EUR 35 000 000.
- (3) The financial reference amount for EUMM Georgia should be increased further, with effect from 1 February 2009, in order to allow for the additional operational needs of the Mission,

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

Article 14(1) of Joint Action 2008/736/CFSP shall be replaced by the following:

‘1. The financial reference amount intended to cover the expenditure related to the Mission shall be EUR 37 100 000.’.

Article 2

This Joint Action shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

It shall apply from 1 February 2009.

Article 3

This Joint Action shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels, 23 March 2009.

For the Council

The President

P. Gandalovic

(1) OJ L 248, 17.9.2008, p. 26.

(2) OJ L 259, 27.9.2008, p. 15.

Informal meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers (Gymnich)

Hluboká nad Vltavou, 28 March 2009

EU PRESIDENCY STATEMENT

Western Balkans – fostering the integration momentum

1. The representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Union, the candidate countries, the potential candidate countries of the Western Balkans, the Secretary General of the Council/High Representative and the European Commissioner for Enlargement met in Hluboká nad Vltavou on the 28 March 2009 on the occasion of the informal EU – Western Balkans Forum meeting. The EU Special Representative for Kosovo, the EUSR/HR for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EUSR/HoD for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Head of the UN Mission in Kosovo, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Kosovo, and the Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council were also present.

2. The European perspective of the Western Balkans as set out in the Stabilisation and Association Process, the 2003 Thessaloniki Agenda for the Western Balkans and the 2006 Salzburg Declaration remains essential for the stability, reconciliation and the future of the Western Balkans. Each country's progress towards the European Union must be based on individual merits and rigorous conditionality, guiding the necessary political and economic reforms, in accordance with the renewed consensus on enlargement as expressed in the European Council conclusions of 14/15 December 2006.

3. Referring to current and upcoming elections in the Western Balkans region, the Presidency recalled the importance of ensuring free and fair elections in line with international standards and commitments.

4. The economic downturn in Europe calls for solidarity and close cooperation between the EU, International Financial Institutions and the Western Balkan countries. The latter are continuing to benefit from EU support to economic stability and development and will also receive focussed support from the Crisis Response Package under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance. The participants assessed positively the cooperation during the recent gas crisis.

5. The Stabilisation and Association Process remains the overall framework for the European course of the Western Balkan countries all the way to their future accession. By making solid progress in economic and political reform and by fulfilling the necessary conditions and requirements, the remaining potential candidates in the Western Balkans should achieve candidate status, according to their own merits, with European Union membership as ultimate goal.

6. Stabilisation and Association Agreements and Interim Agreements have been signed with six Western Balkan countries. On 1 April 2009, Albania will become the third country (after the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Croatia) with the Stabilisation and Association Agreement in force. The implementation of the Interim Agreement and the ratification of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Serbia will commence as soon as the Council decides that Serbia fully co-operates with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. An early implementation of the Interim Agreement is desirable.

7. The participants discussed ways of assisting the economic and political development of Kosovo through a clear European perspective, in line with the European perspective of the region. In this respect, they welcome the Commission's intention to present, in the autumn of 2009, a study. Kosovo's full involvement in regional initiatives needs to be ensured in a constructive manner.

8. Strengthening people to people contacts represents a tangible benefit of the European integration for the citizens of the Western Balkans. A visa free regime should be established with all Western Balkan countries when the benchmarks defined in the visa liberalisation roadmaps are met. Student and young professional exchanges represent a particular contribution to fostering harmony and overcoming prejudice among the people of the Western Balkans and should be further promoted.

9. Good neighbourly relations and the need to find mutually acceptable solutions on outstanding issues with neighbouring countries remain essential elements of the region's way towards the EU. Regional cooperation among the Western Balkan countries is a key element of the Stabilisation and Association Process. It contributes to a shared understanding in the region and to finding solutions for issues of common interest, such as in the fields of energy, transport, trade, fight against organised crime and corruption, refugee return and border control. In this context, the participants commended the first year of work of the Regional Cooperation Council and reiterated that regional cooperation needs to be inclusive.

10. The EU presence in the Western Balkans within the ESDP framework is an essential part of the EU's comprehensive approach. Sustaining stability is necessary for achieving progress on the way to European integration. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the operation EUFOR ALTHEA and the EU Police Mission have proved to be a significant contribution to stability and security in the country. In Kosovo, the EU rule of law mission EULEX successfully started its activities last year. This largest ESDP civilian mission ever confirms the importance of the region as a key priority for the European Union.

Afghanistan – Address by Javier Solana

The Hague, 31 March 2009

JAVIER SOLANA ADDRESSES THE AFGHANISTAN CONFERENCE IN THE HAGUE

'When I take a look around this room today, I am encouraged. I have attended all the major conferences on Afghanistan, from Berlin to London to Paris to today's meeting in The Hague. Never before have I seen so much international support for our common goal: a stable Afghanistan in a stable regional context.

The recent increase in engagement from neighbouring countries is a positive sign: we have the initiative in the G8-framework and the efforts led by neighbouring countries, such as the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference; the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation discussed Afghanistan last week. It is vital that we all pull in the same direction. Because the stabilisation of Afghanistan is of strategic importance to all of us.

The European Union has contributed to this process since the beginning. Our partnership with Afghanistan is a long-term commitment. We care deeply about this. To me, today's conference marks a new departure. Let me tell you how the European Union sees its future engagement in Afghanistan.

Solutions in Afghanistan will be political, not military. For that reason, the European Union's effort there is of a comprehensive nature: while EU Member States have some 27 000 soldiers on the ground in the framework of ISAF, the European Union will continue to focus its activities largely on governance and the rule of law. Building capacity for the Afghan Government and providing for Afghan ownership of the process at all levels will allow the government to deliver essential services to its citizens and will enable it to directly challenge immediate security threats.

The European Union's most visible engagement in the field of governance is through our police mission (EUPOL Afghanistan). This targets the heart of governance by building police capacity to ensure the security of Afghan citizens. The European Union has committed itself to doubling the size of this mission and I am happy to announce today that we are on track to fulfil this commitment by the end of the spring. In addition, the Union will continue to be a major contributor to the fund that finances Afghan police salaries.

Credible elections for Afghanistan's leadership are at the very heart of governance as well. That is why Europe attaches great importance to the upcoming presidential and legislative elections. Now that the discussion surrounding the election date is behind us, I urge the domestic political actors in Afghanistan to rally behind this overriding objective. For our part, the European Union will do the utmost to support the electoral process both in terms of funding and in terms of technical assistance – starting with the possibility of an Election Observation Mission, provided the security of our monitors can be guaranteed.

Europe will, of course, also continue to provide financial assistance. Together, the EU and its Member States will have spent about 10 billion USD (8 bn EUR) between 2002 and 2010 in support of the stabilization and reconstruction of Afghanistan. We will closely coordinate this assistance with Kai Eide and the Afghan Government to make sure that these funds make a difference, for instance, to strengthen the agricultural sector, to improve the health services or to

pay police salaries. However, the challenge we face has a far broader regional dimension. For that reason, the European Union is building a comprehensive partnership with the countries of Central Asia. For that reason, the European Union seeks to play a greater role in supporting democratic government in Pakistan in its fight against militant extremists. And for that reason I welcome the fact that Iran has joined us today at the table – a country which has a lot to contribute.

Thank you, Chair, thank you the Netherlands, for organising this conference. It seems to me that the international effort in Afghanistan is more united than ever. Our responsibility to translate this effort into progress on the ground is all the greater for it.'

European Defence Agency

Brussels, 2 April 2009

EDA AND OCCAR TO NEGOTIATE COOPERATION ARRANGEMENT

The European Defence Agency and the *Organisme Conjoint de Coopération en matière d'Armement* (OCCAR) will start negotiations on an Administrative Arrangement for their cooperation. The Agency's increasing potential to generate cooperative projects and programmes, and the possible prospect of their management by OCCAR, has created the need to formalise the relationship between the two organisations.

In November 2008 the Council in Defence Ministers formation adopted a political Declaration on EDA-OCCAR cooperation. The EDA Steering Board in National Armaments Directors formation has now directed the Head of the Agency, Javier Solana, to open negotiations with OCCAR. They will be pursued with a view to approval of an agreed text by the Council at its November 2009 meeting.

'This decision reflects EDA's growing output. The Agency's activities are 'upstream' in launching cooperative projects, often involving R&T investment. OCCAR is more 'downstream' and perfectly equipped and experienced for programme management, once a group of Member States has decided to develop and procure a system. We now need to codify this natural relationship', said Alexander Weis, EDA Chief Executive.

National Armaments Directors reviewed the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Defence Procurement. The Code, creating transparency in Defence Contracts and opening these for cross-border competition, is approaching its third anniversary (1 July 2009). The positive trend in the number of publications on the Agency's Electronic Bulletin Board continues (now over 400). The market value reported through the EBB increased from 2.2 bn to 5.4 bn between 2007 and 2008. For contracts awarded under open competition the percentage of crossborder bids has gone up between 2007 and 2008 from 22% to 39%. The percentage of crossborder awarded contracts has also gone up, from 20% to 33%. The Code of Best Practice to encourage greater competition in the supply chain has now reached 75 registered companies allowing them to easily reach out to potential new suppliers.

The Steering Board approved a Reporting and Monitoring System for the Code of Conduct on Offsets, both of which will become operational on 1 July 2009. National Armaments Directors adopted this Code in October 2008 with the purpose of evolving towards more transparent use of offsets that help shape the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base, whilst reducing reliance on them. The Reporting and Monitoring System will provide the Member States with mutual visibility and reassurance on the equal and uniform application and implementation of the Code. In the context of increasing transparency, the Steering Board has also decided to launch on 1 July an offset portal on EDA's website where information on the subscribing Member States' offset practices and underpinning policies will be made publicly available.

National Armaments Directors also decided to establish a European Third Party Logistic Support (TPLS) Platform. TPLS is one of the twelve prioritised actions, stemming from the Agency's Capability Development Plan. The EU TPLS Platform aims at improving the effectiveness of logistic support in EU crisis management operations by giving service providers the

opportunity to advertise their services to Member States. In turn, this will enable contracting authorities from Member States to identify possible commercial solutions to their specific logistic needs more easily and more efficiently. Contracting authorities can also advertise their own business opportunities on an electronic notice board. The TPLS Platform will be run within the EDA for an initial trial phase of nine months, starting by the end of the first semester 2009.

The Steering Board has tasked the Agency to present to the Ministerial Steering Board in May a comprehensive approach with an associated roadmap for upgrading Mi-17 transport helicopters.

EU/US Summit

Prague, 5 April 2009

The EU-US Summit took place on 5 April in Prague, i.e. immediately after the G-20 Summit on 2 April, which addressed issues of global financial architecture and consequences of the financial crisis, and after the NATO Summit held on 3-4 April, which engaged in a debate on safety and military cooperation.

EU PRESS LINES

General

- The arrival of a new US administration is an opportunity for giving a fresh impetus to EU-US relations which are more important than ever. We need a strong transatlantic partnership based on politics of principles and common values.
- The Prague meeting allowed for a first political contact between the EU leaders collectively and the new President. There was exchange of views on the most pressing and strategic issues of the day. The EU and the US will revert to these and other issues at their regular June summit.

Specific

Economic and financial situation

- The crisis is both severe and global, and requires a strong policy response at all levels and across the world. The EU has taken important decisions in this respect, including a major economic recovery plan, which is also to stimulate employment.
- Both the EU and the US have greatly contributed to the successful outcome of the G20 summit in London and are determined to work hand in hand to ensure implementation of the decisions reached.
- The EU is particularly pleased that global financial regulation and supervision will be strengthened.
- The EU also welcomes the pledge to resist protectionism and is ready to join forces, including via the Transatlantic Economic Council, in order to preserve and strengthen transatlantic and international trade and investment. The EU and the US remain committed to reaching an ambitious and balanced conclusion to WTO Doha Development Round.

Climate change and energy security

- Tackling climate change at the global level is important and urgent. The EU has adopted an ambitious stance on this issue and invites the US to bring its full weight towards this fight. The current economic downturn cannot divert our attention from this goal. Rather the EU and the US should look for opportunities for renewed economic growth by applying new technologies and principles of environment friendly economy.
- Together, the EU and the US will be in a stronger position to get on board key international actors and emerging countries and achieve an ambitious outcome at the UN negotiations in Copenhagen later this year. The EU and the US must also work together on helping

developing countries reaching their own goals in terms of reducing emissions.

- ▶ Cap-and-trade systems offer cost-effective solutions to reducing emissions. Bilateral work should continue in order to establish compatible systems which can eventually be linked.
- ▶ Energy security remains one of our key challenges. There is ample scope for very close and fruitful transatlantic cooperation, be it in terms of research and development on renewable sources and carbon capture and storage, better use of indigenous energy sources, coordinated efforts to lower energy intensity and increased energy efficiency. The EU and the US should also work together on developing resources in producer countries, on diversifying energy sources and supply routes. Developing the Southern Corridor is one of key initiatives in this regard.

Regional issues

- ▶ Like the US administration, the EU wants to seek engagement and constructive ties with Iran. There is however growing concern about Iran's failure to comply with its international obligations in the nuclear area. The EU and the US are aligned in the fight against nuclear proliferation. The EU will continue to work with the US and others on a dual track approach.
- ▶ Peace in the Middle East requires a comprehensive solution through a lasting and just settlement of the conflict in all its tracks. The EU and the US both support a durable ceasefire, reconciliation and an inclusive government in the Palestinian Territories, substantive reconstruction and forward movement in the Peace Process through the Quartet towards a two-state solution.
- ▶ Afghanistan is a major issue for the US and the EU. Further expansion of the police training capacities in Afghanistan should be ensured, as well as intensification and coordination of the assistance in the areas of capacity building, good governance, rule of law and economic development. The NATO summit yesterday reconfirmed the long-term commitment towards stabilization of Afghanistan, with the summit declaration mentioning a role for the European Gendarmerie Force (EGF), as well as underlining the training activities conducted by the EU Police Mission on Afghanistan EUPOL.
- ▶ The EU as a major donor has assigned 8 bn EUR to Afghanistan development between 2002-2010. Free, fair and open elections in Afghanistan are crucial. The EU and the US support the role of the UN in this process and agree to work together with the UNAMA to ensure that the elections are well organized and properly monitored. The European Commission has already allocated 15 mil. EUR for the elections and plans another 25 mil. EUR.
- ▶ The EU is committed, alongside the US, to giving further assistance to the development of sustainable civil government in Pakistan and to intensifying counter-terrorism cooperation. The EU and US will also focus on deepening the economic and trade relations. The EU will hold the summit with Pakistan in the second half of June.

Guantanamo

- ▶ The EU welcomes the US decision to close Guantanamo and stands ready to cooperate with the US administration in that regard. It looks forward more generally to working with the US in the fight against terrorism, in full respect of human rights and international humanitarian law.

EUROPEAN UNION-UNITED STATES JOINT STATEMENT ON THE NORTH KOREAN MISSILE LAUNCH

The launch of a missile by North Korea defies UN Security Council resolutions and harms peace and stability in northeast Asia.

We call on North Korea to honor its commitment to abandon all nuclear weapons programs, to abide by recognized norms of international relations, and to work to promote peace and stability in northeast Asia. North Korea's development of a ballistic missile capability, regardless of the stated purpose of this launch, is aimed at providing it with the ability to threaten countries near and far with weapons of mass destruction. This action demands a response from the international community, including from the UN Security Council to demonstrate that its resolutions cannot be defied with impunity.

The United States and the European Union stand ready to work with others in welcoming into the international community a North Korea that abandons its pursuit of weapons of mass destruction and policy of threats aimed at its neighbors and that protects the rights of its people. Such a North Korea could share in the prosperity and development that the remainder of northeast Asia has achieved in recent years. North Korea, however, cannot realize either international acceptance or economic development linked to the international system until it ceases its threatening behavior and works with the other parties to implement the September 19, 2005 Six-Party Joint Statement.

North Korea – Satellite launch

Brussels, 5-6 April 2009

Javier Solana made the following comments after the launch of an ‘experimental communications satellite’ by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

COMMENTS BY JAVIER SOLANA

‘I strongly condemn today’s satellite launch by North Korea. The launch constitutes a clear breach by North Korea of the UNSCR 1718. Once again, North Korea has disregarded the position of the international community.

This provocative act threatens the stability and security in North East Asia at a time when constructive engagement would be needed to advance on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

I urge North Korea to change course and to engage constructively in the framework of the Six Party Talks’.

DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENCY ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ON THE ‘EXPERIMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE’ LAUNCH BY THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The EU strongly condemns the ‘experimental communications satellite’ launch performed on 5 April 2009 by the government of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) in breach of the UNSC Resolution 1718. These actions place additional strains on regional stability at a time when the unresolved nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula requires mutual confidence building. Such actions are also a matter of more general concern due to their global proliferation implications.

The EU urges the DPRK to comply with the UNSC Resolution 1718 and immediately to suspend all activities related to its ballistic missile programme and abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

The EU will continue actively to support efforts to resolve the security issues on the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and the EFTA countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

European Defence Agency – Light weight airborne radars and systems

Brussels, 6 April 2009

EDA SIGNED A CONTRACT ON STUDIES FOR INTEGRATED MULTIFUNCTION COMPACT LIGHTWEIGHT AIRBORNE RADARS AND SYSTEMS

The European Defence Agency (EDA) signed the contract on the ***Studies for Integrated Multifunction Compact Lightweight Airborne Radars and Systems*** (SIMCLAIRS) on 31 March 2009, an ad-hoc category B project, with a **consortium consisting of national industrial companies from three EDA participating Member States: France, Sweden and United Kingdom**. The consortium consists of four European companies, all of which have already been successfully involved in past and present airborne radar and equipment development in Europe:

- SAAB AB (Sweden),
- SELEX Sensors & Airborne Systems Ltd (UK),
- THALES Systèmes Aéroportés (France),
- THALES UK Ltd (UK).

The main aim of this project is **to deliver new technology solutions in the field of light and compact Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Radio Frequency (RF) payloads with the combination of Synthetic Aperture Radar / Moving Target Indicator (SAR/MTI), Foliage Penetrating (FOPEN), Electronic Support Measures (ESM), possibly communications**. Expected results of the project will response to the capability needs arising within the time horizon of 2015-2020.

For delivering the best technology results the project uses a new mechanism called *Innovation and Technology Partnership* (ITP). The ITP mechanism is based on a specific structure where a competed part of the project will ensure the capture and exploitation of novel technologies from small and medium enterprises and academia, and provide the free flow of technology and information across national boundaries between the participating entities. In order to guarantee the best technology knowledge available in Europe, two open calls for Research Supplier Proposals will be organized by the consortium, without discrimination on grounds of nationality, type of research suppliers and so on.

The project will start in April 2009 and last 48 months; the value of contract is 21 million, VAT excluded. In the case of successful project, the SIMCLAIRS phase 2 is expected with the participation of the three contributing Member States.

Iran – E3+3 statement and Council Conclusions

London, 8 April 2009

STATEMENT FOLLOWING E3+3 POLITICAL DIRECTORS' MEETING

The Political Directors of China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union met in London today following the important discussions between our leaders in recent days.

The other members of the group warmly welcome the new direction of US policy towards Iran and their decision to participate fully in the E3+3 process and join in any future meetings with representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

We reaffirm our unity of purpose and collective determination through direct diplomacy to resolve our shared concerns about Iran's nuclear programme, in line with the package proposals for cooperation with Iran and in the context of our dual-track strategy.

We recognise once again that Iran has the right to a civilian nuclear programme, but with that comes the responsibility to restore confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear activities in line with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

We strongly urge Iran to take advantage of this opportunity to engage seriously with all of us in a spirit of mutual respect.

To that end, we shall ask Dr Javier Solana, the European Union's High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, to extend an invitation to the Iranian Government to meet representatives of the E3+3, so that together we may find a diplomatic solution to this critical issue.

Luxembourg, 27 April 2009

GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

'The EU reaffirms its full and unequivocal support for efforts to find a negotiated long-term solution to the Iranian nuclear issue within the framework of UNSCR 1696, 1737, 1747, 1803 and 1835 and its support for the dual-track process.

The EU warmly supports the new direction of US policy towards Iran, which opens a window of opportunity for negotiations on all aspects of Iran's nuclear programme and more broadly for engagement with Iran. The EU welcomes the decision of the US to participate fully in the negotiations together with China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation and the UK supported by the High Representative and join in any future meetings with representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The EU welcomes the efforts by the High Representative Javier Solana, on behalf of the EU and the international community, in view of facilitating the resumption of the negotiating process, in line with the package proposals for cooperation with Iran.

The EU calls upon Iran to seize this opportunity to engage seriously with the international community in a spirit of mutual respect, in order to find a negotiated solution to the nuclear issue which will address Iran's interests, including the development of a civil nuclear power

generation programme, as well as the international community's concerns. The evolution of our relations with Iran will also depend on it.

Iran's nuclear programme remains a matter of grave concern for the international community, since if Iran were to acquire a military nuclear capability, this would constitute an unacceptable threat to security, both regional and international. Iran must restore confidence in an exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear activities. The EU encourages Iran to comply with its international obligations.'

Javier Solana – ‘Together we are stronger’

Dublin, 22 April 2009

SPEECH AT THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

Dr. Brady, President of the University, Lord Mayor of Dublin, Dr. Thomas, distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you, or should I say go *raibh maith agaibh*.

It is a true privilege and a high honour to receive the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, from University College, which is Ireland’s largest university and alma mater of James Joyce and five Irish Taoisigh (Prime Ministers), among countless other distinguished alumni. I am especially pleased to receive an honorary doctorate in Law. Most of my professional life I have worked to create and develop institutions, relations, based essentially on laws. It is my deep conviction that the rule of law is the only possible cornerstone of social life and international relations. Once again thank you to University College Dublin for this great honour.

It is always a pleasure to return to Ireland. Robert Schuman once wrote that an Irish saint, Columbanus, was ‘the patron saint of those who seek to construct a united Europe’. Ireland has always been at the heart of Europe. I am most grateful for inviting me to speak to you today, and I want to congratulate the Dublin European Institute for their fine research on the European Union.

Lord Mayor, Mr. President, distinguished friends,

I have come to talk about Europe. About why we embarked on the journey of European integration. About what binds us together and what we have achieved. And why we need to continue this journey together. From building peace in Europe to promoting peace around the world.

After the tragedy of World War II, European countries wanted to find new ways of working together to end the cycle of war and division. They removed barriers to trade, developed common policies and steadily enlarged their numbers from 6 to 12 and then, 15. The end of the Cold War opened the way to the reunification of the whole continent and the Union grew to 25 and now 27 member-states. Fifty years on since the start of the integration process, the results are impressive. Europe is enjoying the longest era of peace and prosperity in its history.

The Union includes 27 sovereign democracies, collectively numbering 500 million citizens. Not very long ago citizens of some of these countries lived under dictatorships and totalitarian regimes. The EU played a central role in their successful transition to democracy.

The 27 EU governments have created the world’s largest economy. They have also established the world’s largest area of free movement across national borders. Most EU countries are members of the Eurozone. This a particular relevant point in the current, painful severe recession. The common currency, the euro, is providing significant stability. All this is based upon strong institutions and a continent-wide legal order. There is nothing like it anywhere else in the world.

Ordinary citizens have benefited most in the European Union. Without restrictions they can travel across 27 countries to find a job, get an education, invest in a business. Without any doubt, the EU is a unique experiment in world history.

But why, some ask, does the EU need a foreign policy? Why does it not concentrate on its internal market? My answer is simple: Europe is not, and cannot be, an island of peace and prosperity in a turbulent world. We share common values and interests. We want to promote those values and protect those interests. But in today's world they face challenges and threats – whether the abuse of human rights, flows of migrants escaping conflict and failed states, disputes over natural resources, or international terrorism. Most of these challenges are generated beyond our borders. An EU foreign policy is needed because no country in Europe can cope with them on its own. By acting together we can achieve much better results.

Successive Irish governments have understood this. Thirty four years ago, the first Irish presidency of the EU in 1975 negotiated the Lomé Convention, a landmark trade and aid agreement with 71 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

The EU has since become a major actor in a world that has radically changed and become more interdependent. Unless all of the world's major actors work together we cannot tackle the global economic crisis, the environmental emergency, or international security challenges. The EU is at the heart of this collective effort.

Global interdependence means others increasingly ask for our help. The EU has responded to these calls. The EU is leading international efforts to fight poverty in Africa and keep the peace in the Balkans. The EU is monitoring a ceasefire in Georgia and training the Afghan, Iraqi and Palestinian police forces as they try to re-build their societies.

What ties all these things together? In other words, what is EU foreign policy ultimately for? The answer is equally simple: the aim of EU foreign policy is to replace the law of force with the force of law.

This comes naturally to us. The EU, after all, has always been a peace project founded on democratic values and respect for laws. The EU wants a world order based on the rule of law.

I do not need to tell an Irish audience about the importance of international law. W.B. Yeats warned us of the consequences of a world without laws in *The Second Coming*:

Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;

Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world;

Ireland was a forceful advocate of the League of Nations in the 1920s and 1930s. And it has been a strong supporter of the United Nations since it joined in 1955.

The core goal of the European Security Strategy, which EU governments adopted in 2003 and recommitted themselves to last December, is 'effective multilateralism'. The EU does not just want international laws to be written. It wants those laws to be respected and implemented.

Of course, we are not always successful in each and every case. And we need to ensure that we practice what we preach. But surely Europe is right to try strengthen the rule of international law and to advocate more effective global governance.

All this explains our support for strong institutions – from the WTO to the African Union to the OSCE – and rules for specific issues: from human rights, to non-proliferation, to climate change.

It also explains why EU governments co-ordinate their policies at the United Nations, and strongly support UN efforts to stop conflicts and manage crises. EU countries pay 40 per cent of the UN peacekeeping budget. At the UN's request the Union has sent peacekeepers to Bosnia, Chad and Congo. In short, we work hand in glove with the UN.

Foreign policy is not just about what you say. It is as much about what you do, and how you do it. The EU is unique in this respect. It is not a military alliance, like NATO. NATO is for most EU member states the cornerstone of their territorial defence. This is not the EU's objective. Rather, EU security and defence policy is a crisis management policy, which forms only one part of a much broader EU foreign and security policy.

Plus, the implementation of the EU's security and defence policy uses the full range of resources available to us: from diplomats and development workers to judges and police, and – but only when necessary – soldiers.

Let me illustrate this with some figures. Since 2003, the EU has initiated 23 crisis management operations. Only six of those missions have been military operations. The other 17 operations have been civilian, deploying police, judges, border guards, customs officials and other experts. Ireland, for example, has sent eight Gardaí to Kosovo to participate in the EU's rule of law mission there. There are also four Gardaí in Bosnia, and an Irish policeman formerly headed the mission there.

The EU's holistic approach to international security is more similar to that of the United Nations than any other international organisation. This is all part of the growing international consensus that today's international security challenges cannot be addressed using only, or even predominantly, military means – a truth which President Obama and his administration have also emphasised. Development policy is another key instrument. Collectively, EU governments and the European Commission are the largest spenders on development aid in the world, totalling some 46 billion in 2007. That is proof of the continued compassion that Europeans have with those who suffer.

But we cannot have development without security. In countries emerging from conflict, it is human security that matters. That includes the rule of law, protecting human rights, effective governance and the chance of finding a job in a growing economy.

The EU aims to combine its defence and development policies, so that they are more effective at protecting the vulnerable. EU peacekeepers worked closely with more than 70 development NGOs on the ground in Chad. A primary goal of the current EU naval operation off Somalia is to protect World Food Programme ships from attacks by pirates.

If we want Europe to meet the expectations of being a solid promoter of peace, then we need the Lisbon Treaty. For that treaty would make EU foreign policy more effective. It would streamline our institutions, helping us to bring together our diplomacy with our defence and development policies in a more coherent way. It would also mean that once a foreign policy decision is taken, we should be able to implement it more quickly and more effectively. It

would ensure greater continuity, coherence and credibility in our dealings with third countries such as the US, China and Russia. It is vital for all of us that the Union should continue to make a credible contribution to international deliberations on major issues. We have given a lead to the global community on the crucial issue of climate change. With the Lisbon Treaty in place, we will be better equipped to play this kind of constructive global role.

One important fact the Lisbon treaty would not change is that the 27 governments are, and will remain, in charge of EU foreign policy.

That is why the EU foreign policy decision-making process is based on consensus. So, EU foreign policy can only work if there is a convergence of 27 national interests. This means the decision-making process can be slow and difficult. But it also means the opinions of all 27 are taken into account before any decision is made.

One side of the coin is that any member State can block a decision. But the other side is that all have the capacity to actively contribute to shaping common policies. Ireland, for example, has consistently and effectively pressed for respect for human rights to be an integral part of EU relations with countries of the Middle East, Sudan and Burma/Myanmar amongst many others.

EU foreign policy does not just need the agreement of the 27 governments. It also needs their resources. But governments contribute on a voluntary basis. The EU cannot force governments to spend more on development aid or send more soldiers to peacekeeping operations. It is up to each government to decide whether and how it might contribute to any given operation. The Lisbon treaty would not change this fact.

For instance, we need more civil resources for our peace-support operations. But finding the right personnel for civil operations is difficult. Not least because police, judges, doctors and administrators are also needed at home. And they do not stay in barracks to be called to duty.

Ireland has been strongly supportive of the civilian aspects of ESDP, and has looked to overcome these shortages by pragmatic and flexible means, for instance by seeking experienced personnel from outside the ranks of serving officials. As a case in point, the Irish members of the Georgia and Afghanistan missions are all volunteers who had originally expressed an interest in taking part in the humanitarian and developmental activities of Irish Aid's Rapid Reaction Corps. I also applaud the Irish Government's decision to develop a national strategy to develop its capacity to do more in the civilian area.

On its own, the EU does not have any military resources. The Union does not have an army nor are there any plans for it to have one. The EU cannot conscript the citizens of any Member State. Nor can the EU tell Member States how much money they should spend on defence. Each government retains full control over its armed forces. It must decide for itself if it wishes to contribute to any given peace support operation, in accordance with its own national laws and procedures -in your case, the so-called 'triple lock'.

But we do all agree that by acting together, on a voluntary basis, we can achieve more than each on our own. The Irish army consistently has one of the highest Member State figures for the number of troops on international duty as a percentage of armed forces. An Irish General – Pat Nash – commanded the EU's successful peacekeeping operation in Chad, which protected over 400,000 displaced persons and refugees fleeing from the Darfur conflict, before handing over to a UN force in March. I personally saw the Irish contingent in operation and can testify to their remarkable effectiveness. You can be proud of it.

But, even when they do manage to deploy their soldiers, European countries often find they lack the right equipment. The peacekeeping mission in Chad was hampered by a severe shortage of helicopters.

EU governments created the European Defence Agency to help co-ordinate their equipment plans, so that national governments, acting independently, can find ways to reduce the costs of acquiring equipment. This is sensible. Demand for EU peacekeepers is growing. But equipment costs are rising and European defence budgets are falling.

In conclusion, in today's changing world Europeans can only make their voices heard if they speak together. And EU foreign policy can only work if we act together.

If I can make a sporting analogy with the Ryder Cup: After World War II the British and Irish golf team usually lost badly to the Americans. This continued until the Irish-British team invited other Europeans to play with them in 1979. The Europe team – including a number of fine Irish golfers, as well of course as some brilliant Spaniards – has since held its own with the Americans.

It is a similar story with EU foreign policy. It was born out of a mix of idealism and pragmatism. It marries the collective resources of EU governments with their common values and interests. And even though it has a long way to go, it is beginning to work on the ground.

The world around us is changing fast. New problems and crises are emerging. Power is shifting.

This all calls for a more united European response.

The Lisbon treaty would help us develop a more effective EU foreign policy. I am convinced that a more effective EU foreign policy would benefit Ireland, Europe and the whole world.

Friends, we should remind ourselves of the wisdom of an old saying from the Irish language:

Ní neart go cur le chéile.

In unity there is strength. Together we are stronger.

Thank you.

12th Africa-EU Ministerial Troika Meeting

Luxemburg, 28 April 2009

(...)

III. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE LAST TROIKA MEETING

III.a. Peace and Security issues in Africa

Sudan

18. As regards Sudan, Ministers reaffirmed the strategic importance of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) which holds the perspective of a peaceful national, political and democratic transformation of Sudan. In this context, Ministers welcomed the announcement that nationwide elections will be held in February 2010.

19. Ministers welcomed recent efforts of the international community to re-launch the Darfur peace process. They in particular expressed their appreciation for the central role of the joint AU/UN mediator Djibrill Bassolé and the support of regional and international initiatives in this process. Ministers stressed the importance of reaching progress in the peace talks and called on all Sudanese actors to rapidly overcome the current deadlock and to live up to their responsibilities. The ministers stressed the need to ensure the continuity of the humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable people of Sudan, especially women and children. In this context, the EU underlined its position calling upon the Sudanese government to reverse its decision to revoke licenses of the 3 local and 13 international NGOs. Ministers called on the Government of Sudan to promote an environment conducive to effective humanitarian operations and called on all stakeholders to respect the humanitarian rules, including the Joint Communiqué on the facilitation of humanitarian assistance in Darfur.

20. Ministers discussed the implications of the decision taken by the International Criminal Court (ICC) on Sudan. They reiterated the importance of fighting impunity in accordance with established principles and international law. Ministers recalled their respective positions with regard to decisions taken by the ICC. The EU recalled that the International Criminal Court (ICC) is an independent judicial institution and plays a fundamental role in the promotion of justice, and reiterated its call on the Sudanese government to cooperate with the ICC. The African side reiterated its position calling for the deferral of the ICC process in conformity with the Article 16 of the Rome Statute on the ICC and underlined that the search for justice should be pursued in a way that does not impede or jeopardize the promotion of lasting peace and security and the Peace Process in Darfur. Both sides welcomed the establishment of the AU High Level Panel on Darfur, led by former President Thabo Mbeki, with the mandate to examine the situation in Darfur.

Chad /Sudan

21. Ministers emphasised the importance of normalisation of relations between Sudan and Chad. The spill-over effects with ongoing rebel groups' activities on both sides of the border remain a serious concern. They called on all actors in the region to intensify their efforts, including within the Dakar Agreement, in finding a political solution to the tensions.

Chad

22. Ministers underlined that serious engagement from both the government and the opposition in Chad is required in the framework of the Political Agreement of 13 August 2007 in order to consolidate the democratic process. They welcomed the progress made with the adoption of crucial legislation and called on the parties to continue their effort with a view of holding free and fair elections within a reasonable timeframe. Ministers also welcomed the successful transfer of authority from EUFOR Tchad/RCA to MINURCAT on 15 March 2009. They acknowledged the deployment of EUFOR as a contribution to an improved overall security environment for international and humanitarian aid workers as well as the local population in its area of operations.

Somalia

23. Ministers agreed that the election of President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed and the establishment of the new Transitional Government create a window of opportunity for achieving peace and stability in Somalia. They called on all parties still opposing the political process to refrain from violence and seize this opportunity to bring peace and development to Somalia. Both sides welcomed the positive results of the Somalia Conference held in Brussels on 22 and 23 April 2009 to assist the transitional government in creating the necessary security conditions, the building of state institutions and the promotion of national reconciliation. The EU contributed during the conference US \$ 123 million out of the total pledged amount of US \$ 215 million. They stated their continued commitment to supporting the new Government to, inter alia, rebuild infrastructure, provide humanitarian assistance, and to create new employment opportunities.

24. The EU commended the work of the AU in Somalia through AMISOM, highlighting the courage of the troops from Burundi and Uganda. The African side expressed its appreciation for the support given by the EU to AMISOM and called for a speedy implementation of UNSC Resolution 1863 (2008). In the interim the AU calls upon the UN to provide logistical support to the AU in conformity with UNSC 1863 (2008). Ministers emphasised the primary importance of developing the Somali security sector, while simultaneously strengthening good governance and the rule of law in the country. The Ministers called upon the countries that had made troop pledges to AMISOM to urgently deploy them to Somalia to help achieve AMISOM's originally mandated troop strength of 8000 troops in order to stabilize the security situation in the country.

25. Ministers noted that piracy off the Somali coast line and in the Gulf of Aden continues to be a major threat to regional security and international trade. In this regard, the African side commended the EU's contribution to international efforts to improve maritime security off the coast of Somalia through the deployment of the naval operation EU NAVFOR ATALANTA. This contribution which is part of the internationally coordinated action against piracy is essential to ensure the protection of the vessels of the World Food Programme delivering food to the displaced persons in Somalia as well as to curbing piracy off the Somali coast and in the Gulf of Aden in particular. Ministers agreed that there was a link between piracy, security and development and that regional cooperation as well as capacity building for the Somali Transitional Federal Government were necessary to address the root causes of piracy.

III.b. Scourge of Coups d'Etat

Madagascar

26. The two sides discussed the situation in the country following the unconstitutional deposition of President Ravalomanana. The African side informed about the mediation efforts it was undertaking together with the UN, SADC, IOC and Council of the Churches and the representative of the Francophonie. The meeting discussed the outcome of the SADC Summits on 19 and 30 March. Both sides informed about measures they had put in place concerning the country and discussed ways to contribute to a solution to the crisis. Ministers called for a rapid holding of national elections and the return to constitutional order. The EU expressed its support for the International Contact Group to be convened by the AU on 30 April 2009.

Mauritania

27. Ministers commended the recent efforts undertaken by the AU and noted the decision of the Peace and Security Council of the AU at its meeting on 24 March 2009 of imposing sanctions against all persons, both civilian and military, whose activities are designed to maintain the unconstitutional status quo in Mauritania. The Parties discussed further the decision of the EU to close Cotonou article 96 consultations and adopt appropriate measures regarding its cooperation with Mauritania, replacing the general freeze of the cooperation in force since de Coup. They took note of the decision of the chairman of the 'High State Council' to resign from this office and of the transfer of presidential powers *ad interim* to the President of the Senate despite the fact that the legitimate President has never relinquished his mandate. Ministers expressed concern over the lack of positive steps towards a consensual solution to the crisis based on a transparent, inclusive, representative and fair political process leading as soon as possible to the restoration of constitutional order in Mauritania.

Guinea

28. Ministers took note of the President of CNDD Dadis Camara's preliminary announcement to organize legislative and presidential elections on 11 October and 13 December 2009, respectively. They encouraged the authorities to respect this calendar as it constitutes an important step in the process of a return to constitutional order. They welcomed the recent lifting of the ban on political activities, as a precondition for free and fair elections in the country. On another note, Ministers while stressing the need to end impunity in Guinea, expressed concern in the manner that the authorities are conducting the arrest and prosecution of suspects of corruption and organized crime. Respect for legal procedures is essential. The EU announced that consultations under article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement will be undertaken on 29 April in Brussels to which the AU has been invited to participate.

III.c. Zimbabwe

29. The two sides welcomed the progress in the implementation of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) in particular the formation of the Government of National Unity in Zimbabwe. They urged the parties to strictly abide by the provisions of the GPA, including the respect for the rule of law, and to do whatever they can to ensure the successful conclusion of

the process they have initiated and create a conducive environment to this end, in the best interest of the people of Zimbabwe.

30. Ministers exchanged views on the international efforts related to Zimbabwe, including the visit of the International Monetary Fund mission on 9-24 March. They discussed the re-engagement with the Zimbabwean government, relations with the International Finance Institutions and ways of maintaining and strengthening the involvement of the UN, AU, SADC and South Africa in the process. The EU welcomed the decision of the Government of National Unity of Zimbabwe to engage in a political dialogue with the EU.

31. Ministers discussed the humanitarian situation in the country and noted that the need for humanitarian assistance would persist for a long time. The African side urged the EU to continue to provide the much needed assistance to alleviate the suffering of the people of Zimbabwe and help the social economic recovery of the country and reiterated its call for the immediate lifting of all sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe. The EU reaffirms its commitment to the Zimbabwean people through a substantial and long standing programme of humanitarian aid. The EU reaffirms that it stands ready to support the economic and social recovery of Zimbabwe once it shows tangible signs of a return to respect for human rights, the rule of law and macroeconomic stabilization. The EU stressed that it has not imposed sanctions on Zimbabwe as a country but restrictive measures targeted at individuals and entities related to atrocities and electoral violence. The EU called upon the Zimbabwean authorities for the immediate release of all political prisoners. The African side reiterated its urgent appeal to the EU to address the situation in Zimbabwe with the required flexibility in order to facilitate the early social economic recovery of the country and the consolidation of the progress made so far.

III.d. Other issues

32. Ministers generally welcomed the exemplary cooperation among the international partners in their efforts to support the transition to democracy in Mauritania and Guinea. Ministers were of the view that maintaining the constitutional order in the case of Guinea-Bissau could be accomplished, especially with the adequate support of partners in areas such as organization of elections, security sector reform and fight against drug trafficking.

33. Ministers emphasised that political instability, fragile institutions and lack of resources give rise to organised crime, particularly the trafficking of drugs, small arms and light weapons and human beings. They stressed the need for continuing cooperation with national administrations, the regional organisations and the UN in assisting States in the area, especially those in a post-conflict situation, to build up the necessary capacity to effectively meet these challenges. Ministers stressed the need for an independent investigation into the killing of President Joao Bernardo Vieira, and encouraged the AU, ECOWAS and CENSAD to take the necessary steps to that end.

III.e. Peace and Security Issues in Europe / Western Balkans

34. The African side took note of the position of the EU that the European perspective of the Western Balkans as set out in the Stabilisation and Association Process, the 2003 Thessaloniki Agenda for the Western Balkans and the 2006 Salzburg Declaration remains essential for the stability, reconciliation and the future of the Western Balkans. The EU presence in the Western

Balkans within the ESDP framework is a key part of the EU's comprehensive approach. Sustaining stability is necessary for achieving progress on the way to European integration.

35. The EU side stressed that the Stabilisation and Association Process remained the overall framework for the European course of the Western Balkan countries all the way to their future accession. Stabilisation and Association Agreements and Interim Agreements have been signed with six Western Balkan countries.

36. Referring to the elections in the Western Balkans region, the EU side recalled the importance of ensuring free and fair elections in line with international standards and commitments. The EU assists the economic and political development of Kosovo through a clear European perspective, in line with the European perspective of the region. Kosovo's full involvement in regional initiatives needs to be ensured in a constructive manner. Regional cooperation among the whole of Western Balkans is key as it contributes to a shared understanding in the region and to finding solutions for issues of common interest.

18th EU-Japan Summit

Prague, 4 May 2009

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

(...)

PROMOTING PEACE AND SECURITY

19. Summit leaders exchanged views on a number of issues of common concern. They shared their intention to strengthen their operational cooperation to be more action-oriented and promote international peace and stability. They underlined the usefulness of strategic dialogues between the EU and Japan in building common views on East Asia and Central Asia, in the light of, among others, the still existing security concerns. Japan stressed the view that the issue of arms embargo deserves careful consideration in the light of the regional security environment.

20. Condemning the contravention of the UN Security Council Resolution 1718 by North Korea with its launch conducted on 5 April, Summit leaders decided to continue cooperating in addressing the issues concerning North Korea in particular the complete and verifiable denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, especially on the basis of agreements reached in the Six-Party Talks; the elimination of the threat posed by ballistic missiles, especially through implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1718; the improvement of the humanitarian situation; and addressing the human rights concerns including by resolving the abduction issue.

21. Summit leaders underlined the importance of the international community maximising its collective input on Afghanistan, in particular in support of Afghanistan's electoral process and the government's efforts to achieve peace and stability for its people. Japan expressed its appreciation for the activities of the European Union Police Mission (EUPOL Afghanistan) and the EU expressed its appreciation for Japan's efforts through the Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG) facility. Both sides would continue their close cooperation on assistance to Afghanistan in the fields of rural development, police and judicial reforms. They welcomed the successful outcome of the international conference on Afghanistan in The Hague on 31 March.

22. Summit leaders stressed that the challenges faced by Pakistan and Afghanistan could not be tackled in isolation and that relations in the wider region must be strengthened. Summit leaders underlined their continued support for democracy, good governance and the rule of law in Pakistan as the government faced complex security and economic challenges. They welcomed the successful outcome of the Pakistan donors' conference held in Tokyo on 17 April.

23. Reaffirming the importance of fostering the stability and prosperity in Central Asia, Summit leaders appreciated the recent cooperation on enhancing border management capacity in Tajikistan. Also reaffirming the usefulness of political dialogues with the countries of the region and of supporting them in reforms and democratisation, both sides decided to explore the possibility of further cooperation in Central Asia in other areas where EU and Japan are actively engaged. Both sides shared the common view that the stability and prosperity of Central Asia is crucially important for the stability of the whole region including neigh-

bouring countries and pointed out the importance of mutual cooperation of all actors in Central Asia in this regard.

24. While recognising the need to tackle the root causes of piracy and underlining their support for development activity in Somalia to this end as well as their support for related anti-piracy capability in Somalia and the wider region, both sides would take appropriate steps to contribute to ensuring the safe passage of vessels in need through the Gulf of Aden, the EU through its deployment of NAVFOR Atalanta and Japan through the dispatch of escort ships of Maritime Self-Defence Forces.

25. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen Africa's Peace and Security Architecture by the African Union, to improve Africa's peacekeeping capabilities. Both sides stressed the importance of dealing with humanitarian crisis such as in Darfur, Chad/Central African Republic and Democratic Republic of the Congo.

26. The EU and Japan, sharing serious concerns over the Iranian nuclear issue, called on Iran to comply fully with UN Security Council Resolutions 1696, 1737, 1747, 1803 and 1835. Both sides renewed their commitment to the ongoing efforts in the International Atomic Energy Agency and the UN Security Council to resolve it and confirmed their determination to work for a peaceful and diplomatic resolution to this issue. Both sides called on Iran to cooperate with E3/EU+3 (France, Germany, UK, the EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, China, Russia and the US) in a more constructive manner.

27. Summit leaders shared the view that the Middle East Peace Process remained a top priority for the EU and Japan. A just, lasting and comprehensive peace is urgently needed. They would do all they could to drive the peace process forward, working closely with international partners, in particular the Quartet, to promote a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of two states living in peace and security. Both sides recalled the importance of the Arab Peace Initiative in this regard. They noted the importance of international support to deliver humanitarian support to the Palestinians and also to build the institutions of a Palestinian State, comprising the West Bank and Gaza, that is viable, independent, democratic and sovereign, living in peace and security alongside Israel within secure and recognised borders. In this context, they underlined the value of the EU's PEGASE mechanism, which is at the disposal of the international donor community. They also noted the importance of Japan's Corridor for Peace and Prosperity initiative, as a contribution to creating a viable Palestinian economy.

28. Summit leaders expressed their hope that the Government of Myanmar tackles the country's severe political, structural and economic problems and fosters a peaceful transition to a legitimate, democratic and civilian government without delay. They pointed out that elections planned for 2010 could be welcomed by the international community if they were based on an inclusive dialogue among all the stakeholders in Myanmar. In this context, they called on Myanmar to release political prisoners and detainees, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and to lift all restrictions imposed on political parties immediately. They expressed their readiness to respond positively to substantive political progress and steps towards respect for human rights undertaken by Myanmar. Summit leaders reaffirmed their full support for the UN Secretary General's Mission of Good Offices and UN Special Rapporteur on situation of human rights in Myanmar and called on the Government of Myanmar to cooperate fully with them. They recalled their determination to help the Government and the people of Myanmar achieve stability and prosperity in democratic freedom.

29. Summit leaders expressed deep concern over the large number of civilians who are still caught in the conflict area in Northern Sri Lanka, in particular the many continuing reports of civilian casualties and fatalities. They condemned efforts by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to prevent civilians from leaving and urged them to free all civilians, and the Sri Lankan military to guarantee their safe passage. They called on the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE to comply fully with international humanitarian law and to end the conflict. They fully supported the UN Secretary-General's call for UN staff to be allowed into the conflict zone to facilitate relief operations and the evacuation of civilians and to allow UN and International Committee of the Red Cross access to all sites where newly arrived displaced persons are being registered and provided shelter. Summit leaders called on all parties in Sri Lanka to engage in an inclusive political process that addressed the legitimate concerns of all communities.

30. Japan welcomed the EU's constructive contributions to the Asia-Pacific regional political architecture. The EU welcomed the East Asia's efforts to strengthen open and transparent regional co-operation based upon universally recognised values and global rules, and expressed appreciation for Japan's constructive and active role in this respect. Recognising that the East Asia Summit (EAS) was a forum driven by ASEAN in close partnership with its other participants, Japan welcomed the EU's continued interest in greater EAS engagement and will cooperate closely with ASEAN partners to amend the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia so as to allow for EU/EC accession.

31. Summit leaders reaffirmed their intention to cooperate in the area of human security by promoting this concept in the UN and other international fora, and to pursue dialogue on human security. They also stressed the need for the General Assembly of the United Nations to continue consideration of the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity and its implications, bearing in mind the principles of the Charter and international law, as stated in the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

32. In the context of the EU's policies and programmes directed towards stabilising the EU's neighbourhood, the EU and Japan looked forward to discussing further possible areas of cooperation within the framework of the EU's Eastern Partnership.

(...)

EU-Canada Summit – Declaration

Prague, 6 May 2009

(...)

ENERGY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

We will continue our cooperation in the context of our High-Level Dialogue on Energy, particularly in key areas such as increased energy efficiency, renewable energy, improved market transparency and stability, and the implementation of cleaner energy technology. We believe research, development and demonstration are the activities most suited for our energy cooperation within, for example, our existing Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement; we identify Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), bioenergy, and distributed generation and smart electricity networks as the main priority areas for collaboration.

We seek to move forward the process – begun at the last Summit – to review the Euratom-Canada cooperation agreement regarding peaceful uses of atomic energy.

We will work together in the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC) to develop a shared and strategic view in promoting energy efficiency internationally.

The EU and Canada are committed to building a low-carbon global economy that is safe and sustainable while strengthening capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate change. In this regard, we reaffirm our determination to collaborate closely to ensure that an ambitious and **comprehensive global climate agreement** is reached in Copenhagen in December 2009, which places us on the pathway to achieving at least a 50 per cent reduction in global greenhouse gases by 2050, consistent with the conclusions of the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and which provides for regular review in the light of new scientific evidence. This ambitious and comprehensive agreement should cover the vast majority of global greenhouse gas emissions, and include all major emitters, taking into account mitigation potential and national circumstances.

The EU and Canada believe that developed countries should commit to comparable, economy-wide mid-term emission reduction goals by 2020, while developing countries, with the exception of the least-developed, should commit to mitigation actions that lead to a substantial and quantifiable deviation from current emissions growth rates by 2020, based on their mitigation potential and national circumstances. In this respect, we welcome the national climate change strategies and plans put in place by a number of developing countries and call for further action in the lead-up to Copenhagen. We agree that adequate, predictable and timely financial support for implementation of a Copenhagen agreement will be crucial. The EU and Canada will take on their fair share in the framework of an overall agreement and are ready to look into options for generating the necessary funds.

We support the development of the **international carbon market**. An effective carbon market is essential for achieving emissions reductions at the lowest cost and for encouraging investment in safe and sustainable low-carbon technologies. We will reinforce our technical cooperation to work towards compatible, linked cap and trade systems between Europe and North America.

We recognise that the international aviation and maritime transport sectors are large and growing sources of greenhouse gas emissions. We emphasise the need for the International Civil

Aviation Organisation and the International Maritime Organisation to rapidly advance work on emissions reductions in those sectors, including in view of the anticipated Copenhagen agreement.

The EU and Canada recall that tropical *deforestation* and forest degradation mostly in the tropics are responsible for between 15-20 per cent of annual global greenhouse gas emissions. We agree that a Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) mechanism has the potential to be an important element in a future global agreement on climate change to assist developing countries in reducing deforestation and halting global forest cover loss.

We also agree that the development of a post-2010 policy framework for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity under the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) requires active engagement, and we welcome the UN International Year of Biodiversity and the UN General Assembly high-level meeting on biodiversity.

We also underline the importance of continuing our fruitful discussions on other environmental topics in the EU-Canada High-Level Dialogue on the Environment.

We also recognise the challenges and opportunities faced in the **Arctic** and the North, which include protecting the environment and ensuring that Northerners benefit directly from economic and social development in the region now and in future generations. The EU and Canada agree to maintain a bilateral dialogue and cooperate on Arctic issues, with a focus on research and the concerns and interests of Arctic peoples and communities.

PEACE AND SECURITY

We reaffirm our determination to ensure that multilateral institutions, in particular the *United Nations*, are the main fora for international cooperation on peace and security, human rights and democracy. We are committed to a rules-based international order and to strengthening **international law**.

We are determined to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, which continue to represent one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. We will work jointly towards achieving the universalisation of multilateral **non-proliferation and disarmament treaties**, regimes and other arrangements, including the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and Chemical Weapons Convention, and the strengthening of export control regimes. We underline the central role of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and are committed to achieve a successful outcome of its Review Conference in 2010. We are encouraged by the US and Russia's renewed commitments to reduce nuclear arsenals, to ensure the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and to support international negotiations for a verifiable Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty. The EU and Canada will actively contribute to these efforts. We underline the importance of full and unconditional application of UN Security Council Resolutions and of strengthening UN specialized agencies dealing with disarmament and non-proliferation issues.

We reiterate our full support and respect for the *International Criminal Court* and its key role in ensuring accountability for the most serious international crimes.

On **Afghanistan**, we underline our common aim to ensure security and stability in the wider region. To this end, consistent with the 31st March Hague International Conference on Afghanistan, we will work together to support capacity-building of all levels of government in Afghanistan and the upcoming elections, and we will encourage Afghan-led reconciliation

efforts and dialogue with regional partners, particularly Pakistan. We will also work together to promote human rights and we urge the Afghan government to honour its human rights treaty obligations under international law, including respect for equality of women before the law. We value our on-going cooperation in EUPOL and seek to intensify EU-Canada collaboration on the ground, we strongly support the UN-mandated mission in country, and we remain committed to the people of Afghanistan.

We reaffirm our commitment to support the democratic government of **Pakistan**, which we encourage to undertake important reforms aimed at improving the current political and security situation. In particular, we are concerned about recent developments in certain parts of North West Frontier Province, and urge the Pakistani government to take decisive action to ensure that human rights are fully respected and the security situation does not deteriorate further. We welcome the outcome of the 17 April Tokyo conference, which generated pledges in excess of US \$ 5 billion in development assistance.

On the **Middle East Peace Process**, we urge the parties to resume the bilateral negotiations in order to move forward the Peace Process towards a two-state solution. We also urge consideration to be given to the Arab Peace Initiative, which offers a solid and appropriate basis for progress towards achieving comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Both the EU and Canada remain deeply concerned about the Iranian nuclear issue and **Iran's** failure to comply with its international obligations. We are committed to a diplomatic solution based on the dual-track approach.

We reaffirm our commitment to work together in the context of the European Security and Defence Policy, both in civilian and military *crisis management*. We already work in tandem to strengthen police forces in Afghanistan, the Balkans, the Palestinian territories. Together, we are building capacity in the areas of conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and crisis management in Africa, notably our cooperation on the African Union Exercise AMANI AFRICA as well as support to peace operations training centres in Africa. We will look to build on cooperation across these and other areas. In the context of civil protection, we also underline the importance of continuing to support disaster risk reduction initiatives.

Support to transparent, democratic elections is an area of common interest to the EU and Canada. We look forward to further cooperation in this field, including, where appropriate, in the context of EU **Election Observation Missions**.

Given the unique opportunities that **the Eastern Partnership** opens for cooperation with third countries, the EU looks forward to discussing further possible cooperation with Canada. The EU stands ready to explore possible cooperation with Canada on other regional initiatives.

We will continue our dialogue on how to operationalise the **responsibility to protect**, both bilaterally and within a wider UN context.

EU-Cap Verde Ministerial Troika Meeting

Brussels, 7 May 2009

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

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I - PEACE AND SECURITY ISSUES

1. West Africa

3. The Parties reviewed the situation in West Africa, devoting special attention to recent developments in Guinea Bissau, Guinea and Mauritania. Expressing concern at the current instability in the former and the military coups d'état in the other two countries, they called for observance of democratic principles and rule of law condemning the use of force or violence as a means of achieving or remaining in power.

4. The Ministers strongly condemned the recent assassinations of the Head of State and of the General Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces in Guinea Bissau. Prior to these tragic events, the country had improved its democratic and governance profile, by holding successful legislative elections in November 2008, the results of which were then upheld by the Supreme Court. The Ministers underlined the need for the authorities of Guinea Bissau to fight impunity, to pursue the investigations of the recent events and to engage themselves to hold free, fair and transparent presidential elections on June 28 this year, as foreseen. Furthermore, it was emphasized that the reform of the security sector, as well as reinforced efforts to combat drug trafficking, should remain at the top of the Government's agenda inter alia as recommended by the Round Table on the SSR (Security Sector Reform) in Guinea Bissau that took place in Praia on the 20th April 2009. The Capeverdean authorities were also informed of the progress of the EU SSR mission and the main challenges ahead were discussed. Ministers confirmed that they remain committed to supporting the country in the above mentioned areas.

5. The Ministers welcomed the recent lifting of the ban on political activities in Guinea, a precondition for free and fair elections in the country, and President of CNDD's (National Council for Democracy and Development) announcement that the roadmap for return to constitutional rule presented by the civil parties, united in the 'Coalition of Living Forces', that foresees legislative elections on 11 October 2009, and presidential elections on 13 December 2009 has been adopted.

They encouraged the Guinean authorities to keep to this time schedule. They welcomed the contribution given by the International Contact Group for Guinea (ICG-G), co-chaired by the AU and ECOWAS, to accelerate and facilitate this process and encouraged the ICG-G to continue its work. They welcomed the results of the opening of consultations between the EU and the Guinean authorities under article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement that took place on 29th April in Brussels and encouraged the Guinean authorities to deliver on the commitments announced. On another note, Ministers while stressing the need to fight impunity in Guinea expressed concern on the way the authorities are conducting arrests of suspects and investigations of corruption and organized crime. Respect of legal procedures and human rights remain essential. In that context, concerns were also expressed on intimidations submitted to high ranking politicians and trade union leaders.

6. The Ministers expressed their strong condemnation of the coup d'état which took place in Mauritania on 6 August 2008 and commended the efforts undertaken by the AU leading to restore the constitutional order in Mauritania, inter alia as stated in the communiqué of its Peace and Security Council of March 24, 2009. They took note of the decision of the chairman of the 'High State Council' to resign from this office and of the transfer of presidential powers ad interim to the President of the Senate despite the fact that the legitimate President has never relinquished his mandate. Ministers deplored that, notwithstanding the recent mediation efforts by the international community, no consensual solution has been reached yet, and reiterated their call for a transparent, inclusive, representative and fair political process leading as soon as possible to the restoration of constitutional order in Mauritania. The EU informed the Capeverdean authorities of the decision taken by the Council of the EU in April 2009 to close Cotonou article 96 consultation and to adopt appropriate measures regarding its relations with Mauritania. Ministers emphasized the need for continued international mediation efforts.

7. The Ministers welcomed the exemplary cooperation among the international community partners in their efforts to accompany the transition to democracy, in particular the efforts of ECOWAS, which played a constructive role in the dealings with the crisis in Guinea and Guinea Bissau.

8. In the aftermath of two coups d'état in the West African region within less than a year, the Parties emphasized the need for concerted action and cooperation to address the consolidation of democracy and bring economic development to the region. Moreover, they discussed the specific threats to security, namely youth unemployment, food insecurity, rapid and unplanned urbanization, as well as the challenges posed by corruption, irregular migration, human and drug trafficking, and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Ministers expressed concern about the growing use of West Africa as a transit route for drugs between Latin America and Europe, due to the region's porous borders and weak State and security institutions. Transnational organized crime is a major source of concern in the sub-region as it has links with terrorist movements implanted in the Sahel area and also hampers the functioning of State authority in some West African States. The parties exchanged views on the EU regional initiatives to address some of the mentioned issues. In this context, Cape Verde stressed the need for support by international community and welcomed the engagement of the EU in the implementation of the Action Plan adopted at the ECOWAS Conference held in Praia in October 2008 on drug trafficking as a global threat to the region.

(...)

Javier Solana – ‘Southern Corridor – New Silk Road’ Summit

Prague, 8 May 2009

REMARKS BY JAVIER SOLANA AT THE ‘SOUTHERN CORRIDOR – NEW SILK ROAD’ SUMMIT

‘This Southern Corridor Summit is an important initiative. The countries and institutions meeting today are brought together by a common vision and common determination. We agree the Southern Corridor is not just a good idea in principle. We also agree we need to make it happen. This Summit also comes at a crucial time. We have recently had a number of important energy conferences: in Budapest, Ashgabat and Sofia. They illustrated that energy security is not a zero sum game. We can and should build on the progress made. But Summits and declarations in themselves are not enough. We need to sustain the momentum and take concrete actions. So that political commitments are translated into signed agreements, real investments and actual molecules flowing westwards.

The centre-piece of the Southern Corridor is deeper co-operation on energy. As everybody knows, in the coming years the EU will be importing a growing amount of its energy from abroad. For this we will need to nurture partnerships with existing suppliers: Russia, Norway, Algeria to name a few. But we also want genuine diversification, both in terms of sources and transit routes. This is a strategic issue for us. We all know that excessive dependence on one source, one export route, or one company creates vulnerabilities. And vulnerabilities are a source for instability.

This, then, is the main rationale for the Southern Corridor. It is manifestly in our interests as consumers to do so. But diversification of export routes also serves the interests of producers and transit states. It is when the interests of all parties intersect that new opportunities emerge. That is where we are today.

I would like to make two more specific points, which in themselves are related:

Firstly, energy issues can be politically divisive. They can and have been linked to political pressure, regional instability, corruption and bad governance. But energy can also be a uniting factor. At heart, energy is about connecting people. From producing, transit and consumer countries. From governments, companies and wider societies. In this context, it is important to note that the Southern Corridor is an open concept. Not directed against anyone, nor excluding anyone. It is about open markets and co-operative politics. Here I come to the crux: the vital ingredient for both open markets and co-operative politics is agreed rules, implemented in a non-discriminatory way. Rules matter in international life - both in energy and broader diplomacy. Agreed rules build trust and promote stability. They make states secure, people free and companies willing to invest.

Secondly, we have to put energy into a context of both broader and deeper engagement by the European Union. Today, we are committing ourselves to deeper co-operation on energy and transport. But this is part of a wider form of EU political engagement, including in the area of security. Again we see a certain linkage here: greater stability should flow from a successful and well-regulated Southern Corridor. But it also works the other way around: success in the area of energy requires greater trust and stability. So we need to embed energy issues into this wider context. Besides, the wider our prism we use – as opposed to just energy - the more likely we will find common ground.

Mr President, dear colleagues, today's Summit should not be a one-off event. It is really a call for action. To remove all obstacles and ensure that our common vision of the Southern Corridor will be realised. This will not happen overnight. Nor all in one go. But the vision that binds us is both inspiring and achievable. It is high time and up to us to make it happen'.

External Relations Council

Brussels, 18 May 2009

(...)

SRI LANKA – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council had an exchange of views on the recent developments in Sri Lanka and adopted the following conclusions:

1. The EU has monitored the events of the last 48 hours and is appalled by the loss of innocent lives as a result of the conflict and by the high numbers of casualties, including children, following recent intense fighting in northern Sri Lanka.

2. As the fighting draws to an end, the EU reiterates its call on the Government of Sri Lanka urgently to proceed towards a comprehensive political process. It therefore calls on the President of Sri Lanka to outline a clear process leading to a fully inclusive political solution, based on consent, equality and the rule of law. Long-term security, post-conflict reconstruction and prosperity in Sri Lanka can only be achieved through such a process, to address the legitimate concerns of all Sri Lanka's communities. The EU expects all parties to engage without delay and stands ready to support this process.

3. The EU calls on the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE to take all necessary steps to prevent further loss of life, welcoming the reported escape out of the combat zone of a significant number of civilians. The EU reiterates the need for all parties to a conflict to fully respect their obligations under international humanitarian law and human rights law. The EU calls for the alleged violations of these laws to be investigated through an independent inquiry. Those accountable must be brought to justice.

4. The EU acknowledges steps already taken by the Government of Sri Lanka to address the humanitarian situation of those it is holding in camps for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), but significant obstacles remain. The civilian nature of the camps, freedom of movement and early return for IDPs should be ensured. Full and unhindered access to all IDPs must be guaranteed and current restrictions on the humanitarian aid agencies, such as visa and checkpoint problems, should be removed. The EU calls on the Government of Sri Lanka to give the ICRC a monitoring role and share with them lists of persons screened by the Government while leaving the conflict zone.

5. The EU calls on the Government of Sri Lanka to take, without delay, all necessary steps to facilitate the evacuation of civilians, as well as the urgent delivery of humanitarian assistance to them, in line with its obligation to protect all people under its jurisdiction. The EU underscores that fighting terrorism must be done in full respect for the rule of law and Human Rights.

6. The EU welcomes the UN Security Council Press Statement of 13 May and continues to support the efforts of the UN to help alleviate the situation in Sri Lanka. It supports an early visit by the Secretary-General to the country. The EU urges the Government of Sri Lanka to extend full cooperation to the UN in order to resolve the humanitarian crisis.

7. The EU condemns the LTTE, a terrorist organisation, in particular for the use of civilians as human shields and the forced recruitment of civilians. The EU calls on the LTTE to lay down its arms and to renounce terrorism and violence once and for all.

8. The EU expresses its deep concern about the human rights situation, and considers that ensuring respect of media freedom is crucial. It welcomes the work being undertaken by the UN Special Rapporteurs and joins their call for thorough monitoring of developments. The EU continues to call for appropriate action by the United Nations Human Rights Council.
9. The Council will keep the situation in Sri Lanka, including its humanitarian aspects, under close scrutiny and will revert to the issue as appropriate.'

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, INCLUDING OPERATION EUFOR ALTHEA

In a joint session between Foreign and Defence Ministers, the Council assessed the political environment and the security situation in Bosnia- and- Herzegovina (BiH). It agreed to continue to follow on the political developments in BiH.

The Council also assessed operation ALTHEA and its contribution to a safe and secure environment in BiH.

High Representative Javier Solana announced that he would be travelling to Bosnia-and-Herzegovina on 19 May 2009 together with Joseph R. Biden, Vice President of the United States of America, to reiterate the EU and US common objectives in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

SOMALIA, INCLUDING OPERATION EU NAVFOR ATALANTA – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

In a joint session between the Foreign and Defence Ministers, the Council discussed the situation in Somalia and the EU naval operation against piracy EU NAVFOR – Operation ATALANTA.

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council condemns the recent fighting in Mogadishu, targeting the Transitional Federal Institutions and the Djibouti peace process. The Council calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities to avoid further civilian casualties and deplores the humanitarian consequences of recent attacks.
2. The Council welcomes the steps taken by the new Transitional Federal Institutions to consolidate the inclusive political process, consistent with the Djibouti peace process, towards a successful and timely completion of the Transitional Federal Charter leading to free and fair elections and a comprehensive solution for Somalia. The Council welcomes the leadership which President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed has demonstrated in these endeavours and calls on all Somalis to renounce violence and support the political process. The Council underlines the important political role of the countries in the region, expresses its appreciation for the commitment shown by the African Union and stresses the importance of continued international coordination within the International Contact Group on Somalia, under the leadership of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General Ahmedou Ould Abdallah.
3. The Council notes that a stable security environment in Somalia is vital for building state institutions, providing adequate humanitarian aid, kick-starting recovery efforts and reducing the threat of piracy. It expresses its appreciation to the AU and to AMISOM troop contributing countries for their contribution to stabilising the situation in Mogadishu. The Council supports the ambition of the new Transitional Federal Government to focus on the development and strengthening of national capacity in the security sector. The security sector

should be firmly committed to the rule of law, respect for human rights, and the principles of good governance and accountability.

4. The Council was encouraged by the unanimous support of the international community for the new Transitional Federal Institutions of Somalia, as manifested at the recent International Conference on Security in Somalia, convened by the UN Secretary General and hosted by the EU in Brussels on 22-23 April. The Council recalls the substantive contribution by the EU to AMISOM and to the Somali security sector, notably the Police Force. The Council stresses the importance of building up the Somali National Security Force (NSF) as soon as possible. It welcomes the important financial contributions to the NSF made at the International Conference. The Council invites the General Secretariat of the Council and the Commission, in consultation with UNPOS and the AU, to study possible ways of contributing further to the security sector, including the NSF, in support of the strategy of the Transitional Federal Government.

5. The Council reiterates the mutually reinforcing links between security and development. Recalling the EU contribution to international efforts against piracy through EU NAVFOR ATALANTA, the Council stresses the continued engagement of the EU, including in the delivery of humanitarian aid as well as for reconstruction and development. The Council hopes that efforts directed at demobilisation, disarmament and reintegration of former combatants can begin soon.'

Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministers Meeting

Brussels, 18 May 2009

As usual once every six months, the Council included a substantial ESDP component, in which defence ministers took part.

EDITED REMARKS BY JAVIER SOLANA IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE GENERAL AFFAIRS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COUNCIL

CAPACITÉS MILITAIRES

- Nous venons, lors du Comité directeur de l'Agence Européenne de Défense (AED), de prendre des décisions pour accroître la disponibilité de hélicoptères, et du transport aérien en général, qui manifestent notre volonté de progresser vers des résultats concrets, qui auront un impact direct sur notre capacité à mener les opérations de l'UE. Je me félicite de ces nouvelles avancées et vous invite à poursuivre ces efforts, exigeants, mais aussi indispensables ;
- En à peine dix ans, grâce à ces efforts nous nous sommes dotés d'outils nécessaires à la conduite de nos opérations, en particulier d'un outil de réponse rapide, les Groupements tactiques;
- En matière de capacités, nul Etat membre, nulle organisation ne peut prétendre à l'exhaustivité ou à l'universalité. Lorsque les besoins se recoupent, nous n'avons d'autre choix que de coopérer. Enfin, je me félicite de la recherche permanente de synergies entre les instruments civils et les instruments militaires, gage d'efficacité opérationnelle, de cohérence et de rationalisation. La création du Crisis Management and Planning Directorate sera une avancée dans ce domaine dont l'UE dans son ensemble bénéficiera très vite;
- Bien sûr, des progrès restent à faire, par exemple dans le domaine de la réponse rapide, du transport stratégique, ou du partage du poids financier du développement des capacités et de la conduite des opérations, tout particulièrement lorsque les budgets nationaux sont revus à la baisse. Mais je sais que les travaux en cours et les réflexions que nous avons lancées nous permettront de nouvelles avancées;

ESDP OPERATIONS

EUFOR ALTHEA (BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA)

- We are continuing with our planning for the future of Operation ALTHEA. Today, we approved the Concept of Operations (CONOPS), the first technical step for a possible evolution, so that we are ready for a decision when conditions allow. However, we have not yet taken a final decision on the future of the Operation. Operation ALTHEA continues to provide reassurance on the ground and we are maintaining our long-term commitment to Bosnia, with a visible presence;
- As a sign of this commitment, I am travelling to Sarajevo tomorrow, with US Vice-President Biden. Together, we will meet the authorities and all the political leaders to

underline our engagement and to stress that all parties should assume their responsibility to ensure that the state of BiH functions well;

EUFOR TCHAD/RCA

- Le redéploiement de EUFOR se termine. Les résultats obtenus sont tangibles et reconnus. Nous pouvons nous en féliciter et retenir pour l'avenir ce premier exemple d'approche globale et l'excellente expérience de coopération avec les Nations Unies ;
- Je tiens encore une fois rendre hommage au Commandant d'opération, le General Nash, au Commandant de Force, le General Ganascia, à tous les soldats de l'UE et des pays qui ont participé à EUFOR.

PIRACY – OPERATION EU NAVFOR / ATALANTA

- I visited the Operational Headquarters of Operation ATALANTA in Northwood, UK, last week. I was very impressed by the professionalism and excellent work done there by our naval forces;
- Our operation has already achieved very good results. It has escorted more than 20 World Food Programme ships since it began in December last year, allowing 130 thousand tonnes of food to be delivered. Thanks to Operation EU NAVFOR ATALANTA, 1.6 million mouths are being fed each day; We are also providing direct protection for a number of vessels, including those chartered by the UN to transport supplies to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM);
- We are capturing a growing number of pirates – the total now stands at 52 and we have handed over 51 for prosecution to the Kenyan authorities;
- However, the pirates are operating in a wider area. We have to adapt our operation accordingly – we are currently extending our operation; We need to boost our force generation, particularly for maritime surveillance aircraft which enables us to extend our surveillance zone;
- The European Union mobilized very quickly to address the problems in Somalia; the international conference in Brussels last month highlighted the agreement between all parties, including the Somali government, that Europe should continue and step up its efforts;
- This is why we must look at extending Operation Atalanta in 2010; we must also look at new measures – to combat piracy and also to tackle the underlying problems; I will be putting forward some ideas at our six-monthly review in June;
- In three weeks, a new operations commander will succeed Admiral Jones. I would like to take this opportunity today to recognize the remarkable work done by Admiral Jones. I congratulate him on his promotion and I wish him the best of luck in his new duties;

SOMALIA – RECONSTRUCTION OF THE SECURITY SECTOR

- The donors' meeting of 23 April was a great success. The international community is strongly committed to supporting the 'Djibouti process' and the Transitional Federal Government led by President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed; Recent events highlight the urgent need for concrete action to support the Transitional Government; the latest news from Mogadishu is very worrying;

- We will be studying possible ways of contributing further to the security sector, including the Somali National Security Force (NSF); and we will continue to provide security for the delivery of humanitarian aid;

PARTNERSHIPS

EU-NATO

- Our relationship has steadily improved over the past ten years; The Berlin Plus arrangements work well; Operation ALTHEA illustrates that; We have seen good progress with capabilities development. Thanks to the efforts of all Member States, we have avoided inconsistencies between our two processes. The differences as well as the similarities between our approaches enable us to address the shortfalls that overlap between the EU and NATO from different angles. Helicopter availability is a good example of how we can work effectively and pragmatically together on concrete projects to achieve tangible results;
- At the Strasbourg/Kehl Summit, NATO and in particular the US, recognised the importance of a stronger and more capable European defence, and the efforts of the EU were welcomed; We must also be able to cooperate in the theatre in Kosovo and in Afghanistan;

EU/UN COOPERATION IN CRISIS MANAGEMENT

- The EU's relationship with UN is vital, institutionally and operationally; EU cooperation with the UN is becoming broader and deeper; We work successfully side-by-side in several theatres. Many of them were discussed today;
- Our cooperation on the ground is good, as we have seen with the planning of EUFOR Tchad/RCA and the handover from EUFOR Tchad/RCA to MINURCAT;
- We have worked in hand to examine further areas of cooperation including those outlined by the Presidency, namely support to African capacity-building; Security Sector Reform; early warning; and planning and handover of operations;

PARTENARIAT STRATÉGIQUE ENTRE L'UNION EUROPÉENNE ET L'AFRIQUE

- Nous continuons à nous investir pleinement dans le partenariat 'Paix et sécurité' avec l'Afrique qui constitue le partenariat le plus avancé de la stratégie conjointe UE/Afrique adoptée à Lisbonne en 2007;
- Notre action est orientée à la fois vers l'Union africaine et les Organisations Régionales Africaines qui constituent la base opérationnelle de la Force Africaine en Attente. Les principaux besoins sont liés au manque de ressources humaines qui affaiblissent les structures politico-militaires. Le recrutement et la formation de personnel civil/police et militaires africains sont indispensables.

EXCHANGE OF YOUNG OFFICERS INSPIRED BY ERASMUS

- The European initiative for the exchange of young officers inspired by the Erasmus programme has started well and enjoys support; I would like to thank all the Member States

that have actively engaged in and committed to the different projects; Voluntary active engagement is key, particularly as this initiative is a long-term project ;

- Focusing on the initial phase of our officer training and education seems very small step but any measures taken promptly to improve our human resources responsible for implementing CFSP/ESDP will impact over time and help to make Europe more effective;
- Secondly, I believe it is a good approach to give a specific role to the European Security and Defence College in the implementation of the initiative, using its permanent Secretariat and the Executive Academic Board.

ESDP COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

(...)

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

‘I. ESDP OPERATIONS AND MISSIONS

South Caucasus

EUMM Georgia

1. The Council welcomed the work done by the mission in contributing to stabilising, normalising and confidence building in Georgia. The Council also welcomed EUMM’s involvement in establishing an Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism in theatre. It reaffirmed its determination that the mission would continue to implement its mandate with the same level of engagement over the coming months in close co-operation with other international actors on the ground. The Council noted the lessons and recommendations identified regarding the planning phase of the mission.

Western Balkans

Operation ALTHEA

2. The Council assessed Operation ALTHEA and approved the recommendations made in the Secretary General/High Representative’s six-monthly report on the operation.

3. The Council noted that, despite the challenging political environment, the security situation in Bosnia-and-Herzegovina (BiH) remained stable. The Council welcomed the positive contribution of the force to the safe and secure environment in BiH, and added that the EU-led force (EUFOR) continued to provide reassurance and remained ready to respond to possible security challenges throughout the country.

4. The Council welcomed the progress on the preparatory work for a possible evolution of Operation ALTHEA. The Council approved, for planning purposes, the Concept, and the Provisional Statement of Requirements, for the possible evolution of Operation ALTHEA towards a non-executive capacity-building and training operation, in the light of advice and conclusions of relevant Council bodies. The Council reconfirmed that it would keep this planning work under regular review so that a decision on the future of the operation could be taken once the necessary conditions had been met. The Council reiterated that approval of the Concept does not prejudice a political decision on the possible evolution of Operation

ALTHEA, which would need to take political developments, including the future role of the EU Special Representative, into account.

5. Coherence of EU action in BiH – involving all EU actors including the Commission and EU Heads of Mission – remains important. The EU Force Commander, the EUSR and the Head of EUPM continue to consult each other regularly prior to taking action. EUFOR has also maintained a close working relationship, including on operational matters, with other international actors. Cooperation with NATO continues to work well in respect of Operation ALTHEA.

EULEX Kosovo

6. The Council welcomed the declaration of full operational capability for the EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX KOSOVO) on 6 April 2009. The Council commended the mission's efforts to ensure a successful deployment of all components throughout Kosovo.

The Council noted with satisfaction the initial results achieved by EULEX KOSOVO in assisting the Kosovo authorities in consolidating the rule of law and in contributing to a safe and secure environment for all inhabitants, regardless of their ethnic origins. The implementation of the EULEX KOSOVO mandate will play an important role in strengthening the stability of the region, in line with its European perspective.

EUPM Bosnia and Herzegovina

7. The Council welcomed the efforts carried out by EUPM to achieve its mandate and noted the important role played by the mission as part of the overall EU efforts to stabilise BiH with a view to its European perspective. It welcomed the support provided by the mission to BiH authorities in the fight against organised and serious crime, in the implementation of police reform and in improving the coordination between the police and the judiciary system.

8. The mission will continue its activities until the end of its mandate, contributing to the comprehensive EU enhanced engagement in BiH. In due time, the Council will decide on the prospects and conditions for a civilian ESDP engagement in BiH beyond 2009. EUPM will continue to work closely with the OHR/EUSR and in the future with the reinforced EUSR.

Asia

EUPOL Afghanistan

9. The Council reaffirmed its determination to make a significant contribution to the reform of the Afghan national police, and welcomed the continued and increasing deployment, in Kabul and in sixteen provinces of Afghanistan, as well as the planned deployment of the mission to two additional provinces in Eastern Afghanistan of the EUPOL Afghanistan Mission. The Council welcomed the progress made by the mission during the last months, at strategic, operational and tactical levels, in particular in the key areas of anti-corruption strategy for the Ministry of Interior and the Afghan National Police, intelligence-led policing / criminal investigations and linkages with the wider rule of law. The Council also welcomed EUPOL Afghanistan's central role in the training of the Afghan police on its role and performance during the upcoming elections.

Middle East

EUJUST LEX

10. The Council welcomed that EUJUST LEX will be extended for one year and that the mission is preparing the first pilot activities on Iraqi territory to provide training, strategic advice and mentoring to senior officials of the Iraqi Criminal Justice Sector, as the security conditions allow. The Council underlined the strong commitment of the European Union to the support of the area of rule of law in Iraq, more specifically to the police, the penitentiary and the judiciary.

EUPOL COPPS

11. The Council welcomed the work done by the mission so far in the area of police and criminal justice. The Council agreed to take work forward on addressing further action in the broader rule of law in the Palestinian Territories. EUPOL COPPS activities in this area will enhance synergies with Community action in this field.

EUBAM Rafah

12. The Council confirmed the EU's readiness to redeploy at the Rafah Crossing Point, in case circumstances allow. The Council underlined that since the closure of the Rafah Crossing Point the mission has maintained its operational capability.

Africa

Operation ATALANTA/EU NAVFOR

13. Following the launch in December 2008 of Operation Atalanta, the first ESDP military maritime operation, in support of UN Security Council Resolutions 1814 (2008), 1816 (2008), 1838 (2008), 1846 (2008) and 1851 (2008), the Council reiterated its readiness to contribute actively to the improvement of maritime security off the Somali coast, in the context of the European Union's overall action to help stabilize Somalia.

14. The Council commended Atalanta's achievements to date, particularly the protection of World Food Programme vessels delivering food aid to displaced persons in Somalia, its contribution to the protection of vulnerable vessels sailing in the Gulf of Aden and off the Somali coast, including ships aiming at sustaining the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and its contribution to the deterrence, prevention and repression of acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast. The Council welcomed the Norwegian decision to participate in Operation Atalanta with naval assets.

15. The Council expressed its concern at the surge in piracy acts occurring at distances increasingly remote from the coastlines of East Africa. It recognized the complex challenges involved and called for an enhanced and further coordinated effort from the international community. The EU participates in the work of the International Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia and has established cooperative frameworks and arrangements to enable Operation Atalanta to cooperate effectively with other naval forces and assets deployed in the region. Coordination with the maritime community has been actively pursued, including through the support provided by Atalanta's Maritime Security Centre - Horn of Africa.

16. The Council welcomed the exchange of letters between the EU and Kenya for the transfer

of piracy suspects detained by Operation Atalanta. This arrangement constitutes an important contribution to counter-piracy efforts. In this context, it welcomed the contribution which the European Commission will provide to the Kenyan judicial system. It further welcomed that efforts are being made also to conclude arrangements with other countries in the region.

17. The Council noted that a broad involvement of all interested actors/parties to build institutional capacity and restore the Law and Order ashore is required to provide a lasting response to the root causes of piracy. The International Conference in support of the Somali Security Institutions held in Brussels on 23 April 2009 represented an important contribution towards the establishment of the Somali Security forces and the civilian Somali Police Force in line with the Djibouti Agreement of August 2008.

Operation EUFOR Tchad/RCA

18. Following the successful and timely transfer of authority between EUFOR Tchad/RCA and the UN mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) on 15 March 2009, the Council welcomed the fulfilment of EUFOR's mandate and underlined the exemplary cooperation at all levels between the European Union and the United Nations during the conduct phase of the operation. Lessons will have to be learned from this cooperation, but it can already serve as a basis for future collaboration.

19. The Council noted that, throughout its mandate, EUFOR made a tangible contribution towards the protection of civilians and in particular refugees and displaced persons, affected by the neighbouring crisis in Darfur, facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid, and protecting the staff of the United Nations. In observance of its mandate, EUFOR acted in an impartial, neutral and independent manner.

20. The Council underlined the importance of the global and regional approach which was followed in planning and conducting this operation, thereby maximising the EU's impact on the ground.

21. During the latter stages of EUFOR's mandate, the planning effort was progressively focused on the hand over to MINURCAT and recovery of EUFOR. To this end, effective collaborative planning with the United Nations was undertaken. Planning support, information and data transfer, contractual arrangements and reverse support on the ground ensured an efficient hand over. Around 2 000 troops from European countries who served under EUFOR are currently under the MINURCAT banner, which further underlines European support to UN peacekeeping operations.

22. The Council pointed out that EUFOR's redeployment did not mark the end of the European Union's involvement in Chad, in the Central African Republic or in the region as a whole. The European Union remains active at a political and diplomatic level in Chad, in the Central African Republic and especially in Sudan. The European Union continues to be active also in the region in the field of humanitarian and development activities.

EUSEC RD Congo

23. Restoration of governance in general and defence reform in particular remain central factors in creating lasting conditions for stability in DRC. To contribute towards that goal, EUSEC's continued cooperation with the DRC Government and close coordination of EUSEC with EUPOL RD Congo, the Community activities and Member States' bilateral activities, as well as with the UN and other relevant international actors are of great importance.

24. The Council underlined the importance of EUSEC's key tasks of providing advice and assistance for security sector reform with the aim of contributing to the Congolese efforts to restructure and reform the Congolese army, including through contributing with specific EUSEC expertise to the integration of CNDP and other armed groups, and via a number of practical activities. Launched in December 2005, the "chain of payment" project has now at the request of the Congolese authorities been extended to all army personnel. On 29 December 2008, EUSEC RDC completed the census of the FARDC. By this date, approximately 130.000 military personnel were identified. EUSEC will continue to assist in the organisation of FARDC administration.

25. To complement in a coherent manner its primary advisory role in the reform of the army, EUSEC implements or supervises projects in areas such as Gender, Human Rights, Health and Infrastructure, financed or initiated by Member States and/or the EC. The Council underlined that these projects currently play a determining role in increasing the visibility and the credibility of actions undertaken at the strategic level.

EUPOL RD Congo

26. The Council welcomed the work of the EUPOL RD Congo Mission in supporting the reform of the Congolese national police and its interaction with justice. The Council noted the decision on setting up a Project Cell within EUPOL RD Congo with a complementary approach in order to implement small projects within the mission's mandate and also to provide reinforced coordination and technical assistance to Member States and Third States that so require to their own projects and under their own responsibility. The extension of the mission's mandate until 30 June 2010 has been agreed in principle.

EU SSR Guinea-Bissau

27. The Council welcomed the work accomplished by the EU SSR GUINEA-BISSAU mission. The Council decided in May 2009 to extend the mission EU SSR GUINEA-BISSAU for six months, i.e. until the end of November 2009. The purpose of the extension is mainly to fully accomplish the mission's current mandate, to further explore the capacity and the commitment of the new government to carry forward the reform process and to assess the willingness of the International Community to support it.

Human Rights; Gender and Children Affected by Armed Conflict

28. The Council welcomed and further recalled the importance of the systematic consideration of Human Rights, Gender and Children Affected by Armed Conflict in the planning and conduct of ESDP missions and operations, including their mandates and staffing, and in the subsequent lessons learned process. The Council also emphasized the importance of close cooperation on these issues with the Special Representatives of the European Union (EUSRs), as well as with the Commission. The Council recognizes the importance of cooperation with local actors, such as NGOs and civil society.

29. In this context, the Council commended the efforts made to date in implementing the substance of UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1820 in ESDP missions and operations with the aim of achieving more concrete progress on gender issues and thus adding to the credibility and effectiveness of those missions and operations on the ground.

II. CIVILIAN AND MILITARY CRISIS MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES

Civilian Capabilities

Civilian Headline Goal 2010

30. The Council welcomed the adoption of Civilian Capability Improvement Plan in January 2009 in accordance with the Civilian Headline Goal (CHG) 2010 and in line with the Declaration on strengthening capabilities adopted by the Council and endorsed by the European Council in December 2008. The Council noted that the implementation in the first half of 2009 was focused on the development of the Goalkeeper software environment (Civilian Capability Management Tool) and on the reflection on national strategies facilitating the deployment of civilian personnel for ESDP.

31. The Council recalled the informal discussion among Foreign Ministers in Hluboka in March 2009 on the need to further develop civilian capabilities. It stressed the need to make progress in this field.

Force Generation

32. The Council welcomed progress recently made in the field of force generation, notably in human and financial resources and provision of equipment. Improved procedures have been put in place as far as selection of staff, calls for contribution and standardised job descriptions are concerned.

Lessons Learned

33. The Council looked forward to full implementation of the guidelines on identifying and implementing lessons and best practices in civilian ESDP missions, adopted in November 2008. In particular, it underscored the need to take forward the work on implementing lessons agreed to date and new horizontal, thematic reports on lessons.

Military Capabilities

Headline Goal 2010

34. The Council welcomed progress made by Member States in the development of military capabilities, including in the light of the Declaration on Strengthening Capabilities adopted by the European Council in December 2008, which will contribute to enhancing the EU's crisis management capacity. The Council called for continued efforts in this regard.

35. The Council noted the Force Catalogue 2009 which includes revised contributions made by Member States and looked forward to the results of the assessment of these new contributions.

36. The Council noted the Single Progress Report and that work has continued on capability development in accordance with the Methodology for Measuring Progress and Reviewing Priorities and following the Report on lessons identified from the Headline Goal 2010 process.

37. The Council recalled the 2010 horizon of the Headline Goal. The Council noted that initial reflections on the post 2010 horizon are ongoing and encouraged reflections to be pursued with a view to fostering the delivery of European capabilities.

38. The Council underlined the importance of the initial Capability Development Plan (CDP), as agreed in July 2008, to help Member States orientate their capability plans. The

Council welcomed the cooperative work launched by the Military Committee and the European Defence Agency on the first tranche of twelve CDP priority actions.

39. The Council welcomed the ongoing work on options which would facilitate the potential use of multinational forces in ESDP operations without prejudice to existing national decision making procedures.

40. The Council stressed the importance of the interoperability of military forces, including with civilian actors. It noted that work is ongoing on this issue and welcomed the cooperative efforts made to this end by Member States taking into account the expertise of relevant organisations and entities.

41. The Council welcomed the approval of the EU Concept for Special Operations which defines the tasks and characteristics of military special operations and provides the principles for the use of Special Operations forces across the full range of EU-led military operations.

42. The Council noted the ongoing developments relating to the EU Operations Wide Area Network (EU OPS WAN) and the accreditation of national Operation and Force Headquarters with the remaining potential EU Headquarters currently in the process of being accredited or connected to the EU OPS WAN. The Council looked forward to other capability improvements aimed at enhancing secure exchange of information between EU bodies, Operation Headquarters (OHQs) and Member States.

43. The Council welcomed increased cooperation between EU military and civilian bodies to support both EU military and civilian capability development processes and facilitate synergies between these processes as appropriate.

Rapid Response

44. The Council welcomed the revision of the Military Rapid Response concept which defines the military rapid response time as a period from 5 to 30 days from the approval of the Crisis Management Concept to the moment when operations commence in the Joint Operations Area. The Council recalled the importance of maintaining a high level of ambition in Rapid Response.

45. The Council noted that an analysis of the impact of the revised Military Rapid Response concept on the Air and Maritime Rapid Response concepts has been undertaken. It underlined the need to ensure an overall coherence of all concepts relating to Rapid Response. The Council welcomed the results of the Air and Maritime Rapid Response Information Conferences held in October and April.

46. The Council welcomed the results of the six-monthly Battlegroup Coordination Conference held on 23 April where Member States committed in detail the required BG packages until the second Semester in 2010 and committed further packages until the second Semester in 2011. The Council encouraged further contributions by volunteering Member States beyond 2011.

Organisation Development

47. The Council looked forward to the appointment of a Deputy Director General who will head the Crisis Management and Planning Directorate (CMPD) and to the implementation of the organisational measures taken by the Secretary General High Representative to establish the CMPD with the aim to further improve EU civilian and military coordination. The Council

noted that the relevant documents will be amended accordingly.

48. The Council noted that the implementation of the Post Wiesbaden measures has generated significant improvement in the ability of the EU to undertake early military planning in support of informed decision-making and welcomed the final report on this issue.

European Defence Agency (EDA)

49. The Council welcomed the good progress made in implementing the EDA strategic framework completed last year, including with the establishment of concrete projects and initiatives and associated policies:

- **Capability Development Plan (CDP):** Nine out of the first tranche of twelve CDP priority actions have been taken forward by the EDA. For most of the nine actions, related Strategic Context Cases for collaborative projects within the EU have been developed.
- **European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB):** Work on identifying key industrial capabilities for preservation or development in Europe has been tested in the area of Future Air Systems. The Steering Board approved the Reporting Monitoring System for the Code of Conduct on Offsets adopted last October, which will be critical to make the Code fully effective, transparent and accountable between subscribing Member States. All subscribers to the Defence Procurement Regime will apply the Code of Conduct on Offsets (25 participating Member States plus Norway), to start on 1 July this year. Furthermore, efforts to open up national defence markets in Europe have been intensified. Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Defence Procurement through the Electronic Bulletin Board on 'Government Contracts' is on the whole positive, with an increase in the percentage of cross-border awarded contracts.
- In order to turn the European Armaments Cooperation Strategy into reality, the Steering Board approved a roadmap describing the application of the Guide to conduct programme preparation, education, best practice, and standardisation.
- **European Defence Research and Technology Strategy:** Work has continued on identifying cross-links between common Research and Technology (R&T) priorities and CDP priorities with a view to defining key technologies directly linked with CDP needs. Integrated roadmaps for fully transversal collaborative projects resulting from the CDP/R&T connectivity were developed for four areas (with Maritime Mine Counter Measures, CBRN, Counter MANPADs and Counter Improvised Explosive Devices).
- The implementation of the Joint Investment Programmes on Force Protection and on ICET (Innovative Concept and Emerging Technologies) has been providing useful experience, which should be taken into account when considering possible further ad hoc (category A) R&T programmes.

50. The Council welcomed the establishment and/or implementation of concrete cooperative projects and the preparation of other important initiatives. It took note, in particular, of the following ones:

- Good progress continued on activities to improve helicopters' availability in the short, medium and long-term in full cooperation and complementarity with the multinational Helicopter Fund and NATO agencies, as appropriate. Concerning the short-term activity related to training, EDA has been preparing the ground for the launch, in 2010, of the European Programme for Helicopter Tactics Training. Its content will be shaped by the

outcome of ongoing work, the two EDA studies and the EDA supported multinational exercise which took place this March.

As for the medium-term, options for upgrading existing helicopters have been developed, with initial focus on Mi-Helicopters.

For the longer term - beyond 2020 - the ad hoc (category B) project on the 'Future Transport Helicopter', based on a Franco-German initiative, was established in the Agency's remit.

- Work on the establishment of a European Air Transport Fleet (EATF) has progressed. The status of the preparations for the Letter of Intent (including its skeleton), was presented to Ministers at the Steering Board on 18 May, with a view to its signature next November.
- The European Third Party Logistics Support (TPLS) Platform was established, for a nine months trial phase, with the aim of providing a solution for improving awareness on existing options for contracting services in support of Crisis Management Operations.
- The MUSIS (Multinational Space-based Imaging System) ad hoc project related to the second generation of military earth observation satellites was established.
- A new EDA Project Team dedicated to Space Situational Awareness (SSA) was established.
- Positive progress has been made on preparing the establishment of a European Satellite Communication Procurement Cell, in the dedicated Ad-Hoc Project Group.
- Work has continued in the EDA on an integrated approach to Maritime Surveillance in consultation with all the relevant actors, and in particular with the Commission.
- In order to address the European shortfall in biological detection, identification and monitoring, a new project (Biological Equipment Development and Enhancement Programme - Bio EDEP) was established in EDA, with the aim to provide participating Member States' forces with a robust and reliable protection system by 2015.
- EDA is collaborating with the Council General Secretariat on the identification of Information Exchange Requirements (IERS), and was encouraged to pursue its work in order to identify clear Communications and Information Systems (CIS) requirements for potential common projects.

51. EDA has intensified its working relationships with the Commission and other relevant bodies, including OCCAR (Organisation conjointe de coopération en matière d'armement), the European Space Agency and NATO, in accordance with the Joint Action establishing EDA and in consultation with the participating Member States.

52. The Agency has increased its efforts to seek synergies between its defence R&T work and the Commission's activities on civil security Research, e.g. in the area of the Software Defined Radio, force protection and Space. The Agency was tasked by the Steering Board in Defence Ministers formation to prepare, working together with the European Commission, a European framework cooperation for synchronising defence and civilian security-related research activities, taking fully into account the respective competences and decision-making procedures of the different institutions.

53. On 2 April the Steering Board approved a Directive to the Head of Agency to negotiate an Administrative Arrangement (AA) with OCCAR, on the basis of agreed Principles, with a view to submitting the draft AA for the Council's approval next November. The Council endorsed the EDA's Steering Board recommendation to take forward work on the establishment of a Security Agreement between the EU and OCCAR, with the objective of it being available in time for the approval of the draft Administrative Arrangement between the Agency and OCCAR.

EU Satellite Centre (EUSC)

54. The Council welcomed the support provided by the EUSC to the military operations of the EU, in particular its support to the operations Atalanta and EUFOR Tchad/RCA, as well as its increasing role in support to the EU civilian missions, in particular in the support to the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia.

55. The Council encouraged the facilitated access of the EUSC to governmental imagery, in particular in areas where access to commercial imagery is limited. In this regard, the Council welcomed the use of Helios II imagery, in particular for EUFOR Tchad/RCA, and looked forward to the use of Cosmo-Skymed and Sar-Lupe imagery.

56. The Council encouraged the EUSC to continue to explore cooperative opportunities where benefits for further improvement in EU crisis response capabilities could arise.

Training

57. The Council noted with satisfaction that two pilot courses initiated and organised by Member States under the aegis of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC), the first on Security Sector Reform and the second on mission planning at the strategic level, have been established by the ESDC Steering Committee as formal courses.

58. As regards the future format of the ESDC, work is ongoing on the elaboration of a new Council Decision evolving the European Security and Defence College in line with the ESDC Steering Committee recommendations approved by the Council in December 2008.

59. With regard to the implementation of the measures agreed on 10 November 2008, the Council welcomed the progress on the European initiative on the exchange of young officers during their initial training inspired by Erasmus as presented by the SG/HR in his special report on the voluntary initiative. The Council noted with satisfaction ongoing work focused in particular on stocktaking of the current exchange activities, the development of common training modules and their conduct, the establishment of an information platform including a discussion forum and the development of a legal framework document for the exchange of officers.

Exercises

CME 08

60. The Council welcomed the successful conduct of the exercise and the fact that the majority of its objectives were achieved. It provided a tangible opportunity to undertake co-ordinated and synchronised planning for an ESDP military operation and a civilian ESDP mission engaged in the same theatre. The Council recalled the importance of effective civil-military coordination.

The Council looked forward to implementation of lessons identified as a result of the exercise. The EU OHQ activated at Mont Valérien for command of EUFOR Tchad/RCA conducted that ESDP operation and planned the ESDP operation within the exercise at the same time. The Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) conducted a number of missions and planned the reconfiguration of the ESDP mission within the exercise at the same time.

CME 09

61. The Council underlined the importance of continued preparatory work for the EU crisis management exercise CME 09.

62. CME 09 will focus on EU crisis response which would include operational planning for both a military and a civilian operation engaged in the same theatre. Both the EU Operations Centre and the CPCC will be involved in the context of an appropriate scenario requiring EU rapid response to the crisis.

MILEX 09

63. The Council welcomed that final preparations are under way for the conduct of the fourth EU Military Exercise MILEX 09, scheduled to take place from 17 to 26 June 2009. This exercise will focus on the interaction between the EU OHQ (provided by Greece and located in Larissa) and the EU FHQ (provided by Italy and located in Naples) in an EU led military operation.

Security Sector Reform (SSR)

64. The Council stressed the importance of Security Sector Reform in which the EU is increasingly active. It recalled its agreement in November 2008 to reinforce EU SSR expertise by the creation of a pool of European SSR experts which would enable deployable teams of EU experts to be set up to take part in SSR activities in partner countries. The aim is to create a community of European experts in the field of SSR which will be provided by Member States and EU institutions.

65. The Council noted with satisfaction that the work on the implementation of the concept is ongoing and encouraged further progress to be made.

III. PARTNERSHIPS TO PROMOTE SECURITY**EU-UN**

66. The Council reiterated the importance it attaches to EU-UN co-operation in crisis management. In this context, the Council welcomed the successful transition and continuing cooperation between EUFOR Tchad/RCA and MINURCAT. The Council also emphasised the need for continued close coordination and cooperation between the two organisations in other operational theatres, notably in Kosovo, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea Bissau, Somalia and Georgia.

67. The Council welcomed the further progress in implementation of the 2007 Joint Statement on UN-EU Co-operation in Crisis Management through a series of concrete steps taken, inter alia in the field of reinforced dialogue (including regular consultations between senior UN officials and the PSC), on SSR, African peace-keeping capabilities, and the multidimensional aspects of peace-keeping.

68. The Council noted that consultations continued also in other areas of cooperation between the two organisations such as early warning, training and exercises, planning and arrangements between the EU and UN for transition between operations and encouraged these efforts to be developed further.

EU-NATO

69. The Council recalled the objective of strengthening the EU-NATO strategic partnership, in a spirit of mutual reinforcement and respect for their decision-making autonomy. It noted NATO's statement in the Strasbourg-Kehl Summit Declaration concerning the importance of a stronger and more capable European defence and welcoming the EU's efforts to strengthen its capabilities and its capacity to address common security challenges. The Council particularly stressed the importance of efficient operational cooperation between the EU and NATO, in particular concerning theatres in which the two organisations are both committed. In this context, the Council also welcomed the close dialogue between the SG/HR and NATO SG. The Council noted that the Berlin plus arrangements have proven to be effective and efficient as demonstrated by Operation ALTHEA. It also reiterated the necessity to continue to further exploit the approved framework for association of non-EU European Allies with the ESDP, in accordance with EU procedures.

70. The Council underlined the need for continued cooperation with NATO regarding the development of military capabilities. In this regard, it welcomed the efforts to make the best use of the EU-NATO Capability Group, within the agreed framework, where requirements overlapped. The EU-NATO Capability Group has contributed to transparency between the two organisations in accordance with the Capability Development Mechanism (CDM). With the participation of senior policy-makers from the capitals, as envisaged by the CDM, the Capability Group discussed issues regarding the coherence of capability planning processes and operational availability of helicopters supported with a number of non-papers delivered in advance by several nations to all Member States. A single issue meeting with national experts was dedicated to unmanned air vehicles. Before the Capability Group meetings, all Member States discussed in detail the agenda items and were briefed accordingly after these meetings. In order to continue improving coherence, mutually reinforcing development of military capabilities and transparency, the Council called for further efforts to ensure effective working methods of the Capability Group, while recalling that the participation of all the EU Member States would further facilitate exchange of information in the field of military capabilities.

71. The Council welcomed continuing efforts to ensure transparency and coherence between the two organisations, including through PSC-NAC meetings, EU and NATO Military Committees' meetings as well as meetings with non EU European NATO members and other candidate countries to the EU. The Council also welcomed the regular staff to staff meetings on issues of common interest and underlined the importance for the PSC to continue being regularly informed. The Council noted with satisfaction that staff-to-staff technical contacts between EU and NATO experts were established in order to advance the development of a common Information Gathering tool accessible to all Member States, based on the NATO Defence Planning Automated Software System under specific conditions relating to the decision-making autonomy of both organisations. It welcomed NATO experts' readiness to work with the EU on a tool, which will satisfy EU and NATO requirements.

EU-Africa Partnership on Peace and Security

72. The Council welcomed the progress in the 'Peace and Security' partnership of the Joint EU-Africa Strategy, centred around the AU as well as other African actors.

73. The Council noted that political dialogue continued with regular meetings between the EU and Africa at a political as well as at a technical level including through the EU delegation to the AU.

74. Regarding the reinforcement of the African Peace and Security Architecture and the operationalisation of the African Stand-by Force, the Council noted that the EuroRecamp-Amani Africa cycle continued with the Contributors' Conference, the Initiating Planning Conference and the Senior Decision Makers Seminar. The Council noted with satisfaction that work has been initiated on the support to African Training Centres and on the development of a strategy for African training initiatives. Progress was also achieved in the fields of mediation and support to the AU Continental Early Warning System.

75. In response to the urgent request of the African Union, the EU has provided support to the Strategic Planning Management Unit of the Peace Support Operations Division in Addis Ababa, which is responsible for the planning and conduct of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The support has included three staff officers from the EU Military Staff and, subsequently, four long-term EU experts contracted by the European Commission and one seconded police training advisor.

76. The Council looked forward to the report of the UN Secretary General due in September 2009, building on the AU/UN Report from the Panel chaired by R. Prodi, with a view to reaching an understanding and assessment of the challenges ahead. The Council encouraged the discussion to continue in the AU-EU Joint Expert Group.

Mediterranean Partners

77. The Council welcomed the efforts made to pursue the dialogue and the co-operation among the Euro-Mediterranean Partners on ESDP, including the participation of several partners in ESDP missions and operations and in training activities.

European Defence Agency

Brussels, 18 May 2009

EDA AND COMMISSION TO WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER ON RESEARCH

The European Defence Agency aims to establish a **European Framework Cooperation for Security and Defence Research**, together with the European Commission. This new Framework will provide the overarching structure for maximising complementarity and synergy between defence and civilian security-related research activities.

European Ministers of Defence, meeting in EDA's Steering Board on 18 May 2009, have tasked the EDA to develop concrete proposals, working in close coordination with the Commission.

Decisions on the European Framework Cooperation, including on the content of a coordinated Programme, will be taken by Defence Ministers in November. The likely candidate of this Programme is 'situational awareness', from sensing to command and control of networked assets.

'Coordination on investment in research between the Agency and the Commission will save the European taxpayer money, as our actions will be concerted', said Head of the Agency Javier Solana, who chaired the meeting.

EDA and the European Commission are already synergising their research in specific projects, such as Software Defined Radio and for the insertion of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles into regulated airspace. The European Framework Cooperation for Security and Defence has the purpose to systematically ensure complementarity and synergy of Defence R&T investment by the Agency with research investment of the European Commission under the Seventh Framework Programme for civilian security.

'Our existing cooperation with the Commission will be brought to a more intensive level. There will be no joint funding and the management responsibilities in both frameworks will remain unchanged. The aim is to synchronise research and allow for mutual use of results, as technologies are increasingly of a dual-use nature for military and civilian operators', said Alexander Weis, EDA's Chief Executive.

The Ministerial Steering Board also discussed the ongoing activities on the **European Air Transport Fleet (EATF)**, based on the Declaration of Intent signed by twelve Ministers in November last year. The concept has been widened from an initially envisaged fleet into a framework for military air transport related aspects with modular participation. Signature of a Letter on Intent is foreseen for November 2009.

Ministers took stock of the progress made with Increasing Helicopters' Availability:

- Training:** the Agency's work is on track. Lessons learned have been drawn from a multinational helicopter training exercise in the French Alps in March and from an EDA study on high end tactical synthetic training – during which 20 Czech helicopter crews have been trained in preparation for their deployment to Afghanistan later this year. The Helicopter Tactics Training Programme will be launched in 2010.
- Upgrades:** the Agency has presented upgrade packages for the Mi-17 helicopters. Under EDA coordination Member States concerned will now address cooperation models, with the aim of launching upgrade projects before the end of the year.
- Future Transport Helicopter:** the German-French initiative for this helicopter has now

become an EDA project, open to participation by other Member States. The aim of the FTH project is to provide a solution for intra-theatre heavy lift capability in the years 2020+.

'The Agency's helicopters activities have already started to produce results through training. Upgrading proposals will offer additional opportunities and the Future Transport Helicopter is a very important project to find a common European solution in the longer term, perhaps even together with the United States', said Javier Solana.

The Multinational Space-based Imaging System for Surveillance, Reconnaissance and Observation (MUSIS) programme has been accepted as an EDA project in early March. Defence Ministers noted the progress made. The Agency's involvement will focus on three elements, namely to support: (i) the extension of the programme to other Member States, in addition to the existing six MUSIS countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy and Spain); (ii) the definition of an EU requirement for space imagery, working together with the Council General Secretariat (including the EUMS); and (iii) creating synergies between MUSIS and related projects, such as the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES).

The Steering Board approved a project on force protection against biological agents. This Biological Detection Identification Monitoring Equipment Development and Enhancement Programme (BIO-EDEP) is addressing an important shortfall in the CBRN Defence area, one of the 12 priorities stemming from the Capability Development Plan. Five Member States (Czech Republic, France, Germany, Netherlands and Spain) have launched the BIO-EDEP project and other Member States have expressed their intention to join. The aim of the project is to conduct a Preparation Phase, leading to a demonstrator programme and procurement of identified equipment.

EU SSR Guinea-Bissau – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 18 May 2009

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2009/405/CFSP AMENDING JOINT ACTION 2008/112/CFSP ON THE EUROPEAN UNION MISSION IN SUPPORT OF SECURITY SECTOR REFORM IN THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU (EU SSR GUINEA-BISSAU)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 14 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) On 12 February 2008, the Council adopted Joint Action 2008/112/CFSP¹ establishing a European Union mission in support of security sector reform in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau (EU SSR GUINEA-BISSAU). That Joint Action is to apply until 31 May 2009.
- (2) By letter dated 14 April 2009, Guinea-Bissau invited the European Union to extend the Mission for six months until 30 November 2009.
- (3) Joint Action 2008/112/CFSP should be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

Joint Action 2008/112/CFSP is hereby amended as follows:

1. Article 1(1) shall be replaced by the following:
'1. The European Union (EU) hereby establishes an EU Mission in support of security sector reform in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, hereinafter referred to as 'EU SSR GUINEA-BISSAU' or the 'Mission', comprising a preparatory phase beginning on 26 February 2008 and with an implementation phase beginning no later than 1 May 2008. The duration of the Mission will be up to 18 months from the declaration of initial operational capability.';
2. in Article 17, the second subparagraph shall be replaced by the following:
'It shall apply until 30 November 2009.'

Article 2

This Joint Action shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Article 3

This Joint Action shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels, 18 May 2009.

For the Council

The President

J. Kohout

1. OJL 40, 14.2.2008, p. 11.

North Korea – Nuclear weapon test

Brussels, 25 May 2009

JAVIER SOLANA CONDEMNS THE NUCLEAR WEAPON TEST BY NORTH KOREA

Javier Solana made the following statement today condemning the nuclear weapon test conducted by North Korea:

‘I condemn the nuclear weapon test conducted today by North Korea. This act is a flagrant violation by North Korea of UN Security Council Resolution 1718.

North Korea’s action further threatens regional peace and security in North East Asia, following its launch of a long-range missile in April this year.

These irresponsible acts by North Korea warrant a firm response by the international community. The European Union will be in contact with its partners to discuss appropriate measures.’

DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENCY ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ON THE NUCLEAR TEST CONDUCTED BY THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA ON 25 MAY 2009

The European Union strongly condemns the test of a nuclear explosive device carried out by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) on 25 May 2009.

Such a test undermines stability on the Korean peninsula and in the region and represents a threat to international peace and security. It is a clear breach of the UN Security Council Resolution 1718 and of the December 1991 inter-Korean agreement. The EU consults and cooperates closely with its international partners in responding to this act.

The EU strongly urges the DPRK to refrain from any such activities, to renounce nuclear weapons and return immediately and without preconditions to the Six-Party Talks and work towards implementation of the Joint Statement of September 2005. The EU calls on the DPRK to return to compliance with the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards obligations.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

Georgia – Joint US-EU statement

Brussels, 25 May 2009

The United States and the European Union urge Georgia's government and opposition to end the current stalemate on the streets and begin negotiations immediately and without preconditions on a new program of reforms to invigorate Georgia's democracy. We call on all Georgians to respect the rule of law, abide by Georgia's Constitution, avoid violence, and honor the right of peaceful protest. The European Union and the United States pledge our full support for all such efforts aimed at strengthening Georgia's democratic freedom and prosperity, and reiterate our unyielding support for Georgia's independence and territorial integrity.

Disarmament – Statement by Javier Solana

Bruxelles, 29 mai 2009

JAVIER SOLANA CONGRATULATES THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT FOR THE APPROVAL OF ITS WORK PROGRAMME

'I wholeheartedly congratulate the Conference on Disarmament for approving today a work programme, which sets out a clear path towards a renewed, collective engagement of the international community in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

While this is a collective achievement, building on many efforts over the last few years, I wish to pay particular tribute to the Algerian Presidency of the Conference on Disarmament and all other P-6 presidencies, past and present.

The consensus reached in the Conference on Disarmament reflects the positive spirit in recent months in several disarmament and non-proliferation fora as well as the renewed commitment of world leaders to tackle the challenges of disarmament and non-proliferation. It is a long-awaited and crucial contribution to enhancing international peace and stability.

The Conference on Disarmament will now face the enormous challenge of implementing its work programme in accordance with document CD/1863. The Conference on Disarmament can count on the European Union's full support in this endeavour.'

Javier Solana – ‘Conflict prevention in the multi-media age – the EU’s role in the world’

Brussels, 3 June 2009

DEUTSCHE WELLE GLOBAL MEDIA FORUM 2009 – CONTRIBUTION BY JAVIER SOLANA

Conflict prevention in the multi-media age and role of the new technologies, the topic addressed by this week’s *Deutsche Welle* Global Media Forum, is a subject that goes right to the heart of what the European Union does. I am very grateful to *Deutsche Welle* for giving me an opportunity to contribute to Forum’s discussions this week.

We are living in a multi-media era in which the media are constantly diversifying and multiplying. Never has the media landscape changed so quickly or presented us with so many new opportunities – or so many challenges. The world of today has changed radically and it is continuing to change at a dizzying pace. It is a world that is interlinked, precisely because of the explosion of media technologies.

In this ‘global village’ we are all connected day and night by satellite TV, mobile phones, instant messaging and Internet chat-rooms and news flashes around the world in seconds on a constant, 24-hour rolling news agenda. The threats, crises, dangers and disasters that face us are global in nature and they have to be tackled on a global scale. And this is what the European Union does.

The European Union was born out of one of the most tragic and devastating conflicts the world has ever seen – the Second World War. After that war, Europeans wanted to find new ways of working together to end the cycle of conflict and division.

That was a war in which the new communication technologies of the time had a major impact. The war impinged directly on the lives of people at home more than any previous war had done. This was not only because of the huge level of civilian casualties. It was also because news of the conflict was broadcast on cinema newsreels and on the radios in people’s living rooms. So, though they had nothing like today’s means of instant communication, ordinary people felt more connected to the fighting going on in other countries, and even on other continents, than they had in previous conflicts.

A generation later, we have had soldiers sending pictures to their loved ones from Iraq on their mobile phones. This inevitably has an impact on the public perception of and support for wars being fought in their name and the conditions faced by their troops.

After the Second World War, Europeans came together by dismantling trade barriers and developing common policies which laid the foundations of a political project which has transformed Europe. They steadily increased the size of what is now the European Union from six to 12, then to 15, then after the end of the Cold War to 25 and now we are 27 Member States.

Since the European Union was founded it has enjoyed the longest era of peace and prosperity in its history – notwithstanding the current economic crisis. The EU now comprises 27 sovereign democracies, collectively numbering 500 million citizens. Only a short time ago many of these countries lived under dictatorships.

So Europe developed out of a project for peace and it is founded on its shared values of peace, democracy and human rights, as well as its common interests. It has developed not as a

military alliance but on the contrary as an organisation dedicated to peace-making and peace-keeping. We want to promote our values and protect our interests but in the turbulent world of today, Europe cannot be an island of peace and prosperity and our values and our interests face challenges and threats.

These challenges and threats are portrayed constantly on our TV screens, discussed in on-line blogs and chat rooms, captured by the mobile-phone cameras of tourists or aid workers. We are assailed by images of human rights abuses such as the crack-down on monks demonstrating peacefully in Burma/Myanmar and the children killed or maimed by the fighting in Sri Lanka. We watch footage of the massive flows of migrants pouring across the Afghanistan/Pakistan border from the Swat Valley. We see graphic shots of pirate attacks in the Gulf of Aden. The list goes on.

The EU has developed a common foreign policy to project its values around the globe and to address these challenges. The size of its population, its GDP and its share of world trade make the EU an active global player with regional and global security interests and with responsibilities to match. No individual country in Europe can deal with these challenges on its own. By acting together we achieve much more in tackling the global economic crisis, environmental degradation, climate change, the scourge of international terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and regional conflicts such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The EU is at the heart of this security effort. It has moved on from building peace in Europe to building peace around the world. And the global interdependence of today means that others increasingly call on us for our help. This is a role that Europeans and non-Europeans alike want the EU to play. And we need the media as our allies in this to spread our messages, to explain what we do and to help us implement our policies.

The EU is responding to the calls for assistance from around the world. It is monitoring a ceasefire in Georgia. It is leading international efforts to stabilize and modernize the Balkans and to fight poverty in Africa and develop the African continent. It is training the Afghan, Iraqi and Palestinian police forces as they try to rebuild their societies. It has sent peacekeepers to Bosnia, Chad and Congo, at the UN's request. For us, it goes without saying that foreign policy is not just about what we say. Actions speak louder than words. What we do, and how we do it, is what matters. And here, the role of the media in portraying and explaining what we do is fundamental.

The EU's security and defence policy – the operational arm of its common foreign policy – is all about crisis management. We use the full range of resources available to us – from diplomats to development workers, from judges to police and – where necessary to keep the peace – soldiers and indeed now sailors in our newest and first-ever naval operation patrolling the Gulf of Aden and the Somali Basin to protect shipping from pirate attacks.

Since 2003, the EU has initiated 23 crisis-management operations. Six have been military operations and the rest civilian. Some are police missions, some are border-monitoring missions, some are rule-of-law missions, involving a mix of police, judicial and penitentiary elements.

If actions speak louder than words, a picture tells a thousand words and images are the best illustration of all. When you see pictures on your TV screens of German or British police trainers in Kabul, for example, of a French or a Greek warship repelling a pirate attack off the coast of Somalia, of Irish troops helping to protect refugees in Chad, of Swedish border monitors in

Georgia, of Italian judges in Kosovo – when you see images of people from different EU Member States working together in different EU Security and Defence Policy operations abroad – you really see what we are achieving together.

Our missions are our chief tool for communicating our policies and we try to ensure that we keep the media fully informed about what they are doing, with press and public information officers in every mission interacting with the press and media in the field, as well as back at base in Brussels.

In the age of the day and night news agenda and the instant sound-bite, we are constantly in the glare of the media spotlight and we have to be ready to respond with a pithy sound-bite at a moment's notice. The media both oblige us to be present and enable us to be present. When news broke last week of North Korea's nuclear test, for example, world leaders all reacted within hours. They had no choice.

The myriad of new and constantly developing communication technologies are changing the nature of news and the nature of journalism. They are changing the way information is passed and the way we interact with the media. We know how important our daily interaction with media professionals is. We want to help journalists do their work and we try to assist them in every way we can. We are as accessible to all our interlocutors as we can be, without discrimination, and we deal with the local, regional, national and international media. We know that it is important to interact with editors and proprietors as well as reporters.

There is no 'one size fits all' communication policy. We have to tailor the way we work to the circumstances and needs. We have to be ready for robust and rigorous scrutiny but we also have to encourage journalists, in some places, to be more forthcoming with their questions rather than simply recording our statements.

We seek to be proactive – rather than merely responding with sound-bites – operating further upstream, in order to educate and explain to media professionals what we are doing in our operations, our policies and the way we work.

We know how important it is to develop our technical resources. We are constantly developing our website, in order to communicate directly with the public, and uploading clips of EU diplomacy in action and of the work of our different missions onto YouTube. The new technologies are making us all increasingly active players in the creation and dissemination of news. With the advent of interactive media, on-line publications, blogs, social networking sites, chat-rooms, instant messaging, Twitter, we can reach out directly to citizens, to voters. Look how successfully President Obama harnessed the power of the Internet in his election campaign. He understood how to use it to communicate with vital constituencies and to connect and mobilize his supporters.

The power of the new media is illustrated by the fact that access to the Internet is blocked or censored in China, for example. And I read last week that the Iranian government had jammed access to Facebook for fear of the power this new medium has to mobilise their opponents in the forthcoming presidential election. Cell phones and text messaging are said to have played a role in fostering the Orange Revolution in Ukraine and Twitter is thought to have played a part in rallying demonstrators in Moldova recently.

A much older technology – radio – has been used extensively and effectively by the UN as a means of communication in peacekeeping. The UN radio station in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Okapi, proved very successful in helping unite the people there after the civil war. But we must not be naïve – the power of the media can of course be unleashed for bad as well as

for good. Who can forget the appalling role of Rwanda radio RTLM in triggering the genocide there by urging listeners to pick up machetes and kill 'the cockroaches'?

The constantly evolving nature of the new media is increasingly blurring the distinction between audience and reporter, between politician and publisher, between citizen and editor. Anyone with a mobile phone just about anywhere in the world can be a citizen journalist and get his or her news directly onto an international TV bulletin. The execution of Saddam Hussein was captured by a mobile phone camera and viewed all around the world immediately.

Paradoxically, it can still be extremely difficult to get information. Recently, journalists have been barred access to Zimbabwe, to Burma/Myanmar and to Sri Lanka, to mention just a few examples. Reporting of conflicts is essential and journalists must be allowed to work unimpeded. But we must also remember that 'in war, the first casualty is truth', to quote Aeschylus. This is just as pertinent in today's media age. If anything, it is more difficult now to ensure that the news and information about conflicts is objective. The plethora of information, the wall of pictures assailing us from all sides, do not necessarily tell us the real story. It can be difficult to sift through the mass of information and select the details that are important. There is a danger that the information we receive is more superficial, with less substance. Many people fear that proprietors' profit motives and the dictates of real-time information, in an age when scoops are a thing of the past, mean more headlines and less analysis. Late news is worse than no news and it is difficult for anyone to come out first with a statement or a reaction to a crisis and very difficult to come out first with a careful, considered response.

The new media are much more difficult to control and the old distinctions are increasingly dissolving. Questions arise about who has the authoritative version of events, who is responsible for editorial control, who owns the medium, where the limits of the newsroom lie. Doubts may arise about editorial quality and integrity. This raises serious questions about press freedom and about the future of journalism as a profession. And this in turn has repercussions for our conflict-prevention work.

We must and we do integrate media policies into our policy-making and implementation. We support training for journalists and the development of the media in post-conflict regions as an important strand of our development policy, which goes hand-in-hand with our conflict prevention policy. We must do all we can to support journalism as an economically and socially viable profession and help provide protection for media professionals who often risk their lives reporting on armed conflicts.

Our media strategies includes seminars and training for journalists in the subject matter with which we deal, namely the conflict-resolution and peace-building processes of which our European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) missions are a key instrument. Journalism training must also address the issues of ethics and impartiality, for example of avoiding ethnic and racial discrimination and hatred in broadcasting and publishing.

'Peace journalism' is a concept that is gaining currency and I am sure that it will be discussed at this week's forum. Should we incorporate 'peace journalism' into our conflict prevention strategies? Yes, if this means striving to give as much impartial, quality information as possible to the press and media, in all their forms. But we should not forget the contentious debate over the New World Information and Communication Order and the concept of 'development journalism'. This came to be viewed by many as a form of journalism that was supportive and uncritical of Third World governments and could be regarded as code for forms of censorship.

We all want to promote peace, reconciliation and conflict resolution and we want the media to help us in this. The best way in which they can do this is to inform us. This is the journalist's fundamental task. The reporter is there to report. We should be careful not to weigh down the media with additional responsibilities over and above their primary task of providing information. A healthy media environment is diverse and plural; it is there to explain but not to take sides. The profession of journalism needs no justification and no sophisticated qualification.

The fundamental right of press freedom is enshrined in Article 1N of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Press and media freedom are a fundamental requisite for a free society. The media – especially the new media – make a vital contribution to conflict prevention by enabling dialogue to replace conflict. Free and independent media able to carry the widest range of news, information and opinion are essential for peaceful, stable, democratic societies. And that is what the European Union is about: helping to build peaceful, democratic societies.

President Obama's speech in Cairo – Remarks by Javier Solana

Brussels, 4 June 2009

REMARKS TO THE PRESS BY JAVIER SOLANA ON PRESIDENT OBAMA'S SPEECH IN CAIRO – 'A NEW PAGE IN RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB-MUSLIM WORLD'

'President Obama's speech in Cairo today was a remarkable speech, both in its content and in its form. It was a speech that without any doubt will open a new page in relations with the Arab-Muslim world and I hope in the efforts to solve the many problems we have in so many theatres in the region.

I found many things in this speech that represent a meeting of minds with what the European Union has been defending for some time. I am very pleased that they were expressed so clearly, so convincingly and in such a remarkable way by the President of the United States.

I think that together we – the EU, the US and the countries in the region – can begin to solve the many problems that face us in the Middle East.

My telephone has not stopped ringing since Mr Obama finished speaking and the first reactions of prime ministers, ministers and important friends, of everybody to whom I have spoken, were positive.

Everyone was very favourably impressed and I think the climate created by the speech is very constructive.

Now, what we cannot do is fail. Now we have to really move, together, and try and to do what has to be done. There is no time to lose.

I will be travelling to the Middle East next week. I hope that we will have the opportunity to follow up on the many issues that have been mentioned today because it has been our dream for so many years. You know how engaged I have been in the relationship with the region.'

ANNEXE – 'A NEW BEGINNING', SPEECH DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT OBAMA IN CAIRO ON 4 JUNE 2009

PRESIDENT OBAMA: Thank you very much. Good afternoon. I am honored to be in the timeless city of Cairo, and to be hosted by two remarkable institutions. For over a thousand years, Al-Azhar has stood as a beacon of Islamic learning; and for over a century, Cairo University has been a source of Egypt's advancement. And together, you represent the harmony between tradition and progress. I'm grateful for your hospitality, and the hospitality of the people of Egypt. And I'm also proud to carry with me the goodwill of the American people, and a greeting of peace from Muslim communities in my country: Assalaamu alaykum. (Applause.)

We meet at a time of great tension between the United States and Muslims around the world – tension rooted in historical forces that go beyond any current policy debate. The relationship between Islam and the West includes centuries of coexistence and cooperation, but also conflict and religious wars. More recently, tension has been fed by colonialism that denied rights and opportunities to many Muslims, and a Cold War in which Muslim-majority coun-

tries were too often treated as proxies without regard to their own aspirations. Moreover, the sweeping change brought by modernity and globalization led many Muslims to view the West as hostile to the traditions of Islam.

Violent extremists have exploited these tensions in a small but potent minority of Muslims. The attacks of September 11, 2001 and the continued efforts of these extremists to engage in violence against civilians has led some in my country to view Islam as inevitably hostile not only to America and Western countries, but also to human rights. All this has bred more fear and more mistrust.

So long as our relationship is defined by our differences, we will empower those who sow hatred rather than peace, those who promote conflict rather than the cooperation that can help all of our people achieve justice and prosperity. And this cycle of suspicion and discord must end.

I've come here to Cairo to seek a new beginning between the United States and Muslims around the world, one based on mutual interest and mutual respect, and one based upon the truth that America and Islam are not exclusive and need not be in competition. Instead, they overlap, and share common principles – principles of justice and progress; tolerance and the dignity of all human beings.

I do so recognizing that change cannot happen overnight. I know there's been a lot of publicity about this speech, but no single speech can eradicate years of mistrust, nor can I answer in the time that I have this afternoon all the complex questions that brought us to this point. But I am convinced that in order to move forward, we must say openly to each other the things we hold in our hearts and that too often are said only behind closed doors. There must be a sustained effort to listen to each other; to learn from each other; to respect one another; and to seek common ground. As the Holy Koran tells us, 'Be conscious of God and speak always the truth.' (Applause.) That is what I will try to do today – to speak the truth as best I can, humbled by the task before us, and firm in my belief that the interests we share as human beings are far more powerful than the forces that drive us apart.

Now part of this conviction is rooted in my own experience. I'm a Christian, but my father came from a Kenyan family that includes generations of Muslims. As a boy, I spent several years in Indonesia and heard the call of the azaan at the break of dawn and at the fall of dusk. As a young man, I worked in Chicago communities where many found dignity and peace in their Muslim faith.

As a student of history, I also know civilization's debt to Islam. It was Islam – at places like Al-Azhar – that carried the light of learning through so many centuries, paving the way for Europe's Renaissance and Enlightenment. It was innovation in Muslim communities – (applause) – it was innovation in Muslim communities that developed the order of algebra; our magnetic compass and tools of navigation; our mastery of pens and printing; our understanding of how disease spreads and how it can be healed. Islamic culture has given us majestic arches and soaring spires; timeless poetry and cherished music; elegant calligraphy and places of peaceful contemplation. And throughout history, Islam has demonstrated through words and deeds the possibilities of religious tolerance and racial equality. (Applause.)

I also know that Islam has always been a part of America's story. The first nation to recognize my country was Morocco. In signing the Treaty of Tripoli in 1796, our second President, John Adams, wrote, 'The United States has in itself no character of enmity against

the laws, religion or tranquility of Muslims.' And since our founding, American Muslims have enriched the United States. They have fought in our wars, they have served in our government, they have stood for civil rights, they have started businesses, they have taught at our universities, they've excelled in our sports arenas, they've won Nobel Prizes, built our tallest building, and lit the Olympic Torch. And when the first Muslim American was recently elected to Congress, he took the oath to defend our Constitution using the same Holy Koran that one of our Founding Fathers – Thomas Jefferson – kept in his personal library. (Applause.)

So I have known Islam on three continents before coming to the region where it was first revealed. That experience guides my conviction that partnership between America and Islam must be based on what Islam is, not what it isn't. And I consider it part of my responsibility as President of the United States to fight against negative stereotypes of Islam wherever they appear. (Applause.)

But that same principle must apply to Muslim perceptions of America. (Applause.) Just as Muslims do not fit a crude stereotype, America is not the crude stereotype of a self-interested empire. The United States has been one of the greatest sources of progress that the world has ever known. We were born out of revolution against an empire. We were founded upon the ideal that all are created equal, and we have shed blood and struggled for centuries to give meaning to those words – within our borders, and around the world. We are shaped by every culture, drawn from every end of the Earth, and dedicated to a simple concept: E pluribus unum – 'Out of many, one.'

Now, much has been made of the fact that an African American with the name Barack Hussein Obama could be elected President. (Applause.) But my personal story is not so unique. The dream of opportunity for all people has not come true for everyone in America, but its promise exists for all who come to our shores – and that includes nearly 7 million American Muslims in our country today who, by the way, enjoy incomes and educational levels that are higher than the American average. (Applause.)

Moreover, freedom in America is indivisible from the freedom to practice one's religion. That is why there is a mosque in every state in our union, and over 1,200 mosques within our borders. That's why the United States government has gone to court to protect the right of women and girls to wear the hijab and to punish those who would deny it. (Applause.)

So let there be no doubt: Islam is a part of America. And I believe that America holds within her the truth that regardless of race, religion, or station in life, all of us share common aspirations – to live in peace and security; to get an education and to work with dignity; to love our families, our communities, and our God. These things we share. This is the hope of all humanity.

Of course, recognizing our common humanity is only the beginning of our task. Words alone cannot meet the needs of our people. These needs will be met only if we act boldly in the years ahead; and if we understand that the challenges we face are shared, and our failure to meet them will hurt us all.

For we have learned from recent experience that when a financial system weakens in one country, prosperity is hurt everywhere. When a new flu infects one human being, all are at risk. When one nation pursues a nuclear weapon, the risk of nuclear attack rises for all nations. When violent extremists operate in one stretch of mountains, people are endangered across an ocean. When innocents in Bosnia and Darfur are slaughtered, that is a stain on our collective

conscience. (Applause.) That is what it means to share this world in the 21st century. That is the responsibility we have to one another as human beings.

And this is a difficult responsibility to embrace. For human history has often been a record of nations and tribes – and, yes, religions – subjugating one another in pursuit of their own interests. Yet in this new age, such attitudes are self-defeating. Given our interdependence, any world order that elevates one nation or group of people over another will inevitably fail. So whatever we think of the past, we must not be prisoners to it. Our problems must be dealt with through partnership; our progress must be shared. (Applause.)

Now, that does not mean we should ignore sources of tension. Indeed, it suggests the opposite: We must face these tensions squarely. And so in that spirit, let me speak as clearly and as plainly as I can about some specific issues that I believe we must finally confront together.

The first issue that we have to confront is violent extremism in all of its forms.

In Ankara, I made clear that America is not – and never will be – at war with Islam. (Applause.) We will, however, relentlessly confront violent extremists who pose a grave threat to our security – because we reject the same thing that people of all faiths reject: the killing of innocent men, women, and children. And it is my first duty as President to protect the American people.

The situation in Afghanistan demonstrates America's goals, and our need to work together. Over seven years ago, the United States pursued al Qaeda and the Taliban with broad international support. We did not go by choice; we went because of necessity. I'm aware that there's still some who would question or even justify the events of 9/11. But let us be clear: Al Qaeda killed nearly 3,000 people on that day. The victims were innocent men, women and children from America and many other nations who had done nothing to harm anybody. And yet al Qaeda chose to ruthlessly murder these people, claimed credit for the attack, and even now states their determination to kill on a massive scale. They have affiliates in many countries and are trying to expand their reach. These are not opinions to be debated; these are facts to be dealt with.

Now, make no mistake: We do not want to keep our troops in Afghanistan. We see no military – we seek no military bases there. It is agonizing for America to lose our young men and women. It is costly and politically difficult to continue this conflict. We would gladly bring every single one of our troops home if we could be confident that there were not violent extremists in Afghanistan and now Pakistan determined to kill as many Americans as they possibly can. But that is not yet the case.

And that's why we're partnering with a coalition of 46 countries. And despite the costs involved, America's commitment will not weaken. Indeed, none of us should tolerate these extremists. They have killed in many countries. They have killed people of different faiths – but more than any other, they have killed Muslims. Their actions are irreconcilable with the rights of human beings, the progress of nations, and with Islam. The Holy Koran teaches that whoever kills an innocent is as – it is as if he has killed all mankind. (Applause.) And the Holy Koran also says whoever saves a person, it is as if he has saved all mankind. (Applause.) The enduring faith of over a billion people is so much bigger than the narrow hatred of a few. Islam is not part of the problem in combating violent extremism – it is an important part of promoting peace.

Now, we also know that military power alone is not going to solve the problems in Afghanistan and Pakistan. That's why we plan to invest \$1.5 billion each year over the next five

years to partner with Pakistanis to build schools and hospitals, roads and businesses, and hundreds of millions to help those who've been displaced. That's why we are providing more than \$2.8 billion to help Afghans develop their economy and deliver services that people depend on. Let me also address the issue of Iraq. Unlike Afghanistan, Iraq was a war of choice that provoked strong differences in my country and around the world. Although I believe that the Iraqi people are ultimately better off without the tyranny of Saddam Hussein, I also believe that events in Iraq have reminded America of the need to use diplomacy and build international consensus to resolve our problems whenever possible. (Applause.) Indeed, we can recall the words of Thomas Jefferson, who said: 'I hope that our wisdom will grow with our power, and teach us that the less we use our power the greater it will be.' – Today, America has a dual responsibility: to help Iraq forge a better future and to leave Iraq to Iraqis. And I have made it clear to the Iraqi people – (applause) – I have made it clear to the Iraqi people that we pursue no bases, and no claim on their territory or resources. Iraq's sovereignty is its own. And that's why I ordered the removal of our combat brigades by next August. That is why we will honor our agreement with Iraq's democratically elected government to remove combat troops from Iraqi cities by July, and to remove all of our troops from Iraq by 2012. (Applause.) We will help Iraq train its security forces and develop its economy. But we will support a secure and united Iraq as a partner, and never as a patron.

And finally, just as America can never tolerate violence by extremists, we must never alter or forget our principles. Nine-eleven was an enormous trauma to our country. The fear and anger that it provoked was understandable, but in some cases, it led us to act contrary to our traditions and our ideals. We are taking concrete actions to change course. I have unequivocally prohibited the use of torture by the United States, and I have ordered the prison at Guantanamo Bay closed by early next year. (Applause.)

So America will defend itself, respectful of the sovereignty of nations and the rule of law. And we will do so in partnership with Muslim communities which are also threatened. The sooner the extremists are isolated and unwelcome in Muslim communities, the sooner we will all be safer.

The second major source of tension that we need to discuss is the situation between Israelis, Palestinians and the Arab world.

America's strong bonds with Israel are well known. This bond is unbreakable. It is based upon cultural and historical ties, and the recognition that the aspiration for a Jewish homeland is rooted in a tragic history that cannot be denied.

Around the world, the Jewish people were persecuted for centuries, and anti-Semitism in Europe culminated in an unprecedented Holocaust. Tomorrow, I will visit Buchenwald, which was part of a network of camps where Jews were enslaved, tortured, shot and gassed to death by the Third Reich. Six million Jews were killed – more than the entire Jewish population of Israel today. Denying that fact is baseless, it is ignorant, and it is hateful. Threatening Israel with destruction – or repeating vile stereotypes about Jews – is deeply wrong, and only serves to evoke in the minds of Israelis this most painful of memories while preventing the peace that the people of this region deserve.

On the other hand, it is also undeniable that the Palestinian people – Muslims and Christians – have suffered in pursuit of a homeland. For more than 60 years they've endured the pain of dislocation. Many wait in refugee camps in the West Bank, Gaza, and neighboring lands for a life of peace and security that they have never been able to lead. They endure

the daily humiliations – large and small – that come with occupation. So let there be no doubt: The situation for the Palestinian people is intolerable. And America will not turn our backs on the legitimate Palestinian aspiration for dignity, opportunity, and a state of their own. (Applause.)

For decades then, there has been a stalemate: two peoples with legitimate aspirations, each with a painful history that makes compromise elusive. It's easy to point fingers – for Palestinians to point to the displacement brought about by Israel's founding, and for Israelis to point to the constant hostility and attacks throughout its history from within its borders as well as beyond. But if we see this conflict only from one side or the other, then we will be blind to the truth: The only resolution is for the aspirations of both sides to be met through two states, where Israelis and Palestinians each live in peace and security. (Applause.)

That is in Israel's interest, Palestine's interest, America's interest, and the world's interest. And that is why I intend to personally pursue this outcome with all the patience and dedication that the task requires. (Applause.) The obligations – the obligations that the parties have agreed to under the road map are clear. For peace to come, it is time for them – and all of us – to live up to our responsibilities.

Palestinians must abandon violence. Resistance through violence and killing is wrong and it does not succeed. For centuries, black people in America suffered the lash of the whip as slaves and the humiliation of segregation. But it was not violence that won full and equal rights. It was a peaceful and determined insistence upon the ideals at the center of America's founding. This same story can be told by people from South Africa to South Asia; from Eastern Europe to Indonesia. It's a story with a simple truth: that violence is a dead end. It is a sign neither of courage nor power to shoot rockets at sleeping children, or to blow up old women on a bus. That's not how moral authority is claimed; that's how it is surrendered.

Now is the time for Palestinians to focus on what they can build. The Palestinian Authority must develop its capacity to govern, with institutions that serve the needs of its people. Hamas does have support among some Palestinians, but they also have to recognize they have responsibilities. To play a role in fulfilling Palestinian aspirations, to unify the Palestinian people, Hamas must put an end to violence, recognize past agreements, recognize Israel's right to exist.

At the same time, Israelis must acknowledge that just as Israel's right to exist cannot be denied, neither can Palestine's. The United States does not accept the legitimacy of continued Israeli settlements. (Applause.) This construction violates previous agreements and undermines efforts to achieve peace. It is time for these settlements to stop. (Applause.)

And Israel must also live up to its obligation to ensure that Palestinians can live and work and develop their society. Just as it devastates Palestinian families, the continuing humanitarian crisis in Gaza does not serve Israel's security; neither does the continuing lack of opportunity in the West Bank. Progress in the daily lives of the Palestinian people must be a critical part of a road to peace, and Israel must take concrete steps to enable such progress.

And finally, the Arab states must recognize that the Arab Peace Initiative was an important beginning, but not the end of their responsibilities. The Arab-Israeli conflict should no longer be used to distract the people of Arab nations from other problems. Instead, it must be a cause for action to help the Palestinian people develop the institutions that will sustain their state, to recognize Israel's legitimacy, and to choose progress over a self-defeating focus on the past.

America will align our policies with those who pursue peace, and we will say in public what we say in private to Israelis and Palestinians and Arabs. (Applause.) We cannot impose peace. But privately, many Muslims recognize that Israel will not go away. Likewise, many Israelis recognize the need for a Palestinian state. It is time for us to act on what everyone knows to be true.

Too many tears have been shed. Too much blood has been shed. All of us have a responsibility to work for the day when the mothers of Israelis and Palestinians can see their children grow up without fear; when the Holy Land of the three great faiths is the place of peace that God intended it to be; when Jerusalem is a secure and lasting home for Jews and Christians and Muslims, and a place for all of the children of Abraham to mingle peacefully together as in the story of Isra – (applause) – as in the story of Isra, when Moses, Jesus, and Mohammed, peace be upon them, joined in prayer. (Applause.)

The third source of tension is our shared interest in the rights and responsibilities of nations on nuclear weapons.

This issue has been a source of tension between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran. For many years, Iran has defined itself in part by its opposition to my country, and there is in fact a tumultuous history between us. In the middle of the Cold War, the United States played a role in the overthrow of a democratically elected Iranian government. Since the Islamic Revolution, Iran has played a role in acts of hostage-taking and violence against U.S. troops and civilians. This history is well known. Rather than remain trapped in the past, I've made it clear to Iran's leaders and people that my country is prepared to move forward. The question now is not what Iran is against, but rather what future it wants to build.

I recognize it will be hard to overcome decades of mistrust, but we will proceed with courage, rectitude, and resolve. There will be many issues to discuss between our two countries, and we are willing to move forward without preconditions on the basis of mutual respect. But it is clear to all concerned that when it comes to nuclear weapons, we have reached a decisive point. This is not simply about America's interests. It's about preventing a nuclear arms race in the Middle East that could lead this region and the world down a hugely dangerous path.

I understand those who protest that some countries have weapons that others do not. No single nation should pick and choose which nation holds nuclear weapons. And that's why I strongly reaffirmed America's commitment to seek a world in which no nations hold nuclear weapons. (Applause.) And any nation – including Iran – should have the right to access peaceful nuclear power if it complies with its responsibilities under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. That commitment is at the core of the treaty, and it must be kept for all who fully abide by it. And I'm hopeful that all countries in the region can share in this goal.

The fourth issue that I will address is democracy. (Applause.)

I know – I know there has been controversy about the promotion of democracy in recent years, and much of this controversy is connected to the war in Iraq. So let me be clear: No system of government can or should be imposed by one nation by any other.

That does not lessen my commitment, however, to governments that reflect the will of the people. Each nation gives life to this principle in its own way, grounded in the traditions of its own people. America does not presume to know what is best for everyone, just as we would not presume to pick the outcome of a peaceful election. But I do have an unyielding belief that all people yearn for certain things: the ability to speak your mind and have a say in how you are

governed; confidence in the rule of law and the equal administration of justice; government that is transparent and doesn't steal from the people; the freedom to live as you choose. These are not just American ideas; they are human rights. And that is why we will support them everywhere. (Applause.)

Now, there is no straight line to realize this promise. But this much is clear: Governments that protect these rights are ultimately more stable, successful and secure. Suppressing ideas never succeeds in making them go away. America respects the right of all peaceful and law-abiding voices to be heard around the world, even if we disagree with them. And we will welcome all elected, peaceful governments – provided they govern with respect for all their people.

This last point is important because there are some who advocate for democracy only when they're out of power; once in power, they are ruthless in suppressing the rights of others. (Applause.) So no matter where it takes hold, government of the people and by the people sets a single standard for all who would hold power: You must maintain your power through consent, not coercion; you must respect the rights of minorities, and participate with a spirit of tolerance and compromise; you must place the interests of your people and the legitimate workings of the political process above your party. Without these ingredients, elections alone do not make true democracy.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Barack Obama, we love you!

PRESIDENT OBAMA: Thank you. (Applause.) The fifth issue that we must address together is religious freedom.

Islam has a proud tradition of tolerance. We see it in the history of Andalusia and Cordoba during the Inquisition. I saw it firsthand as a child in Indonesia, where devout Christians worshiped freely in an overwhelmingly Muslim country. That is the spirit we need today. People in every country should be free to choose and live their faith based upon the persuasion of the mind and the heart and the soul. This tolerance is essential for religion to thrive, but it's being challenged in many different ways.

Among some Muslims, there's a disturbing tendency to measure one's own faith by the rejection of somebody else's faith. The richness of religious diversity must be upheld – whether it is for Maronites in Lebanon or the Copts in Egypt. (Applause.) And if we are being honest, fault lines must be closed among Muslims, as well, as the divisions between Sunni and Shia have led to tragic violence, particularly in Iraq.

Freedom of religion is central to the ability of peoples to live together. We must always examine the ways in which we protect it. For instance, in the United States, rules on charitable giving have made it harder for Muslims to fulfill their religious obligation. That's why I'm committed to working with American Muslims to ensure that they can fulfill zakat.

Likewise, it is important for Western countries to avoid impeding Muslim citizens from practicing religion as they see fit – for instance, by dictating what clothes a Muslim woman should wear. We can't disguise hostility towards any religion behind the pretence of liberalism.

In fact, faith should bring us together. And that's why we're forging service projects in America to bring together Christians, Muslims, and Jews. That's why we welcome efforts like Saudi Arabian King Abdullah's interfaith dialogue and Turkey's leadership in the Alliance of Civilizations. Around the world, we can turn dialogue into interfaith service, so bridges between peoples lead to action – whether it is combating malaria in Africa, or providing relief after a natural disaster.

The sixth issue – the sixth issue that I want to address is women's rights. (Applause.) I know – I know – and you can tell from this audience, that there is a healthy debate about this issue. I reject the view of some in the West that a woman who chooses to cover her hair is somehow less equal, but I do believe that a woman who is denied an education is denied equality. (Applause.) And it is no coincidence that countries where women are well educated are far more likely to be prosperous.

Now, let me be clear: Issues of women's equality are by no means simply an issue for Islam. In Turkey, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, we've seen Muslim-majority countries elect a woman to lead. Meanwhile, the struggle for women's equality continues in many aspects of American life, and in countries around the world.

I am convinced that our daughters can contribute just as much to society as our sons. (Applause.) Our common prosperity will be advanced by allowing all humanity – men and women – to reach their full potential. I do not believe that women must make the same choices as men in order to be equal, and I respect those women who choose to live their lives in traditional roles. But it should be their choice. And that is why the United States will partner with any Muslim-majority country to support expanded literacy for girls, and to help young women pursue employment through micro-financing that helps people live their dreams. (Applause.)

Finally, I want to discuss economic development and opportunity.

I know that for many, the face of globalization is contradictory. The Internet and television can bring knowledge and information, but also offensive sexuality and mindless violence into the home. Trade can bring new wealth and opportunities, but also huge disruptions and change in communities. In all nations – including America – this change can bring fear. Fear that because of modernity we lose control over our economic choices, our politics, and most importantly our identities – those things we most cherish about our communities, our families, our traditions, and our faith.

But I also know that human progress cannot be denied. There need not be contradictions between development and tradition. Countries like Japan and South Korea grew their economies enormously while maintaining distinct cultures. The same is true for the astonishing progress within Muslim-majority countries from Kuala Lumpur to Dubai. In ancient times and in our times, Muslim communities have been at the forefront of innovation and education.

And this is important because no development strategy can be based only upon what comes out of the ground, nor can it be sustained while young people are out of work. Many Gulf states have enjoyed great wealth as a consequence of oil, and some are beginning to focus it on broader development. But all of us must recognize that education and innovation will be the currency of the 21st century – (applause) – and in too many Muslim communities, there remains underinvestment in these areas. I'm emphasizing such investment within my own country. And while America in the past has focused on oil and gas when it comes to this part of the world, we now seek a broader engagement.

On education, we will expand exchange programs, and increase scholarships, like the one that brought my father to America. (Applause.) At the same time, we will encourage more Americans to study in Muslim communities. And we will match promising Muslim students with internships in America; invest in online learning for teachers and children around the world; and create a new online network, so a young person in Kansas can communicate instantly with a young person in Cairo.

On economic development, we will create a new corps of business volunteers to partner with counterparts in Muslim-majority countries. And I will host a Summit on Entrepreneurship this year to identify how we can deepen ties between business leaders, foundations and social entrepreneurs in the United States and Muslim communities around the world.

On science and technology, we will launch a new fund to support technological development in Muslim-majority countries, and to help transfer ideas to the marketplace so they can create more jobs. We'll open centers of scientific excellence in Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia, and appoint new science envoys to collaborate on programs that develop new sources of energy, create green jobs, digitize records, clean water, grow new crops. Today I'm announcing a new global effort with the Organization of the Islamic Conference to eradicate polio. And we will also expand partnerships with Muslim communities to promote child and maternal health.

All these things must be done in partnership. Americans are ready to join with citizens and governments; community organizations, religious leaders, and businesses in Muslim communities around the world to help our people pursue a better life.

The issues that I have described will not be easy to address. But we have a responsibility to join together on behalf of the world that we seek – a world where extremists no longer threaten our people, and American troops have come home; a world where Israelis and Palestinians are each secure in a state of their own, and nuclear energy is used for peaceful purposes; a world where governments serve their citizens, and the rights of all God's children are respected. Those are mutual interests. That is the world we seek. But we can only achieve it together.

I know there are many – Muslim and non-Muslim – who question whether we can forge this new beginning. Some are eager to stoke the flames of division, and to stand in the way of progress. Some suggest that it isn't worth the effort – that we are fated to disagree, and civilizations are doomed to clash. Many more are simply skeptical that real change can occur. There's so much fear, so much mistrust that has built up over the years. But if we choose to be bound by the past, we will never move forward. And I want to particularly say this to young people of every faith, in every country – you, more than anyone, have the ability to reimagine the world, to remake this world.

All of us share this world for but a brief moment in time. The question is whether we spend that time focused on what pushes us apart, or whether we commit ourselves to an effort – a sustained effort – to find common ground, to focus on the future we seek for our children, and to respect the dignity of all human beings.

It's easier to start wars than to end them. It's easier to blame others than to look inward. It's easier to see what is different about someone than to find the things we share. But we should choose the right path, not just the easy path. There's one rule that lies at the heart of every religion – that we do unto others as we would have them do unto us. (Applause.) This truth transcends nations and peoples – a belief that isn't new; that isn't black or white or brown; that isn't Christian or Muslim or Jew. It's a belief that pulsed in the cradle of civilization, and that still beats in the hearts of billions around the world. It's a faith in other people, and it's what brought me here today.

We have the power to make the world we seek, but only if we have the courage to make a new beginning, keeping in mind what has been written.

The Holy Koran tells us: 'O mankind! We have created you male and a female; and we have made you into nations and tribes so that you may know one another.'

The Talmud tells us: 'The whole of the Torah is for the purpose of promoting peace.'

The Holy Bible tells us: 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.'
(Applause.)

The people of the world can live together in peace. We know that is God's vision. Now that must be our work here on Earth.

Thank you. And may God's peace be upon you. Thank you very much. Thank you.
(Applause.)

Nigeria-EU Ministerial Troika Meeting

Prague, 9 June 2009

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

(...)

1. Peace and Security in Africa

Coups d'état in Mauritania, Guinea and Madagascar and events in Guinea Bissau

The Parties noted the Statement by the President of the UN Security Council of May 5, 2009, in which concerns over the resurgence of unconstitutional changes of government in a few African countries were raised. They expressed grave concern with the coups d'état in Mauritania, Guinea and Madagascar. They emphasized the need to work together to gain results on the return to constitutional order in these countries. They noted in that context the results achieved in Guinea through the work of the international contact groups chaired by the AU and ECOWAS. They welcomed the agreement signed in Dakar between Mauritanian stakeholders, at the initiative of Senegal and with the support of the international contact group. The EU welcomed the efforts of Nigeria holding the current Presidency of ECOWAS which the Parties regarded as an important tool in their common diplomatic efforts. The Parties also welcomed the setting up of an international contact group by the AU for Madagascar.

The Parties expressed utmost concern about the increasing climate of violence in Guinea Bissau and strongly condemned the brutal killings of the President and the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces and the more recent killings of two politicians, one of them a candidate in the forthcoming presidential elections.

Chad/Sudan

The Parties reaffirmed the strategic importance of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) which holds the perspective of a peaceful political and democratic transformation of the whole of Sudan. Ministers stated their willingness to assist Sudan in the preparations for nationwide elections, scheduled for February 2010.

The Parties welcomed recent efforts of the international community to re-launch the Darfur peace process. They in particular expressed their appreciation for the central role of the joint AU/UN mediator Djibrill Bassolé. They also expressed support for regional and international initiatives in this process. The Parties stressed the need to ensure the continuity of humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable people of Sudan, especially women and children, and called on all stakeholders to respect the humanitarian rules, including the Joint Communiqué on the facilitation of humanitarian assistance in Darfur. In the context of the situation in Sudan, the Parties reiterated the importance of fighting impunity in accordance with established principles and international law.

The Parties expressed concern on the deterioration of relations between Sudan and Chad. The spill-over effects with ongoing rebel groups' activities on both sides of the border remain a serious threat to the stability in the region. The Parties called on both countries to implement the various agreements, including the latest one signed on May 3, 2009 in Doha. The EU

expressed its appreciation for the important work done by UNAMID in Darfur and the essential contribution in military and police personnel by Nigeria.

Gulf of Guinea/Niger Delta

The Parties reaffirmed their commitment to the peace and security of the Gulf of Guinea and jointly condemned illegal activities such as piracy, arms trafficking, oil bunkering and unauthorized exploitation of the mineral and marine resources of the area.

The EU confirmed its readiness to discuss the security and development challenges faced by the Gulf of Guinea countries with a view to identify possible ways and means to support the efforts of the Gulf of Guinea Commission, notably to stem illegal activities in the region and to guarantee maritime security of the area. The Parties agreed on the importance to address piracy as a matter of global concern.

The Parties also agreed to discuss, within the framework of the political dialogue, the situation in the Niger Delta and to identify possible areas of cooperation in order to address the many challenges facing the region.

Nigeria and the EU agreed that the situation in the Niger Delta is complex and that a range of issues need to be taken into consideration in its resolution. The EU took note of the efforts of the Nigerian Government to establish a Ministry for the Niger Delta as part of efforts aimed at addressing these issues; and further welcomed the general amnesty offered by the Nigerian Government, including the rehabilitation process for those who will lay down their arms.

They particularly agreed on the importance of addressing the issues of youth unemployment, infrastructure development, environment, demobilisation, disarmament and reintegration, and good governance in general, for the development and peace of the region. To this end, the EU reiterated its willingness to contribute to this process, and continue to collaborate with the Nigerian authorities to build relations with States and Local Governments of the area.

Nigeria briefed the EU on the situation in the Niger Delta and stressed that the government was committed to address any possible humanitarian concerns that may have arisen as a result of the operations to consolidate law and order in the area.

DR Congo

The Parties welcomed the positive developments in the DRC, in particular the laying down of arms by armed groups in the country. The Parties commended the regional dynamics resulting from the rapprochement of the DRC and Rwanda governments and the spirit of compromise that prevails at present, which has a positive impact on the overall regional security climate. They acknowledged the mediatory role of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to the DRC, former President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, the AU Special Envoy to the DRC, former Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa and the EU Special Representative for the Great Lakes, Roeland van de Geer. The Parties also stressed the importance of a timely and full implementation of all peace agreements.

However, the Parties remain concerned about the humanitarian situation in the region, in particular the fate of the over a million internally displaced people in the North-East DRC. The Parties condemned those rebels or rebel movements which are responsible for brutal killings of innocent civilians and who refuse to lay down their arms. The EU and Nigeria are committed to remain engaged in the peace processes in the region and to urgently address the issue of demobilisation of former combatants.

African Standby Force, including peace keeping operations

The Parties expressed satisfaction that ECOWAS is proceeding according to the roadmap with regard to operationalization of ECOWAS Standby Force by mid 2010 and the way logistic support is being given to the headquarter and planning element of ECOWAS located in Abuja. They noted that a major logistic exercise planned for June 2009, would constitute one of the last steps in achieving this overall objective. The EU welcomed the continuous efforts of the National Defence College of Nigeria and the associated African Centre for Strategic Research and Studies to provide training at strategic level within ECOWAS for all components (civilian, police and military), thus being considered as a training Centre of Excellence for the sub region.

The Parties noted that the African Standby Force is one component of the African Peace and Security Architecture, and agreed to cooperate in order to fully operationalize also the other components of the Architecture.

The Parties noted the adoption in January 2008 of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework. They underlined the importance of elaborating Plans of Action to underpin the critical components of the Framework with a view to its implementation.

The EU offered its support both to ECOWAS Standby Force, conflict prevention efforts, and to the civilian and police components of Nigerian Peace Keeping Operations, in the context of this cooperative partnership.

The Parties also exchanged views over the participation of Nigeria in other peacekeeping operations in Africa beyond UNAMID Darfur. In this regard, Nigeria reiterated her decision to participate in AMISOM.

Security threats in Western Africa

The Parties expressed concern about the West African sub region being challenged by growing networks of illicit trafficking of drugs, arms, persons and illegal migrants. They noted that these had been compounded by the region's vast spaces, long and hard to control borders alongside weak state structures. The presence in the region of the AQIM (Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb) has also heightened concerns for both the EU and Nigeria.

The increase in volume of small arms and light weapons flowing into Nigeria also from Europe was discussed.

The Parties pledged to increase their attention and cooperation in tackling the various issues at regional and European levels. They also encouraged the countries in the sub region to continue efforts and cooperation, and expressed confidence that the conference on security and development to be organised by Mali in due course would be an excellent opportunity to start this important work. They expressed full support to the ECOWAS Plan of Action against drug trafficking adopted in Praia (Cape Verde) in October 2008. They also expressed full support to ECOWAS Intergovernmental Antimoney Laundering Group (GIABA) efforts.

2. Bilateral Issues

Nigeria-EU Joint Way Forward

Nigeria and the EU have decided to intensify their political dialogue and cooperation by developing a more appropriate, broader political framework, named the 'Nigeria-EU Joint Way Forward'. The purpose is to establish the principles, objectives, modalities, guidelines and priority subjects for enhanced political dialogue and cooperation between the Parties.

The Nigeria-EU Joint Way Forward is framed within the joint Africa-EU Strategic Partnership and is guided by the fundamental principles of ownership and joint responsibility, respect for human rights, good governance, democratic principles and the rule of law. Both Parties are committed to advancing these principles and values globally.

Nigeria and the EU share common ideals, both believing in peace and security, equality, democracy and tolerance as ways of developing prosperous and generous societies. The Joint Way Forward is an evolutionary process that will develop at all levels, both public and private. (...)

ANNEX – NIGERIA-EU JOINT WAY FORWARD

(...)

B. GUIDELINES FOR AN INTENSIFIED POLITICAL DIALOGUE

(...)

- peace and security

Nigeria and the EU agree to discuss about peace and security issues at global, continental, regional and local levels as part of their political dialogue. The issues will include global security threats, the security situation in neighbouring countries and the maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea which is linked, inter alia, to the Niger Delta. In connection to maritime security, it is appropriate to take into account relevant IMO recommendations.

Cooperation between Nigeria and the EU and support to ECOWAS to combat organised crime, including drugs and human trafficking, in the region will also be discussed.

(...)

C. PRIORITIES FOR AN ENHANCED COOPERATION

The central objectives of the partnership remain those enunciated in the first and second paragraphs of Article 1, of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement: ‘to promote and expedite the economic, cultural and social development of the ACP States, with a view to contributing to peace and security and to promoting a stable and democratic political environment [...] The partnership shall be centred on the objective of reducing and eventually eradicating poverty consistent with the objectives of sustainable development and the gradual integration of the ACP countries into the world economy’.

Therefore, the Parties recognised in the Ljubljana Joint Communiqué that financial resources allocated to Nigeria under the 10th EDF and bilateral aid from EU Member States should be concentrated in addressing jointly priority areas mentioned below.

(a) Peace and security

In terms of conflict management and prevention, the EU will assist Nigeria – which remains the largest African contributor of peacekeepers – in playing an even more active and effective role in conflict mediation and in the peace keeping efforts at ECOWAS and AU levels. This could include building on the multidimensional (police, civilian, military) training at all levels of Nigerian troops for peace support operations in the framework of the EU’s wider support to the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA).

In the area of responsibility and traceability of SALW exports, the government of Nigeria agrees with the EU that support and logistics are needed to combat the illegal arms flow into

Nigeria and in particular, the Niger Delta. This could take the form of law enforcement and institutional capacity building and judicial cooperation.

The EU will continue to work closely with the Nigerian authorities in addressing the problems of the Niger Delta and continue the ongoing projects as well as be ready to contribute to and support a peace process.

(...)

EULEX Kosovo – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 9 June 2009

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2009/445/CFSP AMENDING JOINT ACTION 2008/124/CFSP ON THE EUROPEAN UNION RULE OF LAW MISSION IN KOSOVO¹, EULEX KOSOVO

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 14 thereof,
Whereas:

- (1) On 4 February 2008, the Council adopted Joint Action 2008/124/CFSP on the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo, EULEX KOSOVO². That Joint Action applies until 14 June 2010.
- (2) Joint Action 2008/124/CFSP provided a financial reference amount intended to cover the expenditure related to the Mission until 14 June 2009. The financial reference amount should be increased to cover the Mission's expenditure until 14 June 2010.
- (3) Joint Action 2008/124/CFSP should be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

Joint Action 2008/124/CFSP is hereby amended as follows:

1. Article 16(1) is replaced by the following:
'1. The financial reference amount intended to cover the expenditure of EULEX KOSOVO shall be EUR 265 000 000.';
2. Article 20 is replaced by the following:
'Article 20
Entry into force and duration
This Joint Action shall enter into force on the day of its adoption.
It shall expire on 14 June 2010.'

Article 2

This Joint Action shall enter into force on the day of its adoption.

1. Under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

2. OJL 42, 16.2.2008, p. 92.

Article 3

This Joint Action shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Luxembourg, 9 June 2009.

For the Council

The President

E. Janota

Iraq EUJUST LEX – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 11 June 2009

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2009/475/CFSP ON THE EUROPEAN UNION INTEGRATED RULE OF LAW MISSION FOR IRAQ, EUJUST LEX

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 14 thereof, Whereas:

(1) On 7 March 2005 the Council adopted Joint Action 2005/190/CFSP on the European Union Integrated Rule of Law Mission in Iraq, EUJUST LEX⁽¹⁾. That Joint Action, as subsequently amended and extended, expires on 30 June 2009.

(2) On 24 March 2009, the Political and Security Committee agreed that EUJUST LEX should be extended for another 12 months until 30 June 2010. During this period EUJUST LEX should conduct, in addition to continuing its core business, a pilot phase including activities in Iraq.

(3) The financial reference amount of EUR 10 million provided for in Joint Action 2005/190/CFSP was supplemented by EUR 11,2 million in Council Joint Action 2006/708/CFSP⁽²⁾ and by EUR 7,2 million in Council Joint Action 2008/304/CFSP⁽³⁾, in order to cover expenditure related to EUJUST LEX until 30 June 2009. Another financial reference amount should be provided in order to cover expenditure related to the new Mission for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010.

(4) The mandate of the Mission is being carried out in a security context that is liable to deteriorate and which is liable to undermine the objectives of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) as defined in Article 11 of the Treaty.

(5) The command and control structure of the Mission should be without prejudice to the contractual responsibility of the Head of Mission towards the Commission for implementing the budget of the Mission,

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

Mission

1. The European Union hereby establishes the European Union Integrated Rule of Law Mission for Iraq, EUJUST LEX.

2. EUJUST LEX shall operate in accordance with the objectives and other provisions as contained in the mission statement set out in Article 2.

(1) OJ L 62, 9.3.2005, p. 37.

(2) OJ L 291, 21.10.2006, p. 43.

(3) OJ L 105, 15.4.2008, p. 10.

Article 2

Mission statement

1. EUJUST LEX shall address the urgent needs in the Iraqi criminal justice system through providing training for high and mid-level officials in senior management and criminal investigation. This training shall aim to improve the capacity, coordination and collaboration of the different components of the Iraqi criminal justice system.

2. EUJUST LEX shall promote closer collaboration between the different actors across the Iraqi criminal justice system and strengthen the management capacity of senior and high-potential officials primarily from the police, judiciary and penitentiary and improve skills and procedures in criminal investigation in full respect for the rule of law and human rights.

3. The training activities shall take place in the EU and in Iraq or in the region and EUJUST LEX shall have a liaison office in Baghdad. During the period from 1 July 2009 until 30 June 2010, EUJUST LEX shall start a pilot phase of activities in Iraq, including providing strategic advice, follow-up mentoring and training activities, as and where security conditions and resources allow.

Taking into account further developments in the security conditions in Iraq and the availability of appropriate infrastructure, the Council shall examine the results of the pilot phase and shall decide on the future of the Mission after 30 June 2010.

4. An effective strategic and technical partnership with the Iraqi counterparts shall be developed throughout the Mission, particularly in relation to the design of the curricula during the planning phase. Coordination will also be needed for the selection, vetting, evaluation, follow-up and coordination of personnel attending the training with the aim of rapid appropriation by the Iraqis. There shall also be a need for close coordination during the planning and operational phases between EUJUST LEX and the Member States providing training. This shall include the involvement of the relevant Member States' diplomatic missions in Iraq and liaison with those Member States with current experience in providing training relevant for the mission.

5. EUJUST LEX shall be secure, independent and distinct but shall be complementary and bring added value to the efforts of the Government of Iraq and the international community, in particular those of the United Nations and the United States of America, and also develop synergies with relevant activities of the Community and Member States. In this context, EUJUST LEX shall liaise with the relevant Iraqi authorities and the Member States which presently conduct training projects.

Article 3

Structure

EUJUST LEX shall, in principle, be structured as follows:

- (a) the Head of Mission;
- (b) a coordinating office in Brussels;
- (c) a liaison office in Baghdad;
- (d) training facilities, trainers and experts provided by the Member States and coordinated by EUJUST LEX.

These elements shall be developed in the Concept of Operations (CONOPS) and the Operation Plan (OPLAN).

Article 4

Civilian Operation Commander

1. The Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability Director shall be the Civilian Operation Commander for EUJUST LEX.
2. The Civilian Operation Commander, under the political control and strategic direction of the Political and Security Committee (PSC) and the overall authority of the Secretary-General/High Representative (SG/HR), shall exercise command and control of EUJUST LEX at the strategic level.
3. The Civilian Operation Commander shall ensure proper and effective implementation of the Council's decisions as well as the PSC's decisions, including by issuing instructions at strategic level as required to the Head of Mission.
4. All seconded staff shall remain under the full command of the national authorities of the sending State or EU institution. National authorities shall transfer operational control of their personnel, teams and units to the Civilian Operation Commander.
5. The Civilian Operation Commander shall have overall responsibility for ensuring that the EU's duty of care is properly discharged.

Article 5

Head of Mission

1. The Head of Mission shall assume responsibility and exercise command and control of the mission at theatre level.
2. The Head of Mission shall exercise command and control over personnel, teams and units from contributing States as assigned by the Civilian Operation Commander together with administrative and logistic responsibility including over assets, resources and information put at the disposal of the mission.
3. The Head of Mission shall issue instructions to all mission staff, including the Brussels coordinating office and the Baghdad liaison office, for the effective conduct of EUJUST LEX, assuming its coordination and day-to-day management, following the instructions at strategic level of the Civilian Operation Commander.
4. The Head of Mission shall be responsible for the implementation of the Mission's budget. For this purpose, the Head of Mission shall sign a contract with the Commission.
5. The Head of Mission shall be responsible for disciplinary control over the staff. For seconded staff, disciplinary action shall be exercised by the national or EU authority concerned.
6. The Head of Mission shall represent EUJUST LEX and shall ensure appropriate visibility of the Mission.

Article 6

Staff

1. The numbers and skills of EUJUST LEX staff shall be consistent with the Mission statement set out in Article 2 and the structure set out in Article 3.
2. EUJUST LEX staff shall be seconded by EU Member States or institutions. Each Member State shall bear the costs related to EUJUST LEX staff seconded by it, including salaries, medical coverage, allowances other than *per diems* and travel expenses as defined in the financial statement.
3. International and local staff may also be recruited, as required, on a contractual basis.

4. All staff shall carry out their duties and act in the interest of the Mission. All staff shall respect the security principles and minimum standards established by Council Decision 2001/264/EC of 19 March 2001 adopting the Council's security regulations.⁽¹⁾

Article 7

Status of staff

1. Where required, the status of EUJUST LEX staff, including where appropriate the privileges, immunities and further guarantees necessary for the completion and smooth functioning of EUJUST LEX shall be agreed in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 24 of the Treaty. The SG/HR, assisting the Presidency, may negotiate such an agreement on its behalf.
2. The EU Member State or institution having seconded a staff member shall be responsible for answering any claims linked to the secondment, from or concerning the staff member. The EU Member State or institution in question shall be responsible for bringing any action against the person seconded.

Article 8

Chain of command

1. EUJUST LEX shall have a unified chain of command, as a crisis management operation.
2. Under the responsibility of the Council, the PSC shall exercise political control and strategic direction of EUJUST LEX.
3. The Civilian Operation Commander, under the political control and strategic direction of the PSC and the overall authority of the SG/HR, is the commander of EUJUST LEX at strategic level and, as such, shall issue instructions to the Head of Mission and provide him with advice and technical support.
4. The Civilian Operation Commander shall report to the Council through the SG/HR.
5. The Head of Mission shall exercise command and control of EUJUST LEX at theatre level and shall be directly responsible to the Civilian Operation Commander.

Article 9

Political control and strategic direction

1. The PSC shall exercise, under the responsibility of the Council, political control and strategic direction of the mission. The Council hereby authorises the PSC to take the relevant decisions for this purpose in accordance with Article 25 of the Treaty.
2. This authorisation shall include the powers to amend the CONOPS and the OPLAN. It shall also include powers to take decisions regarding the appointment of the Head of Mission. The powers of decision with respect to the objectives and termination of the mission shall remain vested in the Council.
3. The PSC shall report to the Council at regular intervals.
4. The PSC shall receive on a regular basis and as required reports by the Civilian Operation Commander and the Head of Mission on issues within their areas of responsibility.

(1) OJ L 101, 11.4.2001, p. 1.

Article 10

Security

1. The Civilian Operation Commander shall direct the Head of Mission's planning of security measures and ensure their proper and effective implementation for EUJUST LEX in accordance with Articles 4 and 8 and in coordination with the Council Security Office.
2. The Head of Mission shall be responsible for the security of the operation and for ensuring compliance with minimum security requirements applicable to the operation, in line with the policy of the European Union on the security of personnel deployed outside the EU in an operational capacity under Title V of the Treaty on European Union and its supporting documents.
3. For the elements of the Mission which are carried out in Member States, the host Member State shall take all necessary and appropriate measures to ensure the security of the participants and the trainers on its territory.
4. For the coordinating office in Brussels, the necessary and appropriate measures shall be organised by the GSC security office in collaboration with the host Member State authorities.
5. Should the training take place in a third State, the EU, with the involvement of the Member States concerned, shall ask the third State's authorities to make the appropriate arrangements regarding the security of the participants and the trainers or experts on its territory.
6. EUJUST LEX shall have a dedicated mission Security Officer reporting to the Head of Mission.
7. The Head of Mission shall consult with the PSC on security issues affecting the deployment of the Mission as directed by the SG/HR.
8. EUJUST staff members, trainers and experts shall undergo mandatory security training organised by the GSC Security Office and, when appropriate, medical checks prior to any deployment or travel to Iraq.
9. Member States shall endeavour to provide EUJUST LEX, in particular the Liaison Office, staff, trainers and experts travelling to and in Iraq, with secure accommodation, body armour and close protection and other security requirements, as appropriate, within Iraq. For such purpose, the Head of Mission may conclude appropriate arrangements with Member States, or local authorities as necessary.

Article 11

Financial arrangements

1. The financial reference amount intended to cover the expenditure related to the Mission between 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2010 shall be EUR 10,8 million.
2. The expenditure financed by the amount stipulated in paragraph 1 shall be managed in accordance with the procedures and rules applicable to the general budget of the European Union with the exception that any pre-financing shall not remain the property of the Community. Should a part of the training be conducted in third States, nationals of third States shall be allowed to tender for contracts. In this case, goods and services procured for EUJUST LEX may also have their origin in third States.
3. Given the particular security situation in Iraq, services in Baghdad and other parts of the country as appropriate shall be provided through the contracts entered into by the United Kingdom, other Member States where appropriate or through arrangements concluded with the Iraqi authorities with the companies providing and invoicing for these services. The budget of EUJUST LEX shall cover these expenses. The United Kingdom or other Member States con-

cerned shall, in consultation with the Head of Mission, report with adequate information to the Council on these expenses.

4. The Head of Mission shall report fully to, and be supervised by, the Commission on the activities undertaken in the framework of his contract.

5. The financial arrangements shall respect the operational requirements of EUJUST LEX, including compatibility of equipment.

6. Expenditure shall be eligible as of the date of entry into force of this Joint Action.

7. The equipment and supplies for the Coordination Office in Brussels shall be purchased or rented on behalf of the EU.

Article 12

Coordination

1. Without prejudice to the chain of command, the Head of Mission shall act in close coordination with the Commission delegation to ensure the consistency of EU action in support of Iraq.

2. The Head of Mission shall coordinate closely with the local EU Presidency and other EU Heads of Missions.

3. The Head of Mission shall cooperate with the other international actors present in the country, in particular the UN.

Article 13

Release of classified information

The SG/HR is authorised to release to the host State and the United Nations, as appropriate and in accordance with the operational needs of the mission, EU classified information and documents up to the level 'RESTREINT UE' generated for the purposes of the operation, in accordance with the Council's security regulations. Local arrangements shall be drawn up for this purpose.

Article 14

Watch-keeping

The Watch-keeping Capability shall be activated for EUJUST LEX.

Article 15

Entry into force

This Joint Action shall enter into force on 1 July 2009.

It shall expire on 30 June 2010.

Article 16

Publication

This Joint Action shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Luxembourg, 11 June 2009.

For the Council

The President

G. Slamecka

Middle East Peace Process

Jerusalem, 11 June 2009

On 11 June 2009, Javier Solana went to Israel and the Palestinian Territories to contribute to the efforts of the international community in order to re-launch the Middle East Peace Process. The following is an edited summary of his remarks to reporters during his visit.

JAVIER SOLANA SEES CHANCE FOR RE-LAUNCHING THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS DURING HIS VISIT TO THE REGION

The Middle East is a crucial region for the European Union and for the International Community. I am a frequent visitor here. For me, to come back at a time when a series of important events takes place, is fundamental.

Prime Minister Netanyahu will deliver an important speech on the Israeli approach to the peace process on Sunday. I would like to hear from him a clear commitment to the two states' solution, a commitment on the issue of settlements and a commitment to reinitiate the relationship with the Palestinians. That is precisely what we expect to hear. I am sure that something of that nature is what we will hear.

Settlements are a very important question. They have been on our agenda for quite a long time. Today, the US and the EU are on the same wavelength and share a constructive attitude to encourage a process that leads to peace.

MILEX 09 – Fourth EU military exercise

Brussels, 12 June 2009

The European Union (EU) will conduct its fourth military exercise (MILEX 09)¹ from 17 to 26 June 2009 in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).

MILEX 09 is a Command Post Exercise (CPX) and will focus on key military aspects of crisis management. No troops will be deployed. During the conduct of the exercise, the EU Operation Headquarters (OHQ) in Larissa (EL) will be activated for the first time.

The exercise will focus on the interaction between the EU Operation Headquarters (OHQ) in Larissa (Greece) and the EU Force Headquarters (FHQ) in Naples (Italy), in the context of an autonomous EU-led military operation

MILEX 09 will be based on the ALISIA scenario, which is being used for EU exercises in the timeframe from 2007 to 2011. During a conflict between RELINESIA and RHODANIA, two of the fictional countries included in the scenario, Rhodian forces invade Northern RELINESIA in the summer of 2008, to withdraw in early 2009 due to international pressure and internal unrest.

Rhodanian forces leave behind a trail of destruction, and the vacuum of power and the deterioration of living conditions make the area vulnerable to organized crime and terrorism. The government of RELINESIA needs to request the assistance of the International Community. An EU Fact Finding Mission sent to the area reports that the humanitarian situation is critical due to the lack of adequate accommodation for several hundred thousand people. In particular 390,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), as well as 130,000 refugees, are still living in camps in RELINESIA and ALISIA respectively.

The exercise scenario will support the need for an autonomous EU-led operation which will require the deployment of military forces, with the mission of stabilization and reconstruction of Northern RELINESIA, as authorised by a UN Security Council Resolution.

MILEX 09 will be coordinated in Brussels, under the direction of the EU Military Committee (EUMC), supported by the EU Military Staff (EUMS), and under the guidance of the EU's Political and Security Committee (PSC).

The exercise will be conducted in Larissa (EU OHQ) and in Naples (EU FHQ). Some 360 'players' and supporting personnel are expected to take part. The exercise represents a major step forward for the ESDP, through the first full activation of the EU OHQ in Larissa.

The Council decision to schedule the exercise is carried out under the operational authority of the EU Secretary General / High Representative, Dr. Javier Solana. The Director General of the EUMS, Lieutenant General David Leakey, is responsible for preparing its implementation.

The appointed commanders for the exercise are Lieutenant General (EL Army) Stylianos NASSIS (OpCdr) and Major General (IT Army) Vincenzo SANTO (FCdr).

Representatives of NATO international staffs, the UN, the African Union, the OSCE, as well as the non-EU European NATO Members and other countries which are candidates for accession to the EU, Canada, Russia, Ukraine, the United States and the Mediterranean Partners, will be invited to information briefings about the exercise.

1. The first Military Exercise (MILEX 05) was conducted in November 2005, the second MILEX 07 including the first activation of the EU Ops-Centre in Brussels was conducted in June 2007, the third Military Exercise (MILEX 08) was conducted in June 2008.

General Affairs and External Relations Council

Luxembourg, 15 June 2009

(...)

Extension of the mandate of the EUSR for Afghanistan to include Pakistan

The Council adopted a joint action which extends the mandate of the European Union Special Representative (EUSR) for Afghanistan to include Pakistan. Ambassador Ettore F. SEQUI is appointed as the EUSR for Afghanistan and Pakistan until 28 February 2010. His mandate is to convey the views of the EU on the political process in Afghanistan and in Pakistan, maintain close contact with the Afghan and Pakistani representative institutions, stay in close contact with neighbouring and other interested countries in the region and with relevant international and regional organisations (*10542/09*).

Enhanced EU engagement in Afghanistan and Pakistan – Council conclusions

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

‘The Council reiterates the EU’s strong engagement in Afghanistan and Pakistan. It welcomes the ongoing work, urges rapid delivery on existing priorities and reconfirms its long-term commitment to working with the people and governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan, and to further strengthen and improve the EU’s efforts and contribution to the stability, reconstruction and development of the countries.

To this end, the Council invites the SG/HR and the Commission to look at how to further enhance and improve the EU’s engagement in Afghanistan, building on existing policies and activities, and report to the Council by October 2009 with further concrete recommendations, policy priorities and a strategy for EU engagement. This work should prepare the EU for co-operation with the incoming government. The Council invites Member States to contribute to this task with the aim of enhancing and consolidating the EU’s approach to Afghanistan. Areas where the EC’s and Member States’ actions and resources can be further aligned, should be identified. In this regard, the Council recalls the importance it attaches to working towards a single EU representation in order to enhance the EU’s coherence and visibility in Afghanistan.

As for Pakistan, the Council acknowledges the country’s strategic importance for stability in the region. With a view to forging a stronger EU-Pakistan partnership, the Council invites the SG/HR and the Commission to follow up on outcome of the planned ad hoc summit, and report back to the Council on progress and with recommendations for further action by October 2009. The Council also invites the Member States to contribute to this task with the aim of enhancing and consolidating the EU’s approach to the Pakistan, including with concrete recommendations, policy priorities and a strategy for EU engagement.’

EU terrorist list – Adoption of a new consolidated list

The Council has conducted a complete review of the persons and entities subject to the EU’s autonomous regime on specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and enti-

ties with a view to combating terrorism (common position 2001/931/CFSP and Council regulation 2580/2001¹).

In the light of this review, the Council adopted a common position updating common position 2001/931/CFSP on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism, and a Council regulation implementing article 2(3) of regulation 2580/2001 on specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities with a view to combating terrorism.

The lists of the persons and entities subject to the measures are annexed to the common position and to the Council regulation. Both acts, including the new consolidated lists, will be published in the Official Journal.

Two individuals have not been included in the lists of persons and entities, as the Council has concluded that there are no longer grounds for keeping them on the list.

The list was last reviewed on 26 January 2009.

The parties listed pursuant to regulation 2580/2001 will be informed via a 'letter of notification' of the specific information that forms the basis for the Council's regulation².

These parties may challenge the Council's regulation before the Court of First Instance.

United Nations General Assembly – EU priorities

The Council approved the EU's priorities, with regard to peace and security, sustainable development and human rights, for the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly, which will start on 15 September (10809/09).

The EU is fully committed to effective multilateralism with a central role for the United Nations. Its goal is to work towards a multilateral system based on international law as well as the purposes and principles of the charter of the United Nations.

Annual report on common foreign and security policy

The Council approved a report, to be presented to the European Parliament, on the main aspects and basic choices of the EU's common foreign and security policy (CFSP) in 2008 (10665/09 + 10665/09 COR1 + 10665/09 COR 2).

This year's CFSP report to the European Parliament has been inspired by the recent report on the implementation of the European Security Strategy (ESS). The report takes a more strategic, theme-driven and streamlined approach than the CFSP reports of previous years. References to the European Parliament's resolutions on CFSP issues underline the connectivity of the Parliament's and the Council's work.

The following items relating to CFSP matters are available on the Council's website (<http://consilium.europa.eu>): list of CFSP legislative acts, declarations, information on EU special representatives, calendar of CFSP activities, including political dialogue meetings with third countries.

1. OJ L 344 28.12.2001, p. 70 and p. 93. All persons, groups and entities on the list annexed to common position 2001/931/CFSP are subject to enhanced measures relating to police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters within the framework of title VI of the Treaty on European Union. In addition, those persons, groups and entities which are also on the list provided for in Council regulation 2580/2001 are subject to an asset freeze implemented by the European Community.

2. For those whose address is unknown, a notice is published in the Official Journal ('C' series) which indicates that they may submit a request to obtain the Council's statement of reasons concerning them.

Report on the prevention of violent conflicts

The Council approved a report setting out the conflict prevention activities of the European Union since July 2008 and including recommendations with a view to achieving further progress. The report will be submitted to the European Council on 18-19 June 2009.

The report covers in particular the following areas: early warning, action and policy coherence, instruments for long- and short-term prevention and effective partnerships for prevention. It was drawn up pursuant to the EU programme for the prevention of violent conflicts endorsed by the European Council in June 2001 in Göteborg, which provides for an annual report on the progress made in its implementation to be submitted by the presidency to the June European Council.

EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

Somalia – Operation Atalanta – Council conclusions

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

‘The Council noted that the Operation ATALANTA had demonstrated its ability to act effectively against piracy, that piracy off the coast of Somalia was likely to remain a serious threat beyond Operation ATALANTA’s current end date of 13 December 2009, and that early agreement on extending the operation would facilitate the necessary force generation. In this context, the Council agreed that Operation ATALANTA should be extended for one year from its current end date’

Democratic Republic of the Congo – EU mission on security sector reform

The Council adopted a joint action extending and amending joint action 2007/406/CFSP on the EU mission to provide advice and assistance for security sector reform in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (‘EUSEC RD Congo mission’) (10358/09).

The joint action extends for an additional three months, until 30 September 2009, the current mission’s mandate, which would otherwise expire on 30 June 2009.

The financial reference amount to cover expenditure relating to the mission from July 2008 to September 2009 is set at EUR 8.45 million.

In 2007, the Council adopted joint action 2007/406/CFSP (‘EUSEC RD Congo mission’), which replaced the mission previously established by joint action 2005/355/CFSP, with a view to fulfilling the EU’s commitments in contributing to bringing stability to the Great Lakes region.

Small arms and light weapons – Progress report

The Council approved a report on implementation of the EU’s strategy on combating the illicit accumulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and ammunition.

The document, the seventh six-monthly report on the SALW strategy, was prepared by the office of the high representative on non-proliferation in cooperation with the Commission.

The strategy was adopted by the European Council in December 2005 and includes an action plan which calls for continuous monitoring.

During the first half of this year, the EU continued to promote SALW issues in multilateral fora and in the framework of political dialogue under international programmes such as the 2001 UN programme of action to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit trade in small arms.

Report on ESDP

The Council approved a report from the presidency on European security and defence policy, and agreed to forward it to the European Council for endorsement.

(...)

MIDDLE EAST – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

At a time when the international community is intensifying its efforts to re-launch the peace process, the Council held a comprehensive discussion on the Middle East, including Lebanon and Syria.

EU High Representative Javier Solana, who had travelled to Israel, the Palestinian territories, Lebanon and Egypt on 10-14 June, briefed the Council on his visit to the region.

After the discussion, the Council adopted the following conclusions:

MIDDLE EAST

‘1. The European Union remains committed to a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, on the basis of the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid conference, including land for peace, the Roadmap, the agreements previously reached by the parties and the Arab Peace Initiative. The Council reiterates its commitment to the two-state solution with an independent, democratic, contiguous and viable Palestinian state, comprising the West Bank and Gaza, living side by side in peace and security with the State of Israel. The Council confirms its view that this constitutes a fundamental European interest. It is an indispensable and urgent step towards a more stable and peaceful Middle East.

2. The Council welcomes the US Administration’s commitment to vigorously pursue a two-state solution and a comprehensive peace in the Middle East and confirms the Union’s readiness to work actively with the United States and other Quartet members to achieve this goal, including through coordinated monitoring of actions by all parties to the conflict and of developments on the ground. The EU is also ready to contribute substantially to post-conflict arrangements aimed at ensuring the sustainability of peace agreements, addressing also the regional economic and security dimensions.

3. The European Union calls on the government of Israel to commit unequivocally to the two-state solution and welcomes the initial step, following the Israeli policy review, announced by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of commitment to a peace that would include a Palestinian state. It urges both parties to take immediate steps to resume peace nego-

tiations, respecting previous agreements and understandings. To that effect, the Council also calls on both parties to implement their obligations under the Roadmap.

4. The Council remains deeply concerned by settlement activities, house demolitions and evictions in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including in East Jerusalem. The Council urges the government of Israel to immediately end settlement activities, including in East Jerusalem and including natural growth, and to dismantle all outposts erected since March 2001. It reiterates that settlements are illegal under international law and constitute an obstacle to peace. The Council also urges the Palestinian Authority to continue to make every effort to improve law and order. All parties must stop incitement and violence against civilians and respect for international humanitarian law must be ensured. The EU will continue to follow closely investigations into alleged violations of international humanitarian law.

5. The Council reiterates the urgency of a durable solution to the Gaza crisis through the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1860. The European Union calls for the immediate and unconditional opening of crossings for the flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and persons to and from Gaza without which the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid, reconstruction and economic recovery will not be possible. The Council also calls for a complete stop to all violence, including a sustained halt of rocket attacks at Israel and an effective mechanism to prevent arms and ammunition smuggling into the Gaza strip. It calls on those holding the abducted Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit to release him without delay.

6. The Council expresses continued encouragement for inter-Palestinian reconciliation behind President Mahmoud Abbas and support for the mediation efforts by Egypt and the Arab League. Overcoming divisions among Palestinians would help prevent a deeper separation between the West Bank and Gaza and preserve the chances of restoring the unity of a future Palestinian state. The Council calls on all Palestinians to find common ground, based on non-violence, in order to facilitate reconstruction in Gaza and the organisation of elections.

7. The EU stands ready to further develop and enhance its bilateral relations with the Palestinian Authority in the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy. It will promote Palestinian state-building and intensify work in partnership with the PA towards further implementation of the Palestinian Reform and Development Plan. This will involve a broad range of areas including health, education, governance, customs, public financial management and the rule of law. The EU welcomes the PA's efforts to develop an effective and reformed security sector and will cooperate towards additional improvement in restoring law and order, countering terrorism, the implementation of a more comprehensive security strategy, developing an effective and reformed security sector and criminal justice system. Civil police and justice will continue to be a focus of EU support, through the assistance provided by EUPOL COPPS, the European Commission and Member States, and in close coordination with the US and other partners.

8. The Council welcomes the declared readiness of the government of Israel to promote Palestinian economic development, stressing that this can only be achieved within the framework of the broader perspective of the two-state solution. The EU is ready to work closely with Israel, the Palestinian government and international donors in order to achieve sustainable economic development on the basis of the full implementation of the Agreement on Access and Movement of 2005. Such a step would not only improve living conditions and the situation on the ground but also reinforce support among Palestinians for a peaceful political process.

9. The Council calls on all partners to contribute actively to the achievement of a comprehensive settlement. The EU urges Arab countries and other partners to be forthcoming, both politically and financially, in assisting the Palestinian Authority, in accordance with Roadmap provisions. Underlining the importance of the Arab Peace Initiative, the EU invites Israel and all Arab countries to take confidence building measures in order to overcome mutual mistrust and to create an atmosphere conducive to conflict resolution. Solutions to the various conflicts including a lasting settlement for the conflicts between Israel and Syria and between Israel and Lebanon must be pursued in parallel, creating mutually reinforcing processes. In this regard the EU expects that Syria and Israel resume peace negotiations.

10. A comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict requires a regional approach, covering the political, security and economic dimensions. Encouraged by enhanced US engagement and convinced that tangible benefits regarding economic development and security would facilitate achieving agreement on the various political tracks, the EU stands ready to use all instruments at its disposal such as the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Union for the Mediterranean. Through numerous agreements with partners in the region, the EU is uniquely placed to work with the parties on key issues of regional development. In light of further developments at the political level and on the ground, the EU will carefully assess how its policies and programmes can promote concrete and early results on the path of a comprehensive settlement of the conflict.'

LEBANON

'1. The Council congratulates the people of Lebanon on the successful holding of parliamentary elections, which are an important step in the democratic development of the country.

2. The Council commends all Lebanese institutions and political forces for the conduct of the electoral campaign, and the orderly and transparent voting process, as noted by the EU and other election observation missions. The significant increase in voter turn-out confirmed the Lebanese people's commitment to democracy.

3. The Council hopes that all parties will cooperate with President Sleimane, whose role is to safeguard the Constitution and Lebanon's independence, unity and territorial integrity, with a view to the timely formation of a government, in accordance with the Constitution. The Council also encourages all the parties to further engage in dialogue in the spirit of consensus and compromise which prevailed before and during the electoral campaign in order to launch a comprehensive reform programme in the interest of stability and unity of Lebanon as a whole.

4. The European Union reiterates its full support for the Lebanese people and institutions and remains determined to reinforce Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, unity and stability. The Council recalls its commitment to the full implementation of UNSC Resolutions 1559, 1680, 1701 and 1757. The EU reaffirms its full support to the Special Tribunal.'

(...)

WESTERN BALKANS – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council discussed a series of issues regarding the Western Balkans and adopted the following conclusions:

(...)

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The Council welcomed the recent joint visit of SG/HR Solana and US Vice President Biden to Bosnia and Herzegovina and fully supported the common political message delivered at this occasion. The Council expressed its continuing full support for HR/EUSR Valentin Inzko, took note of his report to the United Nations Security Council, and welcomed his continued efforts to facilitate progress in Bosnia and Herzegovina, both on the Stabilisation and Association Process and on the five objectives and two conditions.

The Council exchanged views on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the light of the upcoming PIC Steering Board meeting on 29 and 30 June 2009. The Council remained fully committed to the transition from the OHR to a reinforced EU presence as soon as the fulfillment of the five objectives and two conditions set by the Peace Implementation Council is complete and stressed that the transition could be within reach in the months ahead. It urged the BiH authorities to achieve concrete results before the June PIC Steering Board meeting.

The Council reconfirmed its full support for the European perspective of Bosnia and Herzegovina and stressed that increased willingness to reform and readiness to compromise are of pivotal importance on Bosnia and Herzegovina's way towards the European Union.

The Council reiterated its full support for the Prud/Od ak process and called upon the relevant political leaders to continue their endeavour and expand the process.

The Council expressed concern at the unconstructive political atmosphere and the recent actions challenging the Dayton Peace Agreement. The Council called upon all the political leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina to refrain from nationalist rhetoric, and genuinely focus on bringing forward the necessary reform agenda in the general interest of the country and its citizens.

The Council welcomed the adoption of the Br?ko constitutional amendment on 26 March as an encouraging sign that substantial further progress should be possible if all political parties showed readiness to compromise.”

(...)

IRAN – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

“The Council discussed the recent events regarding the Iranian Presidential election. It noted the result as announced by the Iranian Electoral Commission and also the concerns regarding the conduct of the elections expressed by several candidates. This is a matter that the Iranian authorities must address and investigate.

The Council expressed serious concern about the violence on the streets and the use of force against peaceful demonstrators. It is essential that the aspirations of the Iranian people are achieved through peaceful means and that freedom of expression is respected.

The Council will continue to follow developments. It remains a priority for the EU that Iran engages with the concerns of the world community, above all on the issue of Iran's nuclear programme. The Council wishes to engage with the Islamic Republic of Iran on the basis of mutual respect but it requires Iran to recognise and act urgently on its responsibilities and obligations.'

(...)

EUPOL RD Congo – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 15 June 2009

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2009/466/CFSP AMENDING AND EXTENDING JOINT ACTION 2007/405/CFSP ON THE EUROPEAN UNION POLICE MISSION UNDERTAKEN IN THE FRAMEWORK OF REFORM OF THE SECURITY SECTOR (SSR) AND ITS INTERFACE WITH THE SYSTEM OF JUSTICE IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (EUPOL RD CONGO)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 14 thereof, Whereas:

- (1) On 12 June 2007, the Council adopted Joint Action 2007/405/CFSP⁽¹⁾ on the European Union police mission undertaken in the framework of reform of the security sector (SSR) and its interface with the system of justice in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (EUPOL RD Congo).
- (2) On 23 June 2008, the Council adopted Joint Action 2008/485/CFSP⁽²⁾ amending and extending Joint Action 2007/405/CFSP until 30 June 2009.
- (3) Following consultation with the Congolese authorities and other parties concerned, it appears necessary to extend the mission for a further period, and on 10 March 2009 the Political and Security Committee recommended that the mission be extended for an additional 12 months.
- (4) Joint Action 2007/405/CFSP should be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

Joint Action 2007/405/CFSP is hereby amended as follows:

1. in Article 9, paragraph 1 shall be replaced by the following:
'1. The financial reference amount intended to cover the expenditure relating to the mission for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 shall be EUR 5 500 000.
The financial reference amount intended to cover the expenditure related to the mission for the period from 1 July 2008 until 31 October 2009 shall be EUR 6 920 000.
The Council shall establish a new financial reference amount in order to cover expenditure related to the mission for the period from 1 November 2009 to 30 June 2010.';
2. the second paragraph of Article 16 shall be replaced by the following:
'It shall expire on 30 June 2010.'

(1) OJ L 151, 13.6.2007, p. 46.

(2) OJ L 164, 25.6.2008, p. 44.

Article 2

This Joint Action shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Article 3

This Joint Action shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Luxembourg, 15 June 2009.

For the Council

The President

J. Kohout

15th ECOWAS-EU Ministerial Troika Meeting

Luxembourg, 16 June 2009

FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ

1. The fifteenth ministerial Troika meeting between the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the European Union (EU) was held in Luxembourg on June 16, 2009 under the Co-Chairs of Ambassador Bagudu M. Hirse, Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria and Mr. Tomáš Pojar, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.
2. The ECOWAS Troika further included Mr. Amidou Toure, Director of African Organisations, representing the Deputy Minister of Regional Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Burkina Faso, and Dr Mohamed Ibn Chambas, President of the ECOWAS Commission. The EU Troika included Mr. Stefano Manservigi, Director General, the European Commission, Mr. José Costa Pereira, Head of Unit, Africa Task Force, Council of the European Union and Ms. Viktoria Li, Deputy Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden. Mr. Anatole Ayissi, Senior Political Affairs Officer, representative of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) and Mr Soumaila Cissé, President of the UEMOA Commission, also attended the meeting as observers.

PEACE AND SECURITY IN WESTERN AFRICA

The ECOWAS peace and security agenda

3. The European Union congratulated ECOWAS on the successful conclusion of the ECOWAS Standby Force (ESF) Logistics Exercise (LogEx) in Burkina Faso on June 13, 2009, and looked forward to receiving the report of the exercise. Both Parties agreed that it was important for the region to have the full West Africa Brigade, consisting of both components, i.e. civilian (including police) and military, in place by 2010 in fulfilment of the requirements of the African Union Peace and Security Architecture. The EU and ECOWAS pledged to continue to work in close cooperation to support the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework and its implementation. In this respect, and in order to facilitate EU support, notably through the 10th EDF RIP, the EU reiterated the need for ECOWAS to focus on the development of a roadmap for the implementation of its Conflict Prevention Framework.
4. The EU and ECOWAS reaffirmed their commitment to continue to work together on full implementation and domestication of multilateral instruments in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation on the basis of the positive momentum noted in various multilateral fora.
5. ECOWAS informed that the ECOWAS Small Arms Convention is expected to enter into force after the ratification by eight Member States. Against this background, ECOWAS and the EU reaffirmed their readiness to work together for its successful implementation both at regional and national levels.
6. The EU and ECOWAS reaffirmed their interest for a successful process leading to the adoption of an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), taking into account the results of the regional seminar organised in Dakar in April 2009.

Guinea

7. The EU and ECOWAS welcomed the commitments made by Guinea during the Article 96 consultations, on April 29, 2009 and during the last meeting of the International Contact Group for Guinea (ICG-G), from May 4-5, 2009, to implement the roadmap for the restoration of constitutional order in the country. In particular, they welcomed the commitment of Guinea to hold legislative and presidential elections between October and December 2009 and the commitment that neither the President and the members of the CNDD, nor the Prime Minister and his cabinet, would stand for office. The EU and ECOWAS, however, expressed serious concerns about the slow progress in the implementation of the roadmap.

8. The Parties urged the Guinean authorities to put in place, without further delay, the National Transitional Council and to honour the pledge to make their financial contribution towards the preparation of the elections, in order to gain the confidence of the international community.

9. The Parties also called on the 'Forces vives' to reaffirm their unflinching support for the implementation of the transitional roadmap. They affirmed their commitment to urge the international community to send a clear message to the CNDD about its firm stand not to compromise on the agreed roadmap, including during the next ICG-G meeting on June 27, 2009 in the margins of the AU Summit.

10. ECOWAS welcomed the intention of the EU to conclude the article 96 consultations with Guinea with clear benchmarks and incentives to accompany the transition process. The Parties considered that this framework of mutual engagements may also be included in the activities of the international partners of the ICG-Guinea, including the World Bank, African Development Bank and IMF.

11. The EU and ECOWAS called on the CNDD and the transitional government to intensify the fight against impunity. The campaign of violence and extortion by uniformed armed personnel against the business community and civilians seriously undermines the credibility of the transitional administration and poses a real threat to the indispensable political stability necessary for the conduct of free, fair and credible elections.

Guinea-Bissau

12. ECOWAS and the EU expressed deep concern about the worsening climate of violence in Guinea Bissau and firmly condemned the assassinations which took place in the beginning of March and again in early June 2009 in Bissau. They emphasized the imperative need to fight against impunity in the country. To this end, the Parties welcomed the decision of ECOWAS and the AU to institute an international commission of enquiry, with the technical support of the UN and the international community to investigate the assassinations and stressed the need that the perpetrators of these brutal acts be promptly brought to justice.

13. ECOWAS and the EU urged all the stakeholders, including the government of Guinea Bissau, to speed up the implementation phase of the defence and security sector reform agenda in Guinea Bissau. ECOWAS expressed its strong appreciation of the EU ESDP mission to support SSR in Guinea Bissau.

14. ECOWAS and the EU stressed the critical importance of the June 28, 2009 presidential elections to the overall political stability of Guinea Bissau. To this end, the Parties urged the

Government and the independent national electoral commission to step up their preparations for the conduct of credible elections in the country. The Parties also reminded the security forces of their responsibility to ensure a conducive environment for the conduct of the elections. Finally, the Parties welcomed the preparations being made by ECOWAS, the AU, and the EU to observe the elections.

Côte d'Ivoire

15. ECOWAS and the EU expressed satisfaction with the recent improvement in the security situation in Cote d'Ivoire and the advances being made in the implementation of the Ouagadougou Peace Accord. In this regard, the EU and ECOWAS welcomed the announcement by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to hold the first round of the presidential elections on November 29, 2009. The Parties stressed the absolute need to respect this date in order to avoid political and social instability and agreed to maintain dialogue and cooperation among themselves, with the objective of supporting the crisis resolution process. They also commended the transfer of power in the Central Zone of Cote d'Ivoire (Bouake) from the zonal commanders of the "Forces Nouvelles" to central government authority, describing it as an essential step in the national reunification and reconciliation processes. The Parties commended the efforts of the facilitator of the peace process, President Blaise Compaoré, and encouraged him to continue with his good offices to promote the conducive environment for free and fair elections, in accordance with the provisions of the Permanent Framework for Dialogue agreed upon on May 18, 2009 in Ouagadougou. ECOWAS commended the EU for the financial and technical assistance towards the November 2009 presidential elections and appealed for the continuation of the support until the restoration of peace and democracy in the country.

Niger

16. ECOWAS and the EU expressed grave concern and disquiet about recent developments in Niger, which they judged as a serious threat to the achievements in good governance over the last ten years in the country, as well as to the democratization process and stability in the region. To this end, the EU welcomed the communiqué by the ECOWAS Council of the Wise of May 16, 2009 as well as the declaration by the ECOWAS Commission of June 3, 2009 requesting the Niger authorities to abide by their Constitution. The Parties urged the Niger authorities to abide by the ruling of the Constitutional Court and to be mindful of the provisions of the ECOWAS Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance, signed and ratified by Niger, especially the aspects that forbid obtaining or maintaining power through unconstitutional means or modifying the electoral laws six month before elections without the consent of the vast majority of stakeholders.

Security and development in the Sahel region

17. The EU and ECOWAS exchanged views on the threats to security represented by terrorist and criminal activities in the Sahel region. They unreservedly condemned the recent execution of a British citizen and expressed their concern about the other hostage still in captivity.

18. They encouraged the countries in the region to continue their efforts in order to develop a

sustainable framework to improve the security situation in the region. ECOWAS and the EU reaffirmed their support for the actions of the Governments of Niger and Mali towards promoting development and preserving the peace and territorial integrity of their respective countries.

19. ECOWAS and the EU reaffirmed their strong support for the plan to convene the Sahel-Saharan regional conference addressing security and development aspects, as initiated by the President of Mali and are looking forward to the outcome of this meeting. The EU informed ECOWAS on its initiative to develop a common EU approach to support the development and security policies in the Sahel region and on the exploratory mission planned to the region.

(...)

EU-Pakistan Summit

Brussels, 17 June 2009

On 17 June 2009, EU leaders welcomed President Asif Ali Zardari of Pakistan to Brussels for the first-ever EU-Pakistan summit.

JOINT STATEMENT

The first EU-Pakistan Summit was held in Brussels on 17 June 2009. The EU was represented by President Vaclav Klaus of the Czech Republic; by Mr Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, by Dr Javier Solana, High Representative for the EU's Common and Security Policy. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan was represented by President Asif Ali Zardari.

The EU and Pakistan welcomed their first ever Summit today as an important and positive step in strengthening their relations. They agreed on further measures for comprehensive cooperation with the aim to engage in strategic dialogue as partners, including at the highest level, building inter alia on the EC-Pakistan Cooperation Agreement concluded in 2004 and the EU-Pakistan Joint Declaration of February 2007.

The Leaders of EU and Pakistan discussed the strengthening of EU-Pakistan partnership, the regional political situation, global issues and the world economy. They agreed on substantial measures to strengthen their mutual engagement by initiating strategic dialogue on their common commitment to development, education, science and technology, security, counter-terrorism, strengthening democracy, human rights and enhancing trade.

The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen cooperation within the framework of the United Nations and in multilateral fora to address global concerns, including in the areas of development, environment, energy, disarmament, arms control, including arms trade and non-proliferation of WMDs.

The EU and Pakistan are committed to cooperating in the 'Friends of Democratic Pakistan' group to support Pakistan's efforts for prosperity and stability.

Security

The EU and Pakistan recognised that terrorism, extremism and militancy represent serious threats to international peace and security and should be eliminated and terrorist organisations prevented from recruiting. The EU leaders recognised the resolve and the sacrifices which the Pakistani people and security forces are making in confronting these issues. They acknowledged Pakistan's strong commitment to promoting stability and peace in the region. They expressed confidence that a successful outcome of the security and law enforcement operations would help assure prosperity to the people of Pakistan and greatly strengthen the democratically elected government in achieving its political and development objectives. Both sides stressed the critical importance of international support to Pakistan's ongoing counter-terrorism efforts, including through the interdiction of supply of weapons and money to terrorists and armed groups, drug dealers and criminal gangs.

The EU and Pakistan re-affirmed their commitment to cooperate with each other in the fight against terrorism, both within the framework of the United Nations and bilaterally. The

Leaders underlined the importance of an integrated long term strategy, which includes social economic development, civilian law enforcement structures and the rule of law, in order to secure the gains of the present security measures on a permanent basis. The Leaders welcomed in this regard the initiation of cooperation between Pakistan and the EU aimed at improving Pakistan's counter-terrorism capabilities, notably in the field of law enforcement and criminal justice. They agreed that it was particularly important to support Pakistan's police forces. In this regard, Pakistan and the EU agreed to start a regular Pakistan-EU Counter-Terrorism dialogue. In addition the parties also acknowledged the great significance of countering extremism, particularly through education, civil society and mass media communication.

EU and Pakistan have a shared interest in working towards achieving the goals and objectives of universal disarmament and non proliferation of nuclear materials, technology and WMDs. The EU noted Pakistan's continued work with the International Atomic Energy Agency, inter alia on safeguards and physical protection. Both sides agreed that consultations between the EU and Pakistan on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation issues should take place regularly.

(...)

JAVIER SOLANA – 'EU-PAKISTAN: CHANGING TIES'

This summit signals a step towards change in relations between the EU and Pakistan, moving from a relationship that has been mainly about trade to a strategically focused partnership embracing security, democratic governance, humanitarian and development assistance and regional and global issues. Together we will set an agenda for closer cooperation between the EU and Pakistan, a crucial player in Asia and a vital partner for Europe.

A secure and stable Pakistan, anchored in the international security environment, is essential for the people of both Pakistan and Europe. Our long-term, high-level political engagement will be focused on addressing the root causes of violent extremism and radicalisation and on combating the terrorism that has caused more suffering to the people of Pakistan than of any other country in recent years.

The latest string of terrorist attacks in Peshawar, Lahore and Nowshera has taken a terrible toll of victims. The images we have seen from the Swat region of women being flogged, girls' schools being burned down and terror being sown amongst the local population illustrate the scale of the challenge.

Europeans are also threatened, not least by radicals who train in the camps set up by extremist organisations on Pakistani soil with the intention of striking western targets. The EU cannot be a bystander in the face of such suffering and of such fundamental threats to the security and stability of Pakistan, the wider region and Europe. The security challenges are closely linked to the situation in Afghanistan, which shares a lengthy border with Pakistan. As long as Al Qaeda and Taliban extremists continue to operate on both sides of the border it will be very difficult to bring lasting stability to Afghanistan or to prevent the instability from spilling over into Pakistan.

The recent military operations against militant extremists reflect Pakistan's determination to fight terrorism on its own soil. We welcome this. The fight against terrorism and militant extremism is a joint endeavour and part of the newly enhanced relationship between the

EU and Pakistan. We will be working together to help improve Pakistan's counter-terrorism capacity in law-enforcement and criminal justice.

The European Union is acutely aware of the need to alleviate the suffering of the hundreds of thousands of civilians forced to flee the recent fighting in the north-western region of Pakistan after the Taliban terrorised the local population and openly challenged the authority of the Pakistani state. The survival of democracy in Pakistan, as well as Pakistan's peaceful coexistence with India, are increasingly threatened by the militant extremists. Central Asia, Iran and India are also feeling the impact of the insurgency in Afghanistan on their own security with mounting concern. It is vital to promote stronger cooperation within the region and to turn borders that divide into lines that connect, for example to supply goods and energy. The European Union has extensive experience of promoting economic regional integration and it hopes to share some of this for the benefit of Pakistan and the wider region.

Bringing economic stability and development to Pakistan is vital in order to tackle the root causes of poverty and conflict. We know that a strong trading relationship is linked to economic prosperity and stability. The EU is already Pakistan's top trading partner and we will help Pakistan pursue economic diversification and develop its capacity to trade more effectively, with a view to a possible free trade agreement in the future.

At the same time, the EU has pledged financial assistance to Pakistan of 485 million euros by 2013. This should create opportunities for the millions of young Pakistanis who seek to build their own future. Much focus will be placed on the education sector, the single-most important source of prosperity for future generations. The fundamental rights of women in Pakistani society will be targeted in European development programmes.

The EU's engagement with Pakistan is long-term. This is in our mutual strategic interest. It is also part of the efforts of the wider international community that have been revitalised by President Obama and supported so eloquently in his address to the Muslim world in Cairo.

European Council

Brussels, 18-19 June 2009

PRESIDENCY CONCLUSIONS

In the midst of the deepest global recession since the Second World War the European Council again demonstrated the Union's determination to rise above present difficulties and to look to the future by taking a series of decisions intended to meet, rapidly and effectively, a wide range of challenges.

Convinced that the Lisbon Treaty will provide a better framework for action by the Union in a large number of fields, Heads of State or Government agreed on legal guarantees designed to respond to concerns raised by the Irish people, thus paving the way for them to be consulted again on that Treaty. Heads also took the first steps in the process of designating the President of the next Commission.

The economic crisis remains of paramount importance to citizens. The significant measures taken so far in support of the banking sector and the wider real economy have been successful in preventing financial meltdown and in beginning to restore the prospects for real growth. The European Council took a number of decisions intended to lead to the creation of a new financial supervisory architecture with the aim of protecting the European financial system from future risks and ensuring that the mistakes of the past can never be repeated. Top priority must be given to tackling the effects of the crisis on employment by helping people stay in work or find new jobs.

Successfully combating climate change will also contribute to moving to a sustainable economy and create new jobs. The European Council took further steps towards forging the EU's position for the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference at the end of the year. It sent out a strong signal of its intention to maintain a driving role in this process and called on the rest of the international Community to play its full part in bringing about a successful and ambitious outcome at Copenhagen.

European leaders expressed great concern at the dramatic situation in the Mediterranean area and agreed on a number of measures in order to help the Member States in the frontline to respond to the influx of illegal immigrants and to prevent further human tragedies.

The EU's role in the world remains of particular interest to European leaders. The European leaders underlined the strategic importance of transatlantic relations and welcomed the launch of the Eastern Partnership. They also stressed that the Middle East Peace Process remained a top priority for the EU in 2009. The European Council reconfirmed the great importance of stability and security in Afghanistan, Pakistan and the wider region. The European Council adopted declarations on Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In a declaration on Burma/Myanmar leaders called for the immediate and unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi.

(...)

I. Institutional issues

Ireland and the Treaty of Lisbon

1. The European Council recalls that the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon requires ratification by each of the 27 Member States in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements. It reaffirms its wish to see the Treaty enter into force by the end of 2009.
2. Having carefully noted the concerns of the Irish people as set out by the Taoiseach, the European Council, at its meeting of 11-12 December 2008, agreed that, provided the Treaty of Lisbon enters into force, a decision would be taken, in accordance with the necessary legal procedures, to the effect that the Commission shall continue to include one national of each Member State.
3. The European Council also agreed that other concerns of the Irish people, as presented by the Taoiseach, relating to taxation policy, the right to life, education and the family, and Ireland's traditional policy of military neutrality, would be addressed to the mutual satisfaction of Ireland and the other Member States, by way of the necessary legal guarantees. It was also agreed that the high importance attached to a number of social issues, including workers' rights, would be confirmed.
4. Against this background, the European Council has agreed on the following set of arrangements, which are fully compatible with the Treaty, in order to provide reassurance and to respond to the concerns of the Irish people:
 - a) Decision of the Heads of State or Government of the 27 Member States of the European Union, meeting within the European Council, on the concerns of the Irish people on the Treaty of Lisbon (Annex 1);
 - b) Solemn Declaration on Workers' Rights, Social Policy and other issues (Annex 2).

The European Council has also taken cognisance of the unilateral declaration of Ireland (Annex 3), which will be associated with the Irish instrument of ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon.

5. Regarding the Decision in Annex 1, the Heads of State or Government have declared that:
 - i. this Decision gives legal guarantee that certain matters of concern to the Irish people will be unaffected by the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon;
 - ii. its content is fully compatible with the Treaty of Lisbon and will not necessitate any re-ratification of that Treaty;
 - iii. the Decision is legally binding and will take effect on the date of entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon;
 - iv. they will, at the time of the conclusion of the next accession Treaty, set out the provisions of the annexed Decision in a Protocol to be attached, in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements, to the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union;
 - v. the Protocol will in no way alter the relationship between the EU and its Member States. The sole purpose of the Protocol will be to give full Treaty status to the clarifications set out in the Decision to meet the concerns of the Irish people. Its status will be no different from similar clarifications in Protocols obtained by other Member States. The Protocol will clarify but not change either the content or the application of the Treaty of Lisbon.

Nomination of the President of the Commission

6. The Heads of State or Government agreed unanimously on the name of Mr José Manuel DURÃO BARROSO as the person they intend to nominate as President of the European Commission for the period 2009-2014.

7. The Prime Minister of the Czech Republic and the Prime Minister of Sweden, as the present and the incoming Presidents of the European Council, will have discussions with the European Parliament in order to determine whether the Parliament is in a position to approve that nomination at its July plenary session.

8. In the light of these discussions, the Council, in the composition of Heads of State or Government, will, on the basis of the first subparagraph of Article 214(2) of the EC Treaty, formalise its decision on the nomination of the person it intends to appoint as President of the Commission.

9. The process of nomination of the other persons who will be appointed as members of the Commission can only be initiated when the legal basis for the nomination procedure has become clear.

Transitional measures on EP

10. The European Council recalls its Declaration of December 2008 on transitional measures concerning the composition of the European Parliament. It agrees that these transitional measures will contain the elements described in Annex 4. Once the condition set in its Declaration of December 2008 is met, the necessary steps to implement these measures will be taken by the Presidency.

(...)

V. External relations

40. The European Council adopted Declarations on Pakistan and Afghanistan (Annex 5), on Burma/Myanmar (Annex 6), on DPRK (Annex 7) and on Iran (Annex 8).

41. The European Council welcomes the launch of the Eastern Partnership. It reiterates its conviction that further implementation of this initiative, in both its bilateral and multilateral dimensions, is important and mutually beneficial to the EU and the Eastern Partners, helping to bring prosperity and stability to the citizens of all countries involved. It calls upon the Commission and incoming Presidencies to continue their work in line with the Joint Declaration of the Prague Summit of 7 May 2009.

42. The Middle East Peace Process remains a top priority for the EU in 2009. The European Council endorses the conclusions adopted at the Council meeting of 15 June.

43. The European Council reaffirms the strategic importance of transatlantic relations as underlined at the informal EU-US Summit held in Prague on 5 April 2009. The European Council welcomes the 15 June 2009 joint statement on the closure of the Guantánamo Bay detention facility, which gives further strong impetus to counterterrorism cooperation based on shared values, international law, respect for human rights and the rule of law. Furthermore, the European Council welcomes the fact that the US proposed to enhance cooperation between the US and the EU on energy issues. The European Council also looks

forward to deepened cooperation with the US on climate change, regional issues, economic affairs and development.

ANNEX 1 – DECISION OF THE HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT OF THE 27 MEMBER STATES OF THE EU, MEETING WITHIN THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, ON THE CONCERNS OF THE IRISH PEOPLE ON THE TREATY OF LISBON

The Heads of State or Government of the 27 Member States of the European Union, whose Governments are signatories of the Treaty of Lisbon,

Taking note of the outcome of the Irish referendum of 12 June 2008 on the Treaty of Lisbon and of the concerns of the Irish people identified by the Taoiseach,

Desiring to address those concerns in conformity with that Treaty,

Having regard to the Conclusions of the European Council of 11-12 December 2008,

Have agreed on the following Decision:

(...)

SECTION C

Security and defence

The Union's action on the international scene is guided by the principles of democracy, the rule of law, the universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for human dignity, the principles of equality and solidarity, and respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law.

The Union's common security and defence policy is an integral part of the common foreign and security policy and provides the Union with an operational capacity to undertake missions outside the Union for peace-keeping, conflict prevention and strengthening international security in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter.

It does not prejudice the security and defence policy of each Member State, including Ireland, or the obligations of any Member State.

The Treaty of Lisbon does not affect or prejudice Ireland's traditional policy of military neutrality.

It will be for Member States – including Ireland, acting in a spirit of solidarity and without prejudice to its traditional policy of military neutrality – to determine the nature of aid or assistance to be provided to a Member State which is the object of a terrorist attack or the victim of armed aggression on its territory.

Any decision to move to a common defence will require a unanimous decision of the European Council. It would be a matter for the Member States, including Ireland, to decide, in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon and with their respective constitutional requirements, whether or not to adopt a common defence.

Nothing in this Section affects or prejudices the position or policy of any other Member State on security and defence.

It is also a matter for each Member State to decide, in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon and any domestic legal requirements, whether to participate in permanent structured cooperation or the European Defence Agency.

The Treaty of Lisbon does not provide for the creation of a European army or for conscription to any military formation.

It does not affect the right of Ireland or any other Member State to determine the nature and volume of its defence and security expenditure and the nature of its defence capabilities.

It will be a matter for Ireland or any other Member State, to decide, in accordance with any domestic legal requirements, whether or not to participate in any military operation.

SECTION D

Final provisions

This decision shall take effect on the same date as the Treaty of Lisbon.

(...)

ANNEX 3 – NATIONAL DECLARATION BY IRELAND

Ireland reaffirms its attachment to the aims and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which confers primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security upon the United Nations Security Council.

Ireland recalls its commitment to the common foreign and security policy of the European Union, as approved on several occasions by the Irish people through referendum.

Ireland confirms that its participation in the European Union's common foreign and security policy does not prejudice its traditional policy of military neutrality. The Treaty on European Union makes clear that the Union's security and defence policy shall not prejudice the specific character of the security and defence policy of certain Member States.

In line with its traditional policy of military neutrality, Ireland is not bound by any mutual defence commitment. The Treaty on European Union specifies that any decision by the Union to move to a common defence would have to be taken by unanimous decision of the Member States and adopted in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements. The Constitution of Ireland requires that a referendum be held on the adoption of any such decision applicable to Ireland and this requirement will not be affected should Ireland ratify the Treaty of Lisbon.

Ireland reiterates its commitment to the ideal of peace and friendly cooperation amongst nations and to the principle of the peaceful resolution of international disputes. It reaffirms its strong commitment to conflict prevention, resolution and peacekeeping, and recalls the record of achievement of its personnel, military and civilian, in this regard.

It reiterates that the participation of contingents of the Irish Defence Forces in overseas operations, including those carried out under the European common security and defence policy requires (a) the authorisation of the operation by the Security Council or the General Assembly of the United Nations, (b) the agreement of the Irish Government, and (c) the approval of Dáil Éireann, in accordance with Irish law.

Ireland notes that nothing obliges it to participate in permanent structured cooperation as provided for in the Treaty on European Union. Any decision enabling Ireland to participate will require the approval of Dáil Éireann in accordance with Irish law.

Ireland notes also that nothing obliges it to participate in the European Defence Agency, or in specific projects or programmes initiated under its auspices. Any decision to participate in such projects or programmes will be subject to national decision-making and the approval of Dáil Éireann in accordance with Irish law. Ireland declares that it will participate only in those projects and programmes that contribute to enhancing the capabilities required for participation in UN-mandated missions for peace-keeping, conflict prevention and strengthening international security, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter.

The situation set out in this Declaration would be unaffected by the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon. In the event of Ireland's ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon, this Declaration will be associated with Ireland's instrument of ratification.

(...)

ANNEX 5 – DECLARATION ON PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN

The European Union attaches great importance to stability and security in Afghanistan and Pakistan and the wider region. Afghanistan and Pakistan each face complex and urgent challenges. While the EU reconfirms its specific ties with both countries individually, some of these challenges are closely interlinked and can only be solved through collaboration between those with a stake in the stability, security and development of the region. The EU welcomes and continues to support the increasing dialogue between the Governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan and encourages further development of recent moves towards improving their relationship.

Pakistan

The European Union welcomes the successful outcome of the recent Summit between the EU and Pakistan, which marks a step towards the development of a strategic dialogue. The EU and Pakistan are committed to the primary objective of fighting terrorism and combating radicalisation. The EU recognises Pakistan's major progress in transition to democratic civilian rule and will continue to help with institution-building to further strengthen and reinforce democratic structures in Pakistan. The European Commission has taken a commitment to provide EUR 72 million in humanitarian aid and to use a further EUR 50 million to support rehabilitation and reconstruction so bringing the total support to displaced people in Pakistan to over EUR 120 million.

The EU and the Government of Pakistan will now focus on the follow-up to the Summit. In this context, the European Council underlines the importance of sustainable economic development for further progress in Pakistan and of significantly enhancing the EU trade relationship with Pakistan, including through a possible free trade agreement in the long term. The EU will enhance the dedicated trade dialogue to take work forward. The EU will maintain its support for efforts aimed at promoting trade liberalisation in South Asia and will encourage Pakistan to facilitate intraregional trade, in particular with India and Afghanistan.

The EU welcomes Pakistan's resolve to step up counter-terrorism efforts and recognises the sacrifices which the Pakistani people and armed forces are making, notably during ongoing

ing operations in the North-West Frontier Province. The European Union expresses confidence that a successful outcome would greatly strengthen the democratically elected government in achieving its political and development objectives. The EU underlines the importance of an immediate humanitarian response to the crisis in Swat and stands ready to provide further assistance, in order to enable displaced persons to return to their homes. The EU will support the Government of Pakistan in implementing a comprehensive rehabilitation and reconstruction plan for the region.

Afghanistan

The EU reaffirms its long-term commitment to supporting Afghanistan on its path to security, stability and prosperity, while stressing that primary responsibility for the development of the country lies with Afghan authorities.

Recognising the challenging environment in which the first Afghan-led election process will take place, the EU attaches the greatest importance to the holding of credible, inclusive and secure presidential and provincial elections in Afghanistan in line with international standards, which would strengthen the support of the Afghan people for their institutions. It is particularly important that the state exercise its authority with impartiality and integrity to ensure that no candidate is unfairly disadvantaged. Political legitimacy is at the heart of further progress in Afghanistan. Afghan politicians have an important role to play by reaching out to voters and encouraging Afghans to exercise their right to choose their own leaders by participating in the August elections. The EU also calls on candidates to use the campaigning period to present policy manifestos, which inform and engage the population in the political process. As part of international efforts, the EU remains committed to supporting the elections and will deploy a team of international observers to Afghanistan.

The EU remains committed to promoting the rule of law and good governance in Afghanistan and urges the Government of Afghanistan to give the utmost priority to the achievement of significant progress in this area, especially at sub-national level. Building Afghan capacity and ownership, within the police as well as within the civilian sectors, remains at the core of EU's engagement in Afghanistan. In this respect, the EU police mission EUPOL Afghanistan is a key contribution of active EU engagement in Afghanistan, currently mandated to deploy up to 400 international personnel to monitor, mentor, advise and train in the area of police and the wider rule of law. The European Council underlines the importance of the prospect of a deployment of the European Gendarmerie Force in Afghanistan within the NTMA, as a complementary initiative in building up police capacity. The EU will follow through on its commitment in March to examine what it can do strategically and practically to build Afghan capacity in delivering the rule of law and assist the Government of Afghanistan to strengthen its respect for human rights and governance.

The EU emphasises that the Afghan Compact and the Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS) continue to provide the relevant framework for the political, social and economic development of Afghanistan, with UNAMA's coordinating role at the centre of the efforts of the international community. In this regard, the EU, as a major partner for reconstruction and development, intends to enhance and consolidate its commitment to Afghanistan, through the European Community's and Member States' actions.

(...)

ANNEX 7 – DECLARATION ON THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA (DPRK)

The European Council condemns firmly the most recent nuclear test and the launches using ballistic missile technology carried out by the DPRK. These violations of Security Council resolutions present a great threat for the peace and stability in the Korean peninsula as well as regional and international security.

In this context, the European Council welcomes the unanimous adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1874 which reinforces international sanctions towards the DPRK leadership.

The European Council invites the Council and the European Commission to transpose this resolution in a robust way and without delay in order to reinforce the coercive measures aimed at the North Korean leaders and entities linked to them. The European Council insists on the importance of a swift and efficient implementation of all these measures, including those aimed at inspections of cargoes bound for and/or out of the DPRK.

The European Council calls on the DPRK to refrain from any violations of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, to implement them and to engage in dialogue and cooperation, including the early resumption of the Six Party Talks.

ANNEX 8 – DECLARATION ON IRAN

The European Council endorsed the Conclusions adopted by the Council on 15 June. It stressed that the outcome of the Iranian elections should reflect the aspirations and choices of the people of Iran. The European Council reiterated that questions over the conduct of the elections were issues that the Iranian authorities should investigate.

The European Union is observing the response to the protests across Iran with serious concern. It firmly condemns the use of violence against protesters resulting in the loss of lives. The European Council urged the Iranian authorities to ensure that all Iranians are granted the right to assemble and to express themselves peacefully. The authorities should refrain from the use of force against peaceful demonstrations. The European Council condemned the crackdown against journalists, media outlets, communications and protesters, which are in contrast to the relatively open and encouraging period in the run-up to the election.

The European Council also stressed the importance of Iran engaging with the international community on all issues of concern, in particular over the issue of Iran’s nuclear programme, in a spirit of mutual respect and full recognition of Iran’s international obligations.

ESDP PRESIDENCY REPORT

1. In line with the mandate defined by the European Council in December 2008, the Presidency hereby submits this report on ESDP.
2. In presenting this report, the Presidency has noted that Denmark has drawn attention to Protocol No 5 on the position of Denmark, which is annexed to the Amsterdam Treaty.

I. OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

South Caucasus and Eastern Europe

EUMM Georgia

1. Building on its timely and effective deployment to Georgia on 1 October 2008, EUMM Georgia has been successful in contributing to greater security and stability in Georgia and in the Southern Caucasus under the terms of the Six Point Plan of 12 August and the Implementation Agreement of 8 September 2008. EUMM's engagement is part of a broader EU and international approach to the region as exemplified by the Geneva process. EUMM's presence on the ground makes armed conflict in Georgia less likely, as acknowledged by both Georgia and Russia. The Mission has since its deployment conducted nearly 3600 patrols, by day and night. Nevertheless, frequent incidents still are a reminder that the situation in the vicinity of the Administrative Boundary Lines (ABL) remains volatile. EUMM has investigated a number of incidents and provided neutral and unbiased assessment – not only towards authorities but also vis-à-vis the wider public and media.

2. Since its deployment, EUMM has made decisive progress in all four tasks of its mandate: stabilisation, normalisation, confidence building and informing EU policy. A majority of the IDPs from the August conflict could return to their homes and villages. EUMM has initiated confidence building measures which aim at undercutting the link between incidents and conflict, in particular the conclusion of Memoranda of Understanding with the Georgian Ministries of Defence and Interior and in the establishment of an Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM). Nevertheless, under present circumstances, further progress towards the fulfilment of the mission's mandate will remain important for the normalisation of the situation and for the stability of the region.

Border Support Team

3. The Border Support Team in Georgia has continued its activities within the office of the EUSR for the South Caucasus. The team has carried on assisting the implementation of the border management strategy focusing on the inter-agency cooperation within Georgia.

EUBAM Moldova-Ukraine

4. The EU Border Assistance Mission to the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM Moldova-Ukraine, which is a European Commission activity staffed to a large extent by seconded experts from EU Member States, has continued its activities. EUBAM Moldova-Ukraine assists the governments of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in areas involving border, customs and fiscal matters, including through monitoring activities.

Western Balkans

Operation ALTHEA

5. Following the successful reconfiguration of Operation ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in 2007 the European Union force (EUFOR) numbers some 2 200 troops on the ground, backed up by over-the-horizon reserves. Within its overall mandate, its operational priorities remain the maintenance of the secure and safe environment, the transfer of

the remaining Joint Military Affairs task to the relevant national authorities, supporting and monitoring implementation by the BiH authorities of those Joint Military Affairs tasks already transferred, and support for the armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina as regards training.

6. On 18 May 2009 the Council assessed operation ALTHEA and approved the recommendations made in the Secretary-General/High Representative's six-monthly report on the operation. The Council noted that, despite the challenging political environment, the security situation in Bosnia-and-Herzegovina (BiH) remained stable. The Council welcomed the positive contribution of the force to the safe and secure environment in BiH, and added that the EU-led force (EUFOR) continued to provide reassurance and remained ready to respond to possible security challenges throughout the country.

7. The Council approved, for planning purposes, the Concept, and the Provisional Statement of Requirements, for a possible evolution of Operation ALTHEA towards a non-executive capacity-building and training operation, in the light of advice and conclusions of relevant Council bodies. The Council reconfirmed that it would keep this planning work under regular review so that a decision on the future of the operation could be taken once the necessary conditions had been met. The Council reiterated that approval of the Concept does not prejudice a political decision on the possible evolution of Operation ALTHEA which would need to take political developments, including the future role of the EUSR, into account.

EUPM BiH

8. The EU Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUPM) has continued to promote and support the reform of the BiH police services. The Mission has continued to monitor the implementation of the two police reform laws adopted in 2008. It has continued its action on concrete capacity building at State level and country-wide harmonization of all laws pertaining to law enforcement agencies and police officials.

9. With the assistance of EUPM, the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA) has made progress in implementing sustainable policing arrangements for the targeting of organised crime networks and bringing to justice key figures allegedly involved in serious criminal offence. EUPM has also supported the emergence of a track-record of achievements in the fight against organised crime, in particular by assisting with the in-depth analysis of crimes, using advanced investigative techniques and intelligence.

10. EUPM has further developed effective mechanisms for coordination between the law-enforcement agencies and the judiciary, particularly as regards relations between police and prosecutors.

EULEX Kosovo

11. The EULEX KOSOVO Mission as set out in the Joint Action adopted by the Council of the European Union of 4 February 2008, has reached full operational capability on 6 April 2009. With approximately 1700 international personnel deployed across Kosovo, the mission has been able to take forward its activities to a larger extent.

12. In accordance with its programmatic approach, EULEX KOSOVO has conducted monitoring, mentoring and advising activities aimed at improving the performance of the compe-

tent Kosovo institutions, judicial authorities and law-enforcement agencies.

13. The Mission has, in parallel, retained certain executive responsibilities as per its mandate. The Mission has in particular reviewed the backlog of sensitive investigations pertaining to war crimes, terrorism, organised crime, corruption, inter-ethnic crimes, financial/economic crimes and other serious crimes. Prosecution and adjudication over these cases have also ensued allowing EULEX Judges and Prosecutors to conduct their first trials and issue their first rulings, including in the Mitrovica Court. Adjudication of civilian/property cases have also started to take place. EULEX KOSOVO has also provided an effective security response as second security responder in support of Kosovo police services in case of challenges to law and order. EULEX Kosovo has ensured a 24/7 presence at the Gates in Northern Kosovo leading to a significant decrease in smuggling of goods. The purpose of the presence is to register trade in order to increase the collection of revenues.

Asia

EUPOL Afghanistan

14. The EU Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL Afghanistan) has made substantial progress in the implementation of its mandate, at tactical, operational and strategic levels over the last six months.

15. The Mission is deployed in Kabul and in 16 provinces of Afghanistan, accommodated in Provincial Reconstruction Teams and Regional Commands. Preparations for deployment to two Eastern provinces are ongoing.

16. The Mission has been in the lead in some of the key aspects of police reform, like the anti-corruption strategy for the Ministry of Interior, in intelligence-led policing and criminal investigations. The Mission has also increased its work on the linkages with the broader Rule of Law sector, in particular in the areas of cooperation between police and the prosecutor's office, in assisting in drafting key legislation and mentoring of key interlocutors in both the Attorney General's Office and Supreme Court. EUPOL has also taken a very active part in the international efforts to strengthen Kabul City Police and Kabul City security. The Mission has also continued to work on the general aspects of police reform, on border police (in particular at the international airports), as well as on gender and human rights.

17. A large Train the Trainers programme has been launched, which includes training of the Afghan police on its role and performance during the upcoming elections. The purpose, through a multiplier effect, is to train 35 000 police officers by the 2010 parliamentary elections. Additional training activities have also been conducted throughout Afghanistan, in the Mission's main areas of focus. In carrying out these activities, specific attention has been given to reinforcing the coherence of actions between Kabul and the PRTs.

18. The Mission has continued to strengthen effective coordination with other EU actors, European Commission, EUSR, as well as with international partners, in particular UNAMA and the US, within the framework of a restructured International Police Coordination Board.

19. The decision to progressively double the number of Mission personnel is being implemented.

Middle East

EUJUST LEX

20. The EU is confirming and enhancing its engagement to reinforce the rule of law in Iraq and to promote human rights. In this line, the EU has decided to extend the Integrated Rule of Law Mission for Iraq (EUJUST LEX) from July 2009 to June 2010, including a pilot phase with in-country activities from July 2009 onwards.

21. The Mission has facilitated training interventions provided by the Member States for senior police officers, prosecutors, judges and prison governors. So far, more than 2100 Iraqis have participated in EUJUST LEX courses. Also during the extension period, these courses will continue.

22. In addition, the Mission began to conduct preliminary activities in the area of the rule of law on Iraqi territory in May 2009, progressively and on an experimental basis, where security conditions permit.

23. In-country activities will include training, strategic advice and mentoring. The areas have been identified also on the basis of an evaluation of the needs of the justice and the rule of law sector in Iraq.

EUPOL COPPS

24. The EU Police Mission in the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL COPPS) has continued its action to assist the Palestinian Civilian Police in establishing lasting and effective policing arrangements.

25. The Mission has, since July 2008, set up its Rule of Law section to assist the Palestinian criminal justice system. A total of 17 judicial experts have been deployed to the Mission in September 2008. Following the renewal of the Mission's mandate for two additional years in December 2008, and the arrival of a new Head of Mission in January 2009, the Mission has produced a comprehensive Assessment of the PA criminal justice system.

26. Based on these findings, the Mission has, together with local and international counterparts, developed an Action Plan for the criminal justice that will include proposed actions in support of the penitentiary, courts, General Prosecutor's Office, the High Judicial Council and the Ministry of Justice. The Action Plan will enter implementation during the summer 2009.

27. The Council agreed to take work forward on addressing further action in the broader rule of law in the Palestinian Territories. EUPOL COPPS activities in this area will enhance synergies with Community action in this field.

EUBAM Rafah

28. The EU Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing Point (EUBAM Rafah) suspended its operations after the closure of the Rafah Crossing Point at the time of the takeover of Gaza by Hamas in June 2007 while maintaining its operational capability to redeploy at short notice.

29. The Council confirmed the EU's readiness to redeploy at the Rafah Crossing Point, as soon as political conditions allow. The Council underlined that since the closure of the Rafah Crossing Point the mission has maintained its operational capability. The Council reiterated its commitment to EUBAM Rafah, to the Agreements concluded and to the region, in particular the population of Gaza. It underlined the importance of the implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access by all parties.

Africa

Operation ATALANTA-EU NAVFOR

30. During the last six months, Operation ATALANTA has demonstrated its ability to act effectively against piracy. All World Food Programme and African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) shipments protected by EUNAVFOR warships have arrived safely. Operation ATALANTA has also contributed to the protection of other vulnerable vessels sailing in the Gulf of Aden and off the Somali coast.

31. Coordination with the maritime community has been instrumental in promoting widely self-protection measures and best management practice to deter piracy. The development of the ATALANTA's Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa inside the EU OHQ has provided an innovative and powerful interface to liaise and communicate with the international merchant community. Besides, the EU has established 10 cooperative frameworks and arrangements which enable Operation ATALANTA to cooperate effectively with other naval forces and assets deployed in the region. This comprehensive approach has contributed to a significant disruption of attacks in the Gulf of Aden. An increasing number of suspected pirates have been captured by ATALANTA. Operation ATALANTA has also enjoyed broad media coverage.

32. However, in spring 2009, piracy acts have occurred further south in the Somali Basin. In May the Council expressed its concern at the surge of piracy acts occurring at distances increasingly remote from the coastlines of East Africa, requiring an expansion of the initial area of operation; which makes it necessary to meet the growing need for maritime surveillance. It demonstrated the need to keep adjusting the EU response to piracy activity and the importance of maintaining a high degree of cooperation with other actors.

33. In this regard, the EU has participated actively in the work of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia and in its working groups. The main efforts have related to the improvement of military and operational exchange of information and to the legal aspects of counter-piracy operations.

34. As concerns the judicial treatment of suspected pirates captured by EUNAVFOR warships, the Transfer Agreement concluded in the form of the exchange of letters between the EU and Kenya on 6 March 2009 represents a breakthrough as it ensures the necessary continuum between military action and subsequent prosecution. Efforts are being pursued also to conclude arrangements with Tanzania and Seychelles. The European Commission adopted a decision on a 1.75 million EUR assistance programme, under the Instrument for Stability, with the aim to provide targeted support to the trial and related treatment of piracy suspects in Kenya. Following contract signature on 15th May between EC and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the latter started immediately implementing the jointly developed programme, which will last over a period of up to 18 months.

35. Atalanta's contribution to countering piracy has been evidenced by its achievements over the last 6 months. However, piracy is likely to remain a serious threat beyond ATALANTA's current end date. As commonly acknowledged, it is only ashore that root causes of piracy can be addressed. The pledges made at the Brussels Conference on Somali Security on 23 April 2009 constitute a promising step towards the establishment of the efficient Somali National Security Force and the civilian Somali Police Force. Measures and options are being studied and developed on further possible contributions to the security sector in Somalia by relevant EU actors.

Operation EUFOR Tchad/RCA

36. Following the successful transfer of authority between EUFOR Tchad/RCA and MINURCAT on 15 March 2009, the Council welcomed the fulfilment of EUFOR's mandate and underlined the exemplary cooperation between the European Union and the United Nations during the conduct phase of operation. It stressed that this cooperation could serve as a basis for future collaboration.

37. Throughout its mandate, EUFOR made a tangible contribution towards facilitating the activities of humanitarian workers, protecting civilians in danger, in particular refugees and displaced persons affected by the neighbouring crisis in Darfur, and protecting the staff of the United Nations.

38. The operation was underpinned by an active, coordinated and coherent military information campaign, targeted at all stakeholders. It aimed in particular to reassuring the actors in theatre that there would be a smooth transition to a UN follow-on operation with no security vacuum.

39. EUFOR's redeployment did not mark the end of the European Union's involvement in Chad, the Central African Republic or the region as a whole. Around 2 000 troops from European countries who served under EUFOR are currently under the MINURCAT banner, which further underlines European support to UN peacekeeping operations. Moreover, the European Union has remained active at a political and diplomatic level in Chad, the Central African Republic and especially Sudan. The European Union also continues to be active in the region in the field of humanitarian and development activities as a strategic donor.

EUSEC RD Congo

40. Restoration of governance in general and defence reform in particular have remained central factors in creating conditions for lasting stability in DRC. EUSEC RD Congo has continued its work in providing advice and assistance for security sector reform, in close coordination with other relevant actors, with the aim of contributing to the Congolese efforts to restructure and reform the Congolese army, including via a number of practical activities. EUSEC RD Congo has also continued to provide support to the EUSR for the African Great Lakes Region.

41. As regards the modernisation of the military administration, on 29 December 2008 EUSEC RDC completed the Census of the FARDC. By this date, approximately 130 000 military personnel had been indentified. The results of the census were presented to the Congolese authorities in January 2009. The chain of payments project has now been extended to all army personnel at the request of the Congolese authorities.

42. To complement in a coherent manner its primary advisory role in the reform of the army, EUSEC implemented or supervised projects in areas such as gender, human rights, health and infrastructure, financed or initiated by Member States and/or the EC. On 18 May the Council underlined that these projects currently play a determining role in increasing the visibility and the credibility of actions undertaken at the strategic level.

43. EUSEC will continue to assist in the organisation of the FARDC administration. Supporting with specific EUSEC expertise the accelerated integration of the CNDP and other armed groups into the FARDC remains a short-term priority.

44. The EUSEC mandate expires on 30 June 2009. A no-additional-cost extension of the mission's mandate for 3 months, until 30 September 2009, has been agreed in principle, and work on a revised general concept for the mission has started.

EUPOL RD Congo

45. EUPOL RD Congo continues to support the efforts to reform the Congolese National Police (CNP), in particular through the Police Reform Monitoring Committee (Comité de suivi pour la réforme de la police, CSRP). The Mission also continues to facilitate links between the police and the various stages of the judicial system with the help of its justice interface. EUPOL RD Congo is also involved in more operational activities such as supporting the creation and development of the Police de Recherche et d'Intervention (PRI), the development of a Command and Control Centre for the PNC or supporting the Inspection Générale d'Audit (IGA). Moreover, EUPOL and EUSEC work in close cooperation to assist the overall Security Sector Reform efforts in the DR Congo.

46. The Mission has established a presence in the east of the country (Goma and Bukavu) and is closely following the way in which the security situation in the region is developing. In order to fulfil its objectives, the mission's mandate is to be extended for an additional 12-month period until 30 June 2010, and will be equipped with a Project Cell to deliver small actions in support of its mandate.

EUSSR Guinea Bissau

47. The EU SSR Guinea-Bissau Mission provides local authorities with advice and assistance on SSR with respect to military, police and justice in order to contribute to creating the conditions for implementation of the National SSR Strategy. The mission cooperates closely with other EU, international and bilateral actors with a view to facilitating subsequent donor engagement.

48. The EU SSR GUINEA-BISSAU Mission was launched on 16 June 2008 for an initial period of twelve months and subsequently extended for six months, i.e. until November 2009. The rationale of the extension is to fully accomplish the mission's mandate, to further explore the capacity and the commitment of the new government to carry forward the reform process and to assess the willingness of the International Community to support it.

II. LESSONS LEARNED

49. The Council looked forward to full implementation of the guidelines on identifying and implementing lessons and best practices in civilian ESDP missions, adopted in November 2008. In particular, it underscored the need to take forward the work on implementing lessons agreed to date and to produce new thematic reports on lessons.

50. In the first semester of 2009, lessons were identified on the planning phase for EUMM Georgia, focusing on rapid deployment, and EU SSR Guinea-Bissau and recommendations for future planning were noted.

III. CAPABILITIES

(a) Civilian Capabilities

Civilian Headline Goal 2010

51. In January 2009, the PSC approved a Civilian Capability Improvement Plan, in accordance with the Civilian Headline Goal (CHG) 2010 and in line with the Declaration on

strengthening capabilities adopted by the Council and endorsed by the European Council in December 2008.

52. In accordance with this Improvement Plan, implementation of the CHG 2010 in the first semester of 2009 focused on the following main issues:

- a) Development of the Goalkeeper software environment (Civilian Capability Management Tool);
- b) Reflection on national strategies facilitating the deployment of civilian personnel for ESDP.

- a) Development of the Goalkeeper software environment

The Secretariat continued the development and implementation of a software environment called Goalkeeper. A road map for the Goalkeeper development was established by the Secretariat. Two Goalkeeper applications were released on-line, dealing with training and conceptual development. Goalkeeper will ultimately be a user friendly tool, consisting of the following applications: generation of job descriptions for mission personnel, the keeping of national rosters of potentially available personnel, training and conceptual development and possibly the generic forward planning of equipment and services for civilian ESDP missions. Goalkeeper should improve and streamline the work in the above areas and also help to foster the establishment and implementation of national strategies to facilitate the deployment of mission personnel, and encourage the exchange of best practices.

- b) Reflection on national strategies

In light of the increasing numbers of ESDP missions, Member States face the need to establish structures in order to identify and deliver the necessary resources effectively and efficiently. The challenge therefore is to ensure that Member States have policies and structures in place that allow them to generate the necessary capabilities across the different Ministries and Services involved, and to sustain such efforts over time. Some Member States have already begun to proceed in this direction by establishing national strategies or action plans or by taking other measures. A seminar on national strategies facilitating the deployment of civilian personnel for ESDP took place in June 2009. This seminar convened high-level representatives of Member States from key Ministries involved in Civilian Crisis Management to study facilitating measures in different areas, and proposed a roadmap aimed at the implementation of such measures.

53. A joint Presidency/Secretariat document 'Operational aspects of Civilian ESDP capabilities – follow up to Gymnich in Hluboka' was discussed by PSC on 13 May 2009. The document presented an inventory of some key operational aspects of civilian ESDP apart of issues tackled at technical level in the traffic lights document and suggested ways to better match political ambition with ESDP action and civilian crisis management resources. A tight time-schedule was set up to come up with practical solutions.

54. Substantial progress has been recently made in the field of force generation, notably in human and financial resources and provision of equipment. Improved procedures have been put in place as far as selection of staff, calls for contribution and standardized job descriptions are concerned.

55. Two calls for deployment were made for a total of 12 Civilian Response Teams (CRTs) experts as temporary reinforcements to EUBAM Rafah. An availability inventory for the CRT pool of experts is underway. A secure website was presented in early 2009. This website will be

made available to ongoing ESDP missions, members of ESDP fact-finding and planning teams, as well as Member States' experts responsible for civilian ESDP and includes a CRT Handbook which draws on EU crisis management procedures and other documents that provide the basis for planning and conducting ESDP missions in general.

(b) Military Capabilities (including capability projects developed in the European Defence Agency)

56. Progress was made by Member States in the development of military capabilities following the decision of EU Member States Defence Ministers in November 2008 to launch, in varying configurations, a number of specific operational initiatives, and the Declaration on Strengthening Capabilities adopted by the European Council in December 2008. A Presidency Report on Progress in Military Capabilities reviewing the progress on capabilities development since Defence Ministers' Military Capabilities Commitments of November 2008 was noted by the GAERC in May.

57. In May, the Council noted the Force Catalogue 2009, which reflected revised contributions from nine Member States. The EUMS is conducting an analysis of these contributions in accordance with the Capability Development Mechanism in order to identify whether the changes in the MS contributions to the EU Force Catalogue have significantly impacted on the identified military shortfalls in the HLG 2010 process. This analysis is to be finalised by summer 2009.

58. As a follow-on of the initial Capability Development Plan (CDP), agreed in July 2008, work on the first group of twelve selected CDP actions has started. The European Defence Agency (EDA) and the EU Military Committee (EUMC) agreed to divide the lead for these twelve actions between them. These actions were addressed by them either through EDA's Integrated Development Teams and Project Teams or through dedicated workshops with Member States. These workshops aimed at reaching a common understanding of the scope of these actions and identifying the relevant military requirements. This contributes to the implementation of the Methodology for Measuring Progress and Reviewing Priorities.

59. Following the Report on Lessons Identified from Headline Goal 2010, work to improve the EU military capability development process has been conducted. In this regard, the First Lessons Learned Report on the HG 2010 Process has been discussed with a view to being finalised in June 2009.

60. As foreseen in the Framework for EU military conceptual documents, the EUMC has conducted a review of a number of military concepts such as the Special Operations and the Military Rapid Response concepts.

61. An EUMC's Interoperability Study is being conducted, with its final report planned for November 2009. Workshops were held in early 2009 with subject matter experts from Member States and relevant organisations and bodies such as NATO, the Multinational Interoperability Council and FINABEL. This work is being conducted in connection with the Lessons Identified from the Headline Goal 2010.

62. The implementation of the EU Operations Wide Area Network (EU OPSWAN) has been progressing satisfactorily. Initial accreditation and operational services for SECRET EU were provided to the EUMS and the OHQs in France, Italy, Germany, United Kingdom and Greece. The FHQs in Sweden and Germany are being accredited to OPSWAN. The FHQ in Italy is to be connected next year. Work also proceeded on other improvements to the secure exchange of information.

Rapid Response

63. The revised Military Rapid Response Concept was agreed by the EUMC in January 2009 and noted by the PSC in April. It newly defined the military rapid response time as a period from 5 to 30 days from the approval of the Crisis Management Concept to the moment when operations commence in the Joint Operations Area. With a view to ensuring the overall coherence with all concepts related to rapid response, the EUMC has launched work to update the Air and Maritime Rapid Response concepts and to examine the possible need for a Land Rapid Response concept. Maritime and Air Rapid Response workshops and Information Conferences were held in March and April.

64. A Battle-group Coordination Conference was held in April, at which Member States' offers were able to fill the stand-by periods up to 2011. Member States were encouraged to fill the vacant slots from 2012 onwards.

Organisation Development

65. The final report on post-Wiesbaden measures was agreed by the EUMC in April. This report underlines that these measures have generated significant improvements in particular in the EU's ability to undertake early military planning in support of informed decision-making.

(c) European Defence Agency (EDA)

66. EDA has intensified work on the practical implementation of its strategic framework completed at the end of last year:

- **Capability Development Plan (CDP):** Nine out of the first tranche of twelve CDP priority actions have been taken forward by the Agency. For most of the nine actions, related Strategic Context Cases for collaborative projects within the EU have been developed.
- **European Defence Research and Technology (R&T) Strategy:** Work has continued on identifying cross-links between common R&T priorities and CDP priorities, with a view to defining key technologies directly linked with CDP needs. Integrated roadmaps for transversal collaborative projects have been developed for four areas (with Maritime Mine Counter Measures, CBRN, Counter Man-portable Air-defence Systems (MANPADS) and Counter Improvised Explosive Devices). The implementation of the two Defence R&T Joint Investment Programmes on Force Protection and on ICET (Innovative Concept and Emerging Technologies) has been providing useful experience.
- **European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB):** (i) work on identifying key industrial capabilities to be preserved or developed in Europe has been launched in the area of Future Air Systems, considering the European supply chain as a whole and not just focusing on Europe's major aerospace companies; (ii) the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Defence Procurement through the Electronic Bulletin Board on "Government Contracts" was considered on the whole positive, with an increase in cross-border awarded contracts; (iii) all subscribers to the Defence Procurement Regime will apply the Code of Conduct on Offsets adopted last October (25 participating Member States plus Norway) from 1 July this year – and the Reporting and Monitoring System for the Code was approved.

• European Armaments Cooperation Strategy: A roadmap describing the application of the Guide to conduct programme preparation, education, best practice and standardisation was approved.

67. The Agency continued to generate collaborative initiatives aimed at addressing the key EU shortfalls – including in the CDP priority areas:

• Momentum has been maintained on improving helicopters' availability. Concerning the short-term activity (training), EDA has been preparing for the launch – in 2010 – of the European Programme for Helicopter Tactics Training. Its content will be shaped by the outcome of the two EDA studies (addressing urgent operational training for crews in pre-deployment, and landscaping the needs and capabilities available in Europe) and the EDA-supported multinational exercise. As for the medium term, a menu for upgrading existing helicopters has been developed, with initial focus on Mi-Helicopters. For the longer term – beyond 2020 – the ad hoc project on the 'Future Transport Helicopter', based on a Franco-German initiative, has been established within the Agency's remit.

• Work on developing a European Air Transport Fleet (EATF) has progressed. The initiative was widened from an initially envisaged fleet into a framework for military air transport-related aspects with modular participation. The skeleton of the Letter of Intent was developed with a view to the signature of the latter next November.

• The European Third Party Logistics Support (TPLS) Platform was established, for a nine-month trial phase, with the aim of providing a solution for improving awareness on existing options for contracting services in support of Crisis Management Operations.

• The MUSIS (Multinational Space-based Imaging System) ad hoc project related to the second generation of military earth observation satellites was established under the Agency's remit.

• A new EDA Project Team was established to address military requirements for Space Situational Awareness (SSA) in order to deliver a Common Staff Target (CST) no later than mid-2010.

• Work has developed towards the establishment of a European Satellite Communication Procurement Cell, in the dedicated Ad-Hoc Project Group.

• Work has continued on the definition of military Maritime Surveillance requirements, with focus on Networking. Furthermore, the Agency has started to prepare, in close consultation with, notably, the European Commission, the nomination of a 'Wise Pen' for producing a "Maritime Surveillance ESDP think piece" in order to contribute to an EU integrated approach.

• In order to address the European shortfall in biological detection, identification and monitoring, a new project (Biological Equipment Development and Enhancement Programme – Bio EDEP) was established in EDA, with the aim of providing the forces of those Member States participating in this project with robust and reliable integrated biological detection, identification and monitoring capabilities by 2015.

68. The Agency was tasked to prepare, working together with the European Commission, a framework for maximising complementarity and synergy between defence and civilian security-related research activities, and the content of a coordinated programme (e.g. in the situational awareness domain).

69. EDA has intensified its working relationships with the Commission and other relevant bodies, including OCCAR (Organisation conjointe de coopération en matière d'armement),

the European Space Agency and NATO, in accordance with the Joint Action establishing EDA and in consultation with the participating Member States.

70. In particular, on the basis of a Steering Board Directive to the Head of the Agency (with agreed principles), EDA initiated the negotiations of an Administrative Arrangement (AA) with OCCAR, with a view to submitting the draft for the Council's approval next November. The Council endorsed the Steering Board recommendation to take forward work on the establishment of a Security Agreement between the EU and OCCAR, with the objective of it being available in time for the approval of the draft AA between the Agency and OCCAR.

71. EDA was collaborating with the Council General Secretariat on the identification of Information Exchange Requirements (IERs).

72. The Presidency organised two conferences on topics related to the EDA: first of them entitled 'Increased Role of SMEs in the European Defence and Security Supply Chains' was held in Olomouc on 27 – 28 May 2009, the second one on 'European Education and Training in Armaments Cooperation – The Way Ahead' was conducted on 15 – 16 June in Prague. A Czech Presidency seminar organised in cooperation with EDA took place in Olomouc on 4-5 June 2009 and its topic was 'Harmonisation of Military Airworthiness'.

IV. EU SATELLITE CENTRE

73. The EU Satellite Centre has continued to provide analytical products based on satellite imagery and related services in support of the ESDP and European Union operations and missions.

74. In particular, in support of EUFOR Tchad/RCA, successful cooperation has continued between the EU Operational Headquarters in Mont Valérien and the EUSC. This cooperation has been facilitated by an ad hoc arrangement on access to Helios satellites images, with the aim of providing geospatial analytical products based on Helios satellite images to the OHQ and EU Force Commander.

75. The Satellite Centre has also prepared products and analyses to the EU Operational Headquarters in Northwood for the EU NAVFOR ATALANTA operation and for several other ESDP-related tasks and missions, notably the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia.

76. Close cooperation with the UN has continued, particularly in connection with the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC).

77. The EUSC has continued to take an active role in the framework of the European initiative of Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES), including through participation in security-related projects within GMES.

78. A joint pilot cooperation project regarding the 2010 South Africa World Cup is being scoped for implementation between the EUSC and the US National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA).

79. After the visit to the Esrange Swedish Space Corporation Research Centre in Kiruna, the EUSC board envisaged that a subsequent further cooperation could be explored.

V. EU INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES

80. The EU ISS continued its work with regard to research, debate and analysis on security issues. The following parts of its work were related to the ESDP:

a seminar on 4 February in Brussels on the role of CFSP in relation to cyber security;
on 27 and 28 April a conference was held in Bucharest on current developments in post-conflict stabilisation and reconstruction, a policy planners seminar on CFSP/ESDP in the Eastern neighbourhood and the Balkans was subsequently held on 27 and 28 May in Brussels;
in addition, two Working Groups on the Future of Disarmament were convened in Paris on 23-24 March and on 3-4 June.

81. The EUISS also produced a series of publications: the Chaillot Papers dealing with subjects of relevance to the security of the EU, such as 'EU support to African security architecture: funding and training components', 'From Suez to Shanghai: The European Union and Eurasian maritime security', 'Security Sector Reform in Afghanistan: the EU's contribution', 'Transferring European technology to China' as well as a Report focussing on 'The European Security Strategy 2003-2008 – Building on common interests'.

VI. CIVIL-MILITARY COORDINATION

82. Work regarding the identification of information exchange requirements within the four-step methodology noted by the PSC is nearing finalisation.

83. Work has progressed with regard to developing Network Enabled Capabilities (NEC) in support of ESDP. In this context, the importance was emphasized, with a view to implementing the NEC concept, in support of CMCO, that work be taken forward in a gradual and incremental manner with adequate commitment at senior level in the EU institutions and Member States.

84. As part of preliminary work on a study for implementation of NEC in support of ESDP, a supporting workshop 'NEC from a civilian perspective' was held in Council premises on 26 May 2009.

VII. SECURITY SECTOR REFORM

85. The Council in May stressed the importance of Security Sector Reform in which the EU is increasingly active. It recalled its agreement in November 2008 to reinforce EU SSR expertise with the creation of a pool of European SSR experts which would enable deployable teams of EU experts to be set up to take part in SSR activities in partner countries. The first stage of the implementation of the concept, defining the SSR expert profiles was finalised, and work on subsequent steps is ongoing.

86. The Presidency presented in March a non-paper entitled 'Security Sector Reform in the Framework of EU-UN Relations on Crisis Management', in which it suggested several ideas for further improvement of cooperation and coordination within the EU as well as some concrete areas that could be further examined in the EU-UN co-operation related to SSR issues.

87. The Presidency also organized a seminar in May in New York (under the title 'Enhancing EU-UN co-operation in Crises Management: Focus on Security Sector Reform') with the main aim of promoting a better understanding of opportunities for EU-UN strategic cooperation on SSR. The seminar was held within the context of broader developments in EUUN co-operation in crisis management, as well as recent EU and UN developments on SSR in both policy and practice (with a particular focus on the cases of the DRC and Guinea-Bissau).

VIII. HUMAN RIGHTS, GENDER AND CHILDREN AFFECTED BY ARMED CONFLICT

88. The importance of the systematic inclusion of Human Rights, Gender and Children Affected by Armed Conflict perspectives in the planning and conduct of ESDP missions and operations, and in the subsequent lessons learned process, was reiterated by the Council on 18 May. In particular, the close cooperation on these issues with the Special Representatives of the European Union (EUSRs), and with the European Commission, has continued to be emphasised. Furthermore, cooperation with local actors, such as NGOs and civil society, for increased impact on the ground, has been advocated. The gender experts in the ESDP missions and operations have also been further consulted in relevant processes.

89. In this connection, active efforts have been made to implement the substance of the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 in ESDP missions and operations. The integration of human rights, gender and the protection of children in armed conflicts into the conduct of the operation EUFOR Tchad/RCA has been an important aspect of its work. The PSC was informed by the Personal Representative of SG/HR for human rights in the area of CFSP on gender violence issues in DRC and the Option Paper concerning possible EU actions in this field was presented.

IX. CONFLICT PREVENTION

90. Following up the EU Programme on the Prevention of Violent Conflict (Gothenburg Programme) the EU presented its Annual Report on activities in the field of conflict prevention. This Annual Report sets out the conflict prevention activities of the European Union since July 2008. It also takes account of the European Security Strategy (ESS), the recommendations made in the Annual Report in 2008 as well as the Report on the Implementation of the European Security Strategy adopted by the European Council in December 2008. It also reflects the spirit of the Progress Report of the UN Secretary General on Prevention of Armed Conflicts published in August 2006.

91. Throughout the reporting period, conflict prevention continued to be a key EU objective. Efforts were pursued to improve culture of conflict prevention, further strengthen conflict sensitivity and conflict prevention approach, develop the necessary capabilities and capacities and enhance coherence between the EU's various external policy instruments as well as cooperation between the EU institutions and the Member States. Efforts were pursued to improve the culture and strategy of conflict prevention.

92. An action plan for pooling Member States' best practices in the field of conflict prevention has been approved for 2009-2010.

X. COOPERATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

93. Exchanges of views continued between the Council Secretariat and NGOs in the domain of concept development (SSR, gender, sexual violence) as well as on co-operation in the field.

XI. ESDC AND TRAINING

94. The annual EU Training Programme has been developed and made available via an internet application (Schoolmaster). Training activities in the field of ESDP of the various EU training actors have been evaluated through the regular Comprehensive Annual Report on Training relevant to ESDP (CART 2009).

95. The European Security and Defence College (ESDC) continued to conduct its standard training activities supported progressively by its Internet-based Distance Learning (IDL) System. In June, the ESDC concluded its fourth ESDP High Level Course. Furthermore, two ESDP Orientation Courses took place in Brussels, one in February 2009 and the second one in March 2009. In March 2009, a first joint ESDC/CEPOL seminar took place on EU decision making and mission planning.

96. Following the conduct of pilot activities in autumn last year, the ESDC Steering Committee decided in March 2009 to organise regular courses on Security Sector Reform (SSR) and on mission planning at strategic level in the future. It was also decided that the college will address high-ranking staff and decision-makers with a second pilot ESDP Leadership and Decision-Making Seminar organised in Brussels.

97. The ESDC continued its fruitful cooperation with other training actors. Initial ideas have been presented to further increase this cooperation in line with the ESDC Steering Committee recommendations approved by the Council in December 2008.

98. As regards the 'European initiative on the exchange of young officers inspired by Erasmus' of November 2008, significant progress has been presented by the SG/HR in May in his report to Defence Ministers. An Implementation Group was established in the framework of the ESDC Executive Academic Board and had its first two meetings in Brussels on 19 February 2009 and in Brno on 21 and 22 April 2009. The latter was conducted in the form of a working seminar organised by the Czech Presidency. The Implementation Group focused first on a set of 'Quick Wins' and the timelines for the development of the initiative. In parallel, and with the support of the University of Liège, work started on a detailed stocktaking aiming at creating an analysis of the different national military educational systems, including the situation on existing exchanges between military academies of Member States. Finally, other actions have been identified including the Presidency's proposal to look into the EU Lifelong Learning Programme for 2007-2014 with the aim of exploring the potential offered by existing EU programmes, including their financial resources.

99. As regards the future format of the ESDC, work is ongoing on the elaboration of a new Council Decision evolving the European Security and Defence College in line with the ESDC Steering Committee recommendations approved by Council in December 2008.

100. All on-going ESDP Missions have continued with their regular training activities in the area of civilian crisis management. Particular attention has been paid to the training for EULEX Kosovo personnel in connection with its gradual deployment to Kosovo. While Member States are responsible for pre-mission mission specific training, the EULEX Training Team has been organising a short in-mission induction training as well as follow-on in-service training. The induction training plays a crucial role in addressing the possible gaps of training provided to different groups of civilian personnel prior to their deployment to Kosovo. For this reason a significant effort was made by EULEX Training Team in this area.

XII. EXERCISES

101. The European Union Exercise Programme 2010 to 2014 was approved by the Council on 9 June 2009. This five-year programme aims to provide a significant basis for the training and reinforcement of the EU's capabilities to manage crises, aiming to reflect the different training needs of the various ESDP instruments involved.

102. The Council welcomed the successful conduct of the exercise CME 08 and the fact that the majority of its objectives were achieved. The comprehensive evaluation process for the EU Crisis Management Exercise CME 08 was successfully concluded. The exercise was a complex undertaking, with the key focus of exercising the EU's comprehensive approach to crisis management, involving a wide array of instruments, civilian and military.

103. Final preparations are under way for the conduct of the fourth EU Military Exercise MILEX 09, scheduled to take place from 17 to 26 June 2009. The OHQ at Larissa will be activated during the exercise for the first time which will enable it to reach its full operational capability as one of the five national OHQ's contributed to the Force Catalogue.

104. The preparatory work for the EU crisis management exercise CME 09, which will involve the EU Operations Centre and the CPCC in the context of an appropriate scenario requiring EU rapid response to the crisis, has continued. The main planning meeting is planned to take place from 29 June to 1 July 2009.

XIII. INFORMATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ON ESDP

105. In line with the Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union, the European Parliament was regularly informed of CFSP/ESDP developments by the Presidency, SG/HR and the GSC. Various representatives of the Presidency informed the European Parliament on the Czech Presidency programme.

106. The European Parliament's Subcommittee on security and defence was also briefed by the Director of the Policy Unit on cyber-security, the counter-terrorism co-ordinator on the fight against terrorism, the Personal Representative for non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction on arms export controls and non proliferation and the Director of DGE 8 on EUFOR/Tchad/RCA and the Athena financing mechanism.

107. Official delegations of European Parliament visited ESDP operations and missions. In January, a delegation visited EUNAVFOR/ATALANTA OHQ Northwood to be briefed on the operation and in February a delegation visited EUMM Georgia. In addition in March, a delegation visited the European Defence Agency to be briefed by its Chief Executive on the activities and organisational structures of the agency.

XIV. COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS, MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS AND THIRD STATES

European Union-United Nations

108. EU-UN Cooperation in crisis management is an important component of ESDP.

109. On 18 May 2009 the Council welcomed the further progress in implementation of the 2007 Joint Statement on UN-EU Co-operation in Crisis Management through a series of con-

crete steps taken, inter alia, in the field of reinforced dialogue (including regular consultations between the PSC and senior UN officials), on SSR, African peacekeeping capabilities, and the multidimensional aspects of peacekeeping.

110. The Council also noted that consultations continued in other areas of cooperation between the two organisations, such as early warning, training and exercises, planning and arrangements between the EU and UN for transition between operations and encouraged these efforts to be developed further.

111. Following the successful transition from EUFOR Tchad/RCA to MINURCAT, close cooperation and coordination also continued between the two organisations in other theatres of operation in which they are both engaged, notably Kosovo, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Somalia and Georgia.

112. On 21 May 2009, the Presidency organised a seminar on 'Enhancing EU-UN cooperation in Crises Management: Focus on Security Sector Reform' in New York.

113. The agenda of EU-UN co-operation in crisis management was discussed by the relevant EU committees.

114. The regular meeting of the EU-UN Steering Committee will be held on 24 and 25 June.

European Union-NATO

115. The Council in May recalled the objective of strengthening the EU-NATO strategic partnership, in a spirit of mutual reinforcement and respect for their decision-making autonomy. It noted NATO's statement in the Strasbourg-Kehl Summit Declaration concerning the importance of a stronger and more capable European defence and welcoming the EU's efforts to strengthen its capabilities and its capacity to address common security challenges. The Council particularly stressed the importance of efficient operational cooperation between the EU and NATO, in particular concerning theatres in which the two organisations are both committed. In this context, the close dialogue between the SG/HR and NATO SG was welcomed. Berlin plus arrangements have proven to be effective and efficient, as demonstrated by Operation ALTHEA. The Council reiterated the necessity to continue to further exploit the approved framework for association of non-EU European Allies with the ESDP, in accordance with EU procedures.

116. The need for continued cooperation with NATO regarding the development of military capabilities was underlined by the Council. In this regard, it welcomed the efforts to make the best use of the EU-NATO Capability Group, within the agreed framework, where requirements overlapped. The EU-NATO Capability Group has contributed to transparency between the two organisations in accordance with the Capability Development Mechanism (CDM). With the participation of senior policy-makers from the capitals, as envisaged by the CDM, the Capability Group discussed issues regarding the coherence of capability planning processes and operational availability of helicopters, supported with a number of non-papers delivered in advance by several nations to all Member States. A single issue meeting with national experts was dedicated to unmanned aerial vehicles. Before the Capability Group meetings, all Member States discussed in detail the agenda items and were briefed accordingly after these meetings. As recognised by the Council, in order to continue improving coherence, mutually reinforcing development of military capabilities and transparency, further efforts are needed to ensure effective working methods of the Capability Group, while the participation of all the EU

Member States would further facilitate exchange of information in the field of military capabilities.

117. Cooperation between EU and NATO has continued to be fostered on coherent capabilities development where requirements overlap. The Council noted with satisfaction that staff-to-staff technical contacts between EU and NATO experts were established in order to advance the development of a common Information Gathering tool accessible to all Member States, based on the NATO Defence Planning Automated Software System under specific conditions relating to the decision-making autonomy of both organisations.

118. In May the Council welcomed continuing efforts to ensure transparency and coherence between the EU and NATO, including through PSC-NAC meetings, EU and NATO Military Committee meetings as well as meetings with non-EU European NATO members and other candidate countries to the EU. The Council also welcomed the regular staff to staff meetings on issues of common interest and underlined the importance for the PSC to continue being regularly informed.

EU-Africa – Partnership on Peace and Security

119. The political dialogue continued with regular meetings between the EU and Africa at various levels, including the intervention of the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security Lamamra to the EU PSC, on a number of issues, including inter alia on the new Somali Government and the Somali Security Sector. A joint EU/AU-ECCAS mission took place to monitor the security situation in the Central African Republic in close connection with the MICOPAX (Mission de consolidation de la paix en RCA). The initiating seminar on the support to AU mediation capacity was held in March in Addis Ababa. Consultations were held inter alia on EU-AU support to the new Somali Government and the Somali Security Sector. These actions were complemented by a joint EU-AU-UN roundtable, organised in New York pursuant to UNSCR 1325 and 1820, and the AU-EU Task Force meeting in Brussels.

120. Regarding the reinforcement of the APSA, the EuroRecamp-Amani Africa cycle continued with the Contributors Conference, the Initiating Planning Conference and the Senior Decision-Makers Seminar. Furthermore, a joint study to prepare for a European support programme for African Training capabilities, including through defining early deliverables in the field of civilian and police training, was launched in February. The EU has provided requested expertise to the Strategic Planning Management Unit.

121. With the recent agreement on the terms of reference between the AU and a donors' representative, a comprehensive mapping of the overall APSA capacity building needs and gaps will be conducted.

122. Finally, the Common Interactive Watch and Anticipation Mechanism endorsed by the EU-AU Ministerial Troika of 20 November 2008 has been taken forward: a meeting between the EU and the AU in Ispra (Joint Research Centre) has built upon ongoing technical cooperation and training activities.

123. Building on the report from AU/UN Panel chaired by Mr. Prodi, discussions on predictable, flexible and sustainable funding for African-led Peace Support Operations continued in the AU-EU Joint Expert Group.

Cooperation with EUROPOL

124. Work on mechanisms for cooperation between civilian ESDP missions and EUROPOL continued following the signing on 18 July 2008 of an arrangement between the Secretary-General/High Representative for the CFSP and the Director of EUROPOL on the exchange of strategic information, leading to the implementation of the exchange of strategic data between EUROPOL and ESDP Missions through GSC in March 2009. The Council subsequently invited Member States, in close cooperation with EUROPOL and the Council General Secretariat, to examine ways of exchanging personal data. This exchange process, between EULEX and EUROPOL through a number of supporting EUROPOL National Units, is nearing finalisation. The Council also invited the Council General Secretariat and EUROPOL to conduct a joint assessment of the implementation of the mechanisms which is to be conducted during June 2009.

Cooperation with Third States

125. The European Union continued the close cooperation in ESDP crisis management with the non-EU European NATO members and countries which are candidates for accession to the EU, and with Canada, the United States, Russia, Ukraine and other third states. Non-EU European NATO members and countries which are candidates for accession to the EU met regularly with the PSC and the EUMC regarding the development of European Union military operations.

126. Dialogue and cooperation with Mediterranean partners in the area of ESDP has continued. Several of them have participated in operations and training activities run by the European Union.

127. An informal meeting was held between members of the PSC and non-EU NATO members and countries which are candidates for accession (Canada, Croatia, FYROM, Iceland, Norway, Turkey and the United States) in Brussels on 17 March 2009. That meeting took place fully respecting the modalities agreed by the PSC on 3 October 2008.

128. Many third-country participants also took part in two ESDP Orientation Courses organised by the European Security and Defence College in Brussels from 2 to 6 February and from 2 to 5 March 2009.

129. Several third states continued to take part in the ALTHEA military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Albania, Chile, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Switzerland and Turkey). Albania, Croatia and Russia participated in the EUFOR Tchad/RCA operation.

130. In the context of ATALANTA several third states have announced their willingness to participate. Norway is already involved and will contribute to ATALANTA with naval assets.

XV. MANDATE FOR THE INCOMING PRESIDENCY

131. On the basis of this report and taking into account the European Security Strategy, the incoming Presidency, assisted by the Secretary-General/High Representative (SG/HR) and in association with the Commission, is asked to continue work on developing the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), and in particular:

To prepare decisions on current and future missions and operations, civilian as well as mil-

itary and to ensure their effective implementation and lessons learned processes;

To continue to develop civilian capabilities in the comprehensive framework of the Civilian Headline Goal 2010, notably to ensure follow-up to the initiatives on the enhanced effectiveness of civilian crisis management on the basis of key operational aspects outlined in the document 'Operational aspects of Civilian ESDP capabilities-follow up to Gymnich in Hluboka', and taking into account the priorities in the 'Traffic Lights' paper;

To continue work on contributing personnel in line with the commitments made at the European Council of December 2008 as well as building upon the findings of the seminar on national strategies on 11th of June 2009;

To explore synergies between ESDP and Justice and Home Affairs, including by highlighting the mutual operational benefit in the fight against organised crime, developing information sharing between ESDP missions and EUROPOL and by strengthening the involvement of JHA ministers and relevant national authorities;

To continue to enhance and strengthen mission support to enable the European Union to respond adequately to crises, including by using preparatory measures, improving the timely provision of equipment by developing work on framework contracts and work on a warehouse concept;

To make further progress on the arrangements for planning in order to ensure rapid deployment of personnel and equipment, including a review of the concept of CRT in order to make it more usable and comprehensive in terms of personnel categories;

To continue on-going work within the context of military Headline Goal 2010. Encourage the European Defence Agency (EDA), in close cooperation with the European Union Military Committee (EUMC), to take forward the work on the agreed actions from the Capability Development Plan;

To support EDA's efforts to generate and develop cooperative projects and programmes in the fields of capability, research and technology and armaments; and to encourage the agency, in close cooperation with the European Commission, to work towards increased synergies between defence and civilian security-related research activities;

To support the implementation of strategies adopted: the European Defence Research and Technology Strategy, the European Armaments Cooperation Strategy and the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base Strategy.

To follow up, on the basis of a proposal of the Head of the Agency, the establishment of a three-year financial framework and a budget for 2010 for EDA;

To prepare Council decisions for approving the draft EDA/OCCAR administrative arrangement, on the basis of a proposal by the Head of the Agency, as well as an EU/OCCAR security agreement;

To explore possible synergies and coherence between the EU civilian and military capability development processes;

To promote increased usability and flexibility of the EU Battle-groups as instruments for crisis management;

To support a close and transparent cooperation between civilian and military actors/systems in the field of maritime surveillance;

To strengthen training in the field of ESDP, encompassing both civilian and military dimensions, in particular through the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) and taking into account national activities as well as the Community instruments;

To continue to support the initiative of promoting the exchange of young officers inspired by Erasmus;

To continue to promote an EU comprehensive approach to conflict prevention and crisis management in ESDP, in line with ESDP agreed guidelines and commitments, and to ensure the effective implementation of human rights aspects;

To take forward work on the basis of the document 'Implementation of UNSCR 1325 as reinforced by UNSCR 1820 in the context of ESDP', especially in relation to training;

To take forward work to develop the EU capacity on mediation and dialogue, within the broader context of CFSP and as part of the implementation of the European Security Strategy and the EU Conflict Prevention programme;

To develop the work on the ESDP contribution to Security Sector Reform (SSR), in particular through the establishment of a pool of experts and by taking forward work on training initiatives and an EU assessment tool for SSR;

To take forward work on an Action Plan for security and development as a follow-up to the Council Decision of November 2007;

To take forward work on climate change and security as a follow-up to Council Decision of December 2008;

To continue to implement the European Union exercise programme, including post exercise reporting of MILEX 09, planning and conduct of CME09, and the start of planning for CME/CMX 10 and for MILEX 10 exercises;

On the basis of the 'Joint Statement on EU-UN Cooperation in crisis management', continue to promote consultations and cooperation with United Nations in the field of crisis management;

To enhance the EU-NATO strategic partnership in crisis management, to ensure effective and practical coordination where the two organisations are engaged in the same theatre; to ensure the mutually reinforcing development of capabilities where requirements overlap, including through exchange of information in the EU-NATO Capability Group; to continue the implementation of the existing framework of cooperation between the EU and NATO;

On the basis of the Africa-EU Joint Strategy and the Action Plan (2008-2010), continue to strengthening the strategic partnership between the EU and Africa, including the African Union (AU), in the area of African capabilities for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts;

To maintain close cooperation and dialogue on crisis management also with other key partners, in particular the OSCE, the States that are candidates for accession to the EU, the non-EU European NATO-members, Canada, Russia, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United States and the Mediterranean partners of the Union for the Mediterranean;

To take forward the dialogue and cooperation with NGOs and civil society in the framework of crisis management and conflict prevention.

ANNEXE – DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENCY ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ON THE TERMINATION OF UNOMIG

Brussels, 19 June 2009

The EU regrets Russia's decision to block agreement in the UN Security Council despite efforts to accommodate the concerns of all parties involved and also regrets the Russian veto on the technical roll-over of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) to extend the presence of the Mission.

The Mission has proven to be an effective confidence-building measure and an important tool for enhancing stability and security in Georgia as well as the whole South Caucasus region. Its termination further complicates the already volatile situation in the region and is clearly not in the interest of the civilians in this conflict zone. There continues to be need to create the security conditions to allow unhindered access for humanitarian aid and the prospect for IDPs to return to their homes in safety and dignity.

The non-renewal of the UNOMIG mandate removes an element of independent oversight by the international community over the developments in the region including the implementation of the agreements of 12 August and 8 September 2008. The EU calls on all parties to implement these two agreements in full and reiterates its strong support for the remaining mechanisms: The EU reaffirms its commitment to the EU Monitoring Mission as well as its support for the ongoing discussions in Geneva, and calls on all participants to pursue these discussions in a constructive manner. The EU calls on all parties with forces on the ground to exercise the utmost restraint and refrain from violence.

The EU reiterates its firm support for sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders.

The EU recalls its aim to strengthen EU-Georgia relations, in particular through the Eastern Partnership initiative, in order to improve stability and prosperity in Georgia.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and Azerbaijan and align themselves with this declaration.

* Croatia continues to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

Javier Solana – Lecture Paul Henri Spaak

Brussels, 22 June 2009

Mesdames et Messieurs, chers amis,

M'exprimer devant vous, ce soir, dans cette maison, la votre, constitue un honneur autant qu'un plaisir. J'en remercie l'Association des journalistes européens et sa section belge en particulier.

J'ai été invité à parler de l'état du monde et de la situation de l'Union européenne. Parler du monde tel qu'il est aujourd'hui n'est pas une chose facile. Aucun modèle, aucun slogan, aucun paradigme ne résiste aux évolutions de ces dernières années.

Mais les périodes de transition et de grandes altérations sont toujours ainsi: incertaines et fluides; avec des opportunités nouvelles mais aussi des risques plus grands.

De la manipulation de bilans financiers virtuels à l'effondrement d'économies bien réelles. De la crainte de nouvelles pandémies à la difficulté de trouver des parades efficaces à des menaces toujours plus asymétriques. De la bonne ou de la mauvaise utilisation d'Internet ou de Twitter. Nous sommes brutalement entrés dans le XXIème siècle.

And, by now, we know very well that in this Century threats are global. Take the economic crisis. The speed at which it spread from the US to the rest of the world, how quickly it contaminated the whole financial system and then the real economy. It has been a dramatic reminder of the dark side of globalisation. The response can only be global.

That crisis has reminded us, brutally and suddenly, of the eternal contradiction: markets and risks are global, yet political legitimacy continues to be local or national. As well as resources. We need to find a way out of that contradiction. How Europe works, how Europe is, can give us some good clues. I will come back later to this point.

One of the main trends that define the age we live in, is power shift. Within States and between States. Within States to society, to various groups within society, to markets, and even to individuals. Between States, from the West to emerging powers.

A consequence of that, a second basic trend, is the necessary enlargement of the main international fora. We have to give a proper voice and place to all key players. You cannot expect people to contribute to solutions if they have not been involved in shaping the strategy.

The almost natural way in which the G8 has given way to the G20 in addressing the crisis is a first step. But that is not enough. It cannot be restricted to economic issues. It has to apply to others like regional security issues, climate change or the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

However, we must bear in mind that some of the beneficiaries of this new situation do not share our view of the world. They do not share our guiding values or the principles that inspire us. The coin of our multipolar world, as always, has two faces: opportunity and risk. It is in our hands to make opportunity prevail.

These trends are being accelerated by the economic crisis. But the old agenda is still there to be addressed. Global threats and regional issues we need to tackle.

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, is in my view the most important threat. Proliferation follows a perverse rationale of escalation. Absolute security for one means total insecurity for the rest.

Therefore, the solution can only come through international cooperation and a tightening of multilateral mechanisms. That is European Union policy, as is a decisive bid for disarmament.

Until recently we were fairly isolated in those positions. Things have now changed – and for the better. In his speech in Prague, President Obama presented an ambitious programme of action which we do share. He argued for a world without nuclear weapons, although he did point out that he did not expect to see it in his lifetime. I share that ideal. And I want to be more optimistic about the timescale.

The push for disarmament will be the key to the major challenge: application of the Non-proliferation Treaty. The whole non-proliferation system rests on a delicate balance. A *quid pro quo* in which non-nuclear States agree to forgo nuclear weapons if those who possess them agree to reduce their arsenals significantly. And the third pillar is to ensure transfer of technology for civilian use of nuclear energy. This is our action plan for addressing nuclear proliferation.

Energy security is another factor of risk. I can assure you that Bulgarian families deprived of gas for heating in the middle of freezing temperatures last January are acutely aware of that threat. This is unresolved business for Europe.

We cannot talk about energy security or design strategies in that area without keeping climate change in mind. That it is the first authentically global challenge facing mankind: it threatens every human being without exception and the solution can only come from a worldwide agreement.

And it has an additional feature that makes it exceptional: the solution depends on accepting a figure, the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere, a figure that has a scientific basis. You will agree that that is highly unusual in international relations. The Conference in Copenhagen next December is the key rendez-vous. We all have to work hard to make it a success.

But beyond that, there will be no lasting solution unless we address the developing countries' profound sense of injustice and distrust in this matter. Their question is legitimate: why should they pay for a problem we, in the first world, created?

The answer is equally clear: because we have gone well beyond the point where developed countries can solve the problem. But that is not enough.

Quelques mots sur les conflits régionaux les plus importants du moment.

Le Proche Orient. Le dernier discours du Premier Ministre d'Israël a esquissé une perspective politique avec la reconnaissance de la notion d'Etat palestinien, même limitée. C'est un premier pas. En revanche, la question de l'arrêt de la colonisation des territoires palestiniens n'est pas réglée.

Quelques jours avant, au Caire, le Président Obama a voulu marquer une rupture. Les grands principes qu'il a posés sont les mêmes que les Européens défendent depuis longtemps: la main tendue au monde arabe et musulman, la référence à l'Initiative arabe de paix, l'obligation de créer un Etat palestinien.

Les Palestiniens sont engagés dans un difficile exercice de réconciliation. Unis, ils ont la capacité de construire leur Etat. Nous le savons. Nous continuerons à les aider dans leur entreprise.

Le Liban enfin vient de voter. Le choix de la modération et du pragmatisme l'a emporté. La voie est maintenant ouverte à davantage de stabilité.

En clair une nouvelle dynamique se met en place dans la région. L'Etat palestinien ne sera pas créé par les seuls Israéliens et les seuls Palestiniens. La responsabilité de la communauté internationale et de l'Union européenne est engagée. Nous ne pouvons pas échouer.

L'Afrique maintenant. L'Europe mais aussi le reste du monde ont besoin d'une Afrique stable et prospère.

Premièrement l'Afrique doit être aidée face à la crise économique actuelle. Ne pas le faire serait irresponsable. L'extrême pauvreté, la famine, doivent rester toujours très haut dans nos priorités. Au-delà des questions morales, c'est un impératif politique.

Deuxièmement nous devons poursuivre nos efforts sur les régions-charnières:

- les Grands lacs – l'Union Européenne a lancé quatre opérations ces dernières années;
- le Soudan et le Tchad – là encore, l'Union Européenne s'est physiquement engagée sur le terrain.

Dernier axe d'effort impératif: la Corne de l'Afrique. Il y a bien sûr la lutte contre la piraterie dont l'Union européenne a pris l'initiative. Mais il y aussi la nécessité d'aider la Somalie à sortir du chaos pour éviter qu'elle ne devienne un nouveau foyer du terrorisme international. C'est là d'un intérêt stratégique majeur pour l'Europe.

In Afghanistan we know that there will be no military solution; it has to be a political one. That's why this summer's presidential elections are of such fundamental importance. They must give sufficient democratic legitimacy to the next President, so that he and his government can take over responsibility for governing the country.

The EU has therefore two immediate objectives:

- first, to accompany the election process and ensure it is credible;
- second, to help the Afghan authorities acquire the capacities they need to run their country and provide essential services to the Afghan people – and security is the top concern here.

For that reason, the Union has launched a police mission that trains the Afghan National Police in providing safety to Afghan citizens. It will be impossible to stabilize Afghanistan without a stable Pakistan. Again, the European Union has a fundamental interest in contributing to the international effort.

None of the challenges, global or regional, I have mentioned can be confronted by one country or one group of countries alone. They all require a global response.

For some time, many people thought that increasing interdependence would lead automatically, almost naturally, to international coordination. Now we know that is not the case. But globalisation and interdependence are here to stay. We therefore need to find a compelling principle to underpin such coordination. We need to answer the question of how to organise a globalised world. And we need to do so marrying the contradiction I mentioned before: power is locally legitimised; challenges are global in nature.

The principle of responsible sovereignty may help us find an answer. It is a principle based on one fact that will not change: we live in a world of sovereign States. Coercion is not conceivable except in extreme cases, and then only vis-à-vis one isolated country. The only way out is that States assume responsibility for the external consequences of their acts and the EU has learned this a long time ago.

It will take a long time for that idea to make its way and crystallise into action. But as long as policy is made at national level, legitimacy will be purely local. It is on the basis of that legitimacy that responsible sovereignty will be able to organise a globalised world and respond to the global challenges.

Where is Europe in this big picture? The crisis has been a huge test. And it came at a time of institutional uncertainty.

From the very beginning, the EU was torn between forces of fragmentation driven by national reflexes and a renewed push for collective initiatives. The huge stabilising effect of the European Monetary Union has been fundamental. Without the euro, there would have been chaos on the currency markets.

There are also big problems outside the euro-zone, especially in Central and Eastern Europe. Banks, currencies and fiscal positions are all under pressure. Problems are not yet behind. If we are honest, we should also acknowledge the pressure on the single market. There is no doubt that how we shape the reaction matters from an economic point of view.

But there is also a wider issue here. The EU is based on strong rules, independent institutions, the four freedoms and the concepts of solidarity and responsibility. We cannot put all that at risk.

After 1945, there was a paradigm change in Europe. From international politics as a zero sum game to one where people realise they can only be safe, secure and prosperous if their neighbours are too. If we play with these principles, it would be hugely damaging. To Europe itself and to our global standing and influence.

A Europe of bending rules, of fragmentation, is a Europe whose voice will not be heard around the world. In 2030 only one in twelve human beings will be European. We risk losing any meaningful international influence. But it is also clear that when confronted with centrifugal forces and pressures, Member States have re-grouped and pulled together. This has been the case since the Autumn up to the European Council last Friday.

That is a telling example that the European project remains strong. That your hard work, your day-to-day efforts, to build a united Europe produce tangible results. They make our lives better.

The last European Council has also cleared the way for a new referendum in Ireland. I do hope the Lisbon Treaty will be in force by the end of the year. It would have been better to have it four years ago. That will be the most direct, powerful response from Europe to the new shaping of the world. And it will ensure the right place for Europe in it.

I thank you.

EUSEC RD Congo – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 25 June 2009

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2009/509/CFSP AMENDING AND EXTENDING JOINT ACTION 2007/406/CFSP ON THE EUROPEAN UNION MISSION TO PROVIDE ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE FOR SECURITY SECTOR REFORM IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (EUSEC RD CONGO)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 14 thereof, Whereas:

- (1) On 12 June 2007, the Council adopted Joint Action 2007/406/CFSP⁽¹⁾ on the European Union mission to provide advice and assistance for security sector reform in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (EUSEC RD Congo) which replaced the mission previously established by Joint Action 2005/355/CFSP⁽²⁾.
- (2) On 26 June 2008, the Council adopted Joint Action 2008/491/CFSP⁽³⁾ amending and extending Joint Action 2007/406/CFSP until 30 June 2009.
- (3) Following consultation with the Congolese authorities and other parties concerned, it appears necessary to extend the mission for a further period, and on 12 May 2009 the Political and Security Committee recommended that the mission be extended for an additional three months.
- (4) Joint Action 2007/406/CFSP should be amended accordingly.

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

Joint Action 2007/406/CFSP is hereby amended as follows:

1. in Article 9(1), the second subparagraph shall be replaced by the following:
‘The financial reference amount to cover expenditure relating to the mission for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 September 2009 shall be EUR 8 450 000.’;
2. the second paragraph of Article 16 shall be replaced by the following:
‘It shall apply until 30 September 2009.’.

Article 2

This Joint Action shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

(1) OJ L 151, 13.6.2007, p. 52.

(2) OJ L 112, 3.5.2005, p. 20.

(3) OJ L 168, 28.6.2008, p. 42.

Article 3

This Joint Action shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Luxembourg, 25 June 2009.

For the Council

The President

L. Miko

Middle East Peace Process – Quartet Statement

Trieste, 26 June 2009

The Quartet – U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union Javier Solana, European Commissioner for External Relations Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Czech Foreign Minister Jan Kohout, U.S Under Secretary of State William Burns, and U.S. Special Envoy for Middle East Peace George Mitchell – met in Trieste on June 26 2009. They were joined by Quartet Representative Tony Blair.

The Quartet affirmed its determination to actively and vigorously seek a comprehensive resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, 1397, 1515, 1850, the Madrid principles including land for peace, the Roadmap, and the agreements previously reached between the parties. The Quartet underscored that the only viable solution to the Israeli- Palestinian conflict is one that ends the occupation that began in 1967 and fulfils the aspirations of both parties for independent homelands through two states for two peoples, Israel and an independent, contiguous, and viable state of Palestine, living side by side in peace and security. The Quartet welcomed the commitment of Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Abbas to the two-state solution, and reiterated that lasting peace throughout the region can only be based on an enduring commitment to mutual recognition, freedom from violence, incitement, and terror; and the two-state solution, building upon previous agreements and obligations. The Quartet underscored the importance of fostering peaceful coexistence throughout the region through the conclusion of peace agreements between Israel and Syria and Israel and Lebanon, in a manner that is mutually reinforcing with efforts to establish the state of Palestine, and through the full normalization of relations between all states based on the Arab Peace Initiative.

The U.S. briefed the Quartet on its intensive, ongoing discussions with all parties in the region to create the conditions for the prompt resumption and early conclusion of negotiations to resolve all permanent status issues, without preconditions. The Quartet affirmed that these negotiations must result in an end to all claims. It agreed that Arab-Israeli peace and the establishment of a state of Palestine in the West Bank and Gaza in which the Palestinian people can determine their own destiny is in the fundamental interests of the international community. The Quartet called on all parties concerned to take meaningful steps to support this objective.

In that context, the Quartet called on Israel and the Palestinians to implement their obligations under the Roadmap and affirmed that unilateral actions taken by either party cannot prejudge the outcome of negotiations and will not be recognized by the international community. The Quartet urged the government of Israel to freeze all settlement activity, including natural growth; to dismantle outposts erected since March 2001; and to refrain from provocative actions in East Jerusalem, including home demolition and evictions. The Quartet acknowledged progress made by the Palestinian Authority to reform the Palestinian security sector and called on the Palestinian Authority to continue to make every effort to improve law and order and to fight violent extremism. It encouraged further Israeli cooperation for the success of Palestinian security reform. It also urged the Palestinian government to enhance its

efforts to build the institutions of the future Palestinian state. Both sides have to stop incitement and violence against civilians. Taking note of the June 24 meeting of the Arab League ministers and underscoring its commitment to comprehensive peace on all tracks, the Quartet expressed support for dialogue among all states in the region in the spirit of the Arab Peace Initiative and called on Arab states to take steps to recognize Israel's rightful place in the region; to affirm that violence cannot achieve regional peace and security; and to assist the Palestinian people in building their future state through consistent support for the Palestinian Authority.

Noting the detrimental effect of Palestinian divisions and underscoring its desire for these divisions to be overcome, the Quartet called on all Palestinians to commit themselves to non-violence, recognition of Israel, and acceptance of previous agreements and obligations. Restoring Palestinian unity based on the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) commitments would be an important factor in this process, while facilitating reconstruction of Gaza and the organisation of elections. The Quartet expressed support, on this basis, for the ongoing mediation efforts of Egypt and the Arab League for Palestinian reconciliation behind President Mahmoud Abbas and appealed to all states in the region to play a constructive role in supporting the reconciliation process.

The Quartet discussed Gaza and agreed that the current situation is unsustainable and not in the interests of any of those concerned. The Quartet expressed serious concern at the humanitarian and human rights situation of the civilian population. It reiterated the urgency of reaching a durable solution through the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1860. The Quartet called for the unimpeded provision and distribution throughout Gaza of humanitarian assistance, including food, fuel, and medical treatment. The Quartet called for a complete halt to all violence, as well as an intensification of efforts to prevent illicit trafficking in arms and ammunition into Gaza and for a sustained reopening of all crossings points to ensure regular flow of people and humanitarian and commercial goods. The Quartet offered its support in this regard for the proposals of the United Nations to resume early recovery construction activities in Gaza. The Quartet called on those holding the abducted Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit to release him without delay.

The Quartet welcomed plans by the government of Israel to promote Palestinian economic development. The Quartet declared its readiness to work closely with Israel, the Palestinian government and international donors in order to achieve sustainable economic development on the basis of the full implementation of the Agreement on Access and Movement of 2005 and in the broader perspective of the two-state solution. Recalling the recent meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee (AHLC), the Quartet called for robust and sustained financial support for the Palestinian Authority. The Quartet welcomed recent steps by Israel, which if expanded and sustained, can have a significant impact on Palestinian freedom of movement. The Quartet recognizes that Israel has legitimate security concerns that must continue to be safeguarded, and believes efforts to maintain security while enabling movement and access for Palestinian people and goods are critical. Noting that delivering transformative change on the ground should form an integral and essential part of the agenda for peace, the Quartet encouraged cooperation of the parties with the Quartet Representative in order to deliver such change and in particular to improve the movement of goods and people in the West Bank and Gaza, concurrently with security and broader rule of law efforts.

The Quartet expressed its determination to support the parties and regional and international partners to successfully pursue negotiations and to implement agreements, on all tracks of the process. The Quartet tasked the envoys to meet regularly and actively follow-up with the parties to promote implementation of Quartet positions and formulate recommendations for Quartet action.

The Quartet re-affirmed its previous statements and supports, in consultation with the parties, an international conference in Moscow in 2009.

European Defence Agency – Code of Conduct on offsets

Brussels, 1 July 2009

BRINGING TRANSPARENCY INTO THE EUROPEAN DEFENCE EQUIPMENT MARKET: CODE OF CONDUCT ON OFFSETS COMES INTO FORCE

EDA launches a groundbreaking approach to offsets on 1 July with the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Offsets.

First of all, the Code introduces much needed transparency to offset agreements, which up until now has often been lacking. To this end, an offset portal has been launched on the EDA's website, where for the first time ever, 26 countries that signed up to the Code, publish information on their national offset policies and practices, including national regulations and guidelines, offset requirements criteria and modalities.

Second, the Code provides for the evolving use of offsets to help develop industrial capabilities fully consistent with the objectives of the EDTIB Strategy; namely an industrial base that is capability driven, competent and competitive. As a result, the Code will help shape Europe's defence technological and industrial base, notably by facilitating the development of globally competitive Centres of Excellence and avoiding unnecessary duplication.

Last but not least, the Code introduces a 100% cap on offsets. Consequently, subscribing governments will neither request nor accept offsets exceeding the value of the relevant procurement contract. This is a crucial enabler in the process to reduce reliance on offsets. Similarly the Code's provision for mutual abatements will help cut down reciprocal offset obligations.

The Agency's Code comes together with an important implementation tool. The Reporting and Monitoring system – commonly developed with participating Member States and agreed by the Steering Board on 2 April – will help to ensure mutual transparency and accountability among subscribing Member States and Norway, so that they can be confident that the Code is working as intended.

The Code will be applied to offsets agreements signed from now on by all EDA participating Member States (except Romania) and Norway.

ANNEX – THE CODE OF CONDUCT ON OFFSETS

Brussels, 24 October 2008

Introduction

Participating Member States (pMS) of the European Defence Agency strive to ensure that their Armed Forces are supported, and, indeed, that the European Security and Defence Policy is underpinned by a strong and globally competitive defence technological and industrial base. To this end, the European Defence Ministers adopted on 14 May 2007 a landmark Strategy for the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB). This Strategy reflects the clear and unequivocal objective of the pMS to develop and sustain a DTIB in Europe that is

capability-driven, competent and competitive. Moreover, pMS have agreed to develop a truly open and competitive European Defence Equipment Market (EDEM) as a key means to strengthen the EDTIB, 'which ensures security of supply and dependably supplies pMS Armed Forces' needs even in times of conflict, and which provides for appropriate national sovereignty and EU autonomy'.

The pMS share the ultimate aim to create the market conditions, and develop a European DTIB in which offsets may no longer be needed. Nonetheless, the present structure of the European DTIB and our early open market efforts require, in the short term, evolving offsets, compatible with EU law, whilst mitigating any adverse impact they may have on cross-border competition.

Objectives and scope

The Code of Conduct on Offsets sets out a framework for evolving offsets, whilst ensuring the right balance between developing the EDTIB and the need to achieve a level playing field in the European and global defence market.

This voluntary, non-legally binding Code of Conduct on offsets applies to all compensation practices required as a condition of purchase or resulting from a purchase of defence goods or defence services. It is therefore an integral part of the European Defence Agency's Regime to encourage competition in the European Defence Equipment Market and it also encompasses Government-to-Government off-the-shelf defence sales.

The principles and guidelines of this Code will be applied equally to all bidders from SMS and non-SMS including third countries.

Overarching Principles

Within the framework of EU law, the subscribing Member States (SMS) commit themselves to implement this Code on the basis of the following principles:

Procurement in the defence market remains different than procurement in purely commercial markets and is strongly influenced by political considerations that affect the level playing field.

In a perfectly functioning market offset would not exist. Nevertheless, we recognise that today's defence market is not perfect. Therefore, as a first step, we have to develop and implement measures to both mitigate any adverse effects of offset in our collective endeavour towards developing a fair and competitive EDEM and to use offsets mainly to help shape the aspired EDTIB of the future.

The effects of offset on EDEM and EDTIB should not be considered in isolation. There are other, not offset-related, practices distorting the European and global defence market and influencing the development of the EDTIB that need to be addressed by the Agency and pMS through various work-strands.

Offsets are a global phenomenon, required and offered for many purposes, and unlikely to abate in the foreseeable future. Hence, while addressing offset on the EU level, cognisance will need to be taken of the global practice of offset and in particular the involvement of third parties and their effect on European industry competitiveness.

1. 'Characteristics of a Strong Future European Defence Technological and Industrial Base', agreed by the Steering Board on 20 September 2006.

Guidelines

This Code of Conduct on Offsets sets out the guidelines that will help us progress towards closer convergence of offset policies and practices and to gradually reduce the use of offsets. The following guidelines will apply equally to all compensation practices within the scope of the Code.

Increased transparency:

- To increase transparency and mutual confidence, the sMS will provide to other sMS through the Agency information on national offset practices and underpinning policies, where they exist. Each sMS will regularly review the information it has provided to ensure that it remains current.
- The sMS will provide the Agency with information on all offset commitments (including the percentage and types of accepted offset) with effect from the implementation date of this Code, whether part of the procurement contract or agreed upon otherwise.

Evolving use of offsets:

- Offsets will be used to help develop industrial capabilities that are competent, competitive and capability driven. Therefore, offsets will help shape the aspired EDTIB of the future, notably by facilitating the development of globally competitive Centres of Excellence and avoiding unnecessary duplication.
- Offsets should, wherever possible, contribute to developing depth and diversity of the European defence-related supplier base, in particular by supporting the full involvement of SMEs and non-traditional suppliers in the EDTIB, fostering the industrial cooperation and help promote efficient and responsive lower tier suppliers in line with the principles of the CoBPSC.
- Evolving use of offsets by the sMS will help ensure the right balance between developing the aspired EDTIB and the need to achieve the level playing field in the EDEM. Therefore:
 - Those sMS requiring offsets as part of the defence equipment contract will clearly stipulate offset requirements in the contract notice.
 - Those sMS accepting offsets will make clear from the outset if offset is a factor in the consideration of a company's bid during the procurement process.
 - When used as a criterion for tenderer selection or award of contract, offsets will be considered of a less significant weight (or used as a subsidiary criteria in case of offers with the same weight) in order to ensure that a procurement process is based on the best available and most economically advantageous solution for the particular requirement.
 - Offsets, both required and accepted, will not exceed the value of the procurement contract.
 - The sMS will allow foreign suppliers providing offsets to select the most cost effective business opportunities within the purchasing country for the offset fulfilment, enabling fair and open competition within supply chains where it is efficient, practical and economically or technically appropriate.
 - The sMS will use, wherever practicable and on a voluntary basis, mutual abatements to reduce reciprocal offset commitments.

Javier Solana – ‘Europe’s global role – what next steps?’

Northwood, 11 July 2009

DITCHLEY FOUNDATION LECTURE

Europe’s role in a globalised world

I am grateful to Jeremy Greenstock for inviting me to deliver the Ditchley Annual Lecture. And I would like to thank John Major for his kind words of introduction.

You have asked me to speak about Europe’s global role. About what we are doing and why. About what we have learned. And about what next steps we should take. I am delighted to do so.

Ours is a world in flux. One where big power shifts are taking place. And where the nature of power itself is changing too. Once it was measured in the size of your army and population. Now in terms of GDP per capita, reputation and whether you get to host the Olympic Games.

New powers are emerging, or in some cases re-emerging. All this is a consequence of globalisation which remains the mega-trend shaping our world.

Globalisation makes us richer and allows the poor to escape poverty. It brings people together and enables them to lead longer, better lives. Globalisation is the product of peace. As it spreads, it deepens inter-dependence. The financial crisis demonstrates how much we are inter-connected. It is also accelerating the underlying power shift.

Globalisation also means new issues: climate change, energy security, migration and what might be called the politics of scarcity. One third of humanity is modernising. This is making access to limited natural resources more competitive.

The world is increasingly divided between those who are in the system and the rest. Those outside are either miserable – like much of Africa. Or troublesome – like North Korea and Iran, or both. But China, India, Malaysia, and Dubai among others, have shown that it is possible to join.

So, yes, in a way the planet continues to get smaller. But we are not converging on a single model of development. Chaos and hyper-modernity exist side by side. Inside the system there is a proliferation of political and economic approaches. And there is no automatic link going from global economics to global democratic politics.

The core dilemma of globalisation is that problems are global, but resources and legitimacy remain at the national level. This dilemma manifests itself in nearly all debates on international issues: whether it’s the financial crisis, poverty, migration or climate change. In essence, these are problems of collective action. Who is responsible for what? Who defines the strategy? How do you avoid free-riding behaviour and mobilise broad coalitions – including public and private actors?

In this new world, a large part of politics can only be conducted at a continental scale. For us in Europe that means through the European Union.

The only way to tackle global problems is through global solutions. But you need building blocks. For us it is hard to go global without passing through Europe. It is a logical place to organise collective action among a group of like-minded countries.

Besides, the outside world is forcing us to group together. Take climate change. It is the single biggest global challenge. A scientific consensus is forcing the political leadership to address what is really a planetary crisis.

It will not be solved by the US, China, plus Germany, Italy, UK, France, Poland and the rest. Europe, as such, has to be there. It really is that simple: either Europe works together or we become strategically irrelevant.

So here we are: power shift, multi-polarity, new security threats. A world where other narratives and other ways of doing things are gaining ground. This is the geo-political landscape in which Europeans have to live.

The good news is that we have made significant progress in the last 10 years in building the beginnings of a credible foreign policy. Like a person, we have developed. From talking about problems to writing communiqués to taking action in crisis zones helping people.

This is impressive, given where we come from. Essentially, the EU was set up to abolish foreign policy between the Member States. Our organisational culture was geared towards taking legislative action in a slow-moving world. Now we are taking executive action in a fast-moving world.

Our political weight – long our Achilles heel – has increased. We are working closely with the US, UN and NATO. Not everything is perfect. Far from it. But we are making a difference where it matters: in the Balkans, the Middle East and Africa. The trend is up, even if we are not always moving as fast as I would like.

European defence has been a big part of the progress we have made. When we started, the comprehensive nature of our conceptual approach was ahead of its time. We are now present on three continents with a wide range of missions. From Kosovo to Afghanistan. In the Middle East and off the coast of Somalia.

Here, with first class leadership from Northwood, we have reduced the success rate of pirates by half. And we have protected almost every ship that has followed our directions. I did not think ten years ago that the EU would one day be responsible for thirteen frigates in the Indian ocean.

We try to offer tailor-made solutions to complex problems. And the demand for our engagement continues to outstrip supply. All this remains work in progress. That is why we need the continued investment from our Member States: with people, ideas, capabilities and money.

This very much includes the UK. The European Union needs you. We cannot have a credible foreign policy of the European Union without the UK. You have something which only very few other EU countries have: a global mindset.

But it works the other way around too. The new world I described is also your world. A world of big trends and big problems. In this context, playing national cards has only limited reach. I note the conclusions of the recent IPPR Security Commission – including Jeremy Greenstock. They point to the “dangerous fantasy” of national self-reliance and argue that “European co-operation is the only way forward”. I fully agree.

The Middle East: the imperative of action

Let me move from this macro picture to some specific areas. First, the Middle East. The ‘core issues’ in the Arab-Israeli conflict have not changed in the last 50 years. But the context in which we discuss them, has.

There are many new elements. Others have taken on a different quality. The role of Iran; non-state actors as strategic threats and transnational terrorism; deficits of governance; the rise of political Islam.

A central new development is President Obama's Administration and his agenda for change. This is immensely welcome. In this context, what should be our guiding philosophy?

First, a comprehensive approach to the different issues. Focussing only on one while neglecting the others will not work. Managing this complexity is the main challenge of our policy.

Such a comprehensive approach demands as much attention to method as to substance. The new approach should be parallel rather than sequential, creating mutually reinforcing effects. And it should be inclusive, involving all the players including Turkey and, ultimately, Iran.

Secondly, switch from crisis management to conflict resolution. An enormous amount of time has been wasted on trying to solve specific, limited problems. Sometimes without success. No wonder. For they are inscribed in a wider picture and cannot be isolated.

Let me say a word on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as such. It remains central to a more stable and peaceful Middle East. Its resolution is key to solving the other issues.

When questioned on the so-called Iran first approach, President Obama said: "If there is a linkage between Iran and the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, I personally believe it actually runs the other way. To the extent that we can make peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis then I actually think it strengthens our hand in the international community in dealing with a potential Iranian threat".

I fully agree. Solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is also a fundamental European interest. Because of the impact it has on our direct neighbourhood – and our own inner-cities. The only way out is the two state solution. Prime Minister Netanyahu must be praised for finally generating an Israeli consensus around this principle. Maintaining the status quo is not an option. We have to act now. The key question is: how can we get a political solution? The parameters are well known: the Clinton Parameters, Taba and even the Geneva Initiative.

Dear friends,

A state is not only a set of well functioning institutions providing security and services to its citizens. The Palestinian Authority is working hard in that direction. President Abbas and Prime Minister Fayyad have to be praised even if much remains to be done. A state is essentially a geographical space over which a legitimate government has control over population and natural resources.

So we must first define the space. This means borders. And if we insist so forcefully on the need to freeze Israeli settlements, it is precisely because their continuing expansion is an obstacle to the design of this physical space. Settlements not only cast doubts on the viability of any Palestinian State. They add, in their day-to-day lives, to the frustration of the Palestinian people.

Let me give you some figures. In 1993, when the Oslo agreement was reached, there were 75.000 settlers in the West Bank. In 2008, there were 290.000 of them. In 2008, the Israeli population inside the Green Line grew 1,6%. The number of settlers increased by 4,9%.

In addition, the situation in Gaza is unacceptable. Changing the realities there is a pre-requisite for re-uniting the land and the people that will form the future Palestinian state. Whether we like it or not, Hamas will have to be part of the solution. I want to thank Egypt for their work on that.

Defining the borders would solve the issue of territory, control over water resources and a good part of the equation for Jerusalem. And it will help tackle the question of settlements. Because it will establish on which side each various population centres will be.

The point of departure are the 1967 borders. Territorial exchanges can be negotiated between the parties, on the basis of the 1967 line. The various territorial offers fluctuate between 6 and 2%. It should not be impossible to find a figure. The parties can negotiate within this margin, not outside. Nobody rejects the 1967 borders as a basis for negotiation. The Arab League accepts them. The EU has said the same. The United States have also made clear its attachment to them.

I have spelt out the broad coalition which is behind this effort. There will be no solution without an active Arab contribution. The Arab Peace Initiative is key. Maybe it has to be made more operative. Its binary character – all or nothing – has to be nuanced. But having the Arab countries reacting in a positive way, with concrete actions, to every step will contribute immensely to success.

The next ingredient for success is a real mediation. The parameters are defined. The mediator has to set the timetable too. If the parties are not able to stick to it, then a solution backed by the International community should be put on the table.

After a fixed deadline, a UN Security Council resolution should proclaim the adoption of the twostate solution. This should include all the parameters of borders, refugees, Jerusalem and security arrangements. It would accept the Palestinian state as a full member of the UN, and set a calendar for implementation. It would mandate the resolution of other remaining territorial disputes and legitimise the end of claims.

International monitoring will then be crucial. As will be guarantees and contributions offered by the international parties regarding security, economic aid and refugees. We all will have to make deposits to that end. Arab states would immediately establish full diplomatic relations with Israel.

I strongly believe the time has come to, finally, bring this conflict to an end. The international consensus is there. But time is of the essence. The second half of this year is crucial if we want to offer a real choice to the Palestinian people when they vote in January 2010. Something radically different from a choice between violence and desperation.

"Reaching an agreement over a peace process in the Middle East will eliminate several groups' justifications for existence. It will save lives." These are not my words. They are General Petraeus'.

I would add that if the Palestinian question is resolved many groups will turn to democratic struggle to find their justification for existence. And we will be able to deal with Iran from a much stronger position. Never before have we had such a common line. We cannot afford wasting this opportunity. It is time to act.

Balkans: the need for good politics

Let me now turn, more briefly, to the Balkans. The handling of our periphery is essential for our credibility in international politics. The key question is: can we stabilise our own neighbourhood? My answer is: we cannot afford not to.

It is where European Union foreign policy was born. And while we have been drawn into other regions and issues, our job in the Balkans is not yet over.

There is a striking difference in perceptions. We feel and treat them as if they are half-way in. The mantra we keep repeating is the European perspective, of eventual accession to the EU. But perceptions in the region are different. There is a sense of a lack of progress and a drifting away from the enlargement goal.

It is true that nearly ten years after the end of Milosevic, Serbia still has no Stabilisation and Association Agreement. Croatia is locked in a stalemate with its neighbour Slovenia. The same is true for Skopje and Athens. And Bosnia is held hostage by the narrow, nationalist calculations of some of its leaders. We have invested too much to allow the countries of the region to slip away from the EU's power of attraction. And it will be harder and costlier in 5 years time.

Some said a couple of years ago that the dilemma the EU was facing on the Balkans was "go for enlargement, or become a protectorate of sorts". We chose enlargement as the guiding paradigm, conditioned on reform. That is still the right strategy.

Five lessons and five next steps:

Dear friends,

There are many other regions and issues I could mention: Eastern Europe, Afghanistan and Pakistan, non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. I am happy to answer questions on any issue or region. Before that, allow me to try to identify some lessons of the past ten years and also suggest some next steps. I have five in each category:

- First, the solution is always political. Civil wars, inter-state conflicts; problems with energy, climate change or non-proliferation: all require a political deal which takes account of the interests and power of all involved. Power is not just military or financial muscle; legitimacy is important too. In the end, it is the most important element.
- Second, foreign policy can be incredibly difficult. Paradoxically, it is mostly about domestic politics. But the politics are those of others. Domestic politics matter because they limit what is doable in the negotiations (say how much CO2 reductions or tariff cuts in trade). Or because the heart of the problem is a dispute over the control and legitimacy of the state. Take the DRC or Iraq.

As an outsider it is only when you get your hands dirty with domestic politics that you are going to be effective. But keep in mind: however you intervene with money or with force it must serve a political strategy. And beware: the moment you intervene, the clock starts running – at home as well as locally.

The aim of crisis management is to create a space for functioning politics to work. But functioning politics is the one thing that foreigners cannot provide; only the locals can do that. As T.E. Lawrence (of Arabia) said: "better to let them do it imperfectly than to do it perfectly yourself. For it is their country, their ways and your time is short."

Of course outsiders can help. They can buy time. They can give support, to help the people concerned get through the "valley of tears". They can strengthen those who see politics as a way to forge national consensus and accept the "good" compromise.

Not compromise as something nobody wants but everyone can accept. But compromise as a way of forging a national consensus. Sacrificing short-term interests for long-term progress.

- Third, we can do much more than 10 years ago. But we cannot do it alone. We need

regional and global partnerships. This means working with others who, by definition, have their own ideas and interests. Building partnerships often slows things down. But there is no short cut around it. Sometimes you do need government by committee – even though it is slow and painful.

- Fourth, we are operating increasingly in faraway countries. Often these are countries that we do not understand well. This puts a premium on good analysis. It is important that we do this together, as Europeans, rather than each on our own. The thing to avoid is that all of us are scratching the same bit of the surface.
- Fifth and finally, I am more convinced than ever before that the objective of diplomacy is to create agreed rules. Rules on political participation, the demarcation of borders or movements of military equipment. Rules to tame the passion of states and individuals, to end conflicts within or between states. Rules to help us address the mega-issues of our time.

The accumulation of rules, procedures and institutions sounds like dreary work. But this is what global civilization is made of. Agreed rules make states secure and people free.

What are the next steps?

- First, our primary responsibility is to make Europe function. And then to enhance our collective ability to handle global crises. The entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty would be a significant step forward.
- Second, we need more capabilities for crisis management; more sensible budget priorities and more sophisticated political analyses. All three are within reach.
- Third, EU foreign policy cannot function if it's only seen as service agency for particular concerns of the member-states. An EU where everybody seeks more money and engagement for "their" priorities and clients, while disengaging from other files, will not work. We need solidarity. Not just in financial but also in political terms. We should back a Member State if it has a particular problem or need.

But this is a two-way street. You also need to be interested in other people's problems. And we should be strict on any unreasonable use of the unanimity rule. The un-written maxim of the Union is: "thou shalt negotiate" – and hence, not just sit on your position.

- Fourth, we should build a foreign policy fit for the problems of the 21st century. We should not recreate at the level of the European Union what does not really work at the national level. So we must make it integrated, wide in scope and geared towards mobilising networks.
- Fifth and finally: Yes, we should take a bit more calculated risk-taking. There is little of value in political life that is accomplished without taking risks. Some say that a ship is safest when it's in the harbour. But that is not where ships are meant to be.

Thank you very much.

Javier Solana – ‘Europe, SEA share a vision for peace and security’

20 July 2009

The 42nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM), the annual Post-Ministerial Conference (PMC) with its Dialogue Partners, and the 16th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) were held in Phuket, Thailand, from 19 to 23 July 2009. Javier Solana’s comments, published in the *Bangkok Post*, are reproduced below.

Europe’s long-standing relationship with Southeast Asia is shifting into a new gear this year. Our mutual engagement is growing still closer and deeper, particularly in the area of building peace, security and cooperation around the globe. We have reached a milestone in our relations this year with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) in Phnom Penh in May on the accession of the European Union and its member states to the Asean Treaty on Amity and Cooperation. Asean is a vital partner for us and I am delighted with this progress. The EU and its Asian partners have a common resolve to tackle today’s regional and global threats together and a common interest in developing a system of regional integration and global governance. It is with this shared vision that I am travelling to Phuket this week for meetings with the Asean partners and the Asean Regional Forum (ARF).

We see Asean as the key driving force fostering regional integration in Asia. It has emerged as a serious regional player. We have followed with great interest as it has developed into a permanent regional organisation, inspired – at least in part, we believe – by our own example of successful integration in Europe. We welcomed Asean’s historic adoption last December of a new charter creating a legal framework for further integration and we believe that the ambitious road map for an Asean Community will be an important factor in helping to bring about lasting peace, stability, shared prosperity and respect for human rights in the region.

The EU is proud to be in the Asean Regional Forum (ARF), which is the only regional forum in Asia devoted solely to security issues.

We are stepping up our involvement with ARF, which has contributed to peace and security in Asia over the past 15 years, because we regard it as an essential venue for dialogue.

The need for Europe and Asia to discuss global strategies is all the greater this year, given the multiple crises currently facing the world: ‘food, fuel, flu and financial – the four Fs’, as UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said recently. The EU has vital interests in the region. Its trade with East Asia has overtaken its trade with the US and it is Asean’s biggest trading partner.

That is why Thursday’s ARF meeting in Phuket is so important to us. The Asean Regional Forum is a central pillar in the evolving regional security architecture and with our ARF partners, now and in future, we will share our vision of working together, as part of a global, rules-based multilateral system, to promote peace and stability through confidence-building action and preventive diplomacy.

The EU’s philosophy is that threats must be prevented early on from becoming sources of conflict. Developed and developing countries alike are coping with the dangers and insecurities brought in the wake of globalisation, along with the new-found opportunities it also creates for us all.

The EU is looking forward to discussing both traditional and new security threats at the ARF meeting, ranging from terrorist attacks to the need to reduce nuclear arsenals and prevent

more countries from acquiring nuclear weapons; to natural disasters likely to be caused by climate change. We should look at oil and gas supplies, piracy and failed states. None of these threats stop at national borders and all of them are as relevant to our Asian partners as they are to the European Union.

The EU is making its mark in helping to create a more secure world and we can and must work closely with Asia in this. We will continue to support concrete, action-oriented cooperation focused not only on confidence-building measures but also on conflict resolution.

Over the past decade, under the European Security and Defence Policy, we have deployed more than 20 operations in response to crises in Europe, Africa and Asia. These range from the successful post-tsunami peace-building mission in Aceh, Indonesia, where we worked closely and very successfully with participating Asean nations, to our first-ever naval task force, Operation EU Navfor Atalanta, fighting piracy off the coast of Somalia. We currently have another mission in Asia, training and mentoring the Afghan police.

Lasting solutions to conflict must bind together all regional players with a common stake in peace. This is what the European project is about and this is what our deepening relationship with Asia is about. We firmly believe that strong ties between different regional groups in the world are crucial for global peace and security. We are committed to stepping up our engagement in Asia's regional integration processes, including the East Asia Summit. We share with you a vision that by 2020 the Asia-Pacific region will be an area of lasting peace, stability, friendship and prosperity based on a foundation of mutual trust, where preventive diplomacy pursues the ultimate goal of conflict resolution. It is vital, especially for the ARF, to make this vision a political reality.

Bangkok Post

General Affairs and External Relations

Brussels, 27 July 2009

KENYA – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council closely follows the reform process in Kenya, as set out under the National Accord and Reconciliation Act (2008), mediated by the AU-panel of eminent African personalities under H.E. Kofi Annan. It considers that prompt implementation of the agreed reforms are of critical importance for reconciliation, nation-building, development and prevention of further conflict in Kenya.

2. The Council recognizes Kenya's key role for regional stability and the importance of Kenya's partnership in addressing issues of regional significance, e.g. the fight against piracy. The Council underlines that the carrying out of the reform agenda is of crucial importance not only for Kenya but also for the region as a whole.

3. The Council notes that some procedural steps have been taken in order to advance reforms. It strongly encourages the Government of Kenya to use this momentum to ensure timely and decisive implementation of all the areas in the National Accord and Reconciliation Act. The Council urges Kenya's political leaders to speed up the implementation of reforms, with priority given to comprehensive constitutional reform, electoral reform, police and judicial reform as well as enhanced measures to put an end to impunity for crimes related to violence and corruption.

4. The Council calls for the establishment of a credible, independent, constitutionally protected local special tribunal to end the impunity of perpetrators of the post-election violence. The Council also welcomes the Kenyan authorities' cooperation with the International Criminal Court and fully supports H.E. Kofi Annan's efforts to facilitate results.

5. The Council expresses its deep concern over reports of human rights violations and threats against human rights defenders as well as reports on extrajudicial killings. It calls upon the Government to promptly investigate and bring to justice all perpetrators of unlawful killings, including perpetrators within the security forces. It calls for the development of improved mechanisms of accountability in this regard.

The Council reiterates its willingness to support the reform process.'

(...)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

The Council adopted a decision on support for the activities of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), in the framework of the EU's strategy against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (10317/09).

The EU will support OPCW activities aimed at fostering full implementation of the chemical weapons convention by the states parties to it, enhancing international cooperation in the field of chemical activities and encouraging other states to join the convention.

The decision renews support provided through consecutive EU joint actions since 2005, the last of which is to expire at the end of July.

The EU's financial contribution under the decision amounts to EUR 2.11 million.

EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

Extension of the mandate of the EU monitoring mission in Georgia

The Council adopted a joint action extending the EU's monitoring mission in Georgia, which was due to expire on 14 September 2009, for an additional twelve months until 14 September 2010 (11471/09).

It also adopted a joint action extending the mandate of the EU's special representative for the crisis in Georgia, Pierre Morel, for a further six months, until 28 February 2010 (11833/09), and a decision extending by two months, until 30 September 2009, its decision concerning the international fact-finding mission on the conflict in Georgia.

Croatia – Participation in the EU's military operation against piracy off the Somali coast

The Council adopted a decision approving the signing of an agreement with Croatia on its participation in Atalanta, the EU's military operation against piracy off the Somali coast (10088/09).

The agreement will enable Croatia to participate in the operation in support of resolutions 1814, 1816, 1838 and 1846 adopted in 2008 by the United Nations Security Council.

The agreement will be applied on a provisional basis as from the date of signature, pending its formal conclusion.

(...)

SOMALIA – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council debated the situation in Somalia.

After the discussion, it adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council condemns the armed attacks against Somalia's Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and against the UN and NGOs. It expresses its deep concern over the violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, and calls on all parties to the conflict to respect international law. The situation in Somalia remains one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world.

2. The Council reaffirms its support to the Transitional Federal Government under the leadership of President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed and the President's commitments to honour the principles laid down in the Djibouti Peace Agreement, including the spirit of reconciliation and the search for an inclusive political process. It calls on all armed groups to urgently lay down their weapons and join in a genuine broad-based dialogue with the TFG. The Council expresses its appreciation and support to the AU and AMISOM for their efforts.

3. The Council underlines the importance of a comprehensive approach to the situation in Somalia, linking security with development, rule of law and respect for human rights, gender related aspects and international humanitarian law. It stresses that long term assistance from international partners cannot be effective without a stabilization of the security situation.

4. The Council encourages constructive engagement from all regions of Somalia, including Puntland and Somaliland, in building an environment of trust and cooperation to mutual benefit. The Council also recognises that the situation in Somalia must be addressed in a

regional and international context, with all neighbouring states playing a constructive role for a lasting and peaceful solution to the present conflict.

5. The Council welcomes the successful conduct of the EU NAVFOR ATALANTA operation, which is playing a leading role in international anti-piracy efforts. It also welcomes the international community's ongoing work to ensure prosecution of piracy. The Council recognizes the important work conducted within the International Contact Group on Piracy off the coast of Somalia. It stresses the need to fight the root causes of piracy.

6. The Council recalls the longstanding and continuing efforts of Member States and the Community to address the dire humanitarian situation and to provide humanitarian and development assistance. Furthermore, it welcomes the additional Community contributions of 60 MEUR for AMISOM and 13 MEUR for the UNDP-managed Rule of Law and Security programme, as well as Member States' contributions to the security sector, as pledged at the donor's conference in April.

7. The Council has decided to step up the EU engagement for promoting peace and development in Somalia, in line with the High Representative's recommendations. Due to the difficulties of engaging effectively in the country, efforts will entail a flexible and phased approach. EU engagement will be guided by the principles of accountability, transparency and Somali ownership. Priority will be given to activities that produce quick, yet sustainable, results to promote peace and recovery for the Somali people. Capacity building of public institutions will be of particular importance in this context.

8. The Council underlines that EU efforts will have to be closely coordinated with all relevant actors. It recognises the important role played by the International Contact Group on Somalia under the leadership of the UN SRSG.

9. In this context the Council

- (a) will explore ways to increase assistance to support TFG institutions. It welcomes the first steps taken by the TFG to establish accountable financing systems;
- (b) expresses its continued support to AMISOM, given its pivotal role in the peace process. Further engagement with the AU and AMISOM should identify the most urgent needs and possible additional EU support in order for AMISOM to develop capabilities commensurate with its mandate;
- (c) will explore the possibility of additional EU support to the security sector, including through support to the UN-led assessment process and TFG priorities and commitments as well as through the training of security forces. The Council agrees that support in the security sector should be well coordinated, notably with the AU, the UN and other relevant EU partners, in particular the US. It should support a Somali national security strategy, committed to the rule of law, respect for human rights and gender;
- (d) intends to assess possible additional EU support to regional maritime capabilities in cooperation with the International Maritime Organisation and the International Contact Group on Piracy off the coast of Somalia. Related issues such as coastal environmental protection and fishery protection should be addressed;
- (e) will encourage diaspora communities to engage constructively in the peace process for the state-building and development of Somalia;
- (f) views positively the possibility of appointing an EUSR for the Horn of Africa in order to further enhance the EU's ongoing strategic policy formulation and the coordination of EU activities.

10. The Council invites the relevant Council bodies and institutions and the Commission to urgently elaborate detailed and concrete proposals on the implementation of these conclusions.'

GEORGIA – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council had an exchange of views on the situation in Georgia and agreed to revert to this issue during the Autumn.

After the discussion, the Council adopted the following conclusions:

'Georgia (EUMM) for another 12 months until 14 September 2010.

2. The rapid deployment of the mission following the conflict between Georgia and Russia in August 2008 showed the EU's willingness and ability to act resolutely to promote peace and stability. The deployment of EU monitors has contributed to creating the necessary conditions for the implementation of the agreements of 12 August and 8 September, 2008. In this context, the Council called again on all parties to fully comply with their commitments, including the withdrawal of all military forces to the positions held prior to the outbreak of hostilities. The Council further recalled that EUMM Georgia has a country wide mandate and called for unhindered access of EUMM to Abkhazia and South Ossetia, which has so far been denied. The Council deplored the attack on EUMM on 21 June and called on all parties to ensure a secure environment for the mission.

3. The Council welcomed the achievements of EUMM Georgia, in particular in the areas of stabilisation, normalisation, and confidence building. The mission's presence on the ground remains a key stabilizing factor. EUMM Georgia has monitored the partial withdrawal of Russian troops and the return of Georgian police to areas adjacent to the administrative boundary lines. The mission has reported on several serious incidents, and on the situation of internally displaced persons, the respect of the rule of law, violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. The Council encouraged the mission to continue its efforts, including to take part in the implementation of different confidence building measures.

4. The Council noted with deep regret and concern that agreement has not been reached on the future of the UN and OSCE monitoring missions in Georgia. This development further underscores the crucial role of EUMM Georgia. The EU will continue its close cooperation with the UN and the OSCE in all matters pertaining to Georgia. The Council reaffirmed its full commitment to the Geneva talks and the continued co-chairmanship of this forum by the EU, UN and OSCE.

5. The Council recalled its conclusions from 13 October 2008 and those of the European Council from 1 September 2008 and reiterated its firm support for the security and stability of Georgia, based on full respect for the principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity recognised by international law, including the Helsinki Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and United Nations Security Council resolutions.'

IRAN

Over lunch, Ministers discussed the situation in Iran following the presidential elections.

They expressed their continuing concern about the detention of a French lecturer in Iran,

Mrs Clothilde Reiss, and of hundreds of Iranian nationals. They also expressed concern about the overall deterioration of the human rights situation in the country. In this context, Ministers stated that they were looking at further steps vis-à-vis Iran.

Ministers also discussed the implications of the presidential elections including for the nuclear question.

(...)

EUMM Georgia – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 27 July 2009

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2009/572/CFSP AMENDING AND EXTENDING JOINT ACTION 2008/736/CFSP ON THE EUROPEAN UNION MONITORING MISSION IN GEORGIA, EUMM GEORGIA

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 14 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) On 15 September 2008, the Council adopted Joint Action 2008/736/CFSP on the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia, EUMM Georgia⁽¹⁾. That Joint Action was subsequently amended by Joint Action 2008/759/CFSP⁽²⁾ and Joint Action 2009/294/CFSP⁽³⁾.
- (2) Joint Action 2008/736/CFSP expires on 14 September 2009. The Mission should be extended for an additional period of 12 months until 14 September 2010.
- (3) Joint Action 2008/736/CFSP, as amended, provides for a financial reference amount of EUR 37 100 000 to cover the expenditure related to the Mission until 14 September 2009. The financial reference amount should be increased by EUR 12 500 000 in order to cover the Mission's expenditure until 14 September 2010.
- (4) Joint Action 2008/736/CFSP should be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

Joint Action 2008/736/CFSP is hereby amended as follows:

1. Article 14(1) shall be replaced by the following:
'1. The financial reference amount intended to cover the expenditure related to the Mission shall be EUR 49 600 000.'
2. Article 18 shall be replaced by the following:

'Article 18

Entry into force and duration

This Joint Action shall enter into force on the date of its adoption and shall expire on 14 September 2010.'

Article 2

This Joint Action shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

(1) OJ L 248, 17.9.2008, p. 26.

(2) OJ L 259, 27.9.2008, p. 15.

(3) OJ L 79, 25.3.2009, p. 60.

Article 3

This Joint Action shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels, 27 July 2009.

For the Council

The President

C. Bildt

Javier Solana – 'ESDP@10: What lessons for the future?'

Brussels, 28 July 2009

REMARKS BY JAVIER SOLANA AT THE EVENT ORGANISED BY THE SWEDISH PRESIDENCY, THE EU INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES AND IN COLLABORATION WITH THE SWEDISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The European Security and Defence Policy has reached an important milestone in its development. This year marks its tenth anniversary. I am grateful to the Presidency, the EU Institute for Strategic Studies and the Swedish Institute of International Affairs for organising this conference. I am delighted to be opening it with Carl.

Drawing the lessons from our experience of the last decade is a valuable exercise. It should include the range of key issues that we need to consider in taking ESDP forward into its second decade – policy, analysis of challenges, strategy, partnerships, structures and capabilities.

I will say a few words on these. But I would first like to reflect on how far we have come. Where I think we are now and where I think ESDP should go in the coming years.

The EU today plays a crucial role in bringing stability to different parts of the world. Over the past ten years ESDP has contributed to this through 22 missions in four continents. The EU has proved the credibility of its military capability on the ground in Africa, in Congo and Chad. And now is proving it everyday in the difficult waters off Somalia. A real international endeavour under EU lead. It has proved its unique civil-military capability in the Balkans; and demonstrated its relevance, and capacity for immediate action, when we deployed over 200 unarmed monitors to Georgia last year.

We have come a long way in developing ESDP as a tool enabling Europe to project itself through action in response to crises. ESDP is no longer an aspiration; it is a reality. The EU is a global actor with an important role in the management of global challenges. The world looks to us for this. The demands on us are increasing.

Development of ESDP's crisis management capacity is crucial to contributing effectively to international peace and security. It is the missing link. EU foreign policy used to be about declarations. Now the EU puts people in large, visible numbers on the ground and takes risks for peace.

Lessons for the Future

I would like to highlight 6 lessons I think are key to the development of a strong ESDP for the future.

Lesson 1: The strength of ESDP derives from its consensual basis, which lends it moral and legal legitimacy. Missions undertaken in the framework of ESDP are not based on a single state's interests. But on a collective concern for other peoples' problems.

Lesson 2: Nothing can be achieved without the means to do the job. The demands on us will not go away. Our ambitions are growing, not diminishing. However, there is a gap between our ambitions and the reality of our capabilities. This must be addressed. We have demonstrated

with three recent missions – EUMM Georgia, EULEX Kosovo and EUNAVFOR Atalanta what we can achieve when the political will matches our ambitions.

In a world where we must be ready to engage in more complex and risky endeavours, it is essential that we have the personnel and capabilities – both civilian and military, and at the moment they are needed – to back up the political decisions.

Striving for greater European defence integration and cooperation is a part of this. Member States should continue to support the European Defence Agency (EDA) in its efforts to lead this process. In an uncertain world of fast-changing dynamics and threats, the more we do together the more efficient we are. And the stronger and safer Europe will be.

Lesson 3: The comprehensive approach underpinning ESDP is its value added. The logic underpinning ESDP – its distinctive civil-military approach to crisis management – was ahead of its time when conceived. That logic has proved its validity and has been adopted by others. It provides a sound basis on which to approach the coming ten years.

Lesson 4: Our ESDP actions have to be firmly anchored in political strategies. The solution is always political. Civil wars, inter-state conflicts; problems with energy, climate change or non-proliferation: all require a political deal which takes account of the interests and power of all involved. Power is not just military or financial muscle, legitimacy is much more important.

Our Member States each have a different history and geography. We must improve our ability to channel the richness of this diversity in support of our political engagement in other parts of the world. The strengths of one Member State must become a source of strength for the others and for EU action.

Lesson 5: Partnerships become more and more important every day. We can do much more than 10 years ago. But we cannot do it alone. Building partnerships is complex and time consuming. But it is the way to foster ESDP through strategic cooperation with Canada, Norway, Russia, Turkey or the US.

The same applies to partner organisations – the UN, NATO, the OSCE and the AU. The ‘either/or’ EU-NATO debate is outdated. The EU is not a military alliance and the added value of the broader EU/ESDP approach to security has been demonstrated. The key issue now is to develop a more flexible framework for working together.

Lesson 6: Adaptability is a key strength. The world is constantly in flux and to cope with this we need better analysis, more means and more capabilities. We must therefore remain adaptable in terms of our engagement.

But we must also remain consistent in terms of the pursuit and application of our principles: liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law – these core values will remain as fundamental in 2020 as they are today.

What are the next steps?

First, our primary responsibility is to make Europe function well, including our crisis management structures. And then to enhance our collective ability to handle global crises. Our institutions, decision-making processes and command structures must be flexible. The entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty will give us new momentum in this direction and the potential to do more, and to act more cohesively and with greater flexibility.

Second, we need more capabilities for crisis management – mechanisms for rapid response,

flexible and sufficient financing arrangements; and more sophisticated political analyses. All are within reach.

Third, EU foreign policy cannot function if it is only about Member States particular concerns. We need solidarity. Also in political terms. We should back a Member State if it has a particular problem or need. But this is a two-way street. Individual solidarity with the common endeavour is key for projecting force, for making ESDP works.

Fourth, the time is ripe now to have a more sophisticated interaction with our partners – both countries and organisations. The cooperation has to adapt to the particular theatre, not the other way round.

Fifth and finally: Yes, we should be bolder. ESDP is about risks. And we should be ready to take on more. The only way to mature in crisis management.

Thank you very much.

Georgia – Declaration by the Presidency and statement by Javier Solana

Brussels, 4 and 7 August 2009

DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENCY ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ON THE SITUATION IN GEORGIA

The European Union notes with concern the recent accusations of shellings and other incidents on both sides of the South Ossetian administrative boundary line. The European Union Monitoring Mission patrols on the ground in Georgia have seen no evidence so far to confirm mutual accusations of shellings.

The EU urges all sides to refrain from any statement or action that may lead to increased tensions at this particularly sensitive time.

The EU reaffirms the importance it attaches to all sides participating fully in the framework of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (IPRM) and calls on all parties to cooperate fully with the IPRM in clarifying incidents, including those over the past few days. The EU further calls on all sides to give the EUMM unrestricted access to both sides of the South Ossetian administrative boundary line.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, align themselves with this declaration.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

STATEMENT BY JAVIER SOLANA ON THE SITUATION IN GEORGIA

'I am reassured that the situation on the ground has remained broadly calm in the run-up to the anniversary of last year's conflict in Georgia, despite some tension due to recent public statements and alleged violent incidents. The anniversary is an occasion to mourn the victims of the war and to make further efforts to enable the return of those who have been displaced.

During this sensitive period, the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) in Georgia has contributed to the maintenance of confidence, security and stability on the ground. EUMM has not found evidence to support the various claims concerning alleged incidents that have been made over the last days. Access by EUMM to both sides of the administrative boundary line would further contribute to confidence and prevent incidents.

I call on the parties to observe their obligations under the six-point agreement and to raise issues of concern through the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism, and ultimately in the international discussions in Geneva.'

EU NAVFOR Somalia – Operation Atalanta

12 August 2009

JAVIER SOLANA – ‘MOBILISE NOW TO STABILISE SOMALIA’

Despite the renewed fighting in Somalia and the continuing fragility of its institutions, there is hope that the situation can change. There is a political process under way and the Transitional Federal Government, led by President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, has held since it was set up at the beginning of the year. This has provided a window of opportunity for the international community to tackle the lawlessness and violence plaguing Somalia and start stabilising the country.

The European Union has led the way with its anti-piracy naval taskforce, EU Navfor Atalanta, which was launched at the end of 2008 and has led to a reduction in successful pirate attacks. Now we are seeking to build on the success of Atalanta and act on land as well as at sea to eradicate piracy and help Somalia develop into a stable, functioning state that can offer a future for its people.

The task is huge and some would say it is almost impossible. But we must act and quickly. As long as Somalia remains fractured, violent, ungovernable and open to external interference, we are faced with growing regional instability, continuing piracy and an increasing risk of terrorism. We cannot act alone but we are willing to take the initiative and to work on all fronts, as part of the international community's effort.

The EU is already the world's biggest donor of humanitarian relief for the desperate victims of the conflict (€40m so far this year) and Operation Atalanta is ensuring that one and a half million mouths are fed each day by escorting World Food Programme ships safely along the coast of Somalia. On the economic and development front, the EU will also be supporting projects that build local capacities and create jobs and prospects for the people.

On the political front, we want to provide adequate support to a process that offers the best chance of reversing the downward spiral and stabilising Somalia. I admire the courage and tenacity of the Somali Transitional Federal Government. It is resolutely attempting, with very limited resources, to restore law and order in Somalia. The EU is ready and willing to help consolidate the legitimate institutions of the country, notably with financial support and training, including for the security institutions.

We are sustaining and indeed developing our naval engagement. We are justly proud of the success of Operation EU Navfor Atalanta, which, under the able leadership of the British operation commander, Admiral Peter Hudson, has brought a measure of security to the waters off the coast of Somalia. Since it was launched last December, there has been a tenfold fall in the probability of a successful pirate attack. Dozens of pirates have been captured and will stand trial in the region.

However, we cannot eradicate piracy if we do not attack its root causes, on land as well as at sea. This means attacking the dire poverty that deprives the people of alternative livelihoods and allows piracy to flourish. It also means building up the country's police and legal systems and its law courts and prison service so that the state can deal with the pirates, as well as the organised criminal networks and the terrorists that remain at large. We will work in co-ordination with the UN and the African Union, as well as other regional actors in Africa, to avoid dupli-

cating and fragmenting the international community's efforts.

A crucial strand of our efforts will be to help Somalia develop a professional, well-equipped and trained national coastguard, capable of deterring pirate attacks and trafficking activities, including illegal fishing and the dumping of toxic waste. Other countries in the region, such as Kenya, Yemen, Djibouti and Tanzania, could also be included in programmes to support coastguard development.

Somalia also needs help in developing a national security force (army) and a Somali civilian police force. Here too, the EU can provide added value, with its expertise in security sector reform, training and mentoring.

We must also help to reinforce the international legal framework to tackle piracy. Where possible, pirates should be prosecuted and tried in the region where they are caught. The EU has already reached an agreement with Kenya to hand over pirates for prosecution and is working on a similar agreement with the Seychelles. But more such agreements are needed. At the same time, states in the region need assistance in building up their judicial and penitentiary capacity so that they have the means to prosecute, try and sentence pirates. Finally, we should also look at ways of choking off the flow of income to pirates, for example by seizing the proceeds of acts of piracy or armed robbery at sea, or prohibiting the payment of ransoms.

The task of rescuing Somalia is huge but we cannot afford to fail. We have made an impact with Operation Atalanta and we are now ready to move forward with a broader effort. We must mobilise now, while we have an opportunity.

The Guardian

FACTSHEET – EU NAVAL OPERATION AGAINST PIRACY

June 2009

Since 8 December 2008 the European Union has been conducting a military operation to help deter, prevent and repress acts of piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia.

This military operation, named EU NAVFOR Somalia – Operation ATALANTA, was launched in support of Resolutions 1814, 1816, 1838 and 1846 which were adopted in 2008 by the United Nations Security Council. Its aim is to contribute to:

- the protection of vessels of the World Food Programme (WFP) delivering food aid to displaced persons in Somalia;
- the protection of vulnerable vessels sailing in the Gulf of Aden and off the Somali coast and the deterrence, prevention and repression of acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast.

This operation – the European Union's first ever naval operation – is being conducted in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).

Mandate

Operation ATALANTA's mission is to:

- provide protection for vessels chartered by the WFP;
- provide protection for merchant vessels;

- employ the necessary measures, including the use of force, to deter, prevent and intervene in order to bring to an end acts of piracy and armed robbery which may be committed in the areas where they are present.

Operational parameters

The Political and Security Committee (PSC) exercises the political control and strategic direction of the EU military operation, under the responsibility of the Council of the European Union. For its part, the European Union Military Committee (EUMC) monitors the correct execution of the operation conducted under the responsibility of the Operation Commander.

Rear Admiral Peter Hudson (UK) commands the operation from the Operational Headquarters (OHQ) at Northwood, United Kingdom. There he plans and conducts the operation as directed by the authorities of the European Union.

Commander Juan Garat Caramé (ES) commands the European naval force from the Force Headquarters (FHQ) on board of SPS NUMANCIA, a Spanish frigate present in the theatre.

The operation is scheduled for an initial period of twelve months, till the December 13, 2009. In June 2009 the Council agreed that Operation ATALANTA should be extended for one year. During this period more than twenty vessels and aircraft will take part in EU NAVFOR, i.e. more than 1 800 military personnel. At the present time, the following EU member states are making a permanent operational contribution to the operation: Spain, Germany, France, Greece, Italy and Sweden. Belgium and the Netherlands in the near future and third countries such as Norway. Also, a number of other EU military personnel supplement the team at the Northwood OHQ.

The joint funding of the operation amounts to EUR 8,3 millions for the first year. This budget, which is shared between the EU member states and is established on the basis of their GDP, mainly covers the running costs of the OHQ and the FHQ. The common costs for supplying the force are borne by the contributing countries and established according to their involvement in the operation, with each country continuing to bear the cost of the resources it provides (notably deployment costs, logistical support and pay).

The military personnel involved in the operation can arrest, detain and transfer persons who are suspected of having committed or who have committed acts of piracy or armed robbery in the areas where they are present. They can seize the vessels of the pirates or the vessels captured following an act of piracy or an armed robbery and which are in the hands of the pirates, as well as the goods on board. The suspects can be prosecuted, as appropriate thus far, by an EU member state or by Kenya under the agreement signed with the EU on 6 March 2009 giving the Kenyan authorities the right to prosecute.

The European naval force operates in a zone comprising the south of the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden and part of the Indian Ocean, including the Seychelles, which represents an area comparable to that of the Mediterranean. Several other naval forces also operate in this zone. The EU NAVFOR operation is in permanent liaison with these forces (US-led coalition CTF-151, NATO Maritime Group when present, Russian, Indian, Japanese, Malaysian and Chinese vessels).

Each merchant vessel wishing to transit through the Gulf of Aden or off the coast of Somalia is advised to register in advance on the website of the Maritime Security Center-Horn of Africa (www.mschoa.eu), which was set up at the beginning of the operation to facilitate the coordination of maritime traffic.

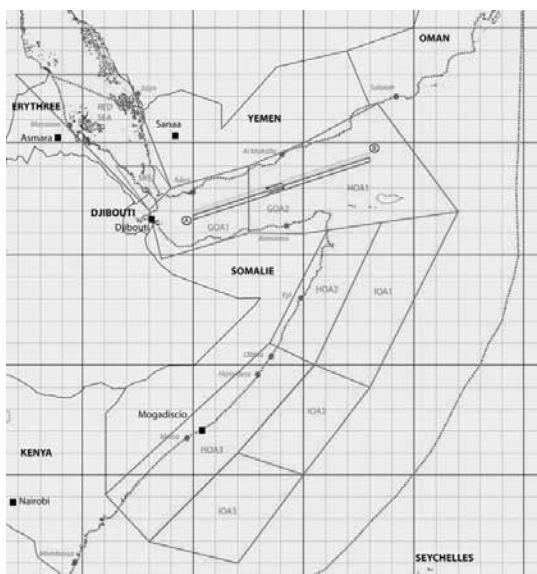
VESSELS ESCORTED BY EU NAVFOR FOR THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME		
	Number of escorts	Tonnes of food delivered
from 08/12/2008 to 15/06/2009	27	More than 230 000
Number of Somalis fed: on average, more than 1 600 000 each day		

This initiative, which was welcomed by the whole community of ship owners and merchant navies, makes it possible for vessels that observe EU NAVFOR recommendations to get the best degree of security available and to receive – in some cases – close military protection, and thus reduce the risk of attacks or capture.

A comprehensive European approach

Operation EU NAVFOR is part of the global action conducted by the EU in the Horn of Africa to deal with the Somali crisis, which has political, security and humanitarian aspects.

A-B: Accompagnement UE



Source: EU NAVFOR / France – Defence Staff

The EU supports the Djibouti process for peace and reconciliation in Somalia, facilitated by the UN. In this context, the EU welcomed the election of President Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed on 30 January 2009. The EU is multiplying its efforts to support the peace process and has called on all parties in Somalia to ease the suffering of the population and to seize this opportunity to work towards the restoration of security, stability and development in Somalia. The government also has the task of delivering a new constitution, to be adopted by referendum, and of setting up democratically elected institutions by the end of the transition period in August 2011.

The EU and its member states support the African Union's military mission to Somalia (AMISOM) financially, in terms of planning and capacity building, in order to increase, in particular, the efficiency of the Somali police force and to combat any abuse and serious violation of human rights.

EU NAVFOR has also provided the necessary resources to protect ships aimed at sustaining AMISOM or deploying AMISOM reinforcements.

The Joint Strategy Paper for Somalia for 2008-2013 provides an allocation of EUR 215,8 million under the EC's 10th European Development Fund (EDF). It covers three main sectors of cooperation: governance, education and rural development. The issue of the security of maritime routes is also included in the European Commission's 2009-2011 indicative programme.

On 22 and 23 April 2009, was held in Brussels the International Conference in support of the Somali Security Institutions and the AMISOM, organised by the UN, the EU and the African Union. Almost \$ 213 million were pledged to help the new Somali Transitional Federal Government bring about peace and stability.

Defence and security procurement – New Directive enters into force

Brussels, 25 August 2009

The new Directive 2009/81/EC on defence and security procurement entered into force on 21 August 2009. The Directive will be the cornerstone of a truly European Defence Market supporting the development of the European defence-related supplier base. Up until now, the vast majority of defence and sensitive security procurement contracts have been exempted from the Internal Market rules. One of the reasons for this is that the existing EU procurement rules are considered to be ill-suited for most defence- and security-related purchases. The new Directive will greatly improve this situation by providing tailor-made procurement rules for defence and security contracts. Member States now have at their disposal Community rules they can apply to complex and sensitive transactions without putting at risk their legitimate security interests.

Internal Market and Service Commissioner Charlie McCreevy said: *'This Directive introduces at the European level fair and transparent procurement rules for defence and security. The Internal Market principles will finally apply in sectors which have been traditionally excluded from Community law. This will make defence and security markets more open and more transparent to the benefit of all: taxpayers' money will be spent more efficiently, armed forces will get better value for money, and industry will get better access to new markets.'*

More transparency and competition for Europe's defence and security markets

Until now, most defence and sensitive security equipment has been procured on the basis of uncoordinated national rules, which differ greatly in terms of publication, tendering procedures, selection and award criteria, etc. This regulatory patchwork is a major obstacle on the way towards a common European defence equipment market and opens the door to non-compliance with the Internal Market principles.

The new Directive will open up the Internal Market for defence and security products by introducing transparent and competitive procurement rules specifically adapted to the needs of these highly sensitive sectors.

A tailor-made procurement regime for sensitive contracts

The new rules apply to the procurement of arms, munitions and war material and also to sensitive non-military contracts in areas such as protection against terrorism which often have similar features to defence contracts.

The Directive contains a number of innovations tailored to the specific needs of procurement in defence and security markets:

- Awarding authorities may use the **negotiated procedure** with prior publication as a **standard procedure**, which gives them flexibility to fine-tune all details of the contract.
- Candidates may be required to submit specific guarantees ensuring **security of information** (safeguarding of classified information) and **security of supply** (timely and reliable contract execution, especially in crisis situations).
- Specific rules on **research and development contracts** strike a balance between the need to support innovation and the necessary openness of production markets.
- Awarding authorities may oblige contractors to **award subcontracts in a competitive**

manner, opening-up supply chains and creating business opportunities for SME's in the defence and security sector.

- A **set of national review procedures** will provide effective **remedies** protecting the rights of businesses taking part in the award procedure.

Limiting exemptions from the Internal Market rules to the strict minimum

Member States still have the possibility to use Article 296 EC Treaty to exempt defence and security procurement contracts which are so sensitive that even the new rules cannot satisfy their security needs. In most cases, however, Member States should be able to use the new Directive without any risk for their security.

Member States have two years to transpose the Directive into their national legislation.

Second South Africa-European Union Summit

Kleinmond, 11 September 2009

We, the leaders of South Africa (SA) and the European Union (EU), meeting today in Kleinmond, reaffirm our commitment to our strategic partnership based on shared values and interests, including the promotion of peace and security, human rights, democracy, the rule of law and sustainable development regionally and globally.

We pay tribute to the victims of the outrageous events on this very day eight years ago, and also recall the untimely passing of Anna Lindh, the Swedish Foreign Minister, on this day in 2003. We remember Anna Lindh as a champion for peace and justice the world over, including in the struggle for South Africa's liberation and democracy. South Africa remains deeply grateful for the support of the Swedish government and civil society in the struggle against apartheid.

We reviewed the rapid expansion of our bilateral relationship, manifested by a strengthened Strategic Partnership, and had fruitful discussions on bilateral as well as global issues and regional situations of common interests and concern.

(...)

We reaffirm our determination to ensure that multilateral institutions are the main fora for international cooperation on peace and security, human rights and democracy. We recognize the need to pursue the reform of the main UN bodies with a view to enhancing the representativeness, transparency and effectiveness of the system.

We underline that the fight against impunity is a common goal and, in this context, consider that the establishment and the effective functioning of the International Criminal Court (ICC) constitutes an important development for peace and international justice and reiterate the importance of the independence of the ICC and all of its organs. We recognise that in a transitional context, the objectives of peace and justice are equally important and mutually reinforcing.

We welcome the holding of the first of the regular annual SA-EU Political and Security Committee troika meeting and shared our analysis on international political and security developments.

We discussed the situation in the **Great Lakes Region** and welcomed the improved relations between the DRC and Rwanda. We emphasised the importance of protecting civilians and improving the humanitarian situation in the Eastern DRC. We are deeply concerned about the widespread sexual violence and are committed to strengthen our efforts to support the fight against it. We agreed to continue our efforts to bring peace to the Kivu provinces. To this end, we reaffirmed our support to MONUC and also stressed the need for long term and coordinated efforts in support of security sector reform in the DRC.

The EU expresses its appreciation to South Africa for its continued engagement in facilitating the **Burundi** peace process that has led to the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of rebel forces. We are committed to assisting the Government and the people of Burundi to deepen their democracy and reconciliation efforts. We remain committed to providing assistance to Burundi, including for the electoral process and its socio-economic development, and urge other international partners to do the same.

We note the progress in the implementation of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) in **Zimbabwe** and share concerns about the environment in which it is taking place. We urge all parties to remove all obstacles to the full implementation of the GPA and the effective functioning of the Inclusive Government. We recognise and appreciate the humanitarian and other assistance that the international community continues to provide to the people of Zimbabwe. We will continue to engage in the political dialogue with the Inclusive Government to support its efforts in respect of the economic challenges and the democratic process in the country. In this regard, the EU welcomed the continued engagement of SADC in supporting and monitoring the GPA.

We stress the importance of **Iran** engaging with the international community on all issues of concern, in particular over the issue of Iran's nuclear programme, in the spirit of mutual respect and full recognition of Iran's international rights and obligations. We also note with concern the recent events in Iran following the elections on 12 June, including the limitations of political freedoms.

We remain committed to the two-state solution with an independent, democratic, contiguous and viable Palestinian state, comprising the West Bank and Gaza, living side by side in peace and security with the State of Israel within internationally recognised and secure borders. We welcome all international efforts, including the new US administration initiatives, to vigorously pursue a two-state solution and a comprehensive peace in the **Middle East** on the basis of the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, the terms of reference of the Madrid conference, including land for peace, the Roadmap, the agreements previously reached by the parties and the Arab Peace Initiative. We urge all the parties to the conflict to work to achieve this goal.

We also welcome the mediation efforts of Egypt and the Arab League aimed at inter-Palestinian reconciliation and the restoration of Palestinian unity which will be important to consolidate the peace process. We also highlighted the importance of the efforts by the international community to assist with the reconstruction of Gaza. We call for the immediate and unconditional opening of crossings for the flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and persons to and from Gaza without which the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid, reconstruction and economic recovery will not be possible. We also call for a complete stop to all violence, including a sustained halt of rocket attacks at Israel and an effective mechanism to prevent arms and ammunition smuggling into Gaza. We urge the Government of Israel to immediately end all settlement activities, including in East Jerusalem. Settlements are illegal under international law and constitute an obstacle to peace.

We agree that **Sudan** is entering another critical phase in the peace process with the 2010 elections and 2011 referendum. We are pleased that the signatories to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) have agreed to abide by the decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration on the boundaries of the Abyei region and urge the Parties to implement the remaining provisions of the CPA, in particular the preparations for the 2010 elections. We commit ourselves to support the parties in holding free and fair elections. Both parties express support to the work of the African Union High-level Panel on Darfur led by former President Thabo Mbeki to ensure that issues of accountability and combating impunity, on the one hand, peace, healing and reconciliation, on the other, are effectively addressed. We welcome the leadership of the AU/UN Mediator, Djibril Bassolé, and urge the Parties to the conflict to engage in the process, underlining the importance of reaching a speedy settlement. With

regard to the deployment of UNAMID, we express our appreciation to the troop-contributing countries and to those that continue to provide support to UNAMID.

We express our deep concern over the situation in **Somalia**. We reaffirm our support to the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia under the leadership of President Sheikh Sharif Ahmed. We reaffirm that there can be no military solution to the crisis in Somalia and call on all armed groups to lay down their weapons. We urge all stakeholders to redouble their efforts towards reconciliation. We express our deep appreciation and strong support to the AU and AMISOM. We recognise the important role played by the International Contact Group on Somalia under the leadership of the UN. We welcome the successful conduct of the EU NAVFOR ATALANTA operation and stress the need to fight the root causes of piracy.

We note the progress made in an effort to restore constitutional order in **Madagascar**, and commended the SADC Mediator, former President of Mozambique, Joachim Chissano, for the progress made so far. We note with concern attempts to undermine the Maputo agreements, as well as any unilateral decisions which violate the spirit of the agreements. We reiterate our support to the current political dialogue in Madagascar and urge all parties to fully implement the Maputo agreements.

(...)

JAVIER SOLANA – KLEINMOND SUMMIT POINTS EU-SA PARTNERSHIP TOWARDS FUTURE

16 September 2009

I was delighted to attend last Friday's European Union (EU)-SA summit in Kleinmond, the first to be held in SA. SA is a vital strategic partner for the EU and it is important that we address challenges together. Though our partnership was only formalised two years ago, our relations have flourished since the birth of democracy in SA in 1994 and have been underpinned for the past decade by the landmark trade, development and co-operation agreement signed in 1999.

Together, we are confronting the pressing issues of climate change and the global economic crisis, which topped the agenda for Friday's talks. We respect SA's commitment to tackling climate change as a member of the Africa Group and the Group of 77, and its role as a major player in the negotiations leading up to the Copenhagen Conference in December. We know SA is looking to us to support developing countries in their efforts to make and meet crucial climate change commitments.

In the EU, we are aware of the negative effects that the global economic crisis has had on Africa and we share SA's commitment to implementing the decisions of the London Group of 20 meeting. We will work together to reform the international financial institutions and ensure that developing countries have a greater say in them. We share an overriding concern that efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals are not hampered by the fallout from the economic crisis.

Central to our relationship is our joint approach to peace and security issues. We share a commitment to conflict resolution and postconflict stabilisation and reconstruction. At this year's summit, we launched an annual political dialogue, dedicated to analysing international political and security developments. SA's role in the Southern African Development

Community has been a motor for regional integration and efforts for peace and prosperity in this core region of Africa. It plays an unparalleled role in advancing conflict resolution in Africa. We value its continued engagement in facilitating the Burundi peace process. It is also the main champion of postconflict building efforts in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The EU and SA continue to work together in addressing the crisis in Zimbabwe. SA's role in brokering and guaranteeing the Global Political Agreement has been pivotal. The EU will continue to engage in the dialogue with the inclusive government of Zimbabwe and has just sent a high-level delegation to Harare to discuss progress towards normalising relations. The EU and SA also share concerns over Madagascar, Sudan and Somalia. We are looking at developing our co-operation on the EU's antipiracy operation off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden.

The EU's approach to the challenges facing African nations is multi-pronged, ranging from political dialogue, humanitarian aid and development co-operation, to trade and investment, including peace operations under the United Nations aegis. We work very closely with the African Union (AU) and together the EU and the African nations are building a new strategic political partnership that supersedes the traditional donor-recipient relationship and builds on our common values and goals.

But our co-operation today with SA goes beyond Africa. A critical item on Friday's agenda was the Middle East peace process. The EU and SA are united in their desire to see a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We also discussed the situation in Iran and the international community's efforts to resolve the issue of Iran's nuclear programme, stressing the importance of Iran engaging with the international community.

These critical international issues illustrate the importance of our partnership with SA. Our relations are not just anchored in the past, they are based on our shared vision of the world today and in the future. Our history, geography and cultural ties give us a special relationship with Africa, and in particular with SA.

BusinessDay

External Affairs Council

Brussels, 15 September 2009

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Sudan – Council conclusions

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council reaffirms its support for the peaceful and democratic development in the whole of Sudan and reiterates the importance of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the interim national constitution. It underlines that the developments in Sudan have implications for the region as a whole.

2. The Council welcomes recent progress made but expresses its concern regarding the delayed and uneven implementation of the CPA, the deteriorating situation in South Sudan and the continued absence of a cease-fire agreement as well as the slow progress on political negotiations in Darfur. It expresses its concern at the situation in the Eastern Sudan where the underlying problems of poverty and marginalisation have yet to be resolved. Furthermore, the Council regrets the Government of Sudan (GoS) decision of non-ratification of the revised Cotonou Agreement and is concerned about the adverse effects this will have on those in need in Sudan.

3. The Council welcomes the Points of Agreement concluded by the parties of the CPA on 19 August regarding the implementation of the CPA, and commends the strong engagement of the United States. It urges the parties to keep the deadlines laid out in the accord. The EU will continue to coordinate its actions and support for the CPA with the international community.

4. It calls on the parties to urgently implement outstanding CPA commitments, including the North-South border demarcation, the Abyei Road Map and the decision by the Permanent Court of Arbitration on the Abyei border demarcation. The parties should make full use of and cooperate with the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC) and the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS).

5. The Council urges the Government of National Unity (GoNU) to speed up preparations, including resolving the census issue, with regard to the nation-wide elections in April 2010, well ahead of the crucial voter registration phase in November 2009. It is imperative that the GoS, and the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) urgently establish a conducive environment for the election process and ensure full respect for human rights and democratic principles. The EU will support the electoral process and plans to send in the next few weeks an exploratory mission to Sudan to assess the conditions for a possible EU Electoral Observation Mission.

6. It calls on the parties to make all necessary preparations to allow for the 2011 referendum to be held according to the provisions of the CPA. It encourages all Sudanese stakeholders to engage in dialogue with regard to post-referendum arrangements. Active participation of women should be encouraged. The EU is committed to facilitate these endeavours, including by providing technical advice and assistance.

7. The Council expresses its concern at the frequent outbreaks of violence in the South Sudan. It calls upon the GoSS to make efforts to uphold the rule of law and to address insecur-

ity. The Council emphasizes the need for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. It encourages the GoSS to implement the commitments of the Juba Compact, agreed on with EU and other development partners. Furthermore, it calls on the CPA parties to strengthen the capacity and integrity of the Joint Integrated Units in the Three Protocol Areas.

8. It urges the GoS and the Darfur rebel movements to urgently engage in the Darfur peace talks under the leadership of the UN/AU Chief Mediator, Djibril Bassolé. The Council welcomes the Mediator's efforts to encourage coherence among movements. The Council underlines the importance of ensuring opportunities for civil society in Darfur to contribute to conflict resolution and reconciliation. It underlines that the GoS has a responsibility to protect the civilian population and to facilitate the full and effective deployment of the AU UN Mission in Darfur (UNAMID).

9. The Council calls on the GoS, local authorities and rebel movements in Darfur to facilitate humanitarian access and to respect international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles. It strongly condemns the continued violence against civilians and humanitarian actors, including the abduction of aid workers in Darfur.

10. A lasting peace in Darfur and the region requires normalisation of the relations between Sudan and Chad. The Council calls on the governments of Sudan and Chad to implement, without further delay, previous commitments and urges regional partners to intensify their assistance in this process.

11. The Council underlines that impunity for international crimes can never be accepted. It follows closely the work of the Mbeki panel on justice and reconciliation in Darfur. The Council reiterates its support for the International Criminal Court (ICC) and calls upon the GoS to cooperate fully with the ICC in accordance with its obligations under international law.'

HONDURAS – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

'The Council expresses its deep concern over the political crisis in Honduras and the ongoing violation of the constitutional order.

The Council confirms its firm support to the OAS and for the mediation efforts of the President of Costa Rica, Oscar Arias, and calls on the actors involved, in particularly the *de facto* government, to work on the basis of the San José Accord in order to find a rapid and peaceful negotiated solution to the current situation and restoration of constitutional order in Honduras, particularly ahead of elections in November.

The Council underlines the importance of the Verification Commission proposed in the San José Accord as well as its impartiality.

The Council repeats its call on all relevant parties and institutions to refrain from any violence or activities that may incite violence.

The Council expresses its deep concern over reported human rights violations in the country (including threats to human rights defenders, arbitrary detentions and repression of peaceful protesters) and reminds *de facto* government of its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the OAS charter and the American Convention on Human Rights.

Member States will continue to restrict contacts at the political level with representatives of the *de facto* government. EU budgetary support payments have been put on hold.

Development cooperation with the *de facto* government has also been suspended allowing only for support to civil society and humanitarian assistance.

Until a peaceful settlement is found, the EU will stand ready to take further restrictive measures including targeting those members of the *de facto* government who are seen to be blocking progress on a negotiated solution based on the San José Accord. The Council tasks relevant Council bodies to start necessary preparatory work.'

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA – EU SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

The Council adopted a joint action extending the mandate of Mr Erwan Fouéré as EU special representative (EUSR) in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), from 1 October 2009 until 31 March 2010 (12147/09).

The mandate is based on EU objectives, which include the consolidation of the peaceful political process and full implementation of the Ohrid framework agreement, thereby facilitating further progress towards European integration through the stabilisation and association process.

Mr Fouéré (Ireland) was appointed as EUSR in November 2005. His current mandate expires on 30 September 2009.

EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

Joint action on EUSEC RD Congo

The Council adopted a joint action on the EU mission to provide advice and assistance for security sector reform in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (EUSEC RD Congo).

The joint action renews the EUSEC RD Congo mission statement. The current mission statement, set out in 2007 joint action 2007/406/CFSP, ends on 30 September 2009.

Under the new joint action, the EUSEC RD Congo mission is designed to assist the Congolese authorities in setting up a defence apparatus capable of guaranteeing the security of the Congolese people, while respecting democratic standards, human rights and the rule of law, as well as the principles of good governance and transparency. In particular, the mission is to contribute, in close coordination with international partners, to creating conditions to facilitate the implementation of guidelines adopted by the Congolese authorities in the revised plan for reform of DR Congo armed forces approved by the DRC President at the end of May.

The joint action will cover a period of one year (from 1 October 2009 until 30 September 2010). The financial reference amount to cover expenditure relating to the mission is set at EUR 10.9 million.

The European Union has been conducting the EUSEC RD Congo mission since June 2005. Currently composed of some 60 personnel headed by General Jean-Paul Michel, the mission has been instrumental in the implementation of several key projects such as the 'chain of payments' project and the biometric census of troops in the DRC's armed forces. The EU has consistently supported security sector reform in the DRC, as one of the elements of a more general EU commitment to supporting development and democracy in the African Great Lakes region.

EUSEC RD Congo – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 15 September 2009

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2009/709/CFSP ON THE EUROPEAN UNION MISSION TO PROVIDE ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE FOR SECURITY SECTOR REFORM IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (EUSEC RD CONGO)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 14, Article 25, third paragraph, and Article 28(3), first subparagraph thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Since 2 May 2005, the European Union (EU) has been conducting a mission to provide advice and assistance for security sector reform in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) (EUSEC RD Congo). The current mission statement is set out in Joint Action 2007/406/CFSP⁽¹⁾ and ends on 30 September 2009.

(2) The Secretary-General/High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy (SG/HR) sent a letter to the President of the DRC dated 27 July 2009 stating the EU's renewed commitment. Following that letter, the mission statement should be adapted as from 1 October 2009.

(3) Following the ratification in 2005 of the Constitution of the Third Republic of the Congo, the elections held in the DRC in 2006 marked the end of the transition process and enabled a government to be formed in 2007, which has adopted a programme providing in particular for comprehensive reform of the security sector, the drawing up of a national plan, and priority reforms in the police, armed forces and judicial sectors. The development of a revised plan for reform of the Armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC), approved by the President of the Republic at the end of May 2009, demonstrates the interest of the Congolese authorities in reinvigorating the process of security sector reform (SSR) in the DRC.

(4) The United Nations has reaffirmed its support for the transition process and SSR by means of several Security Council resolutions, and is conducting the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), which is contributing to the security and stability of the country. On 22 December 2008, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1856 (2008) extending MONUC's mandate and allowing it, in close coordination with other international partners, and especially the EU, to contribute to efforts to support the government in the process of SSR.

(5) The EU has consistently supported SSR in the DRC, as one of the elements of a more general EU commitment to supporting development and democracy in the African Great Lakes Region, while taking care to promote policies compatible with human rights and international humanitarian law, democratic standards and the principles of good governance, transparency and respect for the rule of law.

(1) OJ L 151, 13.6.2007, p. 52.

- (6) On 27 July 2009, the Council approved a revised General Concept on continuation of the mission to provide advice and assistance for SSR in the DRC.
- (7) On 15 June 2009, the Council adopted Joint Action 2009/466/CFSP amending and extending for an additional period of 12 months Joint Action 2007/405/CFSP on the EU police mission undertaken in the framework of SSR and its interface with the system of justice in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (EUPOL RD Congo)⁽²⁾.
- (8) The synergies between the two missions, EUPOL RD Congo and EUSEC RD Congo, should continue to be promoted.
- (9) In order to increase the consistency of the EU's activities in the DRC, the closest possible coordination between the various EU players should be ensured in Kinshasa as well as in Brussels, through appropriate arrangements. The European Union Special Representative (EUSR) for the African Great Lakes Region will have an important role to play in this respect, taking account of his mandate.
- (10) On 16 February 2009, the Council adopted Joint Action 2009/128/CFSP⁽¹⁾ extending the mandate of Mr Roeland VAN DE GEER as the EUSR for the African Great Lakes Region.
- (11) Joint Action 2005/355/CFSP has been amended several times in order to boost the mission, in particular by Joint Action 2007/406/CFSP, as last amended by Joint Action 2009/509/CFSP^{(2)*} extending the mission until 30 September 2009.
- (12) For the sake of clarity, Joint Action 2007/406/CFSP should be replaced by a new Joint Action.
- (13) Third States should participate in the project in accordance with the general guidelines defined by the European Council.
- (14) The current security situation in the DRC may deteriorate, with potentially serious repercussions for the process of strengthening democracy, the rule of law and international and regional security. A continued commitment of EU political effort and resources will help to embed stability in the region,

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

Mission

1. The European Union (EU) is conducting a mission to provide advice and assistance for security sector reform (SSR) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), named 'EUSEC RD Congo', with the aim of assisting the Congolese authorities in setting up a defence apparatus capable of guaranteeing the security of the Congolese people, while respecting democratic standards, human rights and the rule of law, as well as the principles of good governance and transparency. The purpose of the mission is to contribute, in close coordination with international partners, to creating conditions to facilitate the implementation in the short and medium term of the guidelines adopted by the Congolese authorities in the revised plan for reform of the Armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC).
2. The mission shall operate in accordance with the mission statement set out in Article 2.

(2) OJ L 151, 16.6.2009, p. 40.

(1) OJ L 46, 17.2.2009, p. 36.

(2)* OJ L 172, 2.7.2009, p. 36. [asterisk added for clarity]

Article 2

Mission statement

1. The mission shall aim, in close cooperation and coordination with the other actors in the international community, in particular the United Nations and the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), and in pursuit of the objectives laid down in Article 1, to provide practical support in the field of SSR in the DRC – with emphasis on the strategic dimension – as set out in the revised General Concept, including:

- supporting the overall implementation of the revised plan through assistance and support for the structures put in place by the Congolese authorities to manage the implementation of the revised plan,
- making the implementation of the revised plan for reform of the FARDC operational through the development of detailed plans to rebuild the FARDC, in particular in the following areas: administration, operational capabilities, budget and finance, training, logistics, human rights and combating sexual violence, and human resources,
- identifying and managing specific projects in support of the revised plan for reform of the FARDC,
- supporting the Congolese authorities in the process of integrating ex-combatants into the FARDC, including the accelerated integration of the National Council for the Defence of the People (CNDP) and armed groups,
- supporting the EUSR in particular in the context of the peace negotiations in the east of the country,
- supporting cross-cutting activities, particularly in the area of human rights and for gender issues,

2. The mission shall advise the Member States and shall coordinate and facilitate, under their responsibility, the implementation of their projects in fields which are of interest to the mission and in furtherance of its objectives.

Article 3

Structure of the mission and deployment zone

1. The mission shall have headquarters in Kinshasa consisting of:

- (a) the mission leadership;
- (b) an administrative support and logistics department for the mission;
- (c) a department of advisers, at strategic level, assigned to the various structures of the Ministry of Defence, responsible for contributing to work on SSR carried out by the Congolese administration, and
- (d) a department of defence experts responsible for assisting and supporting the Congolese in carrying out specific actions in the areas of administration, human resources, finance, logistics and training.

2. The main deployment zone shall be Kinshasa. Seconded advisers shall also be deployed in the four military regions in the east of the DRC. Movements of experts and their temporary presence in the military regions shall, if necessary, be organised on the instructions of the Head of Mission.

Article 4

Planning

The Head of Mission shall draw up a revised implementation plan (OPLAN) for the mission, to be submitted for approval by the Council. He shall be assisted in this task by the General Secretariat of the Council.

Article 5

Head of Mission

1. The Head of Mission shall assume day-to-day management of the mission and shall be responsible for staff and disciplinary matters.
2. All seconded staff shall remain under the full command of the national authorities of the sending State or the EU institution concerned. National authorities shall transfer operational control (OPCON) of their personnel to the Head of Mission.
3. The Head of Mission shall be responsible for disciplinary matters relating to staff. In the case of seconded staff, disciplinary action shall be exercised by the national authorities or EU institution concerned.
4. In the context of the mission statement as set out in Article 2, the Head of Mission shall be authorised to have recourse to financial contributions from the Member States to implement projects identified as supplementing in a consistent manner the mission's other actions, in two specific cases: either the project is provided for in the financial statement relating to this Joint Action or it is incorporated in the course of the mission by amending the financial statement at the request of the Head of Mission.

The Head of Mission will then conclude an arrangement with the Member States concerned. This arrangement shall in particular cover the specific procedures for dealing with any complaint from third parties concerning damage caused as a result of acts or omissions by the Head of Mission in the use of the funds provided by the contributing Member States.

Under no circumstances may the EU or the Secretary- General/High Representative (SG/HR) be held liable by contributing Member States as a result of acts or omissions by the Head of Mission in the use of funds from those States.

5. The Head of Mission shall sign a contract with the Commission to execute the budget for the mission.
6. The Head of Mission shall collaborate closely with the EUSR.

Article 6

Staff

1. Mission experts shall be seconded by Member States and by the EU institutions. Except for the Head of Mission, each Member State or institution shall bear the costs relating to the experts seconded, including travel expenses to and from the DRC, salaries, medical coverage and allowances other than daily allowances.
2. International civilian staff and local staff shall be recruited on a contractual basis by the mission as required.
3. All mission experts shall remain under the authority of the appropriate Member State or EU institution, and shall fulfil their duties and act in the interest of the mission. Both during and after the mission, mission experts shall exercise the greatest discretion with regard to all facts and information relating to the mission.

Article 7

Chain of command

1. The mission shall have a unified chain of command.
2. The Political and Security Committee (PSC) shall exercise political control and strategic direction.
3. The SG/HR shall give political guidance to the Head of Mission through the EUSR.
4. The Head of Mission shall lead the mission and assume its day-to-day management.
5. The Head of Mission shall report to the SG/HR.

Article 8

Political control and strategic direction

1. Under the responsibility of the Council, the PSC shall exercise the political control and strategic direction of the mission. The Council hereby authorises the PSC to take the relevant decisions in accordance with Article 25 of the Treaty. This authorisation shall include the power to amend the OPLAN and the chain of command. It shall also include powers necessary to take decisions regarding the appointment of the Head of Mission. The power of decision with respect to the objectives and termination of the mission shall remain vested in the Council, assisted by the SG/HR.
2. The PSC shall report to the Council at regular intervals.
3. The PSC shall receive, at regular intervals, reports by the Head of Mission. The PSC may invite the Head of Mission to its meetings as appropriate.
4. The EUSR shall provide the Head of Mission with the political guidance required to fulfil his duties at local level.

Article 9

Financial provisions

1. The financial reference amount to cover expenditure relating to the mission shall be EUR 10 900 000.
2. As regards expenditure financed out of the amount stipulated in paragraph 1, the following shall apply:
 - a) expenditure shall be managed in accordance with the Community rules and procedures applicable to the budget. Nationals of third States shall be allowed to tender for contracts;
 - b) the Head of Mission shall report fully to, and be supervised by, the Commission regarding the activities undertaken in the framework of his contract.
3. The financial arrangements shall respect the operational requirements of the mission, including compatibility of equipment.
4. The expenditure connected with the mission shall be eligible as from the entry into force of this Joint Action.

Article 10

Participation by third States

1. Without prejudice to the decision-making autonomy of the EU and its single institutional framework, third States may be invited to contribute to the mission, provided that they bear the cost of the staff seconded by them, including salaries, all risks insurance cover, daily allowances and travel expenses to and from the DRC, and that they contribute to the running

costs of the mission, as appropriate.

2. Third States contributing to the mission shall have the same rights and obligations in terms of day-to-day management of the mission as Member States.

3. The Council hereby authorises the PSC to take the relevant decisions on acceptance of the contributions proposed and to establish a Committee of Contributors.

4. Detailed arrangements regarding the participation of third States shall be covered by agreements concluded in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 24 of the Treaty. The SG/HR, who shall assist the Presidency, may negotiate such arrangements on the latter's behalf. Where the EU and a third State have concluded an agreement establishing a framework for the third State's participation in EU crisis-management operations, the provisions of that agreement shall apply in the context of the mission.

Article 11

Consistency and coordination

1. The Council and the Commission shall each, in accordance with their respective powers, ensure that this Joint Action is consistent with the Community's external activities, in accordance with the second paragraph of Article 3 of the Treaty. The Council and the Commission shall cooperate to this end. Arrangements for the coordination of the EU's activities in the DRC shall be established in Kinshasa as well as in Brussels.

2. Without prejudice to the chain of command, the Head of Mission shall also act in close coordination with the Commission delegation.

3. Without prejudice to the chain of command, the Head of the EUSEC RD Congo mission and the Head of the EUPOL RD Congo mission shall coordinate their activities closely and shall seek synergies between the two missions, particularly as regards the horizontal aspects of SSR in the DRC, and as regards the sharing of functions between the two missions, particularly in relation to gender issues and human rights.

4. The Head of Mission shall ensure that EUSEC RD Congo closely coordinates its activities with the Government of the DRC, the United Nations, via the MONUC mission, and the third States involved in the defence area of SSR in the DRC.

5. In accordance with his mandate, the EUSR shall ensure consistency between the activities of the EUSEC RD Congo mission and the EUPOL RD Congo mission. He shall contribute to coordination with the other international players involved in SSR in the DRC.

Article 12

Release of classified information

1. The SG/HR shall be authorised to release to third States associated with this Joint Action EU classified information and documents up to the level 'CONFIDENTIEL UE' generated for the purposes of the operation, in accordance with the Council's security regulations⁽¹⁾.

2. The SG/HR shall be authorised further to release to the United Nations, in accordance with the operational needs of the mission, EU classified information and documents up to the level 'RESTREINT UE' generated for the purposes of the operation, in accordance with the Council's security regulations. Local arrangements shall be established for this purpose.

(1) Decision 2001/264/EC (OJ L 101, 11.4.2001, p. 1).

3. In the event of a specific and immediate operational need, the Secretary-General/High Representative shall also be authorised to release to the host State EU classified information and documents up to the level 'RESTREINT UE' generated for the purposes of the operation, in accordance with the Council's security regulations. In all other cases, such information and documents shall be released to the host State in accordance with procedures appropriate to the host State's level of cooperation with the EU.

4. The SG/HR shall be authorised to release to third States associated with this Joint Action EU non-classified documents relating to the deliberations of the Council with regard to the operation and covered by the obligation of professional secrecy pursuant to Article 6(1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure⁽²⁾.

Article 13

Status of the mission and of its staff

1. The status of mission staff, including where appropriate the privileges, immunities and any further guarantees necessary for the completion and smooth functioning of the mission, shall be agreed in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 24 of the Treaty. The SG/HR, who shall assist the Presidency, may negotiate such arrangements on its behalf.

2. The State or EU institution having seconded a staff member shall be responsible for dealing with any complaints linked to the secondment, from or concerning the staff member. The State or EU institution in question shall be responsible for bringing any action against the person seconded.

Article 14

Security

1. The Head of Mission shall be responsible for the security of the EUSEC RD Congo mission.

2. The Head of Mission shall exercise this responsibility in accordance with EU directives on the security of staff deployed outside EU territory in an operational mission under Title V of the Treaty and related documents.

3. Appropriate training in security measures shall be provided for all staff, in accordance with the OPLAN. A reminder of security instructions shall be given regularly by the EUSEC RD Congo officer in charge of security.

Article 15

Review of the mission

The PSC shall, on the basis of a report by the General Secretariat of the Council presented at the latest in March 2010, approve recommendations to the Council with a view to reviewing the progress of the reform of the FARDC and evaluating the impact of the mission on the implementation of specific measures to support the revised plan for reform of the FARDC, basing itself on strategic indicators and on operational indicators set out in the mission implementation plan.

(2) Decision 2006/683/EC, Euratom (OJ L 285, 16.10.2006, p. 47).

Article 16**Entry into force and duration**

This Joint Action shall enter into force on 1 October 2009.

It shall apply until 30 September 2010.

Article 17**Publication**

This Joint Action shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels, 15 September 2009.

For the Council

The President

C. Bildt

Javier Solana – Speech at the conference 'Europe in the world'

Boston, 17 September 2009

SPEECH BY JAVIER SOLANA 'EUROPE IN THE WORLD' – KENNEDY SCHOOL HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen, I am delighted to be back at Harvard.

The last time, we discussed whether the US and Europe, Mars and Venus, could be reconciled. The answer today is even more obvious than it was then. But we have new issues to grapple with and a new geo-political landscape. Again the question is what the US and Europe can and should do together.

Before we get to that, let me assess the changed context. Ours is a world in flux. One where everything is speeding up: politically, economically and technologically. The net result is growing complexity. There is no single narrative or template to guide us. Chaos and hyper-modernity live side by side. Integration and disintegration co-exist. No wonder many of our citizens feel confused, even lost.

Against this background, we need to be flexible and principled at the same time. For our core values have not changed. Nor has our determination to preserve them at home and support them abroad. What is really changing the world is globalisation. It is leading to deeper interdependence and, probably, to multi-polarity.

Globalisation is good. And anyway pretty much unstoppable. It spreads prosperity and makes us richer culturally. It brings people together across continents. Of course, it has a dark side too. It makes us more vulnerable to shocks and has brought new problems in its wake. It needs a human face.

Globalisation is our child, the child of our ideas. But we can no longer run the world as we used to. We have to adjust. It means new powers are rising while older ones are playing new roles. The financial crisis has shrunk the timeline. The need to reposition ourselves is not a challenge for the medium-term. It is an issue for today.

In all this, there is a paradox. In previous times, if you won a political or ideological battle, you could expect more influence. This time, our intellectual and political victory requires us to share the leadership of the world with others. Our success at spreading markets, open societies and the desire for people to shape their own lives, means less power for ourselves.

This adjustment should be embraced, not resisted. To manage this globalized world, you need two things:

First, well-run states. Weak states are a nightmare for those living in them but also a problem for the rest of us. This brings me to the first big problem: creating well-run states requires functioning politics. And this is something that foreigners cannot provide; only the locals can. We can help. But it is ultimately their responsibility. At the same time, their failures rebound on us. This is the core dilemma for diplomacy in our democratic age.

Second, effective global governance. Maybe an awful term but a vital concept. Through effective global governance, we should avoid the risk of a world of multi-polarity without multilateralism. But here is the second problem: economics and security are global, whereas politics, and people's loyalties, remain local.

The problem of collective action was meant to be solved through international rules and institutions. But this post-1945 international system is under pressure. Both in terms of effectiveness and legitimacy. This is partly because we have new problems without institutions, such as migration. Or because problems fall between institutions, like the financial crisis.

It is also because the nature of power itself is changing. Power has shifted from governments to markets, NGOs, the media. These days, if you want to tackle international problems, negotiations among diplomats and other government officials are seldom enough. But the main reason is the power shift, roughly speaking from the West to emerging countries.

If people are to contribute to the solution, they have to help shape the strategy. The old maxim of 'nothing about us, without us' has resonance. It is therefore logical that we talk so much about reforming the 'Gs': G8, G8 plus 5, G 20. But also the UN Security Council; or IMF voting weights and so on.

In short, the consequence of the double power shift is that we need to mobilise wide coalitions and bring everyone on board. But the question arises: Who is responsible for what? Who defines the strategy? How do you avoid free-riding behaviour? This requires trust which in turn is done through agreed rules and good politics.

The European Union itself is a good example. It started as a peace project among Europeans. Through enlargement we spread the zone of peace and stability. A big task for today and the future is to contribute to promoting peace and functioning politics around the world.

It is 10 years since we started doing foreign and security policy in the European Union in a more serious way. Not everything is perfect. But we are making a difference where it matters. We are promoting peace and protecting the vulnerable in the Balkans, Africa, the Middle East and elsewhere. More than 70,000 people, from soldiers to policemen to rule of law experts, have been deployed in more than 20 crisis management operations.

These missions are important. They save lives. They bring stability. But they are also an expression of Europe's ambitions and identity. We do crisis management the European way. With a comprehensive approach. In support of international law and agreements. And in close co-operation with partners such as the UN, NATO, the African Union and others.

Of course, by far our most important international partner is the United States. President Obama has set a new direction for US foreign policy. This has been welcomed around the world. And in Europe, in particular. The reasons are obvious. Europeans welcome his inclusive leadership; the genuine consultations; his principled pragmatism.

New policy lines have been defined. On the Middle East including Iran; on Afghanistan-Pakistan or on Guantanamo, or today's important statement on missile defence. There is also a greater orientation on Asia, and China in particular. This is not entirely new, but the trend has become clearer. This too is a consequence of the power shift.

The rise of China and its integration into the system is arguably the most important trend in global politics. How this unfolds will shape the world of our children. We understand the importance of your bilateral relationship with China. Most international issues require America and China to pull in the same direction. But there can be no simple G2 running the world. That would betray the key principle of inclusiveness. The European Union has to be there. It deserves to be there.

The transatlantic relationship has been changing. The days that it was primarily about

security in Europe are, thankfully, long gone. It is now a partnership for action around the world. This in turn requires two things: first, a shared strategy, which means a US willing to listen; and second, resources, which means a Europe able to act.

We welcome the US commitment to working with the European Union. But in a way, it is up to us to prove the added value of working with Europe. Both because of what we can offer, collectively. And because of who we are and what we stand for. There are many issues that require a close EU-US partnership and clear results in the months ahead. Together we have the will and resources to do so.

The Middle East is an obvious example. George Mitchell is in the region. I was there a couple of weeks ago. We will meet over the week-end. We are working together to create a new dynamic for peace. Allow me to repeat my thinking: A basic ingredient for success is a real mediation. The parameters for peace are defined and well known. The mediator has to set the timetable too. If the parties are not able to stick to it, then a solution backed by the international community should be put on the table.

After a fixed deadline, a UN Security Council Resolution should proclaim the adoption of the two-State solution. This should include all the basic parameters: borders, around those of 1967, refugees, Jerusalem and security arrangements. It would accept the Palestinian State as a full member of the UN, and set a calendar for implementation. It would mandate the resolution of other remaining territorial disputes and legitimise the end of claims. The Arab countries, through the 'Arab Peace Initiative', have to get actively engaged.

Along with the Middle East, let me focus on three other issues: Afghanistan; Russia; Climate change. And, of course, I will be happy to answer questions on any subject.

We all know why we are in Afghanistan. Our security needs a functioning Afghan state. The obstacles to that are also clear: a growing insurgency; the corrosive effect of drugs; and high levels of corruption. We need a new 'Compact', or 'Contract', with whoever leads the new Afghan government. This 'Compact' should clarify the commitments of both sides, and should make greater Afghan ownership and accountability clear.

The US is more deeply engaged than we are. But as the EU we are making a useful contribution: with aid, people and a willingness, under the right conditions, to do more. Security is a pre-condition for development and building a state. Europeans have deployed 30,000 troops – more than they ever did in Bosnia. Everybody agrees we need enough competent Afghan security forces, both army and police, to control the territory. So we need to train them.

Our European Police mission (EUPOL) mission focuses on civilian policing. Its aim is to train the trainers. It has made good progress, as recognised by Afghan and US partners. We will continue this and where possible expand. But above all, we must realise that there really can only be a political solution. This means more emphasis on reconciliation. This will be a big task for the next Afghan government. It has to find jobs for the foot soldiers of the Taliban and make political deals with the middle ranks. I believe that if we send the right people, who know the culture and history, to the right places, we could make a real difference.

Let me turn to Russia. The starting point must be that no real security is possible in Europe without US engagement and without Russia finding its proper place in the overall European order.

Since the end of the Cold War we in the West certainly made mistakes and missed opportunities. But Russians also have to ask what they have contributed to the prevailing mood of dis-

trust, especially among their neighbours. Shared security requires a shared mindset. An agreement on principles and a willingness to abide by them in practice.

George Kennan wrote in his Long Telegram, explaining why the Soviet Union was not supportive of the new global institutions, that: 'Soviet power is impervious to the logic of reason...[but] highly sensitive to the logic of force.' Today, Russia is very different from the Soviet Union in the wake of World War II. So too is Europe. That is why we want to believe that it is the logic of reason that drives the Russian leadership. And that is why we want to explore President Medvedev's idea of a new European security architecture and the environment created by the US 'reset'.

We welcome the 'reset' including the new direction on non-proliferation and disarmament. By year's end there should be a follow-on to START, with reduced levels of strategic nuclear arsenals. The world will be better for it.

As the EU we work well with Russia on many global issues, like the US does: on the Middle East, Iran, Somalia. But, unlike the US, we also share a continent with Russia. Hence the EU's relationship to Russia is every-day business: from energy security to migration to the environment. Dealing with Russia has sometimes been difficult for us. This is logical given the different histories of EU countries. But what matters is not how a discussion begins but how it ends. And the EU has ended up with a united position on the 'Medvedev proposals' and on Georgia.

President Medvedev himself recently commented on the reasons for Russia's failure to modernise: the endemic levels of corruption and the need to have a more open, democratic system with the rule of law.

Because of our post-modern DNA, the EU is not well-placed to respond to something that might look like 'great power politics'. The US probably finds that easier. There is no alternative to co-operation with Russia on a wide range of issues. The best way to do so is through agreed rules. Whether on broader security or on energy.

A third area where close US-European co-operation is needed is climate change. Every time the scientists come back to us, their findings are worse. This is a planetary crisis. It is urgent. And we need to take our responsibility. I am pleased that more than anyone else, the European Union is showing leadership in tackling climate change. Both with a robust set of policies at home and in pushing the international community to act.

In terms of policy, we essentially need two things: to find the right incentives to stimulate for green investments; and to address the global justice dimension. I am concerned that, on issues such as non-proliferation, this is being cast as a North versus South problem. You created it, you solve it. Yes, the rich created the problem. And yes, the poor are the most vulnerable. But this is a problem that cannot be solved without everyone contributing. In a way, it is a problem for everyone that half of all the people that were ever alive are alive today.

All this makes a comprehensive deal in Copenhagen essential. We need ambitious targets and well-functioning cap and trade systems. Plus money for developing countries to help them reduce their emissions and cope with the inevitable. On targets, I welcome the latest commitment by Japan (minus 25% by 2030). And I hope that the US will follow suit. We realise that domestic political circumstances are difficult. But if the US does not move, China and India won't either. And we have to break this 'mutual suicide pact'.

A generous and credible deal on financing is not only a part of a larger deal; it is a way to get it. I know it may sound impossible in the middle of such a serious economic crisis. But it is the other way around. Investments in green technology will be key to overcome the crisis. I am not

dreaming. It is feasible. The EU is committed to paying its fair share. Next week in Pittsburgh at the G20 we will see how much everybody is willing to contribute.

There is a new mood in US-European relations. But also a daunting agenda: the Middle East, Iran, Afghanistan, Russia, Eastern Europe, non-proliferation and disarmament, energy and climate. All different and all difficult at the same time.

The way to solve these problems is by good politics. What do I mean? For me, good politics involves patience, empathy, integrity and creativity. It is about re-establishing trust. About focusing on the future not the past. The wider horizon, not the narrow. Good politics requires an ability to charm, move, mobilise, persuade and cajole.

Dear friends, some see a world full of growing, intractable problems. I see a world of negotiable conflicts and new opportunities. If we apply ourselves and practice good politics, we can solve the conflicts and seize the opportunities.

Thank you very much.

E3+3 Statement on Iran's nuclear programme

New York, 23 September 2009

Following their meeting at the UN General Assembly on Iran's nuclear programme the E3+3 countries (UK, US, China, France, Germany and Russia) issued a statement urging Iran to continue to cooperate with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Iran's nuclear programme remains a matter of serious concern to the international community as set out in the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1696, 1737, 1747, 1803 and 1835.

We acknowledge the recent measures taken by Iran regarding its cooperation with the IAEA and encourage Iran to cooperate further with the IAEA to resolve the remaining issues which need to be clarified to exclude the possibility of military dimensions to Iran's nuclear programme.

We urge Iran to implement all measures required by the IAEA and the UN Security Council to build confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme at the earliest possible date.

We have consistently stated that we want to negotiate a comprehensive long-term agreement to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue. But this can only be achieved if both sides are willing to approach these matters in a spirit of mutual respect and are committed to looking for solutions going forward.

This has been the objective of our dual-track policy since June 2006 to which we remain firmly committed. We recall the meeting between Dr Jalili, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, and Dr Solana, the European Union's High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, accompanied by Representatives from the E3+3 in Geneva in July 2008 at which proposals from the E3+3 and Iran were discussed.

The other members of the Group warmly welcomed the new direction of US policy towards Iran and their decision to participate fully in the E3+3 process and join in any future meetings with representatives of Iran. On 8 April 2009, we called on Iran once again to meet us to discuss the proposal we made in June 2008. We note on 9 September, Iran made a proposal for a discussion covering a wide range of issues. We stress the importance and urgency of taking practical steps to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue. We reaffirm our proposals of June 2008 which will offer substantial opportunities for political, security and economic benefits to Iran and to the region.

We reiterate that we recognise Iran's rights under the international treaties to which it is a signatory, but with those rights come responsibility to the international community.

We are united in our willingness to work with Iran on these matters. The meeting on 1 October will provide an opportunity to seek a comprehensive, long-term and appropriate solution to the Iranian nuclear issue through dialogue and negotiation. We expect a serious response from Iran and will decide in the context of our dual-track approach, as a result of the meeting, on our next steps.

Middle East Peace-Process – Quartet Statement

New York, 24 September 2009

The Quartet-U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Special Envoy for Middle East Peace George Mitchell, High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union Javier Solana, European Commissioner for External Relations Benita Ferrero-Waldner and Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt met in New York on September 24, 2009. They were joined by Quartet Representative Tony Blair.

Recalling the fundamental principles laid down in its statement in Trieste on June 26, 2009, the Quartet welcomes the recent meetings between U.S. President Barack Obama, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas as significant steps toward the re-launching of direct, bilateral negotiations as part of a comprehensive resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, 1397, 1515, 1850, and the Madrid principles. The Quartet reiterates that the only viable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an agreement that ends the occupation that began in 1967; resolves all permanent status issues as previously defined by the parties; and fulfils the aspirations of both parties for independent homelands through two states for two peoples, Israel and an independent, contiguous and viable state of Palestine, living side by side in peace and security. The Quartet reaffirms that Arab-Israeli peace and the establishment of a peaceful state of Palestine in the West Bank and Gaza, on this basis, is in the fundamental interests of the parties, of all states in the region, and of the international community.

The Quartet shares the sense of urgency expressed by President Obama and fully supports the steps ahead as outlined in his statement to the UN General Assembly on September 22. The Quartet calls on Israel and the Palestinians to act on their previous agreements and obligations-in particular adherence to the Roadmap, irrespective of reciprocity-to create the conditions for the resumption of negotiations in the near term. The Quartet urges the government of Israel to freeze all settlement activity, including natural growth; and to refrain from provocative actions in East Jerusalem and calls on the Palestinian Authority to continue to make every effort to improve law and order, to fight violent extremism, and to end incitement.

Recalling that transformative change on the ground is integral to peace, the Quartet welcomes the Palestinian Authority's plan for constructing the institutions of the Palestinian state within 24 months as a demonstration of the PA's serious commitment to an independent state that provides opportunity, justice, and security for the Palestinian people and is a responsible neighbor to all states in the region. The Quartet notes significantly improved economic growth in the West Bank and welcomes initial ministerial contact between the Palestinian Authority and Israel on economic issues. The Quartet welcomes further steps by Israel to promote change on the ground and encourages it to redouble those efforts, in particular concerning free movement of people and goods. The Quartet calls on all states in the region and in the wider international community to match this commitment by contributing immediate, sustained, concrete, and coordinated support for the Palestinian nation building effort. It further welcomes the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee's commitment to coordinating assistance for Palestinian economic and institutional development in support of the successful conclusion of negotiations toward the two-state solution.

The Quartet stresses the urgency of a durable resolution to the Gaza crisis and calls for a solution that addresses Israel's legitimate security concerns, including an end to weapons smuggling into Gaza; promotes the reunification of Gaza and the West Bank under the legitimate Palestinian Authority; and facilitates the opening of the crossings to allow for the unimpeded flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods, and persons to and from Gaza, consistent with UN Security Council Resolution 1860. The Quartet reaffirms its support for the proposed UN-led civilian reconstruction activities in Gaza. The Quartet reiterates its call for the immediate release of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit.

Recognizing the significance of the Arab Peace Initiative, the Quartet urges regional governments to support the resumption of bilateral negotiations, enter into a structured regional dialogue on issues of common concern, and take steps toward normalization of relations across the region in the context of progress towards peace. In this regard, the Quartet commits to remain actively involved on all tracks and supports, in consultation with the parties, an international conference in Moscow in 2009. The Quartet tasks the envoys to continue to meet regularly and to formulate recommendations for Quartet action.

Informal meeting of Defence Ministers – Remarks by Javier Solana

Goteborg, 28-29 September 2009

(...)

MARITIME SURVEILLANCE

I am very impressed by the ongoing and evolving cooperation in the field of maritime surveillance, particularly the work being carried out in the Baltic Sea region. There is a great deal that the European Union can learn from this effort, in which Sweden is taking a leading role. It is in all our interests to develop the collection and sharing of maritime information across borders and between authorities and agencies, including customs, coast guards, police and fisheries.

I should like to thank all the Member States and all the institutions and agencies that are working so hard in this field, particularly the European Commission, the FRONTEX border agency, the Satellite Centre and the European Defence Agency (EDA). I look forward to the report on the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) aspects of maritime surveillance being drawn up for the EDA by the five admirals or 'wise pens' and I welcome the EDA's work on the Future Unmanned Aerial System.

Everyone agrees that we will all benefit from pulling together all these efforts and sharing accurate information and situation awareness as part of a global, comprehensive approach that only the EU is capable of developing, in order to tackle the threats and dangers that face us all. I strongly support this joint effort.

CIVIL-MILITARY CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT

We need to seize every opportunity to enhance cooperation between civil and military resources in order to make full use of the EU's unique potential for conflict prevention and crisis management. This requires a concrete, practical approach that includes the exploration of possible synergies in the development of capabilities for use in our civilian and military European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) operations.

We should start with the four potential key areas that have been identified as providing added value, and then see whether we can progressively expand. These are: protection, transport, communications and information. Of course, we aim to ensure that dual-use technologies respond to military and civilian needs and provide more value for money.

The European Defence Agency (EDA) is exploring ways to connect Defence Research and Technology Investment with Technology Investment in the civil sector in order to increase interoperability.

BATTLEGROUPS

We have discussed battlegroups at a number of meetings in the past. I should like to thank the Swedish Presidency for focusing the discussion today on some specific points. We devote a great

deal of effort to maintaining our battlegroups in a state of readiness and we must ensure that we make full use of this potential, without reducing our level of ambition. Any battlegroup deployment must meet the operational needs of the moment. We want to explore ways of developing our flexibility so that our battlegroups can be deployed rapidly when needed for operational purposes.

EUNAVFOR ATALANTA SOMALIA

EUNAVFOR ATALANTA has a leading role in the international counter-piracy efforts off the coast of Somalia. It has been a great success and we agreed in June to extend our counter-piracy engagement by another year until December 2010.

Our force generation process is going well and reflects the commitment of our Member States. Cooperation with third states, such as Russia, China, India and Egypt, and with other actors and organisations, particularly NATO, is also very positive. South Africa is also very interested in working with us.

We have developed a good legal framework with Kenya, and we are very grateful for Kenya's assistance. Discussions on a similar framework with the Seychelles are under way. Work in the Piracy Contact Group is making progress towards a more sustainable solution at regional level with international support.

The situation in Somalia has the potential to further destabilise an already fragile region, to provide fuel for the global jihad and in turn to bring about the risk of attack on our own territory. It therefore requires a comprehensive approach and a global response. The recent attack against the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) underlines the urgency of the situation and the need for concrete action on our part. This need was confirmed by President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed when I met him in New York last week. I should like to emphasize our strong support for the President and the Transitional Federal Government (TFG).

Today, I would like to concentrate on the security sector, in particular training for the Somali military forces, which is the most pressing requirement. Several EU missions have recently returned from the region where they explored further possibilities. These should progressively encompass security-sector reform, governance and development. The EU's effort is a contribution to the international community's overall action. The missions' main findings on the ground are that we could make a difference by contributing to the training of the Somali military forces. This could take the form of an ESDP mission, in Djibouti or Uganda, with the objective of helping the TFG initially to secure and hold Mogadishu. I suggest that we continue planning on this basis in order to reach a decision in the near future. Whilst the other lines of action are equally important, this one has a particular sense of urgency.

EUFOR ALTHEA

I am concerned about the political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the lack of progress with the reform agenda. What unites Bosnians is their shared desire to join the European Union and not fall behind other countries in the region, in particular Croatia. Basing our policy on this incentive will give us – and the international community as a whole – much greater leverage and a better chance of making progress with the necessary reforms, including constitutional reforms.

It is also clear that Bosnia and Herzegovina can only have a European perspective as a single unitary state. We are therefore planning for a transition from the Office of the High Representative (OHR) to a reinforced EU Special Representative (EUSR) to lead the international presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In November, the Peace Implementation Council (PIC) Steering Board will review the latest developments. Despite the political tensions and nationalistic rhetoric, the security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remains calm and stable. We need to continue to plan for the evolution of ALTHEA. General McColl is continuing to plan for this.

EU ENGAGEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

Afghanistan

Military engagement in Afghanistan is just one part of the comprehensive solution. The core security interests at stake in Afghanistan are terrorism, narcotics, regional insecurity and violent extremism, all of which may affect Western security. The current post-election situation illustrates the breadth of Afghanistan's problems. The European Union's activities on the ground are clearly part of working towards a smaller military footprint. The EU focus is on governance, the rule of law and policing, with Afghan ownership of the security sector as the aim.

EUPOL

EUPOL has consolidated the progress it has made at tactical, operational and strategic levels and is expanding. EUPOL has provided added value through its distinctive civilian policing expertise and widespread deployment throughout Afghanistan (in 16 provinces). This has been recognized by Afghan and US partners. However, EUPOL Afghanistan is still facing important logistical and security difficulties. We need the support from the provincial reconstruction team (PRT) lead nations to generate reliable logistical capacities and security. It is very important that we are able to meet our commitments.

Pakistan

We need collectively to do more on Pakistan. We need to focus our energy on support to civilian institutions, the rule of law and economic development. This will cost time and money and other resources but will serve our key interests in the long term. The EU is in a position to contribute. Our relationship is maturing and we are developing our cooperation. We need to deepen it further because the stability of Pakistan is fundamental.

Iran – Remarks by Javier Solana

Geneva, 1 October 2009

On 1 October, Javier Solana had a meeting Geneva with Saeed Jalili, Secretary of the Iranian Supreme National Security Council, to discuss the Iranian nuclear dossier. The High Representative was accompanied by the political directors of the EU3+3 (France, Germany, United Kingdom, China, Russia, United States). Mr Solana held a press conference after the meeting at which he made the following introductory remarks.

‘Good afternoon. We had a full day of talks with an Iranian delegation led by Dr Saeed Jalili, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council.

Today’s meeting took place after 15 months of pause in discussions with Iran on the nuclear issue.

It represented the start of what we hope will be an intensive process. I ought to mention here, as I underlined to Dr Jalili, that the significance of this meeting was enhanced by the full participation of the US for the first time.

On our side we based ourselves on the agreement by Ministers in New York last week in the framework of our dual-track policy. We put on the table all of the issues which we feel need to be discussed. This includes the proposals made to Iran last year.

I went into some detail about how the freeze-for-freeze proposal should be taken forward as a way to full negotiations. I also underlined the need for Iran to be fully transparent to the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) on all elements of its nuclear programme, especially following recent developments. I should mention that I have been in direct contact with Director-General Mohamed ElBaradei during today.

I and all the representatives of the six countries were united in underlining the importance of full transparency and of rebuilding confidence through practical steps. In the course of the day we had both plenary meetings and bilateral discussions allowing for detailed exchanges on all issues. We agreed to intensify dialogue in coming weeks and expect progress in the following areas:

First, there will be a second meeting before the end of October. An agenda for that meeting will be worked out through diplomatic channels. It will focus on nuclear issues, including proposals previously put forward by both sides. It will also deal with global issues that any of the parties wish to address.

Second, Iran has told us that it plans to cooperate fully and immediately with the IAEA on the new enrichment facility near Qom, and will invite IAEA experts to visit the facility soon, we expect within the next couple of weeks.

Third, in consultations with the IAEA and on the margins of today’s meeting, it was agreed in principle that low enriched uranium produced in Iran would be transported to third countries for further enrichment and fabrication into fuel assemblies for the Tehran Research Reactor, which produces isotopes for medical applications.

Details will be worked out in a meeting of experts from the IAEA and interested countries in Vienna on 18 October so that implementation can begin as soon as possible.

In conclusion, I should say that this is only a start and we shall need to see progress through some of the practical steps we have discussed today.’

3rd European Union-Brazil Summit – Joint Statement

Stockholm, 6 October 2009

The Third European Union-Brazil Summit was held in Stockholm on 6 October 2009 chaired by the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Sweden, Mr. Fredrik Reinfeldt, in his capacity as President of the Council of the European Union, the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Mr. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, and the President of the European Commission, Mr. José Manuel Durão Barroso.

The leaders discussed global issues, regional and international situations and the strengthening of EU-Brazil relations and in particular the state of implementation of the EU-Brazil Joint Action Plan adopted at the second Summit in Rio de Janeiro in December 2008.

(...)

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

18. The EU and Brazil exchanged views on recent political developments in their respective regions, with a view to consolidating security, stability and prosperity in Europe and in Latin America and the Caribbean. Both Parties remain engaged in multilateral, regional, and bilateral efforts aimed at promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy, the rule of law, and equitable and sustainable development in both regions.

(...)

22. They recognized the EU and Brazil's respective endeavours towards peace in the Middle East and welcomed US and Quartet efforts to vigorously pursue a two-state solution with two democratic states, Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security, and a comprehensive peace in the Middle East on the basis of the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions; the terms of reference of the Madrid conference, including land for peace; the Roadmap; the agreements previously reached by the parties and the Arab Peace Initiative. They urged all the parties to the conflict to work to achieve this goal.

23. They reaffirmed their willingness to support and promote the full implementation of their existing commitments assumed under the international disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and agreements and other relevant international obligations, bearing in mind the three pillars of the Non-Proliferation Treaty: disarmament, non-proliferation, and the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. They agree to continue to work together, both bilaterally and within all relevant multilateral fora, to address the issues of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. In particular the EU and Brazil will cooperate in order to ensure a successful outcome of the 2010 NPT Review conference, and of the resumption of negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament, bearing in mind the outcome of the 2009 Session. They will also work together within the framework of the IAEA to support and reinforce the IAEA, to promote universalisation and compliance with the IAEA Safeguards system and to make sure that countries wishing to develop nuclear energy programmes for civilian purposes do so in accordance with the highest standards of safety, security and non proliferation. In this context, leaders expressed their satisfaction at the results of the Brazil-EU Consultation Meetings on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, which have been taking place since 2002.

24. The EU and Brazil noted with satisfaction the realization on October 1st, in Geneva, of a new high level meeting between China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany, the EU and Iran on the Iranian nuclear program. They welcomed the agreement on the need for an intensive and constructive dialogue, aiming at practical steps and confidence building measures, and stressed their commitment to seeking a negotiated solution to the Iranian nuclear question, meeting all international obligations.

25. Summit leaders reaffirmed their mutual commitment to combat organized crime, corruption, and illicit drugs, including through the EU-LAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs.

26. The EU and Brazil welcomed the recent starting of the EU-LAC Structured Dialogue on Migration to strengthen and improve the bi-regional relations on migration issues.

27. The EU and Brazil highlighted the importance of encouraging actions aimed at building trust within societies and strengthening bridges between people, communities and nations. For that purpose, they reaffirm their commitment to supporting and promoting the Alliance of Civilizations UN Initiative and they welcome the upcoming III Forum of the Alliance to be held in Brazil in May 2010, the first held outside the Euro-Mediterranean area.

BILATERAL ISSUES

28. Leaders welcomed the very significant progress made in the implementation of the EU-Brazil Joint Action Plan and committed to further promoting its full implementation as well as the intensification and diversification of the bilateral relationship.

(...)

13th Africa-EU Ministerial Troika Meeting

Addis Ababa, 14 October 2009

(...)

II. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE 12TH TROIKA MEETING

Peace and Security in Africa

Ministers discussed **Sudan** and exchanged views on the situation in Darfur. While noting some improvements on the ground in Darfur, they recognised that the situation remains volatile. The Ministers stressed the need for speedy progress in the search for peace, security, justice and reconciliation in Darfur, bearing in mind that civilians, in particular women and children, in the region continue to be exposed to an unacceptable risk of violence, millions of people continue to live in IDP camps or as refugees in neighbouring Chad.

Ministers welcomed the progress made in the deployment of UNAMID and condemned attacks targeting UNAMID personnel and equipment, as well as humanitarian workers. They stressed the urgent need to address the critical gaps facing the Mission in the area of aviation and force enablers and, in this respect, called on all the countries having the necessary capabilities to provide UNAMID with the required military enablers. They underlined the need to continue making sustained efforts to address any problem regarding the deployment in the context of the AU/UN/Government of Sudan Tripartite Mechanism.

Ministers called on all the Sudanese parties to demonstrate the necessary political will and engage in dialogue without preconditions. In this context, they reiterated their support to the efforts to unite rebel groups and to facilitate their participation in the political talks. In line with the Plan of Action adopted by the Special Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Tripoli, Libya, on 31st August 2009, they stressed the need to significantly move the process forward by the end of 2009, in advance of the national elections. Ministers expressed their support to the efforts of the joint AU-UN Chief Mediator Djibril Bassolé to reach an inclusive framework agreement in Darfur.

Ministers expressed their support of the work of the AU High-Level Panel on Darfur (AUPD) and expressed the hope that their recommendations that will be presented will provide a roadmap on how best to achieve peace, justice, reconciliation and healing in Darfur, thereby contributing to the overall objective of sustainable peace and stability in Sudan as a whole. Ministers look forward to the forthcoming AU PSC meeting at Summit level which will consider the report of the High Level Panel.

Ministers called upon the Governments of Sudan and Chad to implement previous commitments and to take urgent action to restore confidence and good neighbourliness between the two countries. They welcomed the recent visit of a Sudanese high-level delegation to N'djamena and encouraged the two countries to build on this positive development.

While welcoming the progress made in the implementation of the CPA, including the acceptance by the parties of the Ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration on Abyei, Ministers noted that this process has now entered a critical phase, with the elections scheduled in April 2010 and the referendum of 2011. They urged the parties to the CPA to resolve the outstanding issues in its implementation, in particular as they relate to the demarcation of the

North-South border, the enactment of the remaining legislation for the elections, the full redeployment of forces, the disarmament of militias and the operationalization of the Joint Integrated Units (JIUs), as well as to work towards finding an agreement on the results of the census. Ministers underlined the need to create viable conditions conducive for the successful holding of the April 2010 elections, including Darfur, as provided for by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). They reiterated the AU and EU's commitment to support the parties in holding free and fair elections.

Ministers expressed grave concern at the deteriorating security situation in South Sudan and other war affected areas, emphasizing the need to deploy all efforts to address this situation.

Ministers discussed **Somalia** and condemned in the strongest terms possible the terrorist attack carried out on 17 September 2009, by Al-Shabaab, on the Force Headquarters of the AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in Mogadishu. They presented their heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, as well as to their national Governments, and once again expressed their appreciation to AMISOM personnel for their courage and dedication.

Ministers expressed their strong support for AMISOM and called for renewed efforts to meet the requirements of AMISOM to effectively discharge its mandate.

Ministers had an exchange of views on the decisions taken by the AU ordinary Summit in Sirte and Special Session in Tripoli. In this respect, Ministers called for the early deployment of the three remaining battalions of AMISOM, to enable the Mission to reach its authorized strength; the early elaboration of an integrated and well coordinated training plan for the Somali Security Forces and Police within an overall security strategy consistent with the outcome of the Security Sector Assessment; the review of the rules of engagement of AMISOM to enable it to provide increased assistance to the TFG and facilitate the extension of the latter's authority; the intensification of efforts to promote reconciliation and a broad based and representative political process within the framework of the Djibouti process; the implementation of sanctions against spoilers, in accordance with relevant UN Security Council Resolutions; to pursue efforts to prevent the flow of arms and other forms of support to the insurgents in Somalia; the need for early disbursement by all the countries and institutions that made pledges during the Brussels Conference of the funds committed; and the mobilization of resources for the enhancement of the capacity of the Somali state institutions.

Ministers expressed the priority of an improved security situation, for the benefit of the Somali population and for the consolidation of the political process, and they called attention to the need to address the humanitarian situation. Both sides underlined the need to provide adequate support to the TFG, in particular with respect to the security sector.

Ministers renewed their strong support for the TFG and welcomed progress in the field of national reconciliation, drafting of a constitution and building a national security apparatus, and encouraged the Government to intensify its efforts in this regard.

Both sides welcomed the conduct of the EU NAVFOR ATALANTA operation, which is playing a leading role in international anti-piracy efforts. They agreed that the existing links between piracy, security and development motivated an approach that should be comprehensive, including efforts on land as well as at sea with a view to building up the national and local capacities.

The African side briefed the EU side on the ongoing efforts in Africa to address the issue of the payment of ransom to hostage takers, in light of the decision adopted by the AU Summit in Sirte and reaffirmed by the Tripoli Special session.

Ministers welcomed the progress made towards the promotion of lasting peace, stability and security in the **Great Lakes Region**. They welcomed the visible improvement of the relations between the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda. Ministers stressed the need to mobilise further support towards post-conflict reconstruction and development efforts in the region, including the mobilisation of the required resources and technical assistance, particularly in support of cross-border projects.

Expressing their full support for the peace process in Burundi, including the organisation of free and fair elections in 2010, Ministers welcomed the progress achieved so far and encouraged the Burundian parties to pursue their efforts.

Ministers expressed concern about the continued severe humanitarian situation and the widespread sexual violence in Eastern DRC. They encouraged all parties to fully implement the 23 March 2009 Agreements between the Government of the DRC and Congolese armed groups. They stressed the importance of security sector reform and called for continued support by the international community for the implementation of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development.

Ministers welcomed the efforts made by the countries of the region to resolve the problem of the FDLR, including measures to curb propaganda, military activity and retaliation actions by the FDLR against the local population in Eastern DRC. They called for the implementation of appropriate military, judicial and political measures to that end. They also underlined the need for further initiatives to ensure protection of exposed civilians in LRA affected areas in the DRC, Southern Sudan and Central African Republic (CAR). Ministers expressed support for the efforts to implement the already applicable provisions of the Juba Peace Agreement.

Ministers reiterated the importance of increasing efforts in order to promote security and development in the **Sahel region**. Ministers welcomed ongoing efforts to strengthen the rule of law and combat terrorism, organized crime and trafficking within and transiting through the region and to mobilize the necessary resources accordingly, stressing the need to intensify those efforts. They called on all states in the region to increase and deepen their cooperation in order to combat and prevent cross border illegal activities. Ministers also noted the particular impact that climate change might have on security and development in particular with regard to sustainable development.

Coordinated responses to unconstitutional changes of government

Ministers reiterated their firm rejection by of unconstitutional changes of Government. In this vein, they welcomed the efforts being made by the AU to enhance both prevention of, and response to, this phenomenon, as well as the commitment of AU Member States, as expressed in the Tripoli Declaration of 31st August 2009, to promote good governance, to abide by the rule of law and to respect their own constitutions, especially when it comes to introducing constitutional reforms.

Regarding the situation in **Guinea**, Ministers expressed their deep concern over the events that took place on September 28 in Conakry. Both sides condemned in the strongest terms the violent repression by Guinean security forces of a political demonstration, resulting in loss of life, a high number of injured people and material damages. Furthermore, they expressed their deep concern over the deteriorating human rights situation in Guinea, arbitrary arrests and restrictions of freedom of speech. Both sides were seriously preoccupied by the intention of

Captain Dadis Moussa Camara, President of the National Council for Development and Democracy (CNDD), to stand for forthcoming presidential election. They agreed that the democratic legitimacy of the new institutions will require the strict neutrality of the transitional authorities in the electoral process and called upon the President of the CNDD to confirm and to formalize his earlier commitments, that neither he, the members of the CNDD, nor the Prime Minister will stand for office. Ministers welcomed the communiqué issued by the International Contact Group meeting held in Abuja, on 12 October 2009.

The EU informed that consultations under article 96 of the Cotonou agreement were concluded in July 2009, linking the gradual resumption of cooperation between the EU and Guinea to the transition process, but also support to the transition process to commitments made by Guinean authorities. Both sides agreed that the international community should continue to closely follow the situation and to push forward democratic transition in Guinea, in particular in the framework of the International Contact Group.

The two sides discussed the situation in **Madagascar** and the mediation led by former President Chissano of Mozambique. Both sides welcomed the progress achieved recently during the third meeting of the International Contact Group on Madagascar, held in Antananarivo, on 6 October 2009, under the auspices of the AU. They urged the Malagasy parties to strictly comply with the commitments made to facilitate the full implementation of the Maputo Agreements of 9 August 2009 and the early return to constitutional order.

The EU side conveyed its concern regarding the situation in Niger and informed the African side of the negative consequences on the cooperation between Niger and the EU if essential elements of the Cotonou Agreement are violated. The AU side informed that its policy organs have not pronounced themselves on the situation in Niger and furthermore noted that ECOWAS is convening a Summit meeting on 17th October 2009 to discuss the issue.

Elections in Africa and in the EU

Both sides welcomed the holding of regular elections in Africa, and witnessed the irreversibility of the commitment of the continent to democracy. They have, in this context underlined the significant number of elections to be held this year and stressed the need to support them.

Ministers exchanged views on election-related conflicts and violence and ways of strengthening democratisation processes on the continent. In this respect, they stressed the need for the early entry into force of the AU Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. Furthermore, they welcomed the report submitted by the AU Panel of the Wise on strengthening the role of the African Union in the prevention, management and resolution of election-related disputes and violent conflicts in Africa, and endorsed by the AU Assembly in Sirte, in July 2009. They highlighted the recommendations contained therein, in particular as they relate to preventive and early warning mechanisms, electoral governance and administration, coordination of electoral assistance, post-election conflict transformation mechanisms and international cooperation and partnerships, and called for their effective and speedy implementation.

Ministers recalled that when improving the electoral environment, the African Peer Review Mechanism's (APRM's) recommendations should be taken into account. The recommendations from European Union and other Election Observer Missions should also be taken into account by the concerned countries. On both sides, the follow-up to these processes should be improved.

The two sides welcomed the good cooperation between the EU and the AU in the electoral field and in particular the initiatives to strengthen the capacities of African observers, by providing appropriate training, and also through launching of invitations to observe the elections in Europe. Both sides underlined that independent, comprehensive and credible election observation remains a key instrument and agreed to strive for ensuring a high degree of cooperation between the different independent observers missions deployed.

Zimbabwe

Both sides noted progress in the implementation of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) in Zimbabwe and share concerns about the environment in which it is taking place. The Ministers urged all parties to remove all obstacles to the full implementation of the GPA and the effective functioning of the Inclusive Government. The Ministers further recognised and appreciated the humanitarian and other assistance that the international community continues to provide to the people of Zimbabwe. Both sides agreed to continue to engage in the political dialogue with the Inclusive Government to support its efforts in respect of the economic challenges and the democratic process in the country. In this regard, the EU side informed of the recent Ministerial Troika visit to Zimbabwe. The Ministers noted and welcomed the continued engagement of SADC in supporting and monitoring the GPA.

(...)

EUFOR Tchad/RCA – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 19 October 2009

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION REPEALING JOINT ACTION 2007/677/CFSP ON THE EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY OPERATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF CHAD AND IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 14 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) On 15 October 2007, the Council adopted Joint Action 2007/677/CFSP⁽¹⁾.
- (2) The EU military operation in the Republic of Chad and in the Central African Republic (Operation EUFOR Tchad/RCA) was launched on 28 January 2008 by Council Decision 2008/101/CFSP⁽²⁾ and ended on 15 March 2009. Subsequently all forces have been redeployed from the area of operations.
- (3) By letter dated 7 July 2009 the EU Operation Commander notified the recovery of the EU force, and therefore Joint Action 2007/677/CFSP should be repealed, in accordance with Article 15(3) thereof.
- (4) Council Decision 2008/975/CFSP of 18 December 2008 establishing a mechanism to administer the financing of the common costs of European Union operations having military or defence implications (ATHENA)⁽³⁾ determines the procedures for the audit and presentation of the accounts of an operation,

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

Joint Action 2007/677/CFSP is hereby repealed. This repeal shall be without prejudice to the procedures laid down in Decision 2008/975/CFSP regarding the audit and presentation of the accounts of the operation.

Article 2

This Joint Action shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Article 3

This Joint Action shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Luxembourg, 19 October 2009.

For the Council

The President

E. Erlandsson

(1) OJ L 279, 23.10.2007, p. 21.

(2) OJ L 34, 8.2.2008, p. 39.

(3) OJ L 345, 23.12.2008, p. 96.

EUPOL RD Congo – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 19 October 2009

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION AMENDING JOINT ACTION 2007/405/CFSP ON THE EUROPEAN UNION POLICE MISSION UNDERTAKEN IN THE FRAMEWORK OF REFORM OF THE SECURITY SECTOR (SSR) AND ITS INTERFACE WITH THE SYSTEM OF JUSTICE IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (EUPOL RD CONGO)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 14 thereof,
Whereas:

- (1) On 12 June 2007, the Council adopted Joint Action 2007/405/CFSP on the European Union police mission undertaken in the framework of reform of the security sector (SSR) and its interface with the system of justice in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (EUPOL RD Congo)⁽¹⁾.
- (2) On 23 June 2008, the Council adopted Joint Action 2008/485/CFSP⁽²⁾ amending and extending Joint Action 2007/405/CFSP until 30 June 2009.
- (3) On 15 June 2009, the Council adopted Joint Action 2009/466/CFSP⁽³⁾ amending and extending Joint Action 2007/405/CFSP until 30 June 2010. Joint Action 2009/466/CFSP provided that the Council would establish a new financial reference amount in order to cover expenditure related to the mission for the period from 1 November 2009 to 30 June 2010.
- (4) A renewed and stronger effort is needed to combat the persistence of sexual violence and impunity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, especially in the Eastern Region. To this effect, provision should be made for the mission to deploy specialised personnel to enhance the fight against sexual violence and impunity.
- (5) The mandate of this Mission is being carried out in a security context that is liable to deteriorate and to undermine the objectives of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) as defined in Article 11 of the Treaty.
- (6) Joint Action 2007/405/CFSP should be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

Joint Action 2007/405/CFSP is hereby amended as follows:

1. Article 2(1) shall be replaced by the following:
'1. The mission will support SSR in the field of policing and its interface with the justice system. By means of monitoring, mentoring and advisory action with emphasis on the strategic dimension, EUPOL RD Congo shall:

(1) OJ L 151, 13.6.2007, p. 46.

(2) OJ L 164, 25.6.2008, p. 44.

(3) OJ L 151, 16.6.2009, p. 40.

- contribute to the reform and restructuring of the Congolese National Police (PNC) through support for the setting up of a viable, professional and multiethnic/ integrated police force, which takes account of the importance of proximity policing throughout the whole country with the direct involvement of the Congolese authorities in that process;
 - contribute to improving interaction between the police and the criminal justice system in the broader sense, contribute to ensuring the consistency of all SSR efforts, in a comprehensive manner, including by supporting the fight against sexual violence and impunity,
 - cooperate in close interaction with EUSEC RD Congo and the projects of the Commission, and coordinate its action with the other international efforts in the field of reform of the police and the criminal justice system,
 - contribute to the police as well as to the gender, human rights and children and armed conflict aspects of the peace process in the Eastern DRC and especially to its linkage to the reform process of the PNC’.
2. Article 2(3) shall be replaced by the following:
‘3. The mission shall have a project cell for identifying and implementing projects. The mission shall advise the Member States and third States and shall coordinate and facilitate, under their responsibility, the implementation of their projects in fields which are of interest to the mission and in furtherance of its objectives’.
3. Article 3(2) shall be replaced by the following:
‘2. The mission shall have a permanent presence in Goma and Bukavu, in the eastern part of the DRC, so as to deliver assistance and expertise to the stabilisation process in the Eastern DRC. Additional specialised personnel in the area of criminal investigation, including the fight against sexual violence, shall be deployed to Goma and Bukavu, but their area of competence shall cover the whole territory of the DRC and their duty station may vary according to changes in the local situation and security conditions. They shall be under the direct authority of the Deputy Head of Mission in charge of Operations’.
4. In Article 3(3) the following point shall be added:
‘(g) experts assigned to criminal investigation, including the fight against sexual violence’.
5. In Article 9(1) the third subparagraph shall be replaced by the following:
‘The financial reference amount intended to cover the expenditure related to the mission for the period from 1 November 2009 to 30 June 2010 shall be EUR 5 150 000’.

Article 2

This Joint Action shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Article 3

This Joint Action shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Luxembourg, 19 October 2009.

For the Council

The President

E. Erlandsson

Annual Conference of the Institute for Security Studies of the European Union – Speech by Javier Solana

Paris, 22 October 2009

‘Mesdames, Messieurs, chers amis,

Comme toutes les années précédentes je me retrouve devant vous avec le même plaisir : le plaisir provoqué par le débat d’idées et la réflexion sur l’état de l’Union européenne et l’état du monde.

J’arrive du Proche-Orient. Il y a toujours un risque d’échec. Mais l’espoir, l’obligation d’espoir, restent forts également. Je me prépare à de très prochaines discussions avec les responsables iraniens. Là aussi, les risques comme les enjeux sont immenses. L’actualité est aussi dominée par la situation en Afghanistan. Même constat : l’équilibre entre les craintes et les espoirs est fragile. La communauté internationale a l’obligation de mieux faire, comme les autorités afghanes doivent davantage faire preuve de responsabilité.

Cette année est surtout celle de la crise économique et de l’arrivée d’un nouveau Président américain. Entre le monde d’hier et celui de demain, le jeu des possibles est vaste. Face à ces évolutions de portée planétaire, face à cette nouvelle accélération de l’Histoire, où sont les Européens ? Ma conviction est faite : même si le doute a toujours fait partie intégrante de la pensée européenne, c’est aujourd’hui plus que jamais qu’il ne faut pas douter des vertus du projet européen.

Nulle part ailleurs dans le monde en effet, il n’y a d’ensemble plus vaste de communauté de destins fondé sur le droit et les libertés. Nulle part ailleurs dans le monde il n’y a de modèle plus abouti d’intégration politique et de solidarités économiques.

Dans la tourmente de la crise financière, quelle meilleure protection que l’euro ? Face aux ambivalences de la mondialisation, quel meilleur modèle de gouvernance que la souveraineté partagée ? Face au changement climatique ou aux menaces terroristes, quelle meilleure réponse que l’union ? C’est dans l’union, dans l’union des volontés et des efforts, que les Européens ont toujours réussi à construire des jours meilleurs.

Aujourd’hui Lisbonne est à portée. Six années de volontés et d’efforts sont sur le point de porter leurs fruits. J’en suis convaincu. J’en suis convaincu parce que nous n’avons pas le choix. Notre Europe n’est pas celle des pères fondateurs. L’Europe a besoin d’un nouveau contrat de confiance. L’Europe a besoin d’outils plus efficaces pour faire face aux doutes qui l’entourent et apporter une réponse plus efficace aux défis du nouveau siècle. C’est tout le sens du nouveau Traité. Lisbonne est là pour faciliter la poursuite de l’aventure commune dans un monde nouveau.

Permettez-moi de me focaliser sur ce qui est selon moi l’innovation majeure du Traité : la future politique étrangère et de sécurité de l’Union européenne.

Rassembler les outils diplomatiques traditionnels de l’Union européenne et les placer sous l’autorité d’un seul et unique Haut Représentant qui continuera de contrôler les outils de gestion de crise de l’Union, c’est là la garantie assurée d’une plus grande efficacité sur la scène internationale. Nous ne partons pas de rien. Nous avons déjà posé les jalons et construit un socle solide.

C’est grâce aux progrès accomplis depuis dix ans que l’Union européenne a été en mesure de déployer, en 2008, l’opération qui a permis d’enrayer, en moins de trois semaines, la crise entre la Russie et la Géorgie. C’est au final grâce au succès de plus de vingt opérations de gestion de crise que l’Europe a acquis l’expérience et l’autorité nécessaires pour conduire des

actions plus ambitieuses encore. Je songe en particulier à la toute première opération maritime internationale de lutte contre la piraterie au large de la Somalie.

Ce sont au total près de 70 000 hommes et femmes qui ont été déployés sur 4 continents, au nom de l'Europe. Avec à chaque fois la volonté de porter secours à des populations en détresse.

La route est désormais tracée ; l'élan donné. Nul retour en arrière n'est envisageable : si demain, en surmontant tous les obstacles, Israéliens et Palestiniens parvenaient à un accord, l'Europe sera attendue par ses partenaires pour assumer toute sa part, sur le terrain, dans la mise en œuvre d'une paix historique.

Aujourd'hui, la PESD est le bras opérationnel d'une diplomatie européenne en construction. Demain, avec Lisbonne, la diplomatie européenne ne sera plus en devenir. Elle devra être en action.

Bien sûr, l'opérationnalité du nouveau dispositif ne sera pas assurée en une nuit.

L'enjeu est en effet de mettre sur pied rien de moins que le premier réseau diplomatique mondial, épaulé par les ressources militaires et civiles de 27 Etats membres et fort d'un budget communautaire pour l'action extérieure de 50 milliards d'euros d'ici à 2013.

Bien sûr avec Lisbonne, l'Histoire et la géographie continueront de peser sur nos relations avec nos principaux partenaires et le reste du monde. Mais avec Lisbonne, nos relations pourront être plus efficaces avec les Etats-Unis et la Russie, plus denses avec la Chine et l'Inde, plus solidaires avec l'Afrique et l'Amérique latine.

Dear friends,

We are working hard to make a difference on every international question that is affecting our interests and values. We are now able to take decisions in real time; not just publish a communiqué one week after the event. From climate change to the International Criminal Court, we can say with a straight face that the EU is playing a leadership role. The European Union, more than anyone else, is constantly defending a vision of the world where rules are respected, the vulnerable are protected and solidarity is enacted.

Often we talk ourselves down in Europe. You all know the refrain of Europe being too divided, too slow and too soft. Long on rhetoric, short on delivery. And Yes in various areas we still under-perform compared to our potential. But a little perspective is in order here. Now we are taking executive action in a fast-moving world.

Building on the improvements of the last ten years, and with the new opportunities of the Lisbon Treaty within reach, we should plan our next steps: alert to new problems and dangers; guided by our common values. In partnership with others. And with the conviction that each on our own is unable to deal effectively with the problems of our globalised world. We know that acting together is the only way to defend our interests. But we have also defined acting together as being a strategic common interest. That is why European integration is both a means but also an end in itself.

I am convinced that it is only through further integration that Europeans will be able to assert themselves in a more complex world. A world characterised by big power shifts, multipolarity and new security threats. A world where other narratives and other ways of doing things are gaining ground. We need to understand this world at a deeper level than we often do. For this we need more common European assessments of what is driving change; how it is affecting our interests and what our options are to respond.

Dear friends,

We have a pressing policy agenda for the next few months.

Climate change sits right at the top. It is vital that we get an ambitious deal in Copenhagen that really sets the world on a low-carbon trajectory. I am concerned that the politics of climate change is falling behind what the scientists are telling us needs to happen. If left unchecked, climate change will create real havoc. And as Nicholas Stern has demonstrated: the costs of inaction vastly outweigh the costs of taking action. So we can take our responsibilities now or pay a much higher price later.

And let us be clear: if we pay later, we will not just pay in financial terms, also in political terms.

As European Union we have made a credible commitment on both emission targets and financing. We expect the US, China, India and many others to act in the same spirit. This is a test for the global system and a test for European Union that has invested so much leadership in this issue.

Before the end of the year, we will have to grapple with the second round of the Afghanistan Presidential elections and the wider regional conundrum including Pakistan. Our success, or our failure, will be critical. We also need to press relentlessly to unblock the unacceptable stalemate in the Middle East. We need it imperatively. The rest of the agenda that we know about ranges from the Ukraine Presidential elections in January to the NPT Review Conference in May.

But there is a wider and a longer-term agenda for shaping a more effective European foreign policy. Starting with our neighbourhood but going beyond, in line with our global ambitions. Let me end with some reflections on that.

First, we have to realise that our primary responsibility is to make Europe function. And then to enhance our collective ability to handle global crises. For that we need the Treaty but also the spirit of the Treaty when we implement it.

Second, we need more capabilities for crisis management; more sensible budget priorities and more sophisticated political analyses. All three are within reach.

Third, EU foreign policy cannot function if it's only seen as service agency for particular concerns of the member-states. An EU where everybody seeks more money and engagement for 'their' priorities or 'their' clients, while disengaging from other files, will not work.

We need solidarity. Not just in financial but also in political terms. We should back a member-state if it has a particular problem or need.

But this is a two-way street. You also need to be interested in other people's problems. And we should be strict on any unreasonable use of the unanimity rule. The unwritten maxim of the Union is: 'thou shalt negotiate' and hence, not just sit on your position.

Fourth, we should build a foreign policy fit for the problems of the 21st century. We should not recreate at the level of the European Union what does not really work at the national level. So we must make it integrated, wide in scope and geared towards mobilising networks.

This has been the clear verdict of the past ten years. We should draw inspiration from that, to guide us in a world that demands more of Europe.

The world needs Europe. But Europeans need Europe too. It is our duty but also our chance. The difficulties are enormous. But what I describe is achievable.

Thank you very much.'

European External Action Service

Brussels, 23 October 2009

The Lisbon Treaty, which will enter into force on 1 December 2009, has several objectives: a more democratic and transparent Europe, with a strengthened role for the European Parliament and national parliaments, and a more stable and streamlined institutional framework. Moreover, the EU as an actor on the global stage will be achieved by bringing together Europe's external policy tools. A new High Representative for the Union in Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, also Vice-President of the Commission, will increase the impact, the coherence and the visibility of the EU's external action. A new European External Action Service will provide back up and support to the High Representative.

PRESIDENCY REPORT TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON THE EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

(...)

THE EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

1. Article 27(3) TEU constitutes the legal basis for the Council decision on the organisation and functioning of the EEAS.

'In fulfilling his mandate, the High Representative shall be assisted by a European External Action Service. This service shall work in cooperation with the diplomatic services of the Member States and shall comprise officials from relevant departments of the General Secretariat of the Council and of the Commission as well as staff seconded from national diplomatic services of the Member States. The organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service shall be established by a decision of the Council. The Council shall act on a proposal from the High Representative after consulting the European Parliament and after obtaining the consent of the Commission.'

2. In the light of the above, the Presidency, the Member States, the Commission and the Council Secretariat undertook preparatory work on the EEAS. The present document sets out the results of this work as European Council guidelines for the High Representative in the preparation of the draft Council decision on the organisation and functioning of the EEAS¹.

SCOPE

3. The scope of the EEAS should allow the HR to fully carry out his/her mandate as defined in the Treaty. To ensure the consistency and better coordination of the Union's external action, the EEAS should also assist the President of the European Council and the President as well as the Members of the Commission in their respective functions in the area of external relations as well as closely cooperate with the Member States.

1. It is without prejudice to decisions to be taken with regard to the internal organisation of the Commission and the overall coordination role of its President.

Single desks

4. The EEAS should be composed of single geographical (covering all regions and countries) and thematic desks which would continue to perform, under the authority of the HR, the tasks currently executed by the relevant parts of the Commission and the Council Secretariat.
5. While the EEAS will have geographical desks dealing with the candidate countries from the overall foreign policy perspective, enlargement will remain the responsibility of the Commission².
6. Trade and the development policy as defined by the Treaty, should remain the responsibility of relevant Commissioners and DGs of the Commission.

ESDP and crisis management structures

7. In order to enable the High Representative to conduct the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), the Crisis Management and Planning Directorate (CMPD), the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) and the Military Staff (EUMS) should be part of the EEAS as defined in paragraph 16 while taking full account of the specificities of these structures and preserving their particular functions, procedures and staffing conditions. The Situation Centre (SitCen) should be part of the EEAS, while putting in place the necessary arrangements to continue to provide other relevant services to the European Council, Council and the Commission. These structures will form an entity placed under the direct authority and responsibility of the High Representative in his/her capacity of High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. This arrangement will fully respect Declaration n° 14 annexed to the Final Act of the Intergovernmental Conference which adopted the Treaty of Lisbon.
8. To enable the HR to fulfil his/her tasks in the crisis management area, preparations of actions related to the CFSP budget and the Instrument for Stability (Exceptional Assistance Measures and Interim Response Programmes) should be handled by the EEAS. The decision-making process will remain as today, with decisions taken by the Council (CFSP) and the Commission (IfS). The technical implementation of these instruments should be managed by the Commission.

Programming and implementation of financial instruments

9. In order to enable the High Representative to assume his responsibility of ensuring the coordination and consistency as well as strategic direction of external policies of the EU, the EEAS (single geographic desks) should play a leading role in the strategic decision-making. The EEAS will thus be involved in the whole programming chain. The specific division of labour for programming the geographical and thematic instruments (the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, the Development Cooperation Instrument, the European Development Fund, the Instrument for Cooperation with Industrialised Countries, the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation and the Instrument for Stability) between the EEAS and the Commission services will be determined before the end of 2009 taking account of the nature of the instruments concerned.

2. The Commissioner responsible for enlargement will ensure the political lead as far as IPA is concerned.

10. Throughout the whole programming and implementation cycle, there should be very close cooperation and consultation between the High Representative and the EEAS and the relevant Commissioners and their services. The decisions concerning programming will be prepared jointly by the High Representative and the Commissioner responsible. The final proposals in this respect will continue to be adopted by the College of Commissioners.

11. Union delegations will play an enhanced role in the programming and the implementation of these instruments.

Support functions

12. The EEAS should include a limited number of core support functions such as in particular security, IT, management of human resources. The EEAS will need a small capacity for specific legal advice within its structure. The HR and the EEAS should also, for the purpose of cost-efficiency, be able to draw on other services within both the Commission and the General Secretariat of the Council in order to fulfil his/her mandate (such as legal services or translation services).

Other

13. Effective consultation procedures should be established between the EEAS and the services of the Commission with external responsibilities, including those in charge of internal policies with significant external dimensions.

14. The EUSRs or their tasks should be integrated into the EEAS.

15. Once in office, the High Representative should regularly consult the European Parliament on the main aspects and the basic choices of the CFSP/CSDP. Close contacts with the EP will take place at working level. The EEAS should therefore contain functions responsible for relations with the EP.

LEGAL STATUS

16. The EEAS should have an organisational status reflecting and supporting its unique role and functions in the EU system. The EEAS should be a service of a sui generis nature separate from the Commission and the Council Secretariat. It should have autonomy in terms of administrative budget and management of staff. The EEAS should be brought within the scope of Article 1 of the Financial Regulation. This would allow the HR to:

- propose a budget for the EEAS, which would be a separate section of the EU budget (under Heading V). The usual budgetary rules will apply.
- perform the duties of authorising officer; implement the Service's administrative budget.
- act as appointing authority for EEAS staff.

17. This will require adjustments to the Financial Regulation and the Commission Regulation on the implementing rules of the Financial Regulation as well as to the Staff Regulation.

STAFFING

18. EEAS staff will come from three sources: relevant departments of the General Secretariat of the Council and of the Commission as well as staff from Members States.

19. All three categories of personnel should be equally treated, including as concerns eligibility to assume all positions under equivalent conditions. Staff from Member States should therefore have the status of temporary agents which, on the basis of Conditions of employment for other servants ('CEOS')³, grants them the same opportunities, rights and obligations (including functions, responsibilities, promotion, pay, leave and social benefits) as those of staff coming from the two other sources of origin.

20. A balanced representation between the different categories must be ensured. When the EEAS has reached its full capacity, staff from Member States should represent at least one third of EEAS staff (AD level), including diplomatic staff in delegations. In addition, some supporting staff should also come from Member States. Staff from Member States should be present in the EEAS from the outset, including in senior positions in Brussels and EU delegations. Already during stage 1 (from the entry into force of the Treaty to the adoption of the Council decision on the organisation and functioning of the EEAS), appropriate presence of staff from Member States should be ensured.

21. The HR will be the appointing authority. Recruitment should be undertaken through a transparent procedure based on merit with the objective of securing the services of staff of the highest standard of ability, efficiency and integrity while ensuring adequate geographical balance, a need for a meaningful presence of nationals from all EU Member States in the EEAS and aiming towards gender balance⁴. A recruitment procedure would be established associating representatives of Member States, Commission and GSC.

22. Appropriate arrangements should be made to ensure staff mobility. The EEAS will need to implement a policy in this respect in order to ensure equal treatment between all members of the service. This policy would include:

- a rotation inside the service, i.e. between headquarters and delegations and between services at the headquarters.
- a rotation between the EEAS and national diplomatic services.
- and, to the extent possible, mobility between the EEAS and Commission and the GSC for staff coming from these institutions.

23. The Staff Regulation will have to be adapted accordingly.

24. Steps should be taken as regards providing EEAS staff with adequate common training.

25. Although temporary increases in the combined establishment plans of the EEAS, the Commission and the GSC may be necessary, the number of posts of the combined establishment plans should not increase over time.

26. Staffing and transfer procedures in the establishment of the EEAS will fully respect the rights of all staff members affected.

FINANCING

27. The establishment of the EEAS should be guided by the principle of cost-efficiency aiming towards budget neutrality. To this end, transitional arrangements and gradual build-up of capacity will have to be used. Unnecessary duplication of tasks, functions and resources with other structures should be avoided. All opportunities for rationalisation should be used. In

3. Conditions of employment for other servants ('CEOS') which is parallel to the Staff Regulation.

4. The situation in this regard will be regularly monitored.

order to ensure appropriate presence of staff coming from Member States in the EEAS, in addition to existing posts coming from the Commission and the GSC, posts could be made available through the transformation of temporary posts in the Commission and the Council Secretariat as well as through filling of posts freed up through retirement and other means. In addition, a limited number of additional posts for Member States temporary agents will be necessary which have to be financed within the framework of the current financial perspectives.

EU DELEGATIONS

28. With the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the Commission's delegations will become Union delegations under the authority of the HR, and be part of the EEAS structure.

29. Delegations will contain both regular EEAS staff (including Heads of Delegation) and staff from relevant Commission services. All staff should work under the authority of the Head of Delegation. Delegations should take instructions from and report to the HR/EEAS and the relevant Commission services as appropriate.

30. The Delegations should work in close cooperation with the diplomatic services of the Member States. In addition to the assistance they provide to the Commission and the Council, they should, wherever necessary, provide logistical and administrative support to the members of other institutions, including the European Parliament. The EEAS/EU Delegations and Member States should, on a mutual basis, share information.

31. The HR should, as a matter of priority, establish a road map and timeframe for the upgrading of EU delegations in close coordination with incoming presidencies. This will allow EU delegations to assume as soon as possible the role and functions currently performed by the rotating Presidency in terms of local coordination and representation of the Union. Special attention should be given to the early upgrading of delegations where the needs of coordination and efficiency in external action are of special importance, for political or operational reasons.

32. EU delegations should play a supporting role as regards diplomatic and consular protection of Union citizens in third countries.

33. Further work is needed on the modalities for the EU delegations accredited to international organisations on a case by case basis.

WAY FORWARD

34. There will be several stages before reaching the final shape of the EEAS. The Council will be fully involved throughout the whole process.

- A first stage from the entry into force of the Treaty to the adoption of the Council decision on the organisation and functioning of the EEAS. The HR should submit his/her proposal with a view to it being adopted at the latest by the end of April 2010. For that reason it is of key importance that preparatory work should continue at full speed within the current format in the run up to the entry into force of the Treaty. From the start, as well as having the immediate support of the external relations structures of the Commission and of the GSC, he/she will be supported by a small preparatory team which should be composed of representatives of Member States, Commission and GSC. In parallel to prepara-

tions for that decision, work must be carried out to make the relevant adaptations in existing rules, such as the Staff and Financial Regulations with a view to their adoption at the same time as the Council decision on the organisation and functioning of the EEAS. Close contacts with the European Parliament should be continued during this stage.

- ▶ A second stage for setting up the EEAS, from the adoption of the Council decision to full cruising speed. A first status report should be made in 2012.
- ▶ When the EEAS has been functioning for some time at full speed, there should be a review of the functioning and organisation of the EEAS followed, if necessary, by a revision of the decision. This review should also cover the scope of the EEAS, including delegations' role in consular affairs. Such a review should take place in 2014.

EU-Georgia Cooperation Council – 10th Meeting

Luxembourg, 26 October 2009

The Cooperation Council between the European Union (EU) and Georgia held its tenth meeting on Monday 26 October 2009. The meeting was chaired by Mr Grigol Vashadze, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. Mr Giorgi Baramidze, Vice Prime Minister of Georgia, State Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration also participated in the meeting. The EU delegation was led by Mr Carl Bildt, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden. Ms Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy represented the Commission and Mr Juan José Rubio de Urquía, Deputy Director General for Eastern European Affairs represented the incoming Spanish Presidency. The EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus, Ambassador Peter Semneby also took part in the meeting.

The recent EU Foreign Ministers' Troika visit to Tbilisi (16-19 July 2009) marked the continuing high level political dialogue between the EU and Georgia.

During the Cooperation Council, the parties discussed the implementation of the EU-Georgia European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan and issues connected with enhancing of EU-Georgia relations, including prospects for the negotiation of a new EU-Georgia Association Agreement within the framework of the Eastern Partnership. The Cooperation Council noted Georgia's strong commitment to the implementation of the ENP Action Plan, welcomed the progress made in some areas and agreed on the need to focus the efforts on further implementation, as reflected in the ENP Action Plan implementation Progress Report by the Commission, published in April 2009.

The Cooperation Council also provided a timely opportunity to take stock of political developments in Georgia, as well as the advancement of political and economic reforms, in particular 'the second wave of democratic reforms' announced in September 2008 by President Saakashvili.

The EU underlined the importance of sufficient progress in democracy, rule of law and human rights, which belong to important conditions for the deepening of bilateral cooperation between the EU and Georgia within the framework of the Eastern Partnership. The EU further stressed that fundamental freedoms, as well as freedom of expression and freedom of the media are essential elements in the bilateral dialogue with Georgia. It reaffirmed its willingness to continue its support for the further development of democratic institutions in Georgia, including in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Eastern Partnership.

The Cooperation Council also took note of the positive results of the first meetings of the multilateral thematic platforms of the Eastern Partnership, stressing the importance of a continuing positive attitude of all partners to this form of cooperation.

The Cooperation Council discussed the increased EU role in the conflict settlement, in particular through the continued presence on the ground of the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM Georgia), the EU's role in the Geneva international discussions and the increased financial assistance pledged by the EU in the framework of the International Donors' Conference (October 2008) aimed at post-conflict rehabilitation, support of internally displaced persons and economic stability. The EU underlined its commitment to Georgia's security and stability,

based on full respect for the principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to a peaceful and lasting conflict resolution.

The plenary meeting of the Cooperation Council was preceded by a joint ministerial working breakfast between the EU and Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan to discuss Eastern Partnership and prospects for deeper cooperation between the EU and the three South Caucasian countries, as well as Conflict Resolution. Mr Carl Bildt, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden represented the EU Presidency. He was accompanied by Mr Javier Solana, High Representative for CFSP, and by Mr Hugues Mingarelli, Deputy Director-General, Directorate General for External Relations, representing the Commission, as well as Mr Diego López Garrido, State Secretary for European Affairs, represented the incoming Spanish Presidency.

General Affairs and External Relations

Luxembourg, 26-27 October 2009

TREATY OF LISBON IMPLEMENTATION INCLUDING THE EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

The Council reached broad agreement on guidelines for the establishment of a European External Action Service (EEAS), as presented in a report by the presidency, and took note of progress in preparatory work on implementation with a view to entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon.

The EEAS guidelines will be submitted to the European Council for approval at its October meeting.

(...)

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

(...)

B. Situation in Pakistan

3. The Council acknowledges the ongoing efforts of the government of Pakistan to re-establish full control over South Waziristan, as an important step in countering instability, terrorism and cross-border insurgency. The EU urges Pakistan to meet its obligations to protect the civilian population. The EU stands ready to assist all civilians affected by fighting in accordance with basic humanitarian principles and provided proper access can be granted and needs assessed. The EU is concerned about the security situation in Pakistan and regrets that hundreds of innocent civilians have become victims of indiscriminate attacks aimed at destabilising the Pakistani state. The EU is firm in its support of the government of Pakistan and encourages it to adopt a comprehensive strategy to fight terrorism and address its root causes.

C. EU action plan for Afghanistan and Pakistan

4. In June 2009, the Council invited the SG/HR and the Commission to set out concrete recommendations, policy priorities and a strategy for EU engagement in Afghanistan and Pakistan. It also invited Member States to contribute with the aim of enhancing and consolidating the EU's action in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

5. By adopting the attached Plan for strengthened EU action in Afghanistan and Pakistan the Council declares the EU's renewed readiness to assist in meeting the challenges of the region, in cooperation with the countries concerned and our international partners.

6. To achieve a step change in Afghanistan is a formidable challenge. It first and foremost requires responsive and effective leadership from the Government of Afghanistan. It also requires concerted and strategic international action. Political and civilian efforts need to go hand in hand with security measures and the developments on the ground. The conflict in Afghanistan cannot be solved without addressing the complex situation in Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan has an important role to play as a neighbour and friend of

Afghanistan. Regional integration and economic cooperation must be developed while borders must be better managed and the cross-border flow of insurgents, drugs, weapons and illegal goods stopped. The situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan has a direct impact on Europe. Many of the most serious global threats facing us today are present in the region.

Afghanistan

7. The Council stresses that in Afghanistan the EU will concentrate its efforts on strengthening state capacity and institutions to promote good governance, human rights and efficient public administration, especially at the sub-national level. In addition, the Council will focus on strengthening the rule of law, i.a. by assisting in the building of a civilian police force through EUPOL and also supporting the implementation of the National Justice Programme, and supporting economic growth, especially through rural development and social progress. These efforts are also in line with the strategic priorities presented by the Government of Afghanistan. The Council emphasises that international assistance must be a transition strategy, focusing on enabling the Afghan government to assume full responsibility, while the international community gradually takes a more supportive role.

Pakistan

8. The Council reiterates its intention to strengthen the EU's emerging strategic relationship with Pakistan, including by holding a second ad hoc summit in the first half of 2010. It welcomes the steps taken by the democratically elected Government of Pakistan to meet the country's complex challenges and calls upon the government to swiftly begin reconstruction and development in the north-western part of the country, in accordance with the Malakand Development Strategy. In order to support Pakistan's economic development, the EU has agreed to step up a dedicated dialogue in order to significantly enhance the bilateral trade relationship, including through a possible free trade agreement in the long term.

9. A stable, democratic and prosperous Pakistan is also key to addressing global issues such as counter-terrorism, non-proliferation, counter-narcotics and human rights. The EU aims to improve cooperation with Pakistan in multilateral forums to enhance progress on these issues. The EU stands ready to assume a supportive role in Pakistani-led initiatives to reform its security sector, strengthen the rule of law and democratic institutions, including the electoral system, thus encouraging the Government to produce concrete results. In this respect, the EU and Pakistan will swiftly establish a regular counter-terrorism dialogue and cooperation to enhance counter-terrorism capacity.

Implementation

10. The Council emphasises that the Plan for strengthened EU action in Afghanistan and Pakistan must be implemented without delay. It will have to be a common endeavour between the EU institutions and the Member States. To this end the Council invites:

- the SG/HR, the Commission and Member States to develop jointly a comprehensive implementation scheme, including proposals for financing, to be presented during 2009;
- the SG/HR and the Commission, in consultations with the Presidency, to propose, before

the end of this year, the modalities for implementing the Council Conclusions on working towards a single EU representation in Kabul, double-hatting the roles of the EUSR and EC Head of Delegation;

- the SG/HR and the Commission, based on input from the Member States, to report to the Council on the status of implementation of the Plan for strengthened EU action in Afghanistan and Pakistan by April 2010 and thereafter at least every six months.

(...)

SRI LANKA – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council examined the situation in Sri Lanka, especially as regards the humanitarian crisis and internally displaced persons still detained in camps.

It adopted the following conclusions:

1. The EU has continued to keep the situation in Sri Lanka under close attention and, as stated before, wishes to engage with the Government of Sri Lanka in a meaningful dialogue towards a new relationship in which both sides seek to cooperate to resolve progressively the principal issues of concern. These include ensuring that the internally displaced persons (IDP), of whom there are believed to be more than a quarter of a million detained in closed camps have freedom of movement, are able to return to their homes without delay, that conditions inside the camps should fully comply with international standards, and that the Government of Sri Lanka and all communities in Sri Lanka make concrete efforts to overcome the divisions of the past and to move on to genuine reconciliation. Without such reconciliation, there can be no return to long-term security or prosperity.

2. The EU is particularly concerned by the continuing humanitarian crisis and the unacceptable situation for the IDPs still detained in closed camps. Indiscriminate detention of IDPs in Sri Lanka is a clear violation of international law. There is an urgent need for all IDPs remaining in the camps to be granted freedom of movement as well as full and unimpeded access to them by humanitarian actors, including for registration purposes, in order to provide humanitarian aid and protection. The IDP camps must be transferred to civilian authority. The EU urges the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure that conditions in the camps in all respects are in accordance with internationally accepted standards. Overcrowding and lack of possibility to ensure the health and safety of the IDPs continues to be a source of serious concern. The monsoon season lends particular urgency to the situation.

3. The EU stresses the right to voluntary, safe and dignified return for all IDPs. It is the responsibility of the Government to ensure that the human rights and other constitutional rights of the IDPs are fully respected. All IDPs should be able to leave the camps when they wish and it should be possible for those who are able to find refuge with families and friends, or who are able to return to their homes in areas where demining is not required, to do so immediately. It is particularly important to ensure that people, and especially children, in the camps are reunited with their families. It is not acceptable that a proportion of those IDPs who have been able to return have not in fact been allowed to go back to their homes but have been placed in new camps which are also closed. The EU supports the call of the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator for the government to present an overall plan for the IDP return process, which should be transparent and coherent, and based on the above fundamental humanitarian principles. The EU welcomes reports of a recent increased rate of return of IDPs and hopes this will continue.

4. The EU welcomes the recent high level visits of the UN to Sri Lanka. It expresses its support for strengthened UN involvement in Sri Lanka, including as regards its coordination, protection and advocacy role.

5. As part of a dialogue, the EU stands ready to support projects for the return of IDPs. However, for such projects to be successful, it is important that they be carried out under certain conditions. These include freedom of movement for returnees, close cooperation with civilian local authorities to ensure that the returnees have sustainable livelihoods, and government support for those organisations who are implementing the projects, including the delivery of visas and unimpeded access. The EU underlines that support for reconstruction and development in the East and the North shall be based on progress in fulfilment of the above.

6. It is essential to put an end to impunity and to all human rights violations. The EU remains seriously concerned with continuing reports of abductions, disappearances and extra-judicial killings. The EU is also gravely concerned about reports on severe harassment of journalists, restrictions on freedom of the press and freedom of expression in Sri Lanka. The EU urges the government to move as soon as possible towards lifting the Emergency Regulations and limiting the special powers conferred by the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Likewise, the EU repeats its call for possible violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law by all actors to be subject to independent and credible inquiry. The EU believes that accountability is integral to the process of reconciliation.

The Council notes that the Commission recently completed its report into whether Sri Lanka has implemented three UN human rights conventions, which is required in the context of GSP+, and concluded that they have not been effectively implemented. The EU will decide what further steps to take in accordance with the GSP+ regulation. In parallel, the EU will maintain a dialogue with Sri Lanka on the steps necessary to address the problems highlighted by the Commission's investigation, in order to effectively implement the conventions.

7. Genuine reconciliation requires an inclusive political process which addresses the legitimate concerns of all communities in Sri Lanka. In this respect, the EU stands ready to support the Government and all other actors in Sri Lanka in their efforts to move forward with such a process immediately.'

GUINEA –COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted a common position imposing restrictive measures against the Republic of Guinea, following the violent crackdown by security forces on political demonstrators on 28 September and the subsequent violation of human rights (14697/09).

The restrictive measures are composed of an arms embargo and a visa ban aimed at preventing the entry into EU territory of members of the National Council for Democracy and Development (NCDD) and individuals associated with them who are responsible for the violent repression or the political stalemate in the country.

The Council will keep the restrictive measures under constant review. The common position will be published in the Official Journal on 28 October.

The EU has urged all relevant actors in the Republic of Guinea to take immediate action to restore the rule of law and put the country back on the path towards constitutional rule and democracy.

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council strongly condemns the violent crackdown on unarmed civilians on 28 September in Conakry, which resulted in gross violations of human rights, including many deaths, injuries and rape. The Council remains seriously concerned about the situation in Guinea and calls on the CNDD authorities to refrain from further violence. It welcomes the decision by the UN Secretary-General to establish an international commission of inquiry to investigate the incidents of 28 September. The EU looks forward to, and will take account of, the results of the commission.
2. The Council commends the strong and coordinated international efforts taken by ECOWAS and the AU to restore rule of law in Guinea and reiterates its support for the facilitator, President Blaise Compaoré, and the work of the International Contact Group on Guinea. The Council also welcomes the outcome of the ECOWAS Summit on 17 October, its call for a new transitional authority and its decision to impose an arms embargo on Guinea as well as its intention to work with the AU on a regime of targeted sanctions against individuals.
3. The Council has decided to adopt measures targeting the members of the CNDD and individuals associated with them, responsible for the violent crackdown or the political stalemate in the country. The Council has also decided to impose an arms embargo on Guinea.
4. The Council underlines the need for a continued coordinated response from the international community.'

UZBEKISTAN – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council notes that since the adoption of the EU Strategy for a New Partnership with Central Asia in May 2007, the dialogue and cooperation between the EU and Uzbekistan have acquired a new scope and quality. The EU reiterates its readiness to continue to engage comprehensively with Uzbekistan and recalls its position to that effect as set out in previous Council Conclusions. At the same time, the EU remains seriously concerned about the human rights situation in Uzbekistan, and encourages the Uzbek authorities to implement fully its international obligations in this area.
2. The Council recalls that restrictive measures were originally imposed on Uzbekistan following the Andijan events of May 2005. Bearing in mind its Conclusions of 13 October 2008, the Council urges Uzbekistan to release all imprisoned human rights defenders and prisoners of conscience, to allow unimpeded operation of non-governmental organisations in the country, including Human Rights Watch, to cooperate fully with all relevant UN Special Rapporteurs, to guarantee freedom of speech and of the media, to proceed with the implementation of conventions against child labour, and to fully align its election processes with OSCE commitments, ODIHR recommendations and other international standards for democratic elections, especially with a view to the Parliamentary elections in 23 December 2009.
3. The Council welcomes the commitment of Uzbekistan to work with the EU on a range of questions relating to human rights and the rule of law, and notes the positive steps taken in Uzbekistan over the last years. These include the release of some human rights defenders, the resumption of ICRC prison visits, the abolition of the death penalty, efforts to improve detention conditions, the introduction of habeas corpus, the ratification of conventions against child labour, progress in the implementation of certain OSCE commitments as well as

Uzbekistan's stated willingness to work more closely with that organization, continuation of judicial reform, the active participation of Uzbekistan in the EU Rule of Law Initiative for Central Asia and the consolidation of the dialogue on human rights between the EU and Uzbekistan.

4. The Council encourages Uzbekistan to continue its reforms in the fields of human rights, democratisation and the rule of law, and remains ready to assist the Uzbek authorities in their efforts through cooperation programmes and dialogue, in particular in the framework of the Cooperation Council, the dialogue on human rights and the Rule of Law Initiative.

5. With a view to encourage the Uzbek authorities to take further substantive steps to improve the rule of law and the human rights situation on the ground, and taking into account their commitments, the Council decides not to renew the remaining restrictive measures set out in the Common Position 2008/843/CFSP.

6. The Council will closely and continuously observe the human rights situation in Uzbekistan. Within a year, the External Relations Council will discuss and assess progress made by the Uzbek authorities and the effectiveness of EU-Uzbek cooperation. While reaffirming the EU's readiness to strengthen its relations with Uzbekistan, the Council notes that the depth and quality of the dialogue and cooperation will depend on Uzbek reforms and progress in the areas mentioned above.'

GREAT LAKES – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

'1. The Council welcomes progress made in the African Great Lakes Region by significantly improved bilateral diplomatic relations between the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda. It underlines the importance of a consolidation of peace and stability in Eastern DRC and calls again upon the DRC and Rwanda to fully implement the Nairobi and Goma peace agreements as well as the Ihusi agreement of 23 March 2009.

2. The Council remains deeply concerned by the severe humanitarian situation in Eastern DRC, caused by attacks and atrocities carried out by the FDLR and the LRA, but in many cases also by the Congolese army, FARDC, against the local population during Kimia II and Rudia II operations. The Council condemns in particular the ongoing recruitment of child soldiers and the wide spread sexual violence. It urges all parties to the conflict to respect international humanitarian law and human rights, including the protection of civilians. The Council reiterates its support for MONUC.

3. The Council calls on the Government of the DRC to ensure without exception that those responsible for violations of international law, including human rights and international humanitarian law, are held accountable. Timely vetting of FARDC commanders and soldiers is of crucial importance in this respect. The Council reiterates its full support for the International Criminal Court activities in the region and calls on the Government of the DRC to cooperate with the Court, particularly with regard to the arrest and surrender of Bosco Ntanganda to the ICC.

4. The Council welcomes President Kabila's 'zero tolerance campaign' against sexual violence, as an important step to address the issue of impunity. The EU is prepared to support the Congolese authorities and other international organizations in a comprehensive approach to fight sexual and gender based violence.

5. The Council is strongly committed to the full implementation of UNSCR 1804 and 1857, and has accordingly adopted restrictive measures on the DRC against FDLR, their leaders in Europe and other armed groups. Furthermore, other concrete measures are being considered within the EU *inter alia* to tackle FDLR.

6. The Council is concerned by the continuing involvement of the FDLR and other armed groups, but in many cases also by the FARDC, in the illegal trade of minerals and other natural resources in Eastern DRC. It encourages the Task Force on illegal exploitation of natural resources to make concrete proposals for action by the international community. The Council stresses the need for increased cooperation between national and local authorities to tackle cross border criminal activities.

7. The Council states that security sector reform will remain a key priority for the EU in the DRC, including through the work carried out by the two EU security sector reform missions in the DRC and by the European Commission. The Council underlines the importance of coordination and collaboration with MONUC, other relevant actors and a firm ownership by the Congolese Government in this regard. The Council stresses the importance of disarmament, demobilisation, reintegration, repatriation and resettlement and welcomes the progress made so far as part of the comprehensive effort against armed groups, including the FDLR.

8. The Council urges the Congolese authorities to fulfill their commitment to organise and ensure financing for the planned local elections. The EU stands ready to continue supporting the electoral process. Governance problems, lack of transparency and violations of civil and political rights constitute serious obstacles to the democratization process and have to be addressed by Congolese authorities.

9. The Council calls on the LRA to honour its commitment to sign the final peace agreement. It insists on the necessity of a comprehensive approach for a solution to LRA related problems, including the protection of civilians, in close cooperation with UN peacekeeping missions in the region and other international partners. The Council underlines the importance of the Government of Uganda implementing all applicable provisions of the Juba Peace Agreements.

10. The Council expresses its concern over September's riots in Kampala and urges the Ugandan Government to resolve any political disputes through peaceful dialogue and democratic institutions. The Council also urges the Government to do its utmost to assure that there will be a level playing field in the run up to the general elections of 2011 and that these elections will be free, fair and transparent.

11. The Council welcomes significant progress in the Burundian peace process and the creation of the Partnership for Peace in Burundi. The Council urges the Burundian Government to do its utmost to organise general elections in 2010 that are free, fair and transparent, and guarantee the independence of the National Electoral Commission (CENI) and the necessary space for political parties. The EU will continue to play a key role in the Political Directorate.

12. The Council recognises the role played by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries for contributing to peace and bringing about socio-economic development in the region.

13. The Council will continue to follow closely the developments in the Great Lakes region and calls upon all actors to adhere to the ongoing peace processes.'

YEMEN – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The European Union reaffirms its support for a unified, stable, democratic and prosperous Yemen and recognises the political efforts made by the Government of Yemen in this regard. The stability of Yemen is crucial for the people of Yemen and for the region as a whole. In this context, the Council is deeply concerned by the deteriorating security, political and economic situation across the country. It underlines the importance of a comprehensive approach to address the security, political and economic challenges and reiterates its readiness to support the Government of Yemen.

2. The Council stresses that the Government of Yemen is responsible for protecting the peace and security of all its citizens within its territory. In this regard, the European Union is concerned by the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in northern Yemen, which has caused an increasing number of civilian casualties and of internally displaced people.

3. The European Union reiterates its call for an immediate ceasefire in Sa'dah. The EU considers that there is no military solution for the crisis in the area. The Council calls on the Government of Yemen to open a process of dialogue with all parties. In this respect, the Council insists on the obligation to respect human rights and international humanitarian law. It particularly recalls the necessity to take all measures necessary to protect civilians and to allow civilians wishing to escape from the conflict to reach places of safety, to facilitate access for the UN and NGOs to areas where internally displaced are gathered and to urgently allow emergency medical and humanitarian relief to reach those internally displaced. Everything possible must be done to ensure that humanitarian personnel, facilities and vehicles are spared the effects of the fighting.

4. The Council regrets that the ruling party and the opposition failed to reach consensus over the holding of elections in 2009 and underlines the importance to hold elections in 2011. The European Union encourages all political parties to implement their agreements setting out the measures required to improve the electoral system and deepen democracy through strengthening the role of the parliament and parliamentary groups. In this context, the European Union calls on all political parties to seriously consider the recommendations, in particular those related to the electoral law, by the EU Elections Observation Mission following the democratic 2006 presidential and local elections. The EU reiterates its willingness to support the process of strengthening democracy in Yemen.

5. The Council calls upon the Government of Yemen to reinvigorate the national political and economic reform process, as set out after the 2006 international donor conference. The EU will continue to accompany Yemen on this difficult reform path and offer its support. In this regard, the Council welcomes the Gulf Co-operation Council's readiness to continue to develop its relations with the Government of Yemen.

6. The Council calls on the Government of Yemen to increase efforts to ease tensions by establishing a comprehensive political dialogue. The European Union urges the Government of Yemen to address longstanding grievances and their root causes through a negotiated, political settlement involving all regions and all elements of Yemeni society.

7. The European Union recalls the longstanding and continuing efforts of Member States and the European Community to address the dire humanitarian situation and to provide development assistance and to address through a focus on state building and key reforms, the most important development challenges. It will continue to work closely with other regional

and international partners to provide targeted and co-ordinated assistance to the Government of Yemen and to maximise the impact of development work in the country under Yemeni leadership. In this context, the Council underlines the European Union's determination to strengthen donor co-ordination in order to promote aid effectiveness in line with agreed international principles.

8. The EU will consider stepping up its comprehensive assistance towards Yemen, especially on security-related matters including in the fields of counter-terrorism, territorial and border control and small arms and light weapons (SALW). The EU will explore possibilities as regards the external dimension of Yemen's challenges, including a dialogue with countries in the region on their assistance to Yemen in the fields of migration, counter-terrorism and piracy.

9. The Council will continue to monitor closely the situation and reiterates its readiness to support the Government of Yemen in addressing the challenges ahead.'

ANNEX – STRENGTHENING EU ACTION IN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

22 October 2009

(...)

AFGHANISTAN

1. Insecurity in Afghanistan cannot be addressed by military means alone. Creating a framework for stability by developing effective state institutions, improving governance, the rule of law and human rights, and fighting corruption is equally important. To this end it, will take a responsive and responsible Afghan government. The EU commitment must be long term and predictable, supporting Afghanistan in becoming an effective and accountable state that becomes progressively more capable of managing its own security and of delivering services to its people. Ultimately, the only durable solution will be political, Afghan-led and based on the trust of the Afghan people.

(...)

2. Strengthening the Rule of Law

Policing

22. EUPOL's focus on civilian policing is extremely important in the Afghan context. A civilian police force is integral to building any functioning rule of law. The EU will put emphasis on streamlining its efforts, giving priority to enhancing coordination between EUPOL and Member States' bilateral programmes. The EU will:

23. Ensure swift deployment of the remaining EUPOL staff. New solutions aimed at increasing staffing numbers are being pursued, for example through the contracting of officers funded under the CFSP budget and through improvement of the existing incentives structure for seconded staff.

24. Support EUPOL in expanding its role in the provinces and regional specific training that builds on US and other nations' Focused District Development training. EUPOL is currently assessing the logistical and security provisions it requires to do this. The EU will also assess the

possibility of establishing a funding mechanism to support EUPOL activities, notably as regards provincial training centres projects.

25. Reinforce the recent strengthening of the wider rule of law aspect of EUPOL through further operational planning and staffing of the mission, especially in the provinces. The positive effects and lessons learned working within the ministries and Kabul city structures should be transferred to the provincial level.

26. Further strengthen its efforts in the police sector by increasing its political and financial engagement in the work within the IPCB in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior. The EU will work to ensure maximum coordination with initiatives taking place within the framework of the NATO Training Mission in Afghanistan, including the forthcoming Gendarmerie Initiative (EGF).

27. The Commission's substantial support to the Law and Order Trust Fund Afghanistan (LOTFA), which pays for the running costs of the Afghan National Police, should continue. The support to LOTFA serves as one of the EU's main tools for leveraging the necessary reforms in the police. However, there will also be increased efforts to set in train the means for the budget of the Afghan Police to become fiscally sustainable in the long run.

(...)

PAKISTAN

1. The EU's overriding interest is a stable democratic Pakistan. Pakistan is facing immediate challenges in several parts of its territory which need to be addressed urgently in the short and medium term, in areas such as humanitarian aid and reconstruction, but also security sector reform, social services and governance. The EU supports Pakistan in its quest to fight all extremist groups on Pakistani territory. The election of a new democratic government offers a unique opportunity to support the strengthening of democratic institutions in Pakistan, governance and respect for human rights and to build a stronger and more ambitious partnership between the EU and Pakistan. The Joint Communiqué following the ad hoc EU-Pakistan Summit of 17 June 2009 presents a comprehensive agenda for mutual action.

1. Support for the Malakand Development Strategy

2. The EU will provide support to further implementation of the Comprehensive Stabilisation and Socio-Economic Development Strategy for Malakand, as formally presented by the Government of Pakistan to the Friends of Democratic Pakistan, notably in providing support to security sector reform and the rule of law, depending on the Post-Crisis Needs Assessment.

3. The EU and its Member States will identify resources which can in the longer term be used to fully implement the plan. At the same time, the EU will continue to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Pakistan which is likely to continue well into 2010. The EU stresses the importance of respect for humanitarian space and full access to all those affected by the conflict.

4. The EU will also consider dispatching experts to build capacity to better absorb international financial assistance and to assist Pakistan in dealing with the management of the international reconstruction and development assistance generated in the aftermath of counter-insurgency operations in the North-West of the country. Modalities of such assistance will be

further explored with the Pakistani authorities, who have explicitly requested this, and other international partners, including the UN.

5. The EU agrees with the Pakistan Government that the Malakand Strategy could serve as a pilot for other parts of Pakistan.

2. Strengthen cooperation on security sector reform and rule of law

6. The EU and Pakistan will swiftly establish a regular counter-terrorism dialogue.

7. The EU will offer assistance for security sector reform (police/judiciary) and counterterrorism capacity building. The EU will assist Pakistan in defining a comprehensive security/counter-terrorism strategy behind which to rally support.

8. The EU intends to support Pakistan's efforts to enhance its internal coordination of counterterrorism measures and the implementation of a national counter-terrorism strategy. In cooperating with Pakistan at EU level on counter-terrorism, the civilian approach is the prime consideration. The EU thus intends to support the police and judicial authorities in this regard.

9. Specific support to Pakistan should be provided in the form of capacity building, in particular provision of EU expertise to relevant government institutions such as the Ministry of Justice (including courts and state prosecutor's offices) and the Ministry of Interior. Support should also be provided to provincial governments.

10. Apart from hands-on support in providing training and material, notably to the police, cooperation in this field should also involve dialogue on enhancing the rule of law, including justice sector reform.

11. The EU will form a series of internal working groups to implement subsequent counterterrorism scoping reports, including follow-up on specific project proposals.

(...)

European Council

Brussels, 29-30 October 2009

PRESIDENCY CONCLUSIONS

I. Institutional issues

1. The European Council welcomes the ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon by Germany, Ireland and Poland, which means that it has now been approved by the people or the parliaments of all 27 Member States.

2. The European Council recalls that the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon requires ratification by each of the 27 Member States in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements. It reaffirms its determination to see the Treaty enter into force by the end of 2009, thus allowing it to develop its effects in the future.

On this basis, and taking into account the position taken by the Czech Republic, the Heads of State or Government have agreed that they will, at the time of the conclusion of the next Accession Treaty and in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements, attach the Protocol (in Annex I) to the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

In this context, and with regard to legal application of the Treaty of Lisbon and its relation to legal systems of Member States, the European Council confirms that:

- a) The Treaty of Lisbon provides that '*competences not conferred upon the Union in the Treaties remain with the Member States*' (Art. 5(2) TEU);
- b) The Charter is '*addressed to the institutions, bodies, offices and agencies of the Union with due regard for the principle of subsidiarity and to the Member States only when they are implementing Union law*' (Art. 51(1) Charter).

3. The European Council takes note of the preparatory work in view of the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty (14928/09). It endorses the Presidency's report on guidelines for the European External Action Service (14930/09) and invites the future High Representative to present a proposal for the organisation and functioning of the EEAS as soon as possible after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty with a view to its adoption by the Council at the latest by the end of April 2010. In this context, it also recognises the need, as underlined in the European Security Strategy, for the European Union to become more capable, more coherent and more strategic as a global actor, including in its relations with strategic partners, in its neighbourhood and in conflict-affected areas.

II. Climate change

4. The climate is changing faster than expected and the risks this poses can already be seen. We are experiencing widespread melting of ice, rising global sea levels and increased frequency, intensity and duration of floods, droughts and heat waves.

5. Just weeks away from the Copenhagen Conference, the European Union is more than ever fully determined to play a leading role and contribute to reaching a global, ambitious and comprehensive agreement. All parties to the negotiation need to inject new momentum into

the process and the pace of the negotiations must be stepped up.

6. The Copenhagen agreement needs to include provisions on the 2° C objective, ambitious emission reduction commitments by developed countries, appropriate mitigation action by developing countries, adaptation, technology and a deal on financing, as outlined below. The European Council emphasises the need for a legally binding agreement for the period starting 1 January 2013 that builds on the Kyoto Protocol and incorporates all its essentials. The European Council also recognises that all countries, including those not presently bound by the Kyoto Protocol, should take immediate action.

7. The European Council calls upon all Parties to embrace the 2° C objective and to agree to global emission reductions of at least 50%, and aggregate developed country emission reductions of at least 80-95%, as part of such global emission reductions, by 2050 compared to 1990 levels; such objectives should provide both the aspiration and the yardstick to establish mid-term goals, subject to regular scientific review. It supports an EU objective, in the context of necessary reductions according to the IPCC by developed countries as a group, to reduce emissions by 80-95% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels.

8. The European Union is at the forefront of efforts to fight climate change. It is committed to take a decision to move to a 30% reduction by 2020 compared to 1990 levels, as its conditional offer with a view to a global and comprehensive agreement for the period beyond 2012, provided that other developed countries commit themselves to comparable emission reductions and that developing countries contribute adequately according to their responsibilities and respective capabilities.

9. Action by the European Union alone will not be enough. A comprehensive and ambitious agreement can only be reached if all parties contribute to the process. Other developed countries should also demonstrate their leadership and commit to ambitious emission reductions and step up their current pledges. Developing countries, especially the more advanced, should commit to appropriate mitigation action, reflecting their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. The European Council underlines the need for measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) of mitigation actions in all countries.

10. Adaptation is a necessary element that must be comprehensively addressed in a Copenhagen agreement. The European Council recalls the proposal to create a Framework for Action on Adaptation as part of this agreement. It underlines the need to scale up support for adaptation in developing countries, until and beyond 2012, focusing on countries and regions that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change.

11. The European Council underlines the importance of creating incentives to engage the private sector in technology cooperation. R&D must be substantially scaled up, global technology objectives established and safe and sustainable technologies diffused.

12. A deal on financing will be a central part of an agreement in Copenhagen. A gradual but significant increase in additional public and private financial flows is needed to help developing countries implement ambitious mitigation and adaptation strategies.

13. The EU is ready to take its fair share of the global effort by setting an ambitious mitigation target, allowing for offsets and providing its fair share of public support. The European Council endorses the Commission estimate that the total net incremental costs of mitigation and adaptation in developing countries could amount to around EUR 100 billion annually by 2020, to be met through a combination of their own efforts, the international carbon market and international public finance.

14. The overall level of the international public support required is estimated to lie in the range of EUR 22 to 50 billion per year by 2020, subject to a fair burden sharing at the global level in line with the distribution key to be agreed by Parties, a governance arrangement and delivery towards specific mitigation actions and ambitious Low Carbon Development Strategies/Low Carbon Growth Plans. This range could be narrowed down in view of the Copenhagen summit.

15. An effective and efficient institutional framework for governance has to be developed at the forefront of financing. The European Council supports the establishment of a high-level forum/body to be set up under the guidance of the UNFCCC to inter alia provide an overview of international sources for climate financing in developing countries.

16. All countries, except the least developed, should contribute to international public financing, through a comprehensive global distribution key based on emission levels and on GDP to reflect both responsibility for global emissions and ability to pay, with a considerable weight on emission levels. The weight on emissions should increase over time to allow for adjustments of economies. The EU and its Member States are ready to take on their resulting fair share of total international public finance.

17. The European Council stresses that fast-start international public support is important in the context of a comprehensive, balanced and ambitious Copenhagen agreement. The purpose should be to prepare for effective and efficient action in the medium and longer term and avoid delay of ambitious action, with a special emphasis on least developed countries. Taking note of the Commission estimate that a global financing of EUR 5-7 billion per year for the first three years is needed following an ambitious agreement in Copenhagen, the European Council underlines that a figure will be determined in the light of the outcome of the Copenhagen conference. The EU and its Member States in this context are ready to contribute their fair share of these costs. The European Council stresses that this contribution will be conditional on other key players making comparable efforts.

18. The European Council notes that during the current commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol a significant amount of unused Assigned Amount Units is likely to accrue. This issue must be addressed, in a non-discriminatory manner treating European and non-European countries equally, and so that the handling of the AAU surplus does not affect the environmental integrity of a Copenhagen agreement.

19. Private financing will be stimulated by developing a broad and liquid carbon market based on robust cap-and-trade systems in developed countries, a reformed CDM and sectoral crediting and trading mechanisms for action in developing countries.

20. The European Council stresses the role of mitigation actions in land use, land use change and forestry and in particular through creating incentives for reduced deforestation and forest degradation and for the sustainable management of forests in developing countries. A performance based mechanism which recognises verified emission reductions should be established.

21. It recalls that the risk of carbon leakage is analysed and addressed in the new ETS Directive (Directive 2009/29/EC) so that, to preserve the environmental integrity of the EU's policies, in the light of the outcome of the international negotiations and the extent to which these lead to global greenhouse gas reductions, it is possible to consider appropriate measures to be taken in compliance with international trade rules. An ambitious international agreement remains the best way of addressing this issue.

22. The European Council notes the Commission's draft decision containing a list of sectors and subsectors deemed to be exposed to a significant risk of carbon leakage based on the criteria set out in the new ETS Directive (Directive 2009/29/EC). It notes that a sector or sub-sector may be added to the list, on the basis of new information, if it satisfies the relevant criteria. The list will be reviewed in light of the outcome of the international climate change negotiations.

23. In parallel with deliveries of climate financing all international parties should commit that such financing would not undermine or jeopardize the fight against poverty and continued progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Innovative financing can play a role in ensuring predictable flows of financing for sustainable development, especially towards the poorest and most vulnerable countries.

24. The European Council endorses the conclusions adopted by the Council on 21 October 2009 (14790/09), which together with these European Council conclusions and the attached guidelines give the European Union a strong negotiating position. It will allow the European Union to play a constructive role during the final phase of the negotiating process, in particular on key issues such as financing, technology transfer, adaptation, mitigation and good governance.

25. The European Council invites the Presidency to take the necessary steps to maintain a strong negotiating position throughout the process and will review the situation at its meeting in December in order to take the necessary decisions in the light of the early stages of the Copenhagen conference.

(...)

VI. External relations

41. The European Council endorses the conclusions of the Council meeting of 27 October on Afghanistan and Pakistan and welcomes the adoption of the plan for strengthened EU action in the region. The Plan of Action will strengthen the civilian capacity of the state institutions in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The European Union now stands stronger to respond to the challenges facing the region.

42. The EU welcomes the work of the electoral institutions in Afghanistan in safeguarding the credibility of the election process. The European Council stresses the need for the second round of the Presidential election to be credible, inclusive, secure and reflect the will of the Afghan people. The European Council emphasises its confidence in the United Nations' leadership in coordinating the international community's efforts in Afghanistan.

43. The European Council shares the concern about the deteriorating security situation in Pakistan and supports the government of Pakistan in its efforts to establish control over all areas of the country. The European Union stands ready to assist the affected population.

(...)

ANNEX III – DECLARATION ON IRAN

The European Council remains fully committed to finding a diplomatic solution to the issue of Iran's nuclear programme and urges Iran to fully co-operate in this effort. The European Council reaffirms its grave concern over the development of Iran's nuclear programme and Iran's persistent failure to meet its international obligations. The recent disclosure of a facility intended for enrichment near Qom has further deepened its concerns.

The European Council urges Iran to heed the requirements of UNSC resolutions and to cooperate fully with the IAEA to resolve all remaining issues and to rebuild confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme.

The European Council also calls upon Iran to agree with IAEA to the scheme of nuclear fuel supply for the Teheran research reactor which would contribute to building confidence while responding to Iran's need for medical radio-isotopes.

Progress on the Iranian nuclear issue would pave the way for enhanced relations between the EU and Iran and open the way to mutually beneficial cooperation in the political, economic, security and technical fields.

The European Council will continue to review all aspects of the Iranian nuclear issue and will decide in the context of the dual track approach on our next steps.

The European Council deplores the continued violations of human rights in Iran. It is deeply concerned about the use of the death penalty, the violent suppression of dissent and the mass trials in post-electoral Iran against journalists, human rights defenders and political activists.

The European Council expresses its continuing concern about the situation of staff members of European Union Missions and European citizens in Iran who have recently been on trial, and calls for their prompt and unconditional release.

(...)

EU-US Summit

Washington, 3 November 2009

1. 2009 EU-US SUMMIT DECLARATION

We, the leaders of the European Union and the United States, met in Washington to renew our global partnership, and to set a course for enhanced cooperation that will address bilateral, regional and global challenges based on our shared values of freedom, democracy, respect for international law, human rights and the rule of law. Our goal is to ensure a more prosperous, healthy and secure future for our 800 million citizens, and for the world. We will build upon our strong partnership and work together to strengthen multilateral cooperation. As the EU strengthens as a global actor, we welcome the opportunity to broaden our work together, particularly in the areas of freedom, security and justice.

The European Union and the United States economies make up over half of global GDP, account for over one third of world trade and are the leading providers of development assistance. The direct impact of our economic policies on the global economy has never been more apparent than over the past year, making the imperative of collaboration even greater. We recognize the importance of expanding our cooperation on issues of global concern, notably climate change, development, energy, cyber security and health. We therefore agree:

- To promote an ambitious and comprehensive international climate change agreement in Copenhagen. Together, we will work towards an agreement that will set the world on a path of low-carbon growth and development, aspires to a global goal of a 50% reduction of global emissions by 2050, and reflects the respective mid-term mitigation efforts of all major economies, both developed and emerging. We recognize the scientific view that the increase in average global temperature ought not to exceed 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, as stated by the Leaders of the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate. All contributions to the global mitigation effort should be robust, recognizing that their specific features will need to be designed in the light of science and our respective capabilities. In the context of an ambitious agreement in Copenhagen, we are prepared to work to mobilize substantial financial resources to support adaptation for the most vulnerable and to support enhanced mitigation actions of developing countries.
- To strengthen efforts to develop strong and well-functioning carbon markets, which are essential to maximize climate finance and to engage emerging and developing countries in ambitious emissions reduction actions. We will therefore work together to expand carbon markets as we design and implement our cap and trade systems.
- To follow up on our Pittsburgh Summit commitment to implement the G-20 Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth. We commit to remain vigilant to take actions to assure a strong recovery and to plan for cooperative and coordinated exit strategies to be implemented once recovery is ensured. We further commit to undertake financial regulatory reforms to improve the resilience of our financial system to prevent future financial crises, create a 21st century international economic architecture, and address pressing global challenges including energy security and climate, unemployment and decent work. We will continue to fulfil commitments from the Pittsburgh, London and

Washington Summits, including the creation of more resilient financial regulatory structures with an enhanced and expanded scope of regulation and oversight.

- To fight protectionism together, as the world's largest economies. We will lead by example by respecting our G-20 commitments to refrain from raising or imposing new barriers to trade and investment. We are committed to supporting efforts by the WTO and other international institutions to monitor new trade barriers with a view to increasing transparency in global trade.
- To make determined efforts to seek in 2010 the conclusion of a Doha Development Agenda agreement. We affirm our commitment to reach an ambitious, comprehensive and balanced agreement, based on the progress already made, including with regard to modalities.
- To intensify our work under the Framework for Advancing Transatlantic Economic Integration and the Transatlantic Economic Council, including through the formation of a high-level innovation dialogue, strengthened regulatory cooperation in key sectors leading to reduced barriers to trade, investment and economic activity. We aim to reach a second-stage air transport agreement in 2010 which includes benefits for both sides.
- To re-launch our dialogue on development [ref Annex 1: Statement on Development Dialogue and Cooperation] with an initial emphasis on sustainable global food security, including investing development assistance through country-led plans and processes, donor coordination and multilateral institutions, as well as to guide our cooperation at policy level. We will also support climate change mitigation and adaptation and will work together in preparation for the Millennium Development Goals Review in 2010. We will also renew our efforts to improve the quality and effectiveness of aid in accordance with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and its implementation agreement, the Accra Agenda for Action. We intend to hold the first meeting of this renewed dialogue at ministerial level as soon as possible after the Summit.
- To establish a Ministerial-level EU-U.S. Energy Council [ref Annex 2: The EU-U.S. Energy Council] that will improve energy security and contribute to achieving our ambitious climate change goals. The Council will promote new and ongoing cooperation on energy security and markets, energy policy, energy technologies research, and the deployment of clean and sustainable energy technologies which we agree are critical to sustainable economic growth and development.
- To strengthen our cyber security dialogue to identify and prioritize areas where we can work together to help build a reliable, resilient, trustworthy digital infrastructure for the future.
- To establish a transatlantic task force on urgent antimicrobial resistance issues focused on appropriate therapeutic use of antimicrobial drugs in the medical and veterinary communities, prevention of both healthcare- and community-associated drug-resistant infections, and strategies for improving the pipeline of new antimicrobial drugs, which could be better addressed by intensified cooperation between us.

(...)

Reaffirming the necessity of working together on important regional and international issues, we:

- Agree to a joint declaration on non-proliferation and disarmament [ref Annex 3: Declaration on Non-proliferation and Disarmament] highlighting the need to preserve

and strengthen the relevant multilateral measures and in particular the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, expressing support for the entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and calling for the start of negotiations on the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty in January 2010. The statement reiterates the necessity for Iran and the DPRK to fulfil their international nuclear obligations.

- Reiterate our commitment to seek a comprehensive, long-term and appropriate solution to the Iranian nuclear issue through dialogue and negotiation. This continues to be the objective of our dual-track approach and implies that Iran must fulfil its international obligations on its nuclear program. Iran has rights, but it also has responsibilities. In addition, we express our deep concern about the current human rights situation in the country.
- Declare our determination to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, including a two-state solution with Israel and Palestine living side-by-side in peace and security. We are working to remove obstacles and create the context for a prompt resumption of negotiations between the parties.
- Renew our commitments in Afghanistan and the region to initiatives that will increase the capacity of the Afghan government to take responsibility for delivering better security, stability and development for the Afghan people. We welcome in this context the recently adopted Plan for Strengthening EU Action in Afghanistan and Pakistan. We look forward to working with the new Afghan administration and renewing efforts to promote good governance, respect for human rights, gender equality and democratic development. These could be supported at an international conference, possibly in Kabul. We support the strengthening of the assistance and coordination role of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). We welcome the conclusion of the electoral process, and we congratulate President Hamid Karzai on his re-election. We look forward to the formation of a new government, representing the will of the Afghan people. We encourage the new government to swiftly develop an agenda focused on the serious challenges facing Afghanistan.
- Commit to continue to work, including through the Friends of Democratic Pakistan, to assist Pakistan's efforts to promote socio-economic development and respect for human rights and democratic values, to combat violent extremism and to address that country's energy crisis. We will support rehabilitation and reconstruction in Malakand, and target assistance to Pakistan's border regions through the World Bank-administered Multi-Donor Trust Fund agreed by the Friends.
- Will support the countries of Eastern Europe and the Southern Caucasus as they fulfil their great promise by working with them to build strong democracies and prosperous economies. We undertake to strengthen coordination and build on the work of our bilateral initiatives and the European Union's Eastern Partnership as we work to strengthen these countries' ties to the EU and Euro-Atlantic institutions.
- Support the countries of Southeastern Europe as they advance on the path towards European and Euro-Atlantic integration and welcome progress made in implementing the necessary reforms, including in meeting the criteria set out in the visa liberalisation roadmaps of the EU for the Western Balkan countries. We remain committed to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina; we are concerned about the current political situation and strongly urge its leaders to seize the opportunity afforded by the Butmir talks now to adopt the reforms needed to meet the conditions for an appli-

cation of EU membership and conditions for the NATO Membership Action Plan. We remain committed to a stable, democratic, integrated and multi-ethnic Kosovo and commend the EU rule of Law Mission (EULEX) and KFOR for their role in promoting stability and the rule of law in Kosovo.

(...)

4. DECLARATION ON NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT (ANNEX 3)

We express our full support for action in the field of non-proliferation, disarmament, and arms control, including through various treaties and other multilateral instruments.

We reaffirm our commitment to seeking a safer world for all and to creating the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons, in accordance with the goals of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). We are convinced that intermediate steps on our path towards this objective can also represent significant increases in security for all.

We welcome the outcome of the UN Security Council Summit on nuclear non-proliferation recognise the role of the Council in addressing threats to international peace and security arising from non-compliance with non-proliferation obligations.

We are committed to preserve and strengthen the authority and integrity of the NPT. The NPT, based on its three mutually reinforcing pillars of non-proliferation, disarmament, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, represents a unique and irreplaceable framework for maintaining and strengthening international peace, security, and stability. We will work actively for the successful outcome of the 2010 Review Conference. We welcome the proposals on all three pillars of the NPT presented by the EU, which can inform our efforts to develop a forward looking action plan at the Review Conference. We call upon all States that are not Parties to the NPT to accede as non-nuclear-weapon States to achieve universality. We will also work with regional states to advance the objectives of the 1995 Middle East Resolution.

We welcome the commitment of the United States and the Russian Federation to the further reduction and limitation of their strategic offensive arms and to concluding, at an early date, a new legally binding agreement to replace the current Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START).

We express our support for entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) at an early date, and in the meantime continued observance of moratoria on nuclear test explosions. We call for the immediate start of negotiations of a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT), including verification provisions, when the Conference on Disarmament (CD) reconvenes in January 2010, on the basis of the consensus agreement on a programme of work in the CD in May 2009. In the meantime, we call on all states concerned to declare and uphold an immediate moratorium on the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

We support UNSCR 1540, welcome its recent comprehensive review, and will continue our consultations to better coordinate third country assistance that promotes adherence to the obligations imposed by 1540 as we work together towards full implementation of the Resolution, including in such areas as export controls and regional centres to promote cooperative efforts. We call on all states to implement the measures included in the Resolution and urge all states and regional and international organisations to cooperate with the Committee established by that Resolution.

We express our full support for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its important work in the field of nuclear safeguards, nuclear safety, and nuclear security. We endorse the Additional Protocol and comprehensive safeguards as the standard for NPT verification. We will work to ensure that the IAEA has the resources and authority to carry out its essential mandate. We remain committed to ensuring responsible development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in the best safety, security, and non-proliferation conditions, by countries wishing to develop their capacities in this field. We encourage the work of the IAEA on multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle and appreciate ongoing initiatives in this regard. We also welcome research into technologies that will improve proliferation resistance in the nuclear fuel cycle. We also note with interest the initiative by France to convene an international conference on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in coordination with the IAEA.

We express our support for the convening of the April 2010 Nuclear Security Summit, recognising that the unauthorised trade in and use of nuclear materials is an immediate and serious threat to global security. We look forward to concrete proposals to increase the security of vulnerable nuclear materials, which could include measures to effectively investigate and prosecute instances where material has been unlawfully diverted.

We remain fully committed to the fight against nuclear terrorism and support all measures designed to prevent terrorists from acquiring WMD, their means of delivery or related materials. We reiterate our support for the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) and the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI). We will work together constructively on the possibilities for an expansion of the Global Partnership to new participants and new fields of cooperation and are ready to discuss the role the Global Partnership could play beyond 2012.

We recognise the importance of the IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and the associated Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources in preventing a radiological attack and will work toward their global implementation.

We stress the importance of the full implementation of the provisions of the NPT. We emphasise that measures are needed to demonstrate that there will be real and immediate consequences for non-compliance with the Treaty or for abuse of its withdrawal provision, such as withdrawing while in violation of the Treaty.

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery continues to represent a threat to international peace and security. The international non-proliferation regime faces major challenges. We are committed to continue to address them resolutely.

Iran's nuclear activities, in particular the recent revelation of Iran's construction of an undisclosed facility near Qom intended for enrichment, have reinforced the international community's concerns regarding the nature of its nuclear programme. We stress that Iran has the responsibility to restore international confidence in this regard and must fulfil its international obligations in order to demonstrate the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear program. We urge Iran to engage seriously and constructively with China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States with the support of the High Representative of the European Union (P-5+1) to advance the dialogue on the nuclear issue begun in Geneva on 1st October. We reiterate our commitment to seek a comprehensive, long-term and appropriate solution to the Iranian nuclear issue through dialogue and negotiation based on Iran's compliance with UN Security Council resolutions. This continues to be the objective of our dual-track approach. Iran has rights, but it also has responsibilities. We remain unified in our support for the IAEA's draft agreement that responds to Iran's request for assis-

tance in refuelling the Tehran Research Reactor, which represents a confidence-building step, addresses Iran's need for medical isotopes, and creates an opportunity for further progress.

We support the IAEA's efforts to implement verification activities related to the Dair Alzour site in Syria. We call upon Syria to adopt promptly an Additional Protocol and provide, without further delay, access to additional information and sites as requested by the Agency to complete its ongoing assessment.

We call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to live up to its obligations as called for in the September 2005 Joint Statement, and to take steps toward irreversible verifiable denuclearisation. We reiterate the importance of full and transparent implementation of UNSCRs 1718 and 1874 as tools to constrain the DPRK's proliferation activities and to convince the DPRK to return to the Six-Party Talks and denuclearisation.

We will continue to work toward universalisation and full implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and we support, to this end, the work of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

We will also work for the universalisation and full implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) and we encourage, in this regard, the work of the Implementation Support Unit. We continue to support the intersessional Program of Work, including efforts to improve the ability of all nations to recognise and respond to outbreaks of infectious disease. We will continue to work together to find ways to address the evolution of the biological weapon threat, and to promote compliance with the BTWC by greater transparency and effective implementation.

We appreciate our continued productive dialogue on verification and compliance, established at the EU-U.S. 2005 Summit.

We support the Hague Code of Conduct (HCoC) and other efforts to curb the proliferation of missile technology and will aim at universality and better implementation of HCoC provisions.

We recognise the importance of effective export controls, and we will work together to strengthen all multilateral export control regimes and to provide assistance to third countries in improving their export controls to international standards, as required by UNSCR 1540 obligations. We endorse efforts to reach agreement within the Nuclear Suppliers Group this year on strengthened export controls on enrichment and reprocessing technologies and on making the Additional Protocol a standard for nuclear supply.

We recognise the importance of using appropriate financial tools to strengthen the international framework to combat proliferation finance and will continue to work together on this issue in the Financial Action Task Force.

We support efforts to overcome the current issue with the Russian Federation with respect to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe in order to preserve its long term viability.

We welcome agreement to negotiate an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and urge that transfers of all conventional weapons be subject to the highest possible standards, so that they do not contribute to regional instability or support violations of human rights. We support the UN Program of Action to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects.

We are convinced that working together in the area of non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control, and cooperating with all our partners, will significantly contribute to a safer world.

EU-India Summit

New Delhi, 6 November 2009

JOINT STATEMENT

(...)

1. GLOBAL ISSUES

Strengthening the multilateral system

2. Recalling that their Strategic Partnership is rooted in shared values and principles – democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms – both India and the EU agreed on the importance of an effective multilateral system, centred on a strong United Nations, as a key factor in tackling global challenges. In this context, they also recognized the need to pursue the reform of the main UN bodies, among them the General Assembly, ECOSOC and the Security Council, with a view to enhancing the representativeness, transparency and effectiveness of the system.

Climate change and energy

3. India and the EU underlined that climate change is one of the most important global challenges. They reaffirmed the provisions and principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including that of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and underscored the importance of its full, effective and sustained implementation.

They recognised the scientific view that the increase in global average temperature above pre-industrial levels ought not to exceed 2 degrees Celsius. They recognised that this objective should take into account the overriding priority of poverty eradication and social and economic development of the developing countries. They will work together to achieve an ambitious and globally agreed equitable outcome of Copenhagen based on the principles and provisions of UNFCCC and the Bali Action Plan.

In this context, they expressed determination to step up the pace of negotiations. They agreed that, in the fight against climate change, equal priority had to be given to mitigation and adaptation, and recognised the critical role of enabling financial and technological support to developing countries to this end. The EU highlighted the importance of the EU Energy and Climate package. India highlighted the importance of its National Action Plan on Climate Change. These are significant contributions to global action to addressing climate change and in meeting the ultimate objective of the Convention. Both parties acknowledged the right to development and growth of developing countries and recognized that enhancing the implementation of UNFCCC represents an opportunity to promote continued climate-friendly economic growth, sustainable development and the fight against poverty. In this context they expressed hope that a global goal of significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 compared to 1990 levels would be reached at Copenhagen. They will prepare ambitious, credible and country-owned climate-friendly plans including adaptation and mitigation actions and will work together to implement the agreed outcome at Copenhagen.

4. Both India and the EU underline the importance of achieving security, sustainability and reliability of energy supplies. The increased production and use of renewable energy and the efforts aimed at improving access to energy and increasing energy efficiency are viewed by both sides as an important contribution to fulfilling sustainable development needs as well as achieving greater energy security. To this end the leaders welcomed the launch of the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC) in May 2009 at the G8+5 Energy Ministerial Meeting in Rome and looked forward to a close EU-India cooperation in the framework of IPEEC. They also welcomed the ongoing establishment of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) to which both parties adhere and will join efforts for a rapid transition towards the widespread and sustainable use of renewable energy worldwide.

(...)

Terrorism

7. India and the EU stand united in combating the challenge of terrorism, which constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. The leaders condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purpose.

8. The EU expressed strong condemnation of the terrorist attacks in Mumbai last year and reiterated the need for intensifying global cooperation in combating international terrorism. The two sides emphasised the utmost importance of bringing the perpetrators of this heinous crime to justice and acknowledged the contribution this would make to the success of the global fight against terrorism.

9. The EU and India are convinced that the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism should become a vital law enforcement instrument in our joint counter-terrorism efforts. India and the EU attach great importance to counter-terrorism cooperation in the framework of the United Nations, and share a commitment to universal ratification and full implementation of all UN counter-terrorism conventions and related protocols, as well as supporting the work of the Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF). The EU and India committed themselves also to the implementation of the UN global counter-Terrorism Strategy in all its aspects. Efforts to counter terrorism can only be successful with a sustained and comprehensive approach. They should be pursued in full respect of international law.

The EU and its member-states extended full support to India's bid for membership of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which will further reinforce India's commitment to combat terrorist financing and money laundering. At the bilateral level, India and EU looked forward to advance the negotiations between Europol and the Indian authorities in order to conclude an agreement that will reinforce cooperation in the field of counter terrorism.

Disarmament and non-proliferation

13. India and the EU welcome the renewed momentum in global disarmament efforts. India and the EU reaffirmed their shared interest in working together for disarmament and for countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. In this context, they stressed the importance of strengthening national export control laws.

India and the EU have supported the adoption of a programme of work for its 2009 session by the Conference on Disarmament including the negotiation of a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty. They look forward to the early commencement of substantive work, including negotiations, at the next CD session.

India and the EU share the understanding that the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes should take place in conformity with the highest standards of safety, security, and non-proliferation.

Peace-keeping

14. The EU and India agreed to further intensify dialogue on peace-keeping, peace-building and post-conflict assistance, in accordance with the provisions of the Joint Action Plan of 2005.

(...)

Afghanistan

17. The Leaders welcomed the conclusion of the Presidential electoral process and congratulated President Hamid Karzai on a second term in office. They welcomed the statement of the President on his intention to constitute a national unity Government and on setting a comprehensive agenda to promote the stability and development of Afghanistan.

India and the EU acknowledged each other's significant contribution towards Afghanistan's stabilisation, reconstruction, and development and expressed their commitment to a democratic, pluralistic and stable Afghanistan. They stressed the need for the international community to maintain its commitment to render assistance to the Government and people of Afghanistan in support of the efforts of the UN in Afghanistan. They acknowledged UNAMA's coordinating role and its efforts for the comprehensive development of Afghanistan.

The Leaders strongly condemned the terrorist attacks in Kabul, including those targeting the Indian Embassy and highlighted the need to bring the perpetrators of these and other terrorist attacks to justice. The Leaders expressed serious concerns over the continuing deterioration of the security situation in Afghanistan and agreed that all parties concerned should continue the fight against terrorism.

Burma/Myanmar

18. India and the EU discussed the situation in Burma/Myanmar. They agreed on the need to strengthen efforts towards democracy and national reconciliation and, in this context, reaffirmed the need for an inclusive dialogue, including with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and ethnic groups. They welcomed the signs of greater engagement between Myanmar and the international community.

India and the EU reiterated their support for the Good Offices Mission of the UN Secretary General and his Special Advisor, and called upon the authorities of Myanmar to cooperate fully with the UN.

Nepal

19. The leaders expressed their concern at the faltering peace process in Nepal. They stressed that rebuilding trust and confidence among all stakeholders was essential to conclude the peace process and draft a new inclusive Constitution within the stipulated timeframe. They were distressed that the legislature-Parliament has not been allowed to function and called upon all political parties, in a spirit of accommodation, to resume the process soon. They stressed that economic progress would contribute to sustainable peace.

Iran

20. The Leaders welcomed the recent talks between China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany, the EU and Iran on the Iranian nuclear programme. They agreed on the need for an intensive and constructive dialogue, aiming at practical steps and confidence building measures, and stressed their commitment to seeking a negotiated solution to the Iranian nuclear question. While recognising Iran's right to peaceful use of nuclear energy, the leaders also underlined the need for Iran to meet all international obligations.

16th EU-ECOWAS Ministerial Troika Meeting

Abuja, 11 November 2009

COMMUNIQUÉ

(...)

PEACE AND SECURITY

Situations of peace and security in ECOWAS Member-States

4. The Parties expressed mutual concern about the attempts at constitutional manipulation and the reversals of democracy in some ECOWAS Member States. In this regard, the EU expressed its appreciation of the measures being taken by ECOWAS to defend the gains of the democratization process and uphold the rule of law in West Africa.

Niger

5. The Parties expressed deep concern regarding the political developments in Niger. The EU welcomed the position of the 17 October 2009 Extraordinary Summit of ECOWAS that the series of unconstitutional steps taken by the authorities in Niger to extend the non-renewable mandate of President Tandja, including the abolition of the Constitutional Court and the Referendum of 4 August 2009, were against the letter and spirit of the 1999 Niger Constitution and the ECOWAS Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance. Both Parties agreed that the actions of the authorities are in grave violation of democratic principles and the rule of law. The Parties further described the circumstances under which the legislative elections of 20 October 2009 took place as not conducive for the elections to be deemed credible, free, fair and inclusive. The EU therefore expressed its support for the decision of ECOWAS of 20 October, and encouraged ECOWAS to further exercise its leverage over the country.

6. The Parties emphasized the importance of re-establishing a constructive and inclusive dialogue among all the relevant Nigerien stakeholders to resolve the current political crisis and return the country to the rule of law in a consensual manner. Towards this end, both Parties expressed strong support for the Inter-Nigerien Dialogue that began in Abuja on 9 October 2009 under the facilitation of the ECOWAS Mediator, General (Rtd) Abdulsalami Abubakar, and urged all the parties to the crisis to demonstrate strong political will and determination in order to reach a consensual arrangement on the way out of the constitutional impasse.

7. The EU informed ECOWAS of its proceedings in accordance with Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement, by which the Nigerien authorities have been invited to hold consultations in Brussels with the EU on the way out of the political stalemate in the Country. The Parties agreed to continue to closely coordinate their efforts in support of the dialogue and called on all the other concerned members of the international community to join efforts to restore consensus and the rule of law in Niger.

Guinea

8. The EU and ECOWAS expressed grave concern about the worsening climate of violence and the sharp deterioration of the political, security and human rights situation in Guinea under the CNDD. In this context, the two Parties strongly condemned the violent repression of the peaceful political demonstration on 28 September 2009 in Conakry by the security forces under the command of the CNDD which resulted in the massacre of more than 150 unarmed civilians and perpetration of sexual violence against women.

9. The EU took satisfactory note of the commencement of consultations on 3 November 2009 in Ouagadougou between the ECOWAS Facilitator, President Blaise Compaore, and the Forces Vives. The Parties called upon the Chairman of the CNDD to confirm publicly and in writing, his previous commitment that neither he and the other members of the CNDD nor the Prime Minister will stand in the forthcoming Presidential elections. Both Parties urged Guinean stakeholders to put in place, without further delay, a new transition authority on a consensual basis and to continue without delays in the preparations for the electoral process.

10. The EU and ECOWAS welcomed the decision by the Secretary General of the UN to establish an International Commission of Inquiry into the events of 28 September 2009 in Conakry and underlined the personal responsibility of the perpetrators for the killings, sexual violence and human rights violations. Both Parties recalled the ECOWAS and EU decisions of 17 and 27 October respectively to impose an arms embargo on Guinea and to adopt measures targeting the members of CNDD and individuals associated with them, responsible for the gross violation of human rights and/or the political stalemate in the country. The EU further recalled that consultations under article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement have been closed since July 2009 and that only initiatives relating to the humanitarian aid and support for democratization remain open. The gradual resumption of EU-cooperation with Guinea will depend on concrete progress in peaceful democratic transition and the reestablishment of the rule of law in the country.

11. The Parties commended the role of the International Contact Group on Guinea (ICG-G) and urged the Group to continue its good work aimed at facilitating the restoration of constitutional order and the rule of law. They called upon the Guinean authorities to fully cooperate with the ICG-G.

Guinea-Bissau

12. The EU and ECOWAS lauded the peaceful and orderly conduct of the June and July presidential elections in Guinea Bissau. The Parties reaffirmed their commitment to assist Guinea-Bissau to foster peace and stability by restoring essential services to the population, strengthening governance institutions, and embarking on the alleviation of poverty and the fight against organised crime and impunity. The EU announced its intention to rally the international community for an international donor conference to be held in Europe in the first semester 2010 aimed at mobilising the necessary financial resources for the economic development and stabilisation of the country, simultaneously linked to improvements in the social, economic and political areas as well as to the security sector reform.

13. Both Parties stressed the utmost urgency of a swift and comprehensive reform of the country's security sector. In this context, ECOWAS informed the meeting of the visit of a joint

AU/ECOWAS information Mission to the country to assess the modalities for assisting the new government in the implementation of the reform of the Defence and Security Sector, post conflict reconstruction and development and the fight against drug trafficking. ECOWAS further announced that a preparatory conference on security sector reform in Guinea Bissau will be held in Abuja before the end of the year. ECOWAS commended the ESDP mission in Guinea Bissau (EUSSR) for the work accomplished in the security sector in Guinea Bissau and expressed its support for the extension of the mission beyond November 2009.

14. The Parties expressed deep concern about the effects of drug trafficking on the security situation and political stability in the country. They agreed on the need to explore and safeguard synergies between all national and international partners to support the immediate implementation of the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan. The EU reaffirmed its political and financial support to the Regional Action Plan.

Côte d'Ivoire

15. ECOWAS and the EU deplored the slow pace of the electoral process in Cote d'Ivoire. They expressed their preoccupation with the latest twist in the citizen identification and voter registration exercises, whereby the voting rights of a significant number of potential voters are being questioned, adding to the repeated postponement of the publication of the provisional voter's register and thus rendering the holding of the elections on 29 November 2009 practically impossible. They stressed the need to prioritize the holding of credible elections immediately as a necessary precondition for a successful transition and political stability in the country, and called on the authorities to confirm an early date for the elections.

16. Both sides welcomed the progress towards the reunification of the country and the nationwide restoration of civil administration, tasks yet to be completed and consolidated. They expressed concern about the limited progress in the integration of the Forces Nouvelles combatants into the national security forces, the dismantling of the numerous militias and the establishment of the Integrated Command Centre, solely responsible for ensuring security during the upcoming elections.

17. Both Parties commended the efforts of President Blaise Compaoré as Facilitator in the Inter-Ivorian Dialogue and encouraged him to continue his good offices by encouraging the stakeholders in the peace process to fully and swiftly implement all outstanding elements of the Ouagadougou Peace Agreement, including the holding of the elections.

Security and development in the Sahel region

18. The Parties expressed concern over the prevailing security situation in the Sahel region, fuelled notably by organised crime, trafficking and the activities of terrorist cells. They also noted the decisive exacerbating impacts of weak governance, poverty and exposure to climate change on instability and weak development in the region. They called on all States in the region to step up their engagement and cooperation, including the holding of the anticipated High-Level Conference on Security and Development to strengthen intra-regional dialogue and adopt a strategy to meet these challenges.

19. The EU informed ECOWAS of its missions to Mali and Mauritania and its on-going efforts, in close coordination with the governments of the region, to address the underlying

causes of instability. The EU welcomed the support that ECOWAS reiterated in this regard and emphasized the importance of the Organisation remaining engaged.

The regional peace and security architecture

ECOWAS Standby Force

20. Both Parties noted the steady progress being made by ECOWAS in the operationalisation of the ECOWAS Stand-by Force, whose full validation had originally been envisaged for 2010 in the roadmap of the Africa Standby Force. This will include the scaling up of efforts to bring the development of the all-important police and civilian components up to speed with the military component thus ensuring an integrated approach and allowing an effective and flexible rights-based response to possible crisis. The EU welcomed the active participation of ECOWAS in the continental exercise Amani Africa. The EU also encouraged ECOWAS to finalise the development of the Rapid Deployment Capability.

21. The Parties welcomed the logistics exercise that was carried out in June 09 and which constituted a further step towards full operational capability of the ECOWAS Stand-by Force. They noted that detailed planning, elaboration of clear objectives and associated priorities in line with agreed policies is of utmost importance to make further progress and allow for focused, harmonised support by partners.

22. The study aiming to support training centres on the African Continent entered a crucial phase. A field study was conducted in close cooperation with ECOWAS staff. Both Parties welcomed this joint effort and agreed that additional refinement whereby ECOWAS sets priorities is needed in order to allow support to match the training needs of ECOWAS Stand-by Forces.

Conflict Prevention

23. The EU welcomed the efforts currently underway by ECOWAS to develop the Plans of Action to facilitate the operationalisation of the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework and reiterated that operational and structural conflict prevention in the region is an EU top priority.

(...)

JOINT CHALLENGES

Climate change, environment and energy security

29. The Parties reiterated that climate change is one of the most demanding challenges of our time requiring an urgent and extraordinary global response and that the increase in global temperature should not exceed 2° C. To this end the Parties expressed their determination to step up the pace of negotiations in order to reach a positive and ambitious outcome, including a shared vision, mitigation, adaptation, technology development and transfer, and financial resources at the 15th conference of the parties to UNFCCC in Copenhagen in December this year.

30. The Parties stressed that developed countries should continue to take the lead by committing to deep emission reduction cuts in the medium and longer term and to the provision of capacity building, financing and technology to put developing countries on a low-carbon development path and to help them adapt to unavoidable harmful consequences of climate change. They recognized the important implications that climate change will have for global security and welcomed the initiative by the EU of a dialogue with major parties in order to look at possible areas of cooperation.

31. ECOWAS and the EU called on developing countries to prepare as soon as possible low-carbon development growth plans in order to indicate the actions to be taken and the level of support they require. The EU welcomed the advanced stage of preparations by ECOWAS to adopt a Regional Action Programme to reduce Vulnerability to Climate Change in West Africa, including setting up a Climate Change Secretariat at the ECOWAS Commission to facilitate the mainstreaming of climate change into priority national, regional and multi-country investments, programs and projects.

32. The Parties reconfirmed their commitment to intensify their cooperation within the framework of the priorities agreed for the Africa-EU Energy Partnership. They reconfirmed that, with the right policies in place, there should be no contradiction between responding to the climate change challenge and enhancing energy security and identified the future development of the energy sector in the ECOWAS region as a key area for the deepening of bilateral cooperation.

33. The EU welcomed the efforts of ECOWAS to establish a common energy and electricity market. Both Parties noted that the recently launched International Partnership on Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC) and International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) could play an important role in further enhancing cooperation on energy efficiency and renewable energy.

34. Finally, the Parties recognised that West Africa and Europe have shared interests to increase the use of renewable energy resources. Regarding the oil and gas sectors, they stressed the critical importance of developing and strengthening joint strategies to enhance corporate social responsibility and responsible natural resource governance as a tool to mitigate resource-based conflicts in the region and making the development of the oil and gas sectors beneficial to the whole society. In addition, they emphasized the need to support a more diversified growth as well as a wider access of the population to energy services.

(...)

Regional efforts to combat organised crime

37. The EU and ECOWAS shared their enduring preoccupation with human trafficking, drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime as transnational phenomena that gravely impact on countries of origin, transit and destination and which call for concerted international efforts to combat the pull and push factors underpinning the trade. ECOWAS and the EU agreed to continue their cooperation in this field, based on the principle of shared responsibility and a balanced approach. Furthermore, the Parties encouraged the continuation of the dialogue between the EU and ECOWAS at experts level on issues of common concern including in the fight against proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

38. ECOWAS informed about the serious damage drug trafficking and organized crime have inflicted on the region's political and socio-economic stability, and the efforts underway to counter the scourge. The EU side stressed its continued commitment to preventing and combating the threat, and underlined the importance of ECOWAS as a key partner for the EU in these efforts.

39. Both the EU and ECOWAS recognised the importance of robust regional leadership in tackling the issue. They welcomed the endorsement at the highest political level of the Operational Plan which outlines the practical measures and activities for the implementation of the Praia Plan of Action and urged ECOWAS Member States to intensify their engagement and move forward the Regional Plan. The EU reconfirmed its engagement in the region and noted that substantial resources for preventing and combating human trafficking, drug trafficking and other forms of organised crime are provided by the European Commission programmes and Member States' bilateral and multilateral assistance projects.

(...)

Georgia – Declaration by the Presidency

Brussels, 12 November 2009

The European Union expresses its deep concern with respect to the recent detentions of Georgian citizens, especially the detention of four minors at the administrative boundary line to South Ossetia, Georgia, on 4 November and urges for a rapid release of all detained persons.

The European Union underlines the need to take into account the specific rights of under-age detainees in accordance with international standards, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The European Union urges all sides to address incidents of this kind within existing mechanisms, in particular to make full use of the good offices offered by the European Union Monitoring Mission and of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism. In this context the European Union underlines its support of the Geneva talks and calls for constructive and sustained engagement from all sides.

The European Union calls on all parties to use their influence to prevent incidents of this kind from taking place and reiterates its full respect for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

External Relations Council

Brussels, 17 November 2009

MIDDLE EAST

The Council held an exchange of views on the situation in the Middle East.

The discussion focused on the political situation and the situation on the ground, and concerns about the lack of progress since the Council's last discussion in October.

The Council expressed its readiness to further support the Palestinians and Palestinian Authority, and particularly the position of President Mahmoud Abbas.

(...)

EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

(...)

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

‘1. Commemorating the 10th anniversary of the inception of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), the Council commended the success of this policy which saw the deployment of some 70 000 personnel in 22 ESDP missions and operations, of which 12 are ongoing, in support of international peace and security. ESDP has proven to be an effective tool in the EU's comprehensive external action to be viewed in the framework of the European Security Strategy (ESS) and the need to strengthen the links and synergies between security and development.

2. The Council endorsed the Ministerial Declaration “ESDP Ten Years – Challenges and Opportunities”¹.

I. ESDP MISSIONS AND OPERATIONS

Western Balkans

EULEX Kosovo

3. The Council commended the mission's efforts in implementing its mandate throughout Kosovo, following its declaration of full operational capability on 6 April 2009, despite facing serious challenges. The Council continued its full support to the further efforts of EULEX to exercise its mandate throughout Kosovo.

4. The Council noted with satisfaction the results achieved so far by EULEX KOSOVO in assisting judicial and law enforcement agencies and in promoting rule of law reforms, including in the prosecution and adjudication of sensitive criminal cases and in the fight against organised crime and corruption; as well as for assuming responsibility for law and order in support of the Kosovo police and in cooperation with other international partners when needed.

1. Doc. 15649/09 + COR 1.

5. The Council looked forward to the establishment of the Human Rights Review Panel to assess the conduct of EULEX Kosovo in the performance of its executive mandate. This will contribute to the external accountability on the part of EULEX.

6. Recalling the considerable and unique responsibility assumed by the European Union, the Council stressed the importance of all Member States ensuring that the mission continues to be adequately staffed with high quality personnel in order for the mission to fulfil its mandate.

7. While expressing its full support for local efforts to establish the rule of law, the Council stressed the importance of continued and genuine cooperation on the part of the Kosovo authorities with the mission. The Council reiterated the importance of cooperation by regional and international partners with the mission. The implementation of the EULEX KOSOVO mandate will continue to play an important role in strengthening the stability of the region, in line with its European perspective and will require a consistent commitment by all stakeholders. The Council expressed its continued support to EULEX Kosovo's efforts to enhance regional cooperation.

EUPM Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUPM)

8. The Council welcomed the efforts carried out by EUPM Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) to achieve its mandate and noted the important role played by the mission as part of the overall EU efforts to stabilise BiH with a view to its European perspective. It welcomed the support provided by the mission to BiH authorities in implementation of police reform; the fight against organised crime and corruption, including in high-level cases; and in improving the coordination between the police and the Judiciary.

9. The mission will contribute to the comprehensive enhanced EU engagement in BiH, as well as prepare for its reorganisation in line with its post-2009 mandate, refocused on the support to the combat against organised crime and corruption. EUPM will continue its close cooperation within the EU family, in particular with the EUSR, EUFOR ALTHEA and the European Commission.

Operation ALTHEA

10. The Council assessed Operation ALTHEA and approved the recommendations made in the Secretary-General/High Representative's six-monthly report on the operation.

11. The Council reconfirmed that Operation ALTHEA remained an important part of EU's comprehensive efforts in BiH to support a political process aimed at enabling BiH, on the basis of necessary reforms, to continue to move forward in the EU integration process.

12. The Council noted that the security situation in BiH continued to remain stable, despite the challenging political environment. The Council welcomed the positive contribution of the force to the safe and secure environment in BiH, and added that the EU-led force (EUFOR) continued to provide reassurance and remained ready to respond to possible security challenges throughout the country.

13. The Council welcomed further progress with the preparatory planning work for the possible future evolution of Operation ALTHEA towards a non-executive capacity-building and training operation. The Council reiterated that a decision on the possible evolution of Operation ALTHEA would need to take political developments, including the future role of the EU Special Representative, into account. It is expected to revert to the issue at its forthcoming meeting in December.

14. The Council reiterated the importance of Member States providing the operation with the necessary resources for the implementation of the mandate.

15. Coherence of EU action in BiH – involving all EU actors including the Commission and EU Heads of Mission – remains important. The EU Force Commander, the EUSR and the Head of EUPM continue to consult each other regularly prior to taking action. EUFOR has also maintained a close working relationship, including on operational matters, with other international actors. Cooperation with NATO continues to work well in respect of Operation ALTHEA.

South Caucasus

EUMM Georgia

16. The Council welcomed the Mission's contribution to the overall EU effort towards conflict resolution in Georgia, especially by monitoring the implementation of the Agreements of 12 August and 8 September 2008. Given the cessation of the UN and OSCE monitoring missions, EUMM is now the sole international monitoring mission in Georgia. This has increased the significance of EUMM activities. The mandate of the mission was extended by the Council for another year until 14 September 2010.

17. The Council welcomed the mission's contribution to stability, normalisation and confidence building in Georgia. The Council reiterated its support to the full implementation of EUMM's country-wide mandate, including access to the de-facto entities. While expressing its continued commitment to Georgia's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as to the principal of non-use of force, the Council emphasised the importance of measures to further build confidence among the parties, including through taking advantage of the agreed Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms (IPRM). This should enable human and trade contacts throughout Georgia leading to further improvement of living conditions for all populations affected by the conflict. In this context, the Council invited all parties to use all means at their disposal to contribute to these efforts.

Asia

EUPOL Afghanistan

18. The Council reaffirmed its determination to make a significant contribution to the reform of the Afghan police. Strengthening the Afghan police and rule of law sector is of crucial importance in the promotion of stability and security in Afghanistan. The Council stressed the distinctive role of EUPOL AFGHANISTAN in providing civilian policing expertise as key to the sustainability of police reforms in Afghanistan and acknowledged the importance of close cooperation among the actors on the ground. In this context the Council underlined the crucial role of the International Police Coordination Board (IPCB). The Council welcomed the consolidation of EUPOL AFGHANISTAN strategic priorities along six objectives, namely intelligence-led policing; police chain of command, control and communication; criminal investigation; anti-corruption; police-prosecutor linkages; and human rights and gender mainstreaming within the Afghan Police. The Council also welcomed the continued progress made by the mission over the last year at strategic, operational and tactical levels.

19. At this critical moment, it is of utmost importance that the EU honours commitments made in support of police reform in Afghanistan. The Council underlined the importance that Member States provide the mission with the personnel and logistical resources necessary to implement its mandate countrywide.

Middle East

EUJUST LEX

20. The Council underlined the strong continued commitment of the European Union to support the development of the rule of law in Iraq, specifically by providing training and mentoring in the area of the police, the judiciary and the penitentiary system. The Council welcomed the extension of EUJUST LEX for one year and its first pilot activities on Iraqi territory. Building on the success of these in-country activities, the mission is stepping up its engagement to support the rule of law in Iraq through further planned work. The Council stressed the importance of ensuring a geographical balance in the mission activities and the continuation of training of senior officials, in Iraq, in the region as well as in Europe.

EUPOL COPPS

21. The Council welcomed the work carried out by the mission in the area of police and criminal justice. In particular, it welcomed the mission's efforts to strengthen its advisory section on the rule of law which now co-locate with their Palestinian counterparts and its advocacy for the Civil Policing Model and support for Community Policing. The Council agreed to take work forward on addressing further action in the broader rule of law in the Palestinian Territories. Synergies should continue to be sought between EUPOL COPPS activities and Community as well as Member States action in this area.

EUBAM Rafah

22. Welcoming the extension of the mandate of EUBAM Rafah for a further six months, the Council confirmed the EU's readiness to redeploy at short notice at the Rafah Crossing Point, should circumstances allow. Despite the closure of the Rafah Crossing Point the mission is maintaining its operational capability.

Africa

Operation ATALANTA/EUNAVFOR

23. The Council commended that ATALANTA continued to successfully contribute to maritime security off the coast of Somalia by protecting World Food Programme chartered vessels delivering aid to Somalia, vessels supplying critical shipments to the AU peace support operation in Somalia (AMISOM), and other vulnerable vessels, notably in the Gulf of Aden and in the Somali Basin. In this regard, the Council welcomed the successful generation of maritime assets so far, in particular the recent increase in maritime patrol aircraft, and noted the need for continuing efforts. The Council also welcomed the growing participation of third states.

24. Recognizing the complex challenges involved in combating piracy over vast maritime areas, the Council encouraged all actors to pursue existing coordination efforts, including in the field of gathering and exchanging information and intelligence. The Council welcomed

the achievements made through ATALANTA's Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa, which allows notably an effective coordination and cooperation with the civilian maritime community. The Council welcomed the leading role taken by ATALANTA in the coordination between the multinational, national and regional naval forces operating in the area to ensure de-confliction, shared awareness and coordination in the disruption of piracy. In this context, the work of the SHADE (Shared Awareness and Deconfliction) forum in Bahrain was particularly commended.

25. The Council recalled the crucial contribution made by Kenya to the detention and to the undertaking of prosecution of suspected pirates apprehended by ATALANTA's warships. The Council also welcomed the exchange of letters concluded on 30 October 2009 between the EU and the Republic of Seychelles for the transfer of suspected pirates and armed robbers apprehended by ATALANTA. This arrangement constitutes an important new contribution to the counter-piracy efforts. In this context, the Council commended the important contribution by the European Commission through the Instrument for Stability in support of the Kenyan judicial system and welcomed that the Commission is now providing similar support to the Seychelles.

26. The Council underlined the necessity to seek sustainable solutions for the prosecution of suspected pirates and took note of the initiatives taken in the framework of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, including to set up a UN trust fund inter alia to financially support countries willing to prosecute suspected pirates, and on the study on establishing an international mechanism for the prosecution of suspected pirates.

27. The Council recalled its intention to extend Operation ATALANTA for another year following the end of the current mandate on 12 December 2009.

Somalia

28. In July 2009 the Council decided to step up the EU's engagement for promoting peace and development in Somalia. To this end, the Council has studied possibilities for the EU to contribute to international efforts, including in the security field.

29. Further EU support to the Somali security sector should be considered within a comprehensive EU approach to the situation in Somalia. This support should be part of a larger and coherent framework involving close EU cooperation with the AU, the UN and other relevant partners, in particular the US. In regard to the AU, the role of AMISOM is especially important.

30. The Council stressed the importance of Transitional Federal Government (TFG) ownership and a clear TFG commitment to build a viable and sustainable security sector.

31. The Council approved a Crisis Management Concept on a possible ESDP mission to contribute to the training of TFG Security Forces and requested further planning work, without prejudging subsequent decisions on a possible ESDP action.

EUSEC RD Congo

32. The Council welcomed the work of EUSEC RD Congo and stressed that defence reform and good governance in the defence field remain key factors in creating conditions for lasting stability and development in the country. On the basis of a strategic overview, the mandate of EUSEC RD Congo was revised and extended until 30 September 2010.

33. The Council underlined the importance of EUSEC RD Congo's key tasks of providing advice and assistance for defence reform with the aim of implementing the Congolese revised reform plan for the Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC) and to translate it into concrete actions.

The Council highlighted the importance of political commitment by the Congolese authorities to take the reform process forward and encouraged the establishment of a coordination mechanism for defence reform under Congolese ownership, with appropriate support from EUSEC.

34. The Council welcomed the progress in the integration of former armed groups, including CNDP. This integration, including cooperation in the chain of payments, remains a key short term priority in the defence reform process.

35. The Council underlined the importance of EU action in DRC in contributing to the prevention and addressing of human rights violations and therefore welcomed the increased focus of EUSEC RD Congo in supporting efforts to address impunity for crimes, particularly sexual and gender-based violence, committed by the security forces and the use of child soldiers.

EUPOL RD Congo

36. The Council welcomed the work of EUPOL RD Congo in supporting the reform of the Congolese national police and its interaction with the justice sector. Notwithstanding the security situation in the country, which remains volatile, this reform is beginning to achieve some positive results, such as the submission of the draft Organic Law for the Police to the Congolese National Assembly. The Council encouraged the Congolese authorities to proceed with passing this important law in a timely manner. The Council also noted the important coordination work conducted by the Comité de Suivi de la Réforme de la Police (CSRFP) and invited all partners to further the coordination efforts in the field of police reform.

37. The Council welcomed the deployment of the mission in Goma and Bukavu and the reinforced effort in the area of criminal investigation, including the fight against sexual violence and impunity, through the deployment of additional specialised personnel. The mission's mandate has been extended until 30 June 2010.

EU SSR Guinea-Bissau

38. The Council welcomed the work taken forward by EU SSR Guinea-Bissau under difficult circumstances and in a climate of political instability. The Council noted the recent positive developments in Guinea-Bissau, notably the successful presidential elections, and the more promising outlook for progress on SSR reform. The Council noted the expression of commitment from the Government of Guinea-Bissau to reiterate its efforts for Security Sector Reform.

39. The Council approved in November 2009 an extension of the mission for six months. The main purpose of the extension is to complete the activities foreseen in the current mandate and to prepare the ground for the future implementation of the legal framework by the authorities of Guinea-Bissau. A strategic review on the future of the EU engagement in Guinea-Bissau, taking into account regional aspects, will be carried out by January 2010.

II. CONFLICT PREVENTION AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES AND THEMATIC ISSUES

Civilian Capabilities

40. The rise of new security threats and challenges and the growing demand for EU civilian crisis management has resulted in the need to enhance further the ESDP civilian capabilities. Moving forward means addressing persistent shortfalls – as they have been identified in the

course of the Civilian Headline Goal 2010 and recalled by the European Council Conclusions of December 2008 – and better preparing, deploying and conducting ESDP civilian missions increasingly faced with more challenging and complex tasks. In light of this, the Council recognized the growing need to ensure that civilian ESDP missions, as an effective crisis management tool are able to be deployed rapidly by the EU alongside other instruments, in support of strategic EU's aims and objectives.

41. The Council welcomed the considerable progress made in civilian capability planning and development during the Swedish Presidency. The Council welcomed the document on implementation entitled 'Civilian Capability Planning and Development – Guiding Lines for the Second Semester 2009', which brought together the various strands of work needed to address the EU's challenges comprehensively. It noted that this process had allowed for a dynamic and focused civilian capability development effort while ensuring adequate strategic oversight and guidance. Although it acknowledged the need of taking into account the various national approaches, the Council deemed that a well coordinated civilian capability development framework continues to be necessary to guide future work on enhancing civilian capabilities.

42. These conclusions bring together reporting on progress made as foreseen in the Civilian Headline Goal 2010 (November 2007), the Ministerial Commitments as Regards the Development of Civilian Capabilities (November 2008) and the Implementation Plan for Civilian Capabilities (January 2009). It also comprises reporting on the ESDP mandate for the Swedish Presidency (June 2009) as well as the state of implementation of the Guiding Lines for Civilian Capabilities (July 2009).

43. As the Civilian Headline Goal 2010 draws to a close, the Council looked forward to further reflections on ways to foster the delivery of European capabilities beyond 2010. This should include modalities for the foreseen stocktaking event by the end of 2010 and considerations on the need to bring closer together the civilian and military capability development processes, where possible, also taking into account the results of the Headline Goal 2010 on the military capabilities.

Enhancing the availability of civilian personnel

Facilitating the deployment of civilian personnel

44. The Council welcomed the considerable progress made by Member States in enacting and implementing national measures facilitating the deployment of civilian personnel. It noted that several Member States are in the process of adopting such national measures/strategies and establishing more appropriate structures. The Council welcomed, in this context, the fostering of a continuous exchange of experiences and best practices, through inter alia expert seminars, leading to increased involvement of relevant national authorities in the civilian force generation process. The Council notes that this exchange currently focuses on four areas of action (i.e. national regulatory measures, national budgetary measures, national rosters and training). The Council expects this work to be pursued without delay.

45. The Council noted the continued need for missions to be adequately staffed with high quality personnel to enable the successful delivery of mission mandates. The Council stressed the importance of continuing efforts to match ambition with resources. It encouraged strongly that all Member States take practical steps to ensure the required force generation.

Human Resources

46. With a view to facilitating an orderly and predictable force generation, the Council welcomed the significantly improved procedures that have been put in place regarding calls for contribution and selection of staff. The Council took note of progress regarding the standardisation of job descriptions as well as of the development of standard mission administrative tools.

Rapid deployment

47. The Council welcomed progress made towards enhancing civilian rapid deployment capability, and recalled the need to enhance further this capacity as a priority action.

Preparatory measures and financial regulation

48. The Council welcomed the agreement to make financial resources available in the early phases of EU response to a crisis, and looked forward to the adjustments of the Preparatory Measure framework in 2010. In order to enhance the EU's potential to respond rapidly to crises, the Council underlined the need to make further progress on financing of activities and simplifying decision-making procedures and implementation modalities, taking account of lessons learned.

In this regard, the Council also looked forward to the opportunities offered by the revision of the Financial Regulation foreseen in 2010.

Equipment

49. The Council stressed that a permanent capacity to store new and existing strategic material is a vital resource to ensure rapid deployment of equipment to new and existing missions as well as sound financial management. It welcomed the establishment of a temporary warehouse within EUPM Bosnia and Herzegovina by January 2010 and appreciated the ongoing exploratory work on the establishment of a permanent warehousing solution. The Council looks forward to the results in 2010 with regard to the possible establishment of a permanent warehousing solution. The Council also welcomed the ongoing work of an inventory management system for civilian ESDP missions.

50. The Council took note of the Framework Contracts currently concluded by the Commission and emphasized the need to put in place or launch, before the end of 2009, all Framework Contracts necessary to allow for proper and timely delivery of key equipment.

Civilian Response Teams (CRT)

51. The Council welcomed the revision of the CRT concept. This foresees that the CRT pool shall be doubled with a target up to 200 experts with additional fields of expertise, as well as more efficient procedures for decision and deployment. The Council expects that the revised CRT concept will lead to a higher degree of flexibility and availability. The Council also welcomed the Commission's participation, including in identifying a long-term solution for the financing of training needs. It looked forward to the implementation of the revised CRT concept, while at the same time taking into account the development of the European SSR pool.

Goalkeeper software environment

52. The Council welcomed the progress made with the development and release of the Goalkeeper software environment and recalled the need to finalize, implement and operationalize all Goalkeeper applications without delay.

Comprehensive Concept for Police Strengthening Missions

53. The EU Comprehensive Concept for Police Strengthening Missions was revised, to take account of experience acquired in ESDP missions. The revised concept continues to be framed by the fundamental principles of rule of law and acknowledges the need for strong links with the justice sector. It continues to stress the importance of the necessary interface with a host country's justice system, as well as of local ownership; a stronger focus on combating organised crime and corruption; as well as police officers able to take appropriate action when faced with Human Rights violations. The Council considers that the revised concept, in setting out the tools available to police strengthening missions, should contribute to improved mission planning, mission benchmarking and best practice sharing.

Cooperation between ESDP and JHA

54. The Council welcomed the initiatives taken in this area. Recognizing the pressing need for increased participation of police, prosecutors, judges and penitentiary personnel in ESDP missions, the Council welcomed the discussions that have taken place between ESDP and Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) actors (e.g. Informal CivCom meeting, Article 36 Committee, Informal EUROPOL Ministerial meeting and the Task Force of Chiefs of Police) on cooperation between the relevant JHA and ESDP actors. It noted that several ESDP missions also make a positive contribution to the EU's internal security by supporting the combat against serious transnational crime in their host countries and by building capacity in the field of international legal cooperation. It noted that the experience gained in missions contributes to competence development for law enforcement personnel. It underlined the importance that relevant JHA actors recognize this rationale when prioritizing allocation of appropriate personnel to ESDP missions. It welcomed the progress made regarding the exchange of information within agreed frameworks between ESDP missions and EUROPOL, and in particular with EULEX Kosovo. The Council encouraged enhanced coordination between ESDP and initiatives relating to the external dimension of the JHA, e.g. FRONTEX. Furthermore, the Council encouraged further enhanced cooperation and sharing of information, where appropriate, between relevant ESDP and JHA actors.

Civil-Military Capability Development

55. The Council reconfirmed the importance of the EU's Comprehensive approach to crisis management and welcomed work launched by the Swedish Presidency aimed at identifying possible synergies between EU civilian and military capability development work, taking into consideration previous efforts on civil-military synergies. The Council looked forward to the workplan to be presented during the first semester 2010, in which the possible ways forward

on a number of concrete areas will be further elaborated, with a view to strengthening future synergies. It also emphasized the need to concentrate joint efforts on concrete areas based on lessons identified in ESDP missions, operations and exercises. Further, the Council acknowledged the possible economic benefits of finding Civil Military synergies in Capability Development, and the added value of dual use capabilities.

56. The Council underlined that the Political and Security Committee (PSC) should play a leading role in this work by giving guidance to the work related to synergies between the EU civil and military capability development and noted the importance of the establishment of the Crisis Management and Planning Directorate (CMPD) in the work ahead. The CMPD will, within its area of responsibility, inter alia foster and coordinate work on synergies between civilian and military capability development, including in helping identify dual needs.

57. The Council noted that the ongoing work towards the integration of maritime surveillance is a concrete example of achieving civil-military synergies. In this context, the Council welcomed the EDA's ongoing work and the Commission's communication on maritime surveillance. The Council noted that the work of the Wise Pen Team is ongoing.'

The full text of the conclusions can be found in document *16500/09*.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, INCLUDING OPERATION EUFOR ALTHEA

The Council, in a joint session involving foreign and defence ministers, assessed the political environment and security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). It agreed to continue reviewing political developments in BiH, and approved the High Representative Javier Solana's report on the six-monthly review of Operation ALTHEA.

The Council also assessed Operation ALTHEA and its contribution to a safe and secure environment in BiH.

(...)

EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

ESDP 10 years

The Council adopted the declaration set out in document *15649/09 + 15649/09 COR 1* (see Annex below).

European Defence Agency

The Council adopted guidelines for the European Defence Agency's work in 2010, aimed at updating the capability development plan, exploring synergies between military and civilian capability development, establishing a level playing field for the marketing of defence equipment and optimising capabilities.

The agency will also work on the harmonisation of military airworthiness regulations, and support the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) and the participating member states through collaborative projects and programmes.

The Council adopted the agency's budget for 2010. The total amount is EUR 30.5 million

(EUR 22.1 million for functioning costs and EUR 8.4 million for the operational budget).

It also took note of a report from the head of EDA, highlighting the need to achieve cost-effective collaboration for participating member states in support of ESDP requirements.

EU police mission in Afghanistan – Budget

The Council adopted a joint action amending joint action 2007/369/CFSP on the EU police mission in Afghanistan ('EUPOL Afghanistan') (15116/09).

The new joint action allocates EUR 17.4 million to the mission's budget in order to cover its operational needs from 1 December 2009 until 30 May 2010.

EUPOL Afghanistan is intended to contribute to the establishment, under Afghan ownership, of sustainable and effective civilian policing arrangements, within the broader criminal justice system. It supports a reform process aimed at establishing a trusted and efficient police service, in accordance with international standards, working within the framework of the rule of law and respect of human rights.

Guinea-Bissau – EU mission for security sector reform

The Council adopted a joint action extending for six months until 31 May 2010 the EU mission in support of security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau.

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Operation Althea – Participation by the Dominican Republic

The Council adopted a decision approving the conclusion of an agreement on participation by the Dominican Republic in the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Operation Althea) (15053/09).

(...)

ANNEX – MINISTERIAL DECLARATION: ESDP TEN YEARS – CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

A decade ago, in the aftermath of the conflicts in the Western Balkans, the European Council took the historic decision at its Summit in Cologne in June 1999 to establish the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) as a part of the Common Foreign and Security Policy, thereby demonstrating a commitment to jointly enhance the European Union's contribution to international peace and security. This has enabled the European Union to become an ever more active, capable and credible global actor, in line with the European Security Strategy (ESS), allowing it to combine in a comprehensive approach crisis management capabilities with longer term assistance and development policies.

The ESDP has steadily been developed and adapted to an increasingly complex global environment. Along with the successive deployment of 22 ESDP missions and operations in three continents across the full range of conflict prevention, crisis management, and post-conflict peace-building tasks, we have reformed our structures; elaborated and refined our planning capability; improved our crisis management and rapid response capabilities; and increased

our cooperation with key partners and contributing Third States.

The development of the ESDP has, at the same time, highlighted the many challenges ahead. The demand for the European Union's actions in crisis management is steadily growing. We must continue to strengthen our collective capacity to promote peace, security and stability in the world. It is clear that these challenges cannot be met without adequate resources.

EU decisions have to be based on a common and strategic analysis of the threats and risks facing us. Based on the ESS, we need to take forward our common goals and strategic priorities, built around our common values of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law in conformity with the principles of the UN Charter and international law. We, in the EU, will develop our joint capacity to pursue policies which can enhance our own security as well as the security of our neighbours and the wider world. To this end, we need to continue to move forward in a number of key areas.

- The entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty will entail a new chapter in the history of the EU's common foreign, security and defence policy by further strengthening its common *institutional framework*. The new post of a High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, assisted by the European External Action Service (EEAS), will considerably increase effectiveness also in the field of ESDP. We will now work towards ensuring a strong, effective and visible role for the first incumbent of this office. We shall take concrete steps, as appropriate, to implement all provisions and articles of the Lisbon Treaty relevant to CSDP.
- We shall further improve the consistency in our external activities by strengthening our early warning capacity and our capacity to plan and carry out *coherent, comprehensive and tailored policies* for early action, crisis management and post-conflict development in conflict-ridden areas. When establishing the EEAS, we will also enhance the efficiency of the structures for the planning and conduct of our crisis management missions and operations. The EEAS, under the direction of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, will also assure closer links to other European Union instruments and policies.
- We will continue to improve our capacity to *undertake effective missions and operations* across the entire spectrum of conflict prevention and crisis management tasks in order to enable us to carry out more flexible, complex and robust missions and operations, as well as to carry out several missions and operations simultaneously. We will also improve the way we learn lessons from ongoing and past crisis management missions and operations and exercises.
- We will honour our commitment to provide the European Union with an *effective capability to respond rapidly* to erupting crises. To this end, we will increase the usability and the flexibility of the EU Battlegroups, in order to make full use of their potential. New parameters for rapid civilian deployment will be established, including the continued development of civilian response teams and the improvement of logistical support.
- We pledge to continue to improve our *capacity to provide national and multinational capabilities* for the European Union's missions and operations. The growth of ESDP calls for increased availability of civilian and military personnel and equipment. To this end, we will continue to explore further possibilities of the pooling and sharing of resources, specialisation and warehousing. We will also continue to improve effectiveness in the provision of personnel and equipment, continue to share best practices, and further develop our common training and exercising activities.
- We acknowledge that the *CFSP budget should be adequate* to serve our policy and to respond

to current and future challenges.

- ▶ We will intensify our efforts regarding *civil-military coordination*. This will include the enhancement of the civil-military aspects of the planning and conduct processes for new and ongoing ESDP missions and operations, as well as promoting civil-military synergies and dual-use when developing civilian and military capabilities. The Crisis Management and Planning Directorate (CMPD) will have a key role, under political and strategic guidance, in developing more coherent civilian and military strategic planning for ESDP missions and operations. The CMPD will also foster and coordinate work on synergies between civil and military EU capability development.
- ▶ We shall continue to strive for more and better coherence in the development of capabilities in support of ESDP. We shall, through the *European Defence Agency* and competent Council bodies continue to develop our integrated approach to capability development, in close cooperation with the Commission. We should further invest in research and technology in the field of security and defence, and armaments co-operation shall be promoted. A well functioning defence equipment market – based on fair and open competition, a level playing field and security of supply – is a crucial component in strengthening the European Defence and Technological Industrial Base and in the development of European military capabilities.
- ▶ Possibilities for the use of the *Permanent Structured Cooperation* shall be explored in order to enhance defence capabilities, with a view to strengthen the EU's ability to respond to crises.
- ▶ We shall maintain the momentum achieved in the integration of *maritime surveillance*, including through the contribution of the ESDP aspects, and will explore opportunities and synergies that can be achieved by the integrated approach to maritime affairs.
- ▶ We will continue to improve and strengthen a human rights perspective in ESDP as well as putting a focus on *women, peace and security* and the role of women as actors in the international security agenda.
- ▶ We shall, notably by establishing closer links between the European Security and Defence Policy and the Policy on Freedom, Security and Justice, as appropriate, work towards improving our ability to counter *cross-border challenges* such as trafficking in human beings, drugs and goods, illegal migration and transnational organised crime.
- ▶ We shall work towards developing further the EU's role in support of *mediation and dialogue processes* in situations of instability and conflict.
- ▶ We will intensify our *cooperation with key partners*. The effectiveness of our common foreign, security and defence policy will benefit from strategic relationships with partners and good cooperation on the ground. Local ownership is key to sustainable post crisis stabilisation. To this end, we shall strengthen and deepen co-operation between the European Union and the United Nations, NATO, the African Union and other international and regional partners as well as our contacts with non-governmental actors. We shall also pursue the dialogue and cooperation with Third States. Their involvement in ESDP missions and operations strengthens partnerships and their further contributions would be welcome.

The way we deal with these challenges and opportunities will determine our future capacity to contribute collectively to conflict prevention, crisis management, and post-conflict peace-building. Our common efforts in this endeavour are key to a more secure Europe and a more secure world.

Meeting of Defence Ministers

Brussels, 16-17 November 2009

EDITED SUMMARY OF REMARKS BY JAVIER SOLANA

Crisis Management Operations

ALTHEA – Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

Our discussions on the future of Operation ALTHEA must be essentially political in nature and our decisions must be taken on the basis of Bosnia's requirements. This applies equally to our political efforts and the future of our military presence.

On the political front, the recently developed joint EU-US strategy has a chance of yielding results in Bosnia. The political situation in Bosnia is not encouraging and we need to find a way to break the deadlock. The EU and the US have been working extremely hard. This work is not completed and needs the active support of Member States but we are making progress. The most recent signals are encouraging.

The future of ALTHEA cannot be decided in a vacuum. It has to take account of the political context. We welcome General McColl's work on planning for the transition from an executive to a non-executive mandate for EUFOR. We will review his proposals in readiness to take a decision when the time is right.

Operation EU NAVFOR ATALANTA and the broader engagement in Somalia

We all recognise that fighting piracy at sea needs to be complemented by a broader engagement on land aiming at the gradual restoration of law and order. Other international actors will play their part and we will work closely together to ensure that a comprehensive and coherent approach, respecting government ownership, is maintained.

EU NAVFOR ATALANTA

Operation EU Navfor ATALANTA continues to combat piracy successfully off the coast of Somalia. All World Food Programme supplies are being delivered safely to Somalia (Mogadishu and Berbera). There have been no successful piracy attacks in the Gulf of Aden since early May 2009. These achievements have been made possible by the robust engagement of Member States and the very successful generation of naval and air assets.

However, though piracy has been contained it has not stopped. We have therefore decided to extend the operation until December 2010. We expect the relevant UN Security Council Resolution (1846) to be extended in the coming days. There is no room for complacency. Pirates are operating further east in the Indian Ocean and are now directly threatening European fishing fleets in the south of the Somali Basin. With the end of the monsoon season, we have recently seen a new surge of attacks to the north and north-east of the Seychelles.

Operation ATALANTA has already strengthened its capabilities in this maritime area and the deployment of additional patrol aircraft in the Seychelles is very useful. For the time being, the additional protective measures recently taken on a national basis seem to be providing an adequate response. Coordination with other international counter-piracy efforts is an important part of our success.

We are very grateful for the efforts of Kenya in trying suspected pirates and for the agreement recently reached with the Seychelles to hand over suspected pirates is also a very welcome regional contribution to the fight against piracy.

Broader EU engagement in Somalia

I welcome the approval by ministers today of the crisis management concept for an operation to train Somali security forces. This first step does not prejudice future decisions but it does enable us to pursue our planning. This mission will be low cost, low risk, requiring a relatively small commitment but with potential for high impact. It will be the first part of a broader commitment in support of the Transitional Federal Government. This part is the most urgent, in order to improve security. The mission will take place in Uganda because Uganda has the most proven experience in training Somalis; it is the largest contributor to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which will greatly facilitate coordination with AMISOM; and the Ugandan authorities have made clear that they would be very pleased to collaborate with the EU and the AU.

We have made contact with the AU and AMISON. We will collaborate closely with the AU and AMISON. It is essential that the Transitional Federal Government has full ownership of the process and we must support it fully in this.

Civilian and military capabilities development

This year we celebrate the 10th anniversary of European Security and Defence Policy. We are proud of its success: we have conducted 23 operations (16 civilian) in under six years and deployed some 70 000 civilian and military personnel.

We set our ambitions at the outset but the demands made of us have been greater than anticipated. It is clear that to maintain the same level of engagement and build on this success we must increase availability and improve our capacity to deploy more civilian experts.

We need a sustainable solution for the medium to long term. We need to be systematic and go beyond ad-hoc searches for volunteers every time there is a new task. We are working hard on this at EU level, as are the Member States at national level. I hope that this will soon bear fruit.

We are also looking at ways to increase the flexibility and usability of Battle groups in order to make full use of the potential of this additional capability for ESDP operations without revising the agreed EU Battle group concept. Maritime surveillance is another area that we are working on. We are also looking at ways to connect and coordinate existing systems.

The coming year will see momentous changes in EU structures. It is therefore all the more important that civilian capability development continues to be conducted in a structured and transparent manner.

Today, the European Defence Agency (EDA) launched a European Helicopter Training Programme to increase the short-term availability of helicopters for crisis-management operations. This will be important in reducing the current shortfalls that we face in conducting our operations.

With the EDA we have also moved forward with our plans to address shortfalls in air transport in general, with the European Air Transport Fleet, and we have issued two political declarations that seek to reduce the cost of air systems by harmonizing European military airwor-

thiness requirements and establishing a level playing field for the European defence equipment industry. We have also launched a scheme to synchronise investment in research and technology.

Lisbon Treaty and the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP)

The Lisbon Treaty introduces a number of important innovations for ESDP. The new provision enabling the Council to entrust a group of Member States with a particular ESDP mission will increase our flexibility in responding to crises. The introduction of Permanent Structured Cooperation will boost our work on capabilities, with the EDA playing a central role.

The Treaty also contains two solidarity clauses. One will introduce the obligation for all Member States to aid and assist a Member State that has been the victim of armed aggression. This is not a mutual defence clause and it does not transform the EU into a military alliance. The second solidarity clause provides that Member States and the Union shall also be obliged to act jointly in the spirit of solidarity where a Member State is the subject of a terrorist attack or the victim of a natural or manmade disaster.

The new treaty provides a legal basis and a framework that will make it easier to prepare and launch actions that we have in fact been carrying out since 1999. These include election support, stabilisation at different points of a conflict, counter-piracy, peacekeeping, monitoring of borders and political agreements and police reform. For example, the Start-up Fund provided for in the Lisbon Treaty will give the High Representative rapid access to funds needed to for the early stages of planning and preparing ESDP missions.

European Defence Agency – Helicopter training

Brussels, 17 November 2009

DEFENCE MINISTERS LAUNCH EUROPEAN HELICOPTER TRAINING

Today EU Defence Ministers launched a European Helicopter Training Programme to increase in the short-term the availability of helicopters for crisis management operations. The Programme will start in 2010. It will consist of two life exercises per year, one focussing on individual training and one on interoperability and operational tactics. An annual symposium will take stock of lessons learned from operations and further shape the development of further exercises.

'This is another concrete result of the Agency's work. The Helicopter Training Programme will deliver immediately more helicopter capabilities, which we all know in a continuous shortfall in deployed operations', said Head of the Agency Javier Solana, who chaired the meeting.

European Ministers met in the Steering Board of the European Defence Agency on 17 November. A *Letter of Intent on the European Air Transport Fleet (EATF)* was signed by fourteen Ministers.¹ The EATF aims to address the critical European shortfalls in air transport by developing a wide range of innovative solutions, from pooling training, logistics or procurement to exchanging flight hours and making aircraft available.

'A new milestone for the EATF has been reached. I am in particular happy that 14 Ministers have signed the Letter of Intent. Now, we have to work hard on elaborating the details of the different forms of pooling and cooperation', said Alexander Weis, EDA's Chief Executive.

The Ministerial Steering Board approved two Political Declarations:

- On European Military Airworthiness Requirements – Ministers underlined the political importance of developing and implementing common European Military Airworthiness Requirements which will significantly reduce costs of air systems and speed up European aircraft programmes.
- On Level Playing Field for the European Defence Equipment Market – Ministers stressed that the creation of a Level Playing Field is a prerequisite for fair competition in an open and transparent European Defence Equipment Market. They tasked the Agency to develop with the participating Member States a common understanding of the scope of the factors hampering the Level Playing Field, to consider what mitigating actions are achievable and in what timeframe, and to develop a roadmap based on prioritisation of the issues to be addressed.

Furthermore, the Ministerial Steering Board approved the launch of a new Category A programme on Unmanned Maritime Systems – UMS. This programme will serve as an umbrella for several Category B R&T projects, with different groups of Member States contributing. It

1. Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden.

will connect R&T priority work on uninhabited naval systems, especially underwater systems, with the Maritime Mine Counter-Measures project, which is one of the twelve priorities under the EDA Capability Development Plan.

Ministers also launched the European Framework Cooperation for Security and Defence, which aims at a systematic synchronisation between R&T investment under the EDA umbrella and by the Commission thus maximising complementarity of civilian security, space and defence-related research programmes. EDA has been tasked to set up, together with the Commission and the European Space Agency, the details of the coordination scheme and to develop proposals for possible subjects for this cooperation, situation awareness being one possible candidate.

The Steering Board approved the Agency's Work Programme 2010. Work will focus on implementation of the four EDA strategies, on concrete projects and on other policies and initiatives. The Agency will have a 2010 budget of €31 million, including €8.4 million operational budget for studies, and will recruit four new staff bringing the EDA staff total to 113. The budget was adopted by the General Affairs and External Relations Council in Defence Ministers formation.

Ministers were informed on the results of the Agency's collection of defence data for 2008 and on the assessment of the collective benchmarks for defence R&T and equipment procurement, which shows positive trends with regard to European collaboration. A dedicated brochure has been released.

FACTSHEET – INCREASING HELICOPTERS' AVAILABILITY: THE HELICOPTERS TRAINING PROGRAMME

Helicopters have been one of EDA's core activities. There continues to be shortage of available (transport) helicopters for crisis management operation. This is not due to the lack of helicopters. There are more than 1700 helicopters of 22 different types in the military inventories in Europe are not available for crisis management operations. So, the first fundamental question is – what are the reasons for the lack of deployed helicopters?

One reason is that some crews are not trained to fly in more demanding environments (for example over deserts or in mountainous terrain). The Agency has addressed this issue through its helicopters training activities.

An initial training capacity has already been delivered; a multinational helicopters exercise, conducted by the European Defence Agency, hosted by France and financed by Luxembourg took place in Gap (in the Alps, South East of France) in March 2009. It brought together helicopters and crews from Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Hungary and Spain, as well as personnel from nine other EU Member States. Czech pilots, deployed to Afghanistan before the end of 2009, were trained at this occasion.

These training initiatives have been coordinated through the EDA Helicopters Training Experts meetings and improved taking into consideration the conclusions of two studies delivered in 2009.

EDA is conducting this work on the basis of complementarity with NATO. Training is completely done by EDA, while NATO is focussing on immediate operational solutions for Afghanistan. Of course, this deconfliction is crucial regarding EDA's participating Member States' investments.

Helicopters Tactics Programme: background

At the 10 November 2008 Steering Board, Defence Ministers endorsed a roadmap for developing a European Helicopter Training Programme (HTP). Based on all activities which took place in 2009 the Ministerial Steering Board decided on 17 November 2009 to launch the HTP in 2010.

Aim & development

The HTP aims to deliver two exercises per year, with one focussing on individual training, essentially environmental training, and one focussing on interoperability and operational tactics. The feedback from operations will be captured and disseminated in an annual tactics symposium and this will further shape the development of future exercises.

Next events

- Spain has offered to host an environmental exercise in June 2010 (EX AZOR). This will be an environmental exercise utilising the hot, high and dusty conditions available in northern Spain in the summer.
- A second exercise is foreseen for the second semester 2010.

EU SSR Guinea-Bissau – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 17 November 2009

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2009/841/CFSP AMENDING AND EXTENDING JOINT ACTION 2008/112/CFSP ON THE EUROPEAN UNION MISSION IN SUPPORT OF SECURITY SECTOR REFORM IN THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU (EU SSR GUINEA-BISSAU)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 14 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) On 12 February 2008, the Council adopted Joint Action 2008/112/CFSP on the European Union Mission in support of security sector reform in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau (EU SSR GUINEA-BISSAU).¹ That Joint Action was to apply until 31 May 2009.
- (2) On 18 May 2009, the Council adopted Joint Action 2009/405/CFSP amending Joint Action 2008/112/CFSP². That Joint Action is to apply until 30 November 2009.
- (3) By letter dated 9 October 2009, Guinea-Bissau invited the European Union to extend the Mission for six months until 31 May 2010.
- (4) Joint Action 2008/112/CFSP should be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

Joint Action 2008/112/CFSP is hereby amended as follows:

Article 1(1) shall be replaced by the following:

The European Union (EU) hereby establishes an EU Mission in support of security sector reform in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau (hereinafter referred to as 'EU SSR GUINEA-BISSAU' or the 'Mission'), comprising a preparatory phase beginning on 26 February 2008 and with an implementation phase beginning no later than 1 May 2008. The duration of the Mission will be up to 24 months from the declaration of initial operational capability.;

Article 9(1) shall be replaced by the following:

The financial reference amount to cover the expenditure related to the Mission for the period from 26 February 2008 to 30 November 2009 shall be EUR 5 650 000.

The financial reference amount to cover the expenditure related to the Mission for the period from 1 December 2009 to 31 May 2010 shall be EUR 1 530 000.;

in Article 17, the second subparagraph shall be replaced by the following:

'It shall apply until 31 May 2010.'

1. OJL 40, 14.2.2008, p. 11.

2. OJL 128, 27.5.2009, p. 60.

Article 2

This Joint Action shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Article 3

This Joint Action shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels, 17 November 2009.

For the Council

The President

C. Bildt

EUPOL Afghanistan – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 17 November 2009

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2009/842/CFSP AMENDING JOINT ACTION 2007/369/CFSP ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION POLICE MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN (EUPOL AFGHANISTAN)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 14 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) On 30 May 2007, the Council adopted Joint Action 2007/369/CFSP⁽¹⁾ for a period of three years. The operational phase of EUPOL AFGHANISTAN began on 15 June 2007.
- (2) Council Decision 2008/884/CFSP of 21 November 2008 implementing Joint Action 2007/369/CFSP on the establishment of the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL AFGHANISTAN)⁽²⁾ provided a financial reference amount to cover expenditure related to the Mission from 1 December 2008 until 30 November 2009. That financial reference amount should be increased to cover the expenditure related to EUPOL AFGHANISTAN until 30 May 2010.
- (3) EUPOL AFGHANISTAN should have a project cell for identifying and implementing projects, and provision should be made for establishing such a project cell.
- (4) Joint Action 2007/369/CFSP should be amended accordingly.

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

Joint Action 2007/369/CFSP is hereby amended as follows:

1. Paragraph 3 of Article 4 is replaced by the following:
'3. EUPOL AFGHANISTAN shall have a project cell for identifying and implementing projects. EUPOL AFGHANISTAN shall, as appropriate, coordinate, facilitate and provide advice on projects implemented by Member States and third states under their responsibility, in areas related to the Mission and in support of its objectives.';
2. Paragraph 2 of Article 13 is replaced by the following:
'2. '2. The financial reference amount intended to cover the expenditure related to EUPOL AFGHANISTAN for the period from 1 December 2008 until 30 May 2010 shall be EUR 81 400 000.'

Article 2

This Joint Action shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

(1) OJ L 139, 31.5.2007, p. 33.

(2) OJ L 316, 26.11.2008, p. 21.

Article 3

This Joint Action shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels, 17 November 2009.

For the Council

The President

C. Bildten

CME 09 – Fifth EU Crisis Management Exercise

Brussels, 18 November 2009

The European Union (EU) will conduct its fifth Crisis Management Exercise (CME 09)¹ from 23 November to 04 December 2009 in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).

CME 09 will exercise and evaluate a range of EU crisis management structures, procedures and consultation arrangements. The exercise supports the need for planning for both a military operation and a civilian mission engaged in the same theatre. Both the EU operations Centre (EU OHQ) and the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) will be involved in the context of an appropriate scenario requiring EU rapid response to the crisis.

Although generic, the exercise scenario will contain sufficient hypothetical background to support the objectives and the decision making process in the exercise. It will support the need for an EU-led operation requiring the deployment of the full range of the EU's military and civilian, including Community, instruments (e.g. a military force, police mission with rule of law elements etc.).

The exercise CME 09 will be conducted in Brussels and in EU capitals. No troops will be deployed. CME 09 will involve EU Member States (capitals and delegations), the Secretary General/High Representative, relevant EU Council instances, the EU Council General Secretariat (including the Civilian Operation Commander and the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability), the European Commission, the EU Satellite Centre, the EU Operation Commander and the EU Operations Center (including augmentees from EU Member States), a response cell acting as an EU FHQ and another response cell acting as the existing civilian mission on the ground.

During the course of the exercise, the EU's Political and Security Committee (PSC) will exercise the political control and strategic direction of the ESDP military operation and ESDP civilian mission, including the Civilian Response Team (CRT). The PSC will ensure that the military operation and the civilian reconfigured mission are planned in a comprehensive and coherent manner.

1. In May 2002, the EU conducted its first crisis management exercise (CME 02) in the framework of the ESDP. In November 2003, the EU and NATO conducted a joint crisis management exercise (CME/CMX 03). In May 2004, CME 04 has concentrated on how the EU manages crises using both civilian and military instruments, including their co-ordination, based on a scenario of an autonomous EU-led operation, without recourse to NATO assets and capabilities. The first Military Exercise (MILEX 05) was conducted in November 2005, the second MILEX 07, including the first activation of the EU Operation Centre was conducted in June 2007. The third military exercise, MILEX 08, was conducted in June 2008 and the fourth one, MILEX 09, took place in June 2009.

Informal meeting of EU Heads of State or Government

Brussels, 19 November 2009

The Heads of State or Government of the European Union noted with great satisfaction that the Lisbon Treaty will enter into force on 1 December 2009. This Treaty will lay the foundation for a more democratic, efficient and transparent European Union, allowing the Union to better tackle the challenges ahead.

The Lisbon Treaty will provide the Union with a permanent President of the European Council and a High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy that will enhance continuity and strengthen the Union's role in the international arena.

At their informal meeting in Brussels today, the Heads of State or Government reached a political agreement on the following appointments:

► ***President of the European Council***

Mr Herman VAN ROMPUY will be the President of the European Council.

He will be elected by the European Council, for a period of two and a half years, renewable once.

► ***High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy***

Ms Catherine ASHTON will be the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

She will be appointed by the European Council, with the agreement of the President of the Commission.

The President of the Commission, the High Representative and the other members of the Commission will be subject as a body to a vote of consent by the European Parliament.

► ***Secretary-General of the Council***

Mr Pierre de BOISSIEU will be the Secretary-General of the Council.

He will be appointed by the Council.

The formal decisions on these appointments will be taken once the Treaty of Lisbon has entered into force, on 1 December 2009.

Iran – E3+3 statement

Brussels, 20 November 2009

STATEMENT BY ROBERT COOPER ON BEHALF OF THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS OF THE E3+3 FOLLOWING THEIR MEETING ON IRAN

The Ministers of the UK, China, France, Germany, Russia, the US and the EU High Representative met in New York on 23 September. They agreed that ‘the meeting on 1 October will provide an opportunity to seek a comprehensive long term and appropriate solution to the Iranian nuclear issue through dialogue and negotiation. We expect a serious response from Iran and will decide in the context of our dual track approach, as a result of the meeting, on our next steps.’

Today, the Political Directors of these countries met in Brussels to take stock of developments since the 1 October meeting in Geneva.

We are disappointed by the lack of follow-up to the three understandings reached at the Geneva meeting between HR Solana and Dr Jalili.

- Although the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has visited the Qom enrichment facility, we noted the IAEA Director General’s assessment that Iran should have declared to the Agency the construction of this facility much earlier and has therefore not complied with its safeguards obligations. In addition, the construction of a new enrichment facility is in defiance of several UN Security Council Resolutions. The IAEA Board will have to address this issue next week;
- Iran has not engaged in an intensified dialogue and in particular has not agreed to have a new meeting before the end of October to discuss nuclear issues;
- Iran has not responded positively to the IAEA’s proposed agreement for the provision of nuclear fuel for its Tehran Research Reactor.

We urge Iran to reconsider the opportunity offered by this agreement to meet the humanitarian needs of its people and to engage seriously with us in dialogue and negotiations. This remains our consistent objective.

We have agreed to remain in contact and expect a further meeting soon to complete our assessment of the situation and to decide on our next steps.

Germany

Mr Peter Gottwald
Mr Eberhards Pohl

United States

Mr William Burns

France

Mr Jacques Audibert

Russia

Mr Sergey Ryabkov

United Kingdom

Sir Geoffrey Adams

China

Mr Cheng Jingye

EU

Mr Robert Cooper

EU BAM Rafah – Council Joint Action

Brussels, 20 November 2009

COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2009/854/CFSP AMENDING JOINT ACTION 2005/889/CFSP ON ESTABLISHING A EUROPEAN UNION BORDER ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR THE RAFAH CROSSING POINT (EU BAM RAFAH)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 14 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) On 25 November 2005, the Council adopted Joint Action 2005/889/CFSP on establishing a European Union Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing Point (EU BAM Rafah)⁽¹⁾.
- (2) On 10 November 2008, the Council adopted Joint Action 2008/862/CFSP⁽²⁾ amending and extending Joint Action 2005/889/CFSP until 24 November 2009.
- (3) Joint Action 2005/889/CFSP should be further extended until 24 May 2010,

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

Joint Action 2005/889/CFSP is hereby amended as follows:

1. Article 13(1) is replaced by the following:
'1. The financial reference amount intended to cover the expenditure related to the mission for the period from 25 November 2009 to 24 May 2010 shall be EUR 1 120 000';
2. second paragraph of Article 16 is replaced by the following:
'It shall expire on 24 May 2010.';
3. Article 17 is replaced by the following:

Article 17

Review

This Joint Action shall be reviewed by 15 April 2010.'

Article 2

This Joint Action shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Article 3

This Joint Action shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels, 20 November 2009.

For the Council

The President

E. Erlandsson

(1) OJ L 327, 14.12.2005, p. 28.

(2) OJ L 306, 15.11.2008, p. 98.

Implementation of the Lisbon Treaty – High Representative and EEAS

Brussels, 1 December 2010

In accordance with article 18(1) of the Treaty on European Union, on 1 December 2009, Catherine Ashton was appointed High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy for the period from the end of the current term of office of the Commission until 31 October 2014. On the occasion of his last day in office as High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana made the following statement and gave the interview here below to the Belgian newspaper *Le Soir*.

JAVIER SOLANA – MESSAGE

Brussels, 30 November 2009

'My mandate as EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy comes to an end today. I want to thank everybody and in particular the press and media for the interest with which they have followed our work over the past decade.

Over the last ten years, Europe has become a global player whose voice is heard on every continent. We have developed a foreign policy, with the structures and tools to underpin it. The European Union is working hard to make a difference to people's lives where its missions are deployed. The media have played a vital role in all this with its coverage of our activities and I know that they will continue to do so.'

JAVIER SOLANA – « MON TESTAMENT POLITIQUE », *LE SOIR*

10 December 2009

À l'heure du départ, quel regard portez-vous sur vos années de haut représentant de l'Union ? *Je voudrais souligner pour commencer que j'ai passé quinze ans à Bruxelles. C'est vrai que j'ai beaucoup voyagé. Mais c'est à Bruxelles que j'avais mes chemises, comme on dit, ce qui était fondamental.*

Je veux dire du fond du cœur ma gratitude. J'ai été très heureux ici. J'ai trouvé ici de la chaleur, de l'amitié, tout ce qu'il fallait pour faire ce travail compliqué. Tout cela fait partie de ma vie. Je ne veux pas faire dans le sentimentalisme, alors je vais en rester là...

Plein de choses ont eu lieu pendant ces quinze ans. Les règles ont incroyablement changé. Aujourd'hui, nous voyons un monde qui va vers l'est, à très grande vitesse, et nous devons nous adapter à cette réalité.

Dans mes différentes fonctions, j'ai vécu trois périodes européennes. Dans la première, la réconciliation était encore fondamentale. La première fois que j'ai siégé au Conseil, il y avait là des gens qui avaient participé à la Seconde Guerre mondiale !

C'était très impressionnant. On a alors eu l'Acte unique, Maastricht, Amsterdam. Puis, deuxième phase, on a eu la stabilisation du continent. Avec l'élargissement, même si ce mot ne dit pas la profondeur de la chose. C'était un exercice extraordinaire, de générosité et de vision. La troisième phase commence. Ce sera une période de réalisme et d'obligations pour l'Europe. Le monde d'après la crise sera tout-à-fait différent. Nous avons maintenant l'obligation de ne pas perdre notre position, notre rôle : tel est le défi. J'espère que les leaders de l'Union seront à sa hauteur.

Mais, durant ces années, l'Europe s'est-elle vraiment imposée comme acteur sur la scène mondiale ?

Oui. L'Europe a une place, une façon de faire les choses, de faire la politique, qui est très spéciale. Nous ne sommes pas un Etat. Nous sommes un « arrangement constitutionnel » très compliqué. Mais nous sommes sans aucun doute un embryon, un modèle de comment des pays peuvent partager de la souveraineté, dans un monde où la souveraineté devra être partagée. Partout, il faudra aller vers ce que j'appellerais une « souveraineté responsable », dans un monde qui sera fait de blocs.

Vous avez dû en vivre des frustrations avec les dirigeants européens...

J'ai servi l'Europe avec amour et passion. Les frustrations étaient de petites frustrations, si je peux dire, de celles qui interviennent quand on construit quelque chose. Tous les architectes en ont. Et je me considère, d'une certaine manière, comme un petit architecte. Parce que j'ai contribué à faire faire un pas à l'Europe politique.

Rappelez-vous que le traité d'Amsterdam définissait la fonction de haut représentant en deux lignes ! Avec deux lignes, nous avons fait beaucoup de choses – pour la paix ! Pour moi, c'était une période extraordinaire, et j'en suis fier : nous sommes l'Europe, et nous sommes dans le monde.

Certaines capitales ne vous ont pas toujours aidé...

J'ai trouvé toute l'aide – non : beaucoup d'aide – de la part des Etats membres pour commencer à bâtir l'Europe politique, c'est-à-dire l'Europe qui va au-delà du marché unique pour entrer dans le domaine de la politique, et notamment de la gestion de crises.

Gestion de crises, ça ne veut pas dire utilisation de la force. Mais utilisation de la diplomatie, de l'aide, du commerce, de tous les outils – y compris les militaires. Imaginez : en 1999, les premiers militaires sont entrés dans les couloirs de l'Union. C'était un choc !

Aujourd'hui, c'est la normalité totale : le Comité militaire de l'Union se réunit dans la même salle que le Conseil.

Mais la construction de l'Europe politique va-t-elle assez vite ?

En tout cas, sans aucun doute, il va falloir tout accélérer. C'est mon appel : ou bien l'Union européenne s'adaptera au nouveau rythme – le traité de Lisbonne donne les instruments pour le faire –, ou bien elle perdra du poids dans l'arène internationale.

Les Etats membres doivent aider l'Union européenne à avancer. Je vais le dire très franchement : c'est un leurre pour les Etats membres, même pour les plus puissants de l'Union européenne, de croire qu'ils peuvent faire quelque chose seuls dans le monde d'aujourd'hui. C'est mieux d'agir ensemble.

Quels sont vos conseils à Herman Van Rompuy et Catherine Ashton ?

Je ne veux donner de conseils à personne. Je leur ai parlé et je leur fais pleinement confiance. Avec eux, l'Europe va avancer.

Je voudrais cependant dire deux mots au sujet du président du Conseil européen.

Je le connais assez, je l'ai vu agir de façon très très très judicieuse. Et nous avons besoin de ça : de gens intelligents qui travaillent pour l'institution, humbles, habitués à servir avec générosité, sans attendre rien en retour. Je voudrais lui rendre hommage.

Mais quand l'UE disposera-t-elle d'un siège permanent au Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU ?

La politique étrangère, c'est une affaire très sophistiquée, liée à la petite et à la grande histoire des Etats mem-

bres Mettre tout cela ensemble, tous les moyens ensemble, ce n'est pas facile.

Il y a deux approches. La première, c'est de vouloir changer les structures – par exemple de se battre pour un siège permanent. Mon approche est autre. Mon objectif, c'est que l'Union européenne parle d'une seule voix dans les institutions internationales. Un jour, le Conseil de sécurité sera réformé. Mais l'important, aujourd'hui, c'est que rien ne se fasse à l'ONU sans un consensus de l'Union européenne. Si on dit qu'il faut changer d'abord la Charte des Nations unies, ça peut être une excuse pour ne rien faire...

C'est la volonté politique qui compte, plus que les règles. Soyons clairs : il ne faut pas donner d'excuses aux Etats membres pour ne pas coopérer. C'est mon message aux Etats membres, mon testament politique : coopérez, il n'y a pas d'excuses pour ne pas coopérer !

Comment voyez-vous votre avenir ?

Je voudrais continuer à faire la même chose, me battre pour les mêmes valeurs, pour l'Europe, faire de la gestion de crises, écouter, etc., mais un peu plus calmement. Toutes ces années, j'ai été un Européen du Nord le matin et un Européen du Sud le soir : je me suis levé à 5 heures du matin et couché à 2 heures du matin ! Maintenant, je vais être un citoyen du monde, un Européen du monde. Mais mes chemises seront à Madrid.

CATHERINE ASHTON, HIGH REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNION FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY POLICY, AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION – WRITTEN STATEMENT, BASED ON REMARKS TO THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Brussels, 2 December 2009

It is a great privilege to come before you today having been appointed as the first High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. It is always an honour to address this house.

The Lisbon Treaty has now entered into force, and I was delighted to be able to join some Parliamentarians here yesterday to mark this momentous occasion. The Treaty gives us new possibilities and new opportunities, not least elevating further the importance of the European Parliament. It also offers us the chance of a stronger and more coherent voice on the world stage, which is why I am here today.

I accept this position and will do everything in my power to fulfil its promise. I will faithfully represent the Member States of the European Union and its citizens. I look forward to working with the President of the European Council and the President of the Commission, as well as the foreign ministers of the 27 member states. I will continue to work with my Colleagues in the Commission, of which I will be Vice-President. And I come before you in the European Parliament with the promise that I will work with you and communicate with you in an open and pragmatic manner.

I imagine that my appointment may have come as somewhat of a surprise to many of you – perhaps to all of you. It was quite a surprise for me too, but a very welcome one.

There has also been some talk of a lack of experience, and you might say that if you define experience very narrowly. However, I have never been someone who has considered things from a narrow perspective, and I have 28 years of experience of negotiation, of consensus-building and of advocacy.

My belief in the power of ‘quiet diplomacy’ is founded in a healthy respect for the challenges we all face in the world today. If there is one thing we have learned in this very difficult past year, it is that by building confidence in one another and working together, we keep our fate in our own hands. To do this, we need people who can listen as well as talk, who can learn as well as teach, and who can work behind the scenes as well as in the glare of the spotlight.

I have shown that I have those qualities throughout my career. I led significant changes in the British Health Service. I have been UK Minister for both Human Rights and Justice. As UK Justice Minister I participated in and chaired the Justice and Home Affairs Council and I know very well how difficult but important it is to manage national preferences on the road to a common European policy. I was made leader of the House of Lords in 2007 and took the Lisbon Treaty through that House.

As Trade Commissioner I have completed negotiations on the biggest trade agreement ever by the European Union, with South Korea, and done so during one of the most difficult periods the global economy has ever faced. I have solved some difficult trade problems, and have improved our trade relations with ACP countries.

I have also kept our positive trade relations with partners like the US and China firmly on track. This included for instance co-chairing the High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue with Chinese Vice-Premier Wang Qishan. I am proud to say that I have repaid the faith shown in me by this Parliament when I became Trade Commissioner just over a year ago.

I believe that all this is why the twenty-seven leaders in the European Council see me as the right person for this new role. I would like to take this opportunity to set out some ideas on how I see the position unfolding, and then listen to your views on the same.

The first thing I can promise is that as I move forward there will be continuity in EU foreign policy and in our dealings with our global partners. I must pay tribute to the tireless work over many years of both Javier Solana and Benita Ferrero-Waldner. They are a credit to the European Union. They have represented us and the values we hold dear, above all peace and prosperity, freedom and democracy, the rule of law and the universality and indivisibility of human rights.

Javier leaves the legacy of the CFSP and ESDP structures and operations he has built up over the past 10 years. Benita has built strong partnerships in the European neighbourhood, and deployed our financial and technical support effectively.

This past year I have been their colleague, travelling with them to summits with all our major strategic partners, and have seen the strength of the common voice of the European Union on the world stage.

The reputation of the European Union is a good one, based on our strong values. Our commitment to the multilateral system of global governance through the UN and other bodies is clear. We already speak with conviction and clarity on the major challenges that face us, be they climate change, poverty, conflict or terrorism. We are the biggest provider of humanitarian aid and project funding. We are a superpower economy with half a billion people, but are still accused of not punching our weight politically.

My job is to make our voice stronger and more unified still. As underlined in the European Security Strategy, the European Union should become a more capable, more coherent and more strategic global actor. I will build on the work that has gone before to achieve that goal.

There will be continuity also in the sense that I will immediately take up duties and commitments. Tonight I will travel to Madrid to meet with Foreign Minister Moratinos, in order

to prepare for the Spanish Presidency. Tomorrow and Friday I will attend the gathering of NATO foreign ministers in Brussels. I have hit the ground running, but I am aware that this is a marathon, not a sprint.

There will also be continuity in our capacity to react in situations of crisis. Our security and defence policy is now a reality, and our capacity in the area of crisis-management is making a real difference on the ground. There is much to be proud of where there was only a common will ten years ago. We do not just make declarations, we act to monitor, to protect and to stabilise. With concrete results.

For instance, we have created a safe corridor from piracy in the Aden Gulf through the Atalanta operation. We are helping build stability and rule of law in the Balkans. We are helping keep the peace and diffuse tensions in Georgia. And we are training police officers in Afghanistan.

As High Representative I must help ensure consistency between different areas of our common foreign and security policy, and also with other policy areas. I must also give the right impulses for the future: I intend to fully use the right of initiative conferred to the High Representative by the Treaty to make proposals in the area of Common Foreign and Security policy. In doing so, I can maximise the synergies that arise from my two roles.

I will draw my authority in international negotiations from the European Council in which I will take part, and from the foreign affairs council composed of the EU foreign ministers, which I will chair from January. The council will deliberate, will determine views, with my support and input, and that will be the voice I will speak with.

I will equally be a member of the European Commission as Vice-President, drawing on its many resources and instruments. Having spent the past year there, I know that the College of Commissioners is one of the great assets of the European Union. The Commission proposes legislation on everything from the environment to the internal market, and does so as a group. Anyone who thinks that I will take my eye off the ball regarding Commission business is very much mistaken.

As High Representative I do not replace member states or the Commission, but rather ensure that we combine views and input in the best interests of Europe. My ambition is to help member states and the Commission, through dialogue, to upgrade their level of consensus on CFSP. I will do so proactively, and I will not settle for the lowest common denominator.

All this will only be possible if I am backed by a strong new service, one that will be the envy of the rest of the world. That is why setting up the External Action Service, which I will then head, will be my main priority for the coming weeks and months.

This is a huge challenge, and one that I relish. This is about building an efficient and coherent service based on a common culture of excellence. This will be a diplomatic network that will serve all of the European Union. The External Action Service will add value to what our member states already do, and in many areas can offer a 'one-stop shop' to those who want it and need it. It is a unique selling point for many of our partners, and I will make it my legacy and first priority to establish.

I am spoiled for choice in drawing on the talents and capabilities that already exist in the European Commission and the Council, as well as those in our 27 member states. I will call on all of these in creating a balanced service. We especially need joined-up thinking between the Council and the Commission, we need joined-up structures and process, and we need to establish this service quickly.

This is why I have decided to launch work immediately to create the new Service, the objec-

tive being to present a proposal so that the Council can take a decision by the end of April.

In order to make this work we will need the advice of this House. The European Parliament will be consulted on the new service, and I propose that this committee is debriefed regularly on the ongoing work. I want to engage in a close dialogue with you on this. The members of this committee and others in the Parliament travel widely in the world and that experience and perspective is invaluable.

I know you will want to ask me about some of the most difficult foreign policy issues that face us at this moment in time, and I will be happy to give you my views as far as I can at this moment.

Still, this is my second day on the job, and I have been clear that I need to increase my understanding of what we need to do and how to do it. That is why I intend to launch a review of our external policy in certain key areas, something I will be discussing further with foreign ministers.

This review will look at our existing policies such as those on the Middle East including Iran, the Balkans, Afghanistan and Africa, to make sure we are acting with all necessary coherence. We should also make sure we are joined up in our approach to strategic partners such as the US, Russia and China, and if necessary pull together various strands.

I believe that such a review will be a key first project that will focus minds and will bring together our various services, building on all the expertise that has been amassed. The goal would be to start delivering results from this exercise by early next year.

In terms of how I will work, there has been much talk of this new role representing both the Council and the Commission. This is important and indeed I see it as a great strength of the position that I can draw on both these institutions. Let me assure you that I have not forgotten my responsibilities to you in the European Parliament and the resource you represent.

Regarding relations with the Parliament, the Treaty is clear that I must keep you informed and I will consult you on the basic choices we face on the common foreign and security policy. We should have the closest relationship possible. The support of this parliament, but also of the national parliaments as well as our citizens is a key factor in the success of our external policy. This brings me to the final point I would like to make on the Lisbon Treaty and our legitimacy as a common actor moving forward.

The goal of the High Representative is to present a clearer and stronger voice to our international partners, but we must also explain clearly to our own citizens what we aim to achieve. I am mindful of the fact that there is still much work to be done here. As some commentators have put it, citizens were not dancing in the streets on entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. Even our best efforts were unlikely to achieve that, but there is much we can do to improve understanding of our work, and I want to play my part in that.

This challenge will also require us all to work closer together to convey the message to our citizens that we are working in their interests on EU foreign policy. A foreign policy that will continue to be built on our basic values – democracy, rule of law, and respect for human rights. We will be an active player on the global stage, not one that seeks the spotlight for the sake of it, but rather who lives by the words of Jean Monnet:

‘Everybody is ambitious. The question is whether he is ambitious to be or ambitious to do.’

I am ambitious to do, and I hope and trust that you will judge me by what I do in this new role.

BACKGROUND – THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY POLICY/THE EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

November 2009

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

At the informal meeting in Brussels on 19 November, ahead of the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon on 1 December, EU Heads of State or Government agreed on the appointment of Ms Catherine ASHTON as the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

What are her duties?

The High Representative exercises, in foreign affairs, the functions which, so far, were exercised by the six-monthly rotating Presidency, the High Representative for CFSP and the Commissioner for External Relations. According to Articles 18 and 27 of the Treaty on the European Union, the High Representative:

- conducts the Union's common foreign and security policy;
- contributes by her proposals to the development of that policy, which she will carry out as mandated by the Council, and ensures implementation of the decisions adopted in this field;
- presides over the Foreign Affairs Council;
- is one of the Vice-Presidents of the Commission. She ensures the consistency of the Union's external action. She is responsible within the Commission for responsibilities incumbent on it in external relations and for coordinating other aspects of the Union's external action.
- represents the Union for matters relating to the common foreign and security policy, conduct political dialogue with third parties on the Union's behalf and expresses the Union's position in international organisations and at international conferences.
- exercises authority over the European External Action Service and over the Union delegations in third countries and at international organisations.

How will she be appointed?

The European Council, acting by a qualified majority, with the agreement of the President of the Commission, appoints the High Representative.

She is subject, together with the President of the Commission and the other members of the Commission, to a vote of consent by the European Parliament.

Supporting arrangements

In fulfilling her mandate, the High Representative is assisted by a European External Action Service (see below). She benefits from support from the Council and Commission services as appropriate.

Before the Treaty of Lisbon

The previous office of High Representative for the common foreign and security policy was

introduced in 1999 (Amsterdam Treaty). Javier Solana has been the EU High Representative for CFSP since then. He assists the Council in foreign policy matters, through contributing to the formulation, preparation and implementation of policy decisions. He acts on behalf of the Council in conducting political dialogue with third parties. The six-monthly rotating Presidency has been in charge of chairing the External Relations Council, representing the Union in CFSP matters, implementing the decisions taken and for expressing the EU position internationally.

European External Action Service

Article 27(3) TEU constitutes the legal basis for the Council decision on the organisation and functioning of the EEAS.

‘In fulfilling his mandate, the High Representative shall be assisted by a European External Action Service. This service shall work in cooperation with the diplomatic services of the Member States and shall comprise officials from relevant departments of the General Secretariat of the Council and of the Commission as well as staff seconded from national diplomatic services of the member states. The organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service shall be established by a decision of the Council. The Council shall act on a proposal from the High Representative after consulting the European Parliament and after obtaining the consent of the Commission.’

On 30 October 2009, the European Council agreed on guidelines for the European External Action Service (EEAS) (doc. 14930/09). The future HR was invited to present a proposal for the organisation and functioning of the EEAS as soon as possible after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, with a view to its adoption by the Council at the latest by the end of April 2010.

What is the EEAS?

According to the guidelines adopted by the European Council in October 2009, the EEAS will be a single service under the authority of the High Representative. The EEAS will have an organisational status reflecting and supporting the High Representative’s unique role and functions in the EU system.

What will it do?

The EEAS will help the High Representative ensure the consistency and coordination of the Union’s external action as well as prepare policy proposals and implement them after their approval by Council. It will also assist the President of the European Council and the President as well as the Members of the Commission in their respective functions in the area of external relations and will ensure close cooperation with the Member States. The EEAS should be composed of single geographical (covering all regions and countries) and thematic desks, which will continue to perform under the authority of the High Representative the tasks currently executed by the relevant parts of the Commission and the Council Secretariat. Trade and development policy as defined by the Treaty should remain the responsibility of relevant Commissioners of the Commission.

How will it be staffed?

EEAS staff will be appointed by the High Representative and drawn from three sources: relevant departments of the General Secretariat of the Council, of the Commission and of

national diplomatic services of the Member States. Recruitment will be based on merit, with the objective of securing the services of staff of the highest standard of ability, efficiency and integrity, while ensuring adequate geographical balance.

Crisis management structures

In order to enable the High Representative to conduct the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), the EU's crisis management structures should be part of the EEAS while taking full account of their specificities. These structures will form an entity placed under the direct authority and responsibility of the High Representative.

What will be its legal status?

The EEAS should be a service of a *sui generis* nature, separate from the Commission and the Council Secretariat. It should have autonomy in terms of administrative budget and management of staff. The EEAS will have its own section in the EU budget, to which the usual budgetary and control rules will apply. The High Representative will propose and implement the EEAS budget.

How will it be financed?

The establishment of the EEAS will be guided by the principle of cost efficiency and aimed towards budget neutrality. A limited number of additional posts for Member States' temporary agents will probably be necessary, to be financed within the framework of the current financial perspectives.

EU Delegations

The Commission's delegations will become Union delegations under the authority of the High Representative and will be part of the EEAS structure. Delegations will contain both regular EEAS staff (including Heads of Delegation) and staff from relevant Commission services. All staff should work under the authority of the Head of Delegation. EU delegations will work in close cooperation with diplomatic services of the Member States. They should play a supporting role as regards diplomatic and consular protection of Union citizens in third countries.

Afghanistan – Declaration by the Presidency

Brussels, 2 December 2009

DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENCY ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION WITH REGARD TO PRESIDENT OBAMA'S DECISION ON REINFORCED US ENGAGEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN

The European Union welcomes the announcement by President Barack Obama that the United States will further reinforce its engagement, inter alia in ISAF, as part of its continued commitment to Afghanistan. This announcement comes at a time of renewed focus and engagement by the international community as a whole. The European Union stands ready to work closely with the United States and other parts of the international community in addressing the challenges in Afghanistan.

The European Union underlines the need to maintain a comprehensive approach to the challenges in Afghanistan. A positive development will require a combination of political, military and civilian/development instruments, the main purpose of which should be to enable the government of Afghanistan to gradually assume full responsibility for the stabilisation and development of the country, and to deliver rapid, tangible results. The EU particularly emphasises the need for capacity building in Afghanistan.

The European Union further stresses the importance of close and strategic coordination of the international efforts, under the lead of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, in helping Afghanistan to put into practice the commitments made by President Hamid Karzai in his inauguration speech.

The European Union remains determined to enhance and improve its engagement in Afghanistan in accordance with the Plan for Strengthened EU Action in Afghanistan and Pakistan, adopted by the Council of the European Union on 27 October 2009, and reiterates its strategic partnership with the United States in the region.

General Affairs Council

Brussels, 7 December 2009

(...)

WESTERN BALKANS

(...)

Kosovo

42. The Council notes that stability has been maintained in Kosovo but the overall situation remains fragile. The Council welcomes the calm and orderly conduct of the recently held local elections and emphasizes the great significance of correct and full completion of the remaining election process. The Council stresses that major challenges remain. These include the rule of law, the fight against corruption and organised crime, the strengthening of administrative capacity, the protection of Serb and other minorities, as well as religious and cultural heritage, and enhancing dialogue and reconciliation between the communities. The Council expects Kosovo to cooperate with EULEX and to ensure support for EULEX's work. A constructive approach towards regional cooperation, including trade, remains essential.

43. The Council recalls that, in its conclusions of December 2008, it welcomed the Commission's intention to present a study examining means to further Kosovo's political and socio-economic development. In that regard, the Council welcomes the Commission communication. The Council takes good note of the proposals to make use of Community instruments to assist Kosovo's political and socio-economic development in line with the European Council conclusions of December 2007 and June 2008. The Council invites the Commission to report back on progress in this regard. The Council further invites the Commission to take the necessary measures to support Kosovo progress towards the EU in line with the European perspective of the region. In particular, the Council attaches importance to measures related to trade and visa, without prejudice to Member States' positions on status. The Council also encourages the Commission to open up for Kosovo taking part in Union programmes, integrating Kosovo into the economic and fiscal surveillance framework, activating the IPA second component, and strengthening the Stabilisation and Association Process dialogue.

(...)

Foreign Affairs Council

Brussels, 8 December 2009

(...)

MIDDLE EAST – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council discussed the situation in the Middle East, and in particular the current impasse in the peace process.

It adopted the following conclusions:

‘1. The Council of the European Union is seriously concerned about the lack of progress in the Middle East peace process. The European Union calls for the urgent resumption of negotiations that will lead, within an agreed time-frame, to a two-state solution with the State of Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous and viable State of Palestine, living side by side in peace and security. A comprehensive peace, which is a fundamental interest of the parties in the region and the EU, must be achieved on the basis of the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, the Madrid principles including land for peace, the Roadmap, the agreements previously reached by the parties and the Arab Peace Initiative.

2. The Council reconfirms its support for the United States’ efforts to resume negotiations on all final status issues, including borders, Jerusalem, refugees, security and water, respecting previous agreements and understandings. The European Union will not recognise any changes to the pre-1967 borders including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties. The Council reiterates the EU’s readiness to contribute substantially to post-conflict arrangements, aimed at ensuring the sustainability of peace agreements, and will continue the work undertaken on EU contributions on state-building, regional issues, refugees, security and Jerusalem. The Council underlines the need for a reinvigorated Quartet engagement and notes the crucial importance of an active Arab contribution building on the Arab Peace Initiative.

3. The EU stands ready to further develop its bilateral relations with the Palestinian Authority reflecting shared interests, including in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy. Recalling the Berlin declaration, the Council also reiterates its support for negotiations leading to Palestinian statehood, all efforts and steps to that end and its readiness, when appropriate, to recognise a Palestinian state. It will continue to assist Palestinian state-building, including through its CSDP missions and within the Quartet. The EU fully supports the implementation of the Palestinian Authority’s Government Plan “Palestine, Ending the Occupation, Establishing the State” as an important contribution to this end and will work for enhanced international support for this plan.

4. Recalling the EU’s position as expressed at the Association Council in June 2009, the Council reaffirms its readiness to further develop its bilateral relations with Israel within the framework of the ENP. The EU reiterates its commitment towards the security of Israel and its full integration into the region, which is best guaranteed through peace between Israel and its neighbours.

5. Encouraging further concrete confidence building measures, the Council takes positive note of the recent decision of the Government of Israel on a partial and temporary settlement freeze as a first step in the right direction and hopes that it will contribute towards a resumption of meaningful negotiations.

6. Developments on the ground play a crucial part in creating the context for successful negotiations. The Council reiterates that settlements, the separation barrier where built on occupied land, demolition of homes and evictions are illegal under international law, constitute an obstacle to peace and threaten to make a two-state solution impossible. The Council urges the government of Israel to immediately end all settlement activities, in East Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank and including natural growth, and to dismantle all outposts erected since March 2001.

7. The EU welcomes Israel's steps to ease restrictions of movement in the West Bank which have made a contribution to economic growth. The Council calls for further and sustained improvements of movement and access, noting that many check points and road blocks remain in place. The Council also calls on the Palestinian Authority to build on its efforts to improve law and order.

8. The Council is deeply concerned about the situation in East Jerusalem. In view of recent incidents, it calls on all parties to refrain from provocative actions. The Council recalls that it has never recognised the annexation of East Jerusalem. If there is to be a genuine peace, a way must be found through negotiations to resolve the status of Jerusalem as the future capital of two states. The Council calls for the reopening of Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem in accordance with the Roadmap. It also calls on the Israeli government to cease all discriminatory treatment of Palestinians in East Jerusalem.

9. Gravely concerned about the situation in Gaza, the Council urges the full implementation of UNSCR 1860 and the full respect of international humanitarian law. In this context, the continued policy of closure is unacceptable and politically counterproductive. It has devastated the private sector economy and damaged the natural environment, notably water and other natural resources. The EU again reiterates its calls for an immediate, sustained and unconditional opening of crossings for the flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and persons to and from Gaza. In this context, the Council calls for the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access. While extremists stand to gain from the current situation, the civilian population, half of which are under the age of 18, suffers. Fully recognising Israel's legitimate security needs, the Council continues to call for a complete stop to all violence and arms smuggling into Gaza. The Council calls on those holding the abducted Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit to release him without delay.

10. The Council calls on all Palestinians to promote reconciliation behind President Mahmoud Abbas, support for the mediation efforts by Egypt and the Arab League and the prevention of a permanent division between the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza. The Council would welcome the organisation of free and fair Palestinian elections when conditions permit.

11. A comprehensive peace must include a settlement between Israel and Syria and Israel and Lebanon. Concerning the Syrian track, the EU welcomes recent statements by Israel and Syria confirming their willingness to advance towards peace and supports all efforts aimed at the reactivation of the talks between the two countries.

12. The EU recalls that a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict requires a regional approach and will continue its work on this in line with the June 2009 Council Conclusions using all its instruments to this effect. The EU also calls on all regional actors to take confidence building measures in order to stimulate mutual trust and encourages Arab countries to be forthcoming, both politically and financially, in assisting the Palestinian Authority and to Palestinian refugees through UNRWA.'

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION – PROGRESS REPORTS

The Council endorsed a six-monthly progress report on implementation of the EU strategy against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, covering activities during the second half of 2009.

The report focuses on priority areas such as:

- multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation fora and support to the multilateral treaty system;
- continued political and financial support to international organisations through concrete projects, including assistance programmes to third countries;
- enhanced cooperation with international partners; and
- addressing proliferation world-wide crises.

The Council also endorsed a progress report on implementation, during the second half of 2009, of the EU strategy to combat the illicit accumulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons and ammunition. The strategy contains an action plan which calls for continuous monitoring by means of regular reports on its implementation.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SECURITY – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council adopted conclusions on climate change and international security, endorsing a progress report (*16645/09*) as a follow-up to a joint paper submitted to the European Council in March 2008 by the High Representative and the Commission.

The Council recognised the possible international security implications of climate change and stressed that an ambitious and comprehensive new international agreement on climate change would be an important factor in preventing and reducing them. It also welcomed progress on enhancing EU capacities for early warning, analysis and response to climate-induced international security issues.

The conclusions are set out in document (*16774/09*).

(...)

EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENSE POLICY

EU military operation against piracy off the Somali coast – Fishing activities

The Council adopted a decision amending joint action 2008/851/CFSP on the EU military operation against piracy off the Somali coast, in order to allow for the EU naval force to contribute to the monitoring of fishing activities in the area (*16450/09*).

EU police mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Council adopted a decision extending the EU police mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina as from 1 January 2010 until 31 December 2011 (*14983/09*).

Under joint action 2007/749/CFSP, the police mission was due to expire on 31 December 2009.

(...)

EU NAVFOR Somalia – Council Decision

Brussels, 8 December 2009

COUNCIL DECISION 2009/907/CFSP OF 8 DECEMBER 2009 AMENDING JOINT ACTION 2008/851/CFSP ON A EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY OPERATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DETERRENCE, PREVENTION AND REPRESSION OF ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY OFF THE SOMALI COAST

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Articles 28 and 43(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) On 10 November 2008, the Council adopted Joint Action 2008/851/CFSP on a European Union military operation to contribute to the deterrence, prevention and repression of acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast¹.
- (2) In light of experience from the first year of the operation, amendments to Joint Action 2008/851/CFSP are required in order to allow for the European Union naval force to contribute to the monitoring of fishing activities off the coast of Somalia.
- (3) Acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast continue to threaten shipping in the area and especially the delivery of food aid to the Somali population by the World Food Programme.
- (4) Therefore, it is necessary to extend the operation for another year.
- (5) On 30 November 2009 United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1897 (2009).
- (6) Joint Action 2008/851/CFSP should be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Joint Action 2008/851/CFSP is hereby amended as follows:

- (a) in Article 1, the following paragraph shall be added:
'3. In addition, Atalanta shall contribute to the monitoring of fishing activities off the coast of Somalia.';
- (b) in Article 2, point (f) shall be replaced by the following:
'(f) liaise and cooperate with organisations and entities, as well as States, working in the region to combat acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast, in particular the "Combined Task Force 150" maritime force which operates within the framework of "Operation Enduring Freedom";

1. OJL 301, 12.11.2008, p. 33.

- (g) once sufficient progress has been made ashore in the area of maritime capacity-building, including security measures for the exchange of information, assist Somali authorities by making available data relating to fishing activities compiled in the course of the operation.’;
- (c) in Article 16, paragraph 3 shall be replaced by the following: ‘3. The EU military operation shall terminate on 12 December 2010.’

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Article 3

This Decision shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels, 8 December 2009.

For the Council

The President

C. Bildt

European Council

Brussels, 11 December 2009

CONCLUSIONS

(...)

I. Institutional issues

1. The European Council welcomes the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon on 1 December. The Treaty provides the Union with a stable and lasting institutional framework and will allow the Union to fully concentrate on addressing the challenges ahead.

2. The intensive preparatory work carried out during the Swedish Presidency, as set out in the Presidency's report (EUCO 5/09), has allowed for a smooth entry into force of the Treaty. On 1 December Herman Van Rompuy took office as President of the European Council and Catherine Ashton as High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

3. The European Council invites the High Representative to rapidly present, on the basis of the Presidency report adopted by the European Council on 29 October 2009, the proposal on the organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service with a view to its adoption, together with the related legal acts, by the end of April 2010. Member States will continue to provide input in this area.

4. The European Council welcomes the launch by the Commission of a public consultation on the citizens' initiative. It invites the Commission to present a legislative proposal as soon as possible, with a view to its adoption within the first half of 2010.

5. Further to the European Council's conclusions of December 2008 and June 2009, the Spanish Government submitted a proposal for the amendment of the Treaties as regards transitional measures concerning the composition of the European Parliament. The European Council decided to consult the European Parliament and the Commission with a view to rapidly examining this proposal.

(...)

ANNEX I – DECLARATION ON IRAN

The European Council underlines that the European Union since 2004 has been working for a diplomatic solution of the issue of Iran's nuclear programme. The European Council expresses its grave concern that Iran has so far done nothing to rebuild confidence of the international community in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme. The fact that Iran has constructed a clandestine enrichment facility near Qom, in breach of its obligations, and the declaration of an intent to construct further plants have further deepened the European Council's concerns.

The European Council again urges Iran to comply fully and without further delay with its obligations under the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and the IAEA, notably to meet the requirements set out by the IAEA Board of Governors' resolution of 27 November 2009.

The European Council regrets that Iran has not agreed with the IAEA to a scheme of

nuclear fuel supply for the Tehran research reactor, which would contribute to build confidence while responding to Iran's need for medical radio-isotopes.

The European Council notes with great concern that Iran has failed to take up repeated offers by China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States and the EU High Representative Javier Solana to further discuss its nuclear programme and other issues of mutual concern. It nonetheless remains committed to work for a diplomatic solution of the issue of Iran's nuclear programme. The offer of negotiations remains on the table.

The European Union will continue to review all aspects of the Iranian nuclear issue and will decide soon on further steps within the context of the dual track approach. In this regard the European Union remains ready to engage with Iran in order to reach a negotiated solution to the issue, should Iran take concrete decisions towards that end. However, Iran's persistent failure to meet its international obligations and Iran's apparent lack of interest in pursuing negotiations require a clear response, including through appropriate measures. Consistent with the dual-track approach, the European Union would support action by the UNSC if Iran continues not to co-operate with the international community over its nuclear programme. The European Union stands ready to take the necessary steps to accompany this UNSC process. The European Council requests EU Foreign Ministers to consider options for next steps to this end at the next Foreign Affairs Council.

The European Council reiterates its deep concern for continued violations of human rights in Iran. The European Union will continue to raise its concerns with the Iranian government and remind Iran of its international obligations, including under the international covenant on civil and political rights. The European Council reiterates its rising concern also about the situation of staff members of European Union Missions and European citizens in Iran who recently have been on trial, and continues to call for their prompt and unconditional release. Any action against one EU Member State is considered an action against the entire EU.
(...)

ANNEX II – DECLARATION ON AFGHANISTAN

The European Council reiterates the EU's strong commitments to promote stability and development in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

In this context, the Council underlines the EU's readiness to support President Hamid Karzai in the implementation of his commitments, as set out in the five key areas of his inauguration speech: on security, governance and anti-corruption, economic development, including agriculture, peace and reconciliation and on regional cooperation. This requires close and strategic coordination of the international efforts under the lead of UNAMA.

The European Council recalls that the EU has initiated decisive steps to strengthen and achieve a more coherent and concerted approach to EU action in Afghanistan and Pakistan, through its Plan of Action for the region.

The European Council welcomes the recent announcement by President Obama of a reinforced engagement and commitment by the United States to Afghanistan and Pakistan. This announcement comes at a time of renewed focus and engagement by the international community as a whole. The European Union stands ready to work closely with Afghanistan, the United States, regional and other partners in the international community in addressing the challenges in Afghanistan.

The European Council underlines the need to maintain a comprehensive approach to the challenges in Afghanistan, building on a combination of political, civilian/development and military instruments. The focus must be on enabling the government of Afghanistan at national and sub-national level gradually to assume full responsibility for the security, stabilization and social and economic development of the country, and to deliver tangible results. In this context the European Council particularly emphasizes the need for capacity building in Afghanistan. The European Union and its Member States are already today spending close to 1 billion a year on various civilian, political and developmental activities in Afghanistan, in addition to the EU Member States large contributions to security through ISAF. The European Council reiterates the EU's commitment to the Afghan police and justice sector, inter alia through the EU Police Mission in Afghanistan.

An international conference is to be held in London on 28 January 2010. The European Council expects clear commitments from the Afghan government at this occasion in the fields of governance, in particular on sub-national level, action against corruption, counter narcotics, reintegration and socio-economic development and building strong relations with its neighbours and the region. In return, we expect renewed political support by the international community for security, governance and economic development, including by enhancing the international coordination structure. This conference will thus be a step towards the transition of responsibilities to the Afghan authorities.

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2009 marked not only the tenth anniversary of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), but also the beginning of a new era with the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, creating a new impetus for the external action of the EU.

'Ten years ago, ESDP was an aspiration; today, it is a reality on the ground', Javier Solana, the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, remarked shortly before the end of his mandate. This is amply demonstrated by the important initiatives undertaken by the Union during the past year, whether in deploying operations in Africa (the military operation EUFOR Tchad/RCA), in Afghanistan (EUPOL Afghanistan), a mission tackling piracy at sea (EU NAVFOR, the EU's first maritime operation), or addressing the issue of capabilities through the efforts made by the European Defence Agency and by the Commission to promote synergies and complementarities.

Today Europe, through its Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), makes a significant contribution to peacekeeping and international security. However, in order to be able to meet European and international expectations, the Union needs to further improve the efficiency and coherence of its external action. It is therefore vitally important to reinforce solidarity between the Member States, so that the Union can play an even more important role on the world stage in the next ten years. The entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty should allow us to optimise the instruments at our disposal, notably through the European External Action Service headed by Catherine Ashton, who on 1 December 2009 was appointed High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

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